



# Energizing Education

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

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## Departure

I am sad to say that my time as AmeriCorps VISTA for Energizing Education is coming to a close. I am proud to have been a part of the beginnings of such a wonderful program, and so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my hometown this past year. Thank you to all the mentors and committee members who have made this program happen, and have been so welcoming and supportive during my time here. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. I look forward to seeing Energizing Education grow and help even more children in Jackson County, especially with the help of Ashley Ghazi, who will be replacing me in the position.

Welcome Ashley!

-Sara Calkins



## Branching Out!

Energizing Education is expanding! With the new school year, students at another county school will be building up literacy skills with the help of community volunteers. Arnold Elementary School in Michigan Center will be the first to begin an in-school program, with help from the ADCO Corporation.

ADCO will contribute immensely to the expansion, with 28 employees volunteering their time to work with 17 students. The company has also generously committed \$8750 to the launch and support of the program in Michigan Center, assisting in covering the costs of preparing a room at Arnold

for tutoring, as well as supplying books for the program. We are excited for this first step toward ensuring every Jackson student has the skills they need to succeed in school! A big thank you to ADCO and Michigan Center Schools for their assistance and cooperation as we move forward!

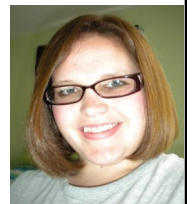


## Meet Ashley Ghazi!

Hello Everyone I'm Ashley the new incoming AmeriCorps VISTA. I'm excited to get started this year. I have volunteered in schools since my senior year of high school so am familiar with an average day. I am very excited to dive into this program Energizing Education. I attended Spring Arbor University

where I received my undergraduate degree. I have my bachelors' degree in Psychology, but am aiming at becoming an elementary teacher. I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was seven years of age just wanted to learn the complexities of how the mind works and what aids in our learning first. In my

free time I love to paint, enjoy photography, taking bike rides, being outside and enjoying life to its fullest. My favorite book as a child was from the Bernstein Bears series. I'm excited to meet each and everyone!



## Mentor Spotlight



**Name:** Donna Farnsworth

**Business:** CP Federal Credit Union

**Why did you volunteer?:** The need was presented. I have worked with children for over 35 years and believe whole-heartedly in investing in youth... they are tomorrow's leaders.

**How has your experience been so far?:** It has been a great experience. We always learn from children while we strive to help them advance their skills.

**Why is reading important to you?:**

Reading is the gateway to so many things! Reading is necessary for functioning well in life but reading can just be a gateway to exploring new worlds through story and/or imagination.

**Favorite Book Growing Up:** I enjoyed reading the Boxcar Children series.

**Favorite Novel Now:** The Bible. While it may not be a "novel" by classification, it certainly is full of great stories of real life happenings of people long ago. It is the greatest story ever told.



## Burning Through the Pages Wrap Up

Our Burning Through the Pages summer programming wrapped up with two fun events in August!

On August 4th, Energizing Education took families on guided tours of the barnyards at the Jackson County Fair, with a 4H student there to provide interesting facts and insight into the different animals they saw. After the tour, each attendee was provided with a voucher for fair food, and everyone was able to explore the rest of the fair with their families.

On August 20th, families swarmed the Middle School at Parkside for our final event, a pool party! While kids were able to take a swim, parents attended a cooking demonstration on the night's dinner, rice bowls! After dinner, students went home with school supplies for the new year in addition to their own books!

Thank you to all the families who attended events this summer, and a special thanks to our Parent Involvement Coordinator Jennie O'Brien and all our volunteers for their hard work on the events!



## Thank You, Jackson Rotary!

As announced by the Jackson Citizen Patriot, Energizing Education will be the recipient of a generous \$2500 grant from the Rotary Club of Jackson! Jackson Rotary Club President Carolyn Matteson was quoted as saying, "The Energizing Education program is exactly in line with our youth-oriented projects. By helping our youth acquire and improve their literacy skills, they benefit personally, but our community as a whole benefits as well." We are so grateful for this financial support and endorsement from the group! It will go a long way in helping Jackson students reach their full potential!



### Find out more!

<http://energizingeducationjackson.org>  
or **Energizing Education** on Facebook



### To volunteer for next school year:

Contact Melissa Laird at  
517-784-7181 or [mlaird@bbbsjackson.org](mailto:mlaird@bbbsjackson.org)

## Fall Volunteer Training Calendar

Date	Time	Type	Location
8/26	10:00am-12:00 pm	EE Tutor	Reynolds Hall
8/27	1:00-3:00 pm	EE/level 2 for Trained Tutors	Reynolds Hall
8/28	4:00-6:00 pm	EE Tutor	CAA Conference Room
9/3	1:00-3:00 pm	EE Tutor	Frost Room 38
9/9	11:00am-1:00pm	Imagination Library	CAA Conference Room
9/10	1:00-3:00 pm	EE/Level 2 for trained tutors	CAA Conference Room
9/12	4:00-6:00 pm	EE Tutor	Reynolds Hall
9/19	9:00-11:00 am	EE Tutor	Frost Room 38
9/23	8:00-10:00 am	EE Tutor	Frost Room 38
9/25	3:00-5:00 pm	EE Tutor	Frost Room 38