

OpenDoors of Asheville Partners with United Way to Ignite a Passion for Reading for Struggling Middle School Learners

November 11, 2015 by [Kristine Oblock](#)



Join us on Thursday, November 19th from 1 pm to 2:15 pm at United Way of Asheville & Buncombe County

Research shows (and experience supports) that one of the most fundamental components of breaking the cycle of poverty is assuring that students stay at or above grade level literacy and receive appropriate intervention if they fall behind. OpenDoors community partners Marcy Sirkin of the [Arden Reading Clinic](#), Nicole Baker of the [Academic Assessment Center](#), and Dr. Deirdre Christy have, to date, been instrumental in helping OpenDoors identify, advocate, and provide interventions for more than 20 students with language based learning differences in the public schools. Susie Van derVorst has joined OpenDoors in training 18 Asheville City Schools classroom educators to date, who then serve about 350 students per year using the Orton-Gillingham, multi-sensory, research-based method reading instruction. As a result, OpenDoors trainings have raised many students' reading levels and strengthened teacher's multi-sensory instructional skills. Though these partner's expert support is essential, parents, educators, volunteers and community partners also play an important role in helping students overcome challenges. We are excited to offer this [shared training](#) to advocates, volunteers, and educators, both in- and out-of-school time, who work with middle grades youth. Please join us for an overview of the struggling reader, participate in a dyslexia simulation, and learn some practical ways to support those who read well below grade level. This training is in collaboration with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County and will feature best practices that have helped our TeamLeaders, tutors, and other volunteers advocate for the students whom we serve.

Register [here](#).