



Stacey Hardee, Library Assistant, with Nathan (an eager reader) and Hunter, the poodle.

Green Road Community Library

According to Michelle Stover Hildreth, Manager, Green Road Community Library is in a culturally and economically diverse area of Raleigh. Many of the residents are within walking distance and children utilize the library regularly after school for entertainment and educational resources. Green Road partnered with See Spot Read Calendar more than eight years ago and offers the program regularly.

"Many of the children who visit our library are reluctant readers, so any program that puts reading at the forefront and shows them how reading can be fun is essential," Michelle said.

When this program was first started at the library, many people were afraid of dogs because they had negative experience with dogs in the past. Consequently, this program has made a social impact on the community by giving people pleasant and enjoyable experiences with dogs.

Having well-trained dogs come into the library gives people an opportunity to address any fear by approaching a dog that is known to be friendly and kind. It also teaches the younger children, how to properly approach a dog that they do not know.

"The most important benefit of this program is that children have the opportunity to read aloud in a supportive environment to a non-judgmental audience, which has the potential to strengthen their ability and confidence in their reading skills.," Michelle said.

Many of the children who attend See Spot Read Calendar at Green Road do so without a parent or caregiver. Witnessing the excitement and enthusiasm of the children as the dogs arrive is inspiring and has a positive impact on the children who participate.

"In the past eight years, we have had many volunteer teams here at Green Road Library. They have all been committed to helping the children with reading. They are kind and patient with the children, because they really do want to be here."

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Each month we spotlight another library on the See Spot Read calendar events. If you would like to share your comments or experience, please [email](#) us or leave a video comment [here](#).

