

# NALA NEWS

JOPLIN NALA READ 123 S. MAIN STREET JOPLIN, MO

## SPELL BALL 2014



My five-year-old granddaughter sits at the kitchen table with her handmade card. "How do you spell *very*?" she asks, then carefully writes the letters. "*Much*—how do you spell *much*?" is her next question. I look at the card she is making for her mother. *I love you very much* is written on the card. She already knows how to spell *I love you*. But evidently that isn't quite enough to tell her mother of her love. At five years old, Lilly is learning to spell simple words. Sometimes I exaggerate the sound to see if she can figure out the spelling on her own. But the English language doesn't always lend itself to sounding out letters for correct spelling.

That's what makes our annual Spell Ball so interesting. Words appear on our lists that are directly transliterated from the Greek, Latin, French, Tagalog, Arabic, and other languages. Only when the words come from Spanish is the spelling likely to be phonetic. As I explain to our students in defense of English spelling, we just plop a word into our lan-

guage without making it our own. Thus we have hors d'oeuvres and amok and medical terms galore that do not follow regular rules for spelling in English. (The word phonetic is a case in point.) Oh, yes, your team gets a list of the words for Spell Ball to study ahead of time.

If you like to spell, you will find yourself challenged by the Spell Ball. Even if you don't like to spell, you will enjoy the evening—you don't have to do all the spelling. The team of three you are playing with can discuss the word together before spelling it. Your team can even buy "Ball Passes" ahead of time to use if the word is too hard, and you will be given an easier word. Or you can come to cheer your team on from the sidelines.

Since we deal with words every day in our literacy program, we have taken Spell Ball as our signature fundraiser. We are grateful to United Way for their support and to our donors for their generosity. Still, a gap remains between that income and our expenses

which Spell Ball is designed to fill. Will you help us fill that gap by being a Spell Ball sponsor, organizing a team, or volunteering during the evening?

Students who come to our literacy program ask for help in improving their reading, math, or English as a Second Language. Their goals are as varied as their abilities. Some want to get a driver's license and are content with that. Others are studying for their high school equivalency exam. Many need to improve their English in order to work. Some want to read to their children or grandchildren. Our goal is to meet their needs. Will you help us meet our need?

Mark your calendar for Spell Ball: Tuesday, March 25 at Joplin Junior-Senior High School, north edge of the Mall. Contact us for further information.

Marj Boudreaux  
Executive Director

There are a number of ways you can help out at Spell Ball:

- Enter a team consisting of three players for \$150
- Be a Spell Ball Sponsor
- Contribute items for the silent auction
- Volunteer to help during Spell Ball
- Come out to the Spell Ball and cheer on the teams!

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

When Jack came for orientation and we asked him, "Why did you decide to come to NALA?" he hesitantly replied, "Because I've been getting beat down and I'm tired of it. I've been overlooked at work and I want a chance to better myself so I can advance in my job."

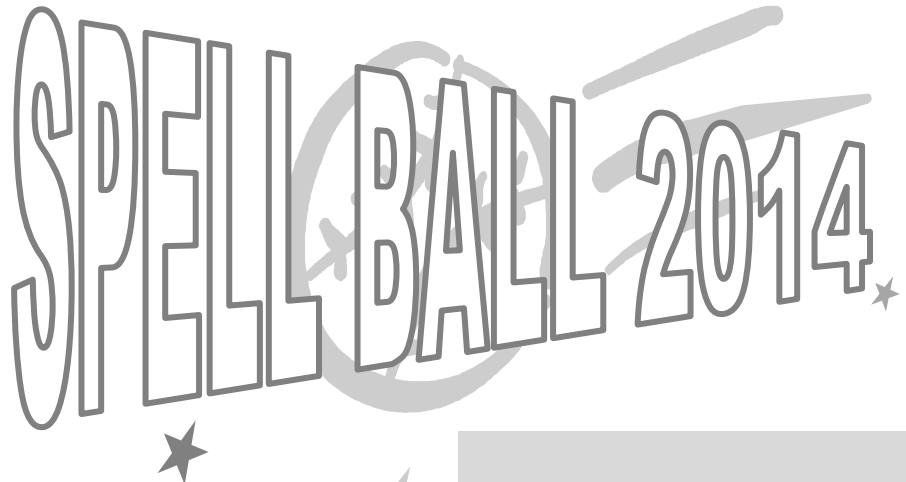
After assessing Jack's reading level and talking about goals, we assigned a trained tutor to work with him; at first they met just once a week, now it's twice a week. Jack is eager to continue his progress. He indicated his interest in learning computer skills, and his sessions now include time on the computer as well as reading and writing. His reading level has improved, and he accesses the computer for information that he wants to know.

Recently he went through a three-day training workshop and finished the course successfully. He keeps coming to NALA because his goal is long-term; he will continue to advance in his job and in his life.

*An investment  
in Spell Ball is  
more than a  
donation; this  
is an  
investment in  
the future of  
our community*

**Tuesday, March 25th**  
**Opening**  
**Ceremonies begin at**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**At Joplin High**  
**School 11/12**  
**Center at**  
**Northpark Mall**



Joplin NALA  
Read's Annual SPELL  
BALL is an enjoyable  
version of a Spelling  
Bee, run like a base-  
ball tournament. Team  
members consult with  
each other before  
spelling the word  
pitched to their team.  
If they answer correct-  
ly, they score a home-  
run!

Help us reach  
our goal as we help  
our students reach  
their goals—**one word**  
**at a time.**

- ◆ Enter a team for \$150
- ◆ Be a sponsor
- ◆ Contribute items for the silent auction
- ◆ Volunteer to help at Spell Ball

JOPLIN NALA READ  
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JOPLINNALA@123MAIL.ORG

You're up to close the book on illiteracy



## Sponsorship Opportunity Packages

In order to give a hand up to those in our community who want to improve their basic skills, we need your backing. Joplin NALA Read has a **new sponsorship program** which allows you to make a sound, constructive investment in Spell Ball.

### WALK-OFF HOME RUN \$5000

- ◆ Entry fee for two teams
- ◆ Table for eight at our annual volunteer banquet
- ◆ Introduction and speaking time during Opening Ceremonies the evening of Spell Ball
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Walk-off Home Run Sponsor on all event marketing and publicity
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Walk-off Home Run Sponsor in event program
- ◆ Recognition as Walk-off Home Run Sponsor, including company logo with link to business website on Joplin NALA Read's website
- ◆ Corporate logo on signage displayed at event

### GRAND SLAM \$2000

- ◆ Entry fee for two teams
- ◆ Introduction and speaking time during Opening Ceremonies the evening of Spell Ball
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Grand Slam Sponsor on all event marketing and publicity
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Grand Slam Sponsor in event program
- ◆ Recognition as Grand Slam Sponsor, including company logo with link to business website on Joplin NALA Read's website
- ◆ Corporate logo on signage displayed at event

### HOME RUN \$1000

- ◆ Entry fee for one team
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Home Run Sponsor on all event marketing and publicity
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Home Run Sponsor in event program
- ◆ Recognition as Home Run Sponsor, including company logo with link to business website on Joplin NALA Read's website
- ◆ Corporate logo on signage displayed at event

### SEASON TICKET HOLDER \$500

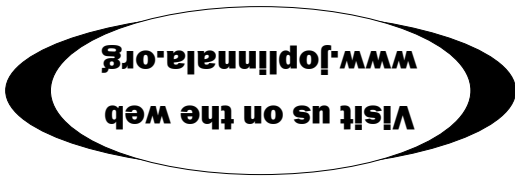
- ◆ Entry fee for one team
- ◆ Corporate logo and recognition as Season Ticket Holder in event program
- ◆ Recognition as Season Ticket Holder, including company logo with link to business website on Joplin NALA Read's website
- ◆ Corporate logo on signage displayed at event

### YOU MAKE THE CALL

- ◆ You choose the dollar amount of your contribution and your company recognition will be based on giving level. All sponsors will be recognized in the event program

Call or email to join our team. To receive the most benefit from your sponsorship respond today!

Phone: 417.782.2646 email: [joplinnala@123mail.org](mailto:joplinnala@123mail.org)



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JOPLIN NALA READ

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Joplin, MO  
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Yes, we're interested in helping with Spell Ball 2014 in the following ways:

- ☐ Enter a team for \$150
- ☐ Contribute items for the silent auction
- ☐ Volunteer to help during Spell Ball on Tuesday, March 25th, 2014
- ☐ Come out to Spell Ball and cheer on the teams
- ☐ Be a sponsor. *Once sponsorship has been submitted, we will contact you for further information. Based on level we will need your company logo, ad, etc.*

Your Name

Team/Company Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

Checks are made payable to Joplin NALA Read, P.O. Box 447, Joplin, MO 64802. Donations of any amount toward Spell Ball 2014 are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible and will be listed in our program.