

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Make Improving Literacy Your New Year's Resolution

Volunteer with or Refer an Adult Learner to Yolo Reads

(Woodland, CA) – One in six Yolo County residents cannot read and write sufficiently to carry out day-to-day activities at work and at home. In an effort to address this issue, the Yolo County Library has developed Yolo Reads, a literacy program which provides free and confidential instruction primarily to English-speaking adult learners. Yolo Reads is looking for volunteers to provide instruction, and is also seeking assistance with spreading the word about the program to those in need of assistance.

For those interested in tutoring adult learners, no experience is necessary, the hours are flexible and Yolo Reads provides all necessary training and materials. Tutors will assist adults in creating a resume, earning a GED, passing the citizenship test, learning basic computer skills, or helping a child with homework. Volunteer assistance is needed in all communities throughout Yolo County.

Volunteers are also needed to provide mentoring and tutoring to incarcerated youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility in Woodland on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for approximately two hours. Yolo Reads has partnered with the Yolo County Probation Department to provide these services in an effort to help youth improve their reading, writing and math skills. Tutoring is provided in both English and Spanish. Although not required, those bilingual in Spanish or with experience teaching at-risk youth are encouraged to consider this volunteer opportunity.

"Incarcerated youth especially need our help in breaking the cycle so that they may become sucessful and contributing members in our community," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Rexroad. "Please consider this opportunity to volunteer and truly change someone's future."

"Please help us in spreading the word about our adult literacy program to those in need of assistance," said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. "And if able, share the rewards of reading by volunteering to help adult learners improve their reading skills."

To learn more about the program, visit: http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1444, call Yolo Reads at (866) 609-7303 (toll free) or e-mail Library Volunteer@yolocounty.org. For more information on the Yolo County Library visit: www.yolocountylibrary.org.