Seventeen years ago our Adventures Ahead tutoring program outgrew the living rooms it started in. That fall we moved our donated tables and chairs three blocks east to a building owned by a partnering organization. Our students, who painted a colorful mural on one side of the building, met there for one year. The larger space allowed us to increase our enrollment, and to host potlucks and performances for students’ families. But at the end of that year the building was closed for renovations. With only a few weeks’ notice, we had to find a new location. That need was met by a business owner on the same block who offered our current facility free of charge. The initially rustic interior was transformed by visiting church groups. These volunteers painted, drywalled, re-wired, re-roofed, designed a mural, installed flooring, built furniture, donated air conditioners, laid a concrete patio and much more. The kindergartners who first enrolled at the new tutoring center are now young adults, working and attending college. A whole generation found encouragement, coaching, inspiration and opportunities to lead within these walls.

This year we expect to make another move, as our landlord recently put his property on the market. Our lease will allow us to stay for a few months when the new owner takes possession. But we are actively seeking a new facility to lease or purchase.

Seventeen years ago, our students received a priceless gift. And for those of us leading back then it felt fairly miraculous. Would you pray with us for another miracle now, a place for the next generation to learn and grow and discover the unique gifts they have to offer? We are both eager and nervous about this next step. Watch for updates on our facebook page.
With 39 volunteers serving as Reading Buddies this semester, Adventures Ahead students have benefited from a total of 300 hours of one-on-one instruction time. As they progress through leveled literacy packets, students earn bonus play time by completing all their work. This special time with their Buddy motivates them to work hard and stay focused. But over the course of the year, they often discover a different source of motivation…one that comes from seeing their own success.

Camron, a 3rd grader, entered the year reading at a 1st grade level. He would lose focus and struggled to complete his work. For 2 hours a week though he worked with his Reading Buddies, Phoebe and Alex. Little by little, the reading became easier for him. His Buddies now report that he has an easier time staying focused. He breezes through books that once gave him trouble. He even declared reading his second favorite subject and that he now likes school more than soccer!

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**WHAT’S UP NEXT?**

- **May 1 - May 4:** Adventures in Robotics Intro course for 3rd-5th graders introducing more students to the fun and challenging world of lego robotics!
- **May 9 - May 25:** Adventures Ahead Bridge Program providing extra support for students to meet their reading goals for the year!
- **July 3 - July 28:** Adventures Ahead Summer Program bringing together reading, math, science, environmental health, sports, and fun into one incredible 4 week learning adventure!
- **July 6 - July 10:** Service Project with Fort Bend Community Church serving our Adventures Ahead families and our community through tutoring, a beach day, and tree planting!

**ADVENTURES IN ROBOTICS**

With the clock winding down, Robert, our newest team member, calmly switched out the arm attachment on our robot and selected the program he had written for our final mission. The attachment was tricky to put on, and Robert had failed repeatedly in practice to make the switch and launch the robot in time. But here he was, with the spotlight on him and the referee counting down, moving without hesitation. As the robot made its first turn, it was clear that Robert had lined it up perfectly. The robot was on target, but would it get there in time? The referee called out 3...2...1..., just as our robot flipped the lego shark into the aquarium! Robert pumped his fist with joy!

**SPRING SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS**

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