



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

*Robyn Truitt Drivon*  
Interim County Administrator

Beth Gabor  
Public Information Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8150 • FAX (530) 668-4029  
[www.yolocounty.org](http://www.yolocounty.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 17, 2009

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer  
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

## Help Available for Residents with Trouble Reading and Writing

**(Woodland, CA)** – This week, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors declared September 2009 as “Adult Literacy Month,” presenting a resolution to representatives of Yolo Reads – the adult literacy program coordinated through the Yolo County Library system. Yolo Reads matches volunteer tutors with adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills. The program is funded partly by a grant from the state library system, and partners include the Yolo County Probation, Employment & Social Services and Health departments, along with local community agencies.

“About one-fifth of all adults in California are functionally illiterate,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. “It is estimated that 16 percent of Yolo County adults are lacking in basic literacy skills. The Yolo Reads program is working to address this issue.”

Yolo Reads has been in operation since 2007. Since its inception, volunteers have provided over 1,300 hours to the program.

“The state library grant allows us to provide services to Yolo County residents who want to improve their reading and writing skills,” said Heather Bratt, Yolo Reads program coordinator. “By pairing them one-on-one with volunteer tutors, we can help them focus specifically on their goals – whether it’s writing a resume, improving computer skills, reading to children or helping children with homework.”

Rob Gonzales, retired Yolo County Assistant Chief Probation Officer, now serves as both an advisor to Yolo Reads and as a tutor. Mr. Gonzales regularly drives from his home in Woodland to West Sacramento where he tutors Yolo Reads clients.

“Usually, there are a lot of barriers to adults getting these services,” said Rob Gonzales, former Yolo County Assistant Chief Probation Officer and current Yolo Reads advisor and volunteer. “Some are simply embarrassed, but they are motivated once they get started.”

Those seeking additional information or wishing to volunteer in the Yolo Reads adult literacy program can contact Heather Bratt, Yolo County Library Specialist, Literacy Services (530) 666-8019 or visit: [www.yolocountylibrary.org](http://www.yolocountylibrary.org).

###

Photo: From left to right: Rob Gonzales, tutor and advisor for Yolo Reads; Heather Bratt, program coordinator; Patty Wong, Yolo County Librarian; and Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan (photo courtesy of Eric Harding)