

Quorum St. Joseph Members Give the Gift of Literacy This Holiday Season

Quorum St. Joseph members are leading with purpose—advancing literacy initiatives that will impact generations to come.

This holiday season, Quorum’s St. Joseph Chapter members are giving a gift that lasts—**the gift of literacy**. Through their work with **St. Joseph Reads (SJR)**, members including **Carol Burns, Natalie Hawn, Ashly McGinnis, Mary Beth Revels, and Melody Smith** are helping strengthen literacy for children, families, and adults across the region.

Why St. Joseph Reads Exists

Literacy is not just an educational skill—it is a life skill that shapes a person’s health, economic stability, and future opportunities. According to the George and Barbara Bush Foundation, **more than half of U.S. adults read below a sixth-grade level**, limiting their ability to earn family-sustaining wages and support their children’s learning. The crisis begins early: **69% of fourth graders lack reading proficiency**, placing them at greater risk for academic struggles, high school dropout, reduced earning potential, and long-term challenges tied to poverty, health outcomes, and workforce readiness.

St. Joseph Reads exists to address this crisis locally—working to ensure that all children and adults in St. Joseph have the literacy skills they need to succeed.

About St. Joseph Reads

St. Joseph Reads is a community coalition dedicated to:

- Improving literacy for all ages
- Building positive attitudes toward reading
- Ensuring children enter school ready to learn

Key partners include the City of St. Joseph, United Way of Greater St. Joseph, St. Joseph Public Library, Rolling Hills Library, the St. Joseph School District, the YMCA, and The Story Collective.

Current Projects

- Sharing Pre-K readiness resources across the region
- Supporting local implementation of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
- Preparing the March 2026 “**Building a Legacy of Literacy**” Summit
- Planning a citywide **Community Reads** program
- Engaging local businesses in literacy support for employees and families

March 2026 Literacy Summit

March 26, 2026 | 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

InspireU Discovery Center

The summit will unite educators, civic leaders, nonprofits, and business partners to create a unified literacy action plan focused on raising awareness, strengthening collaboration, expanding engagement, and building sustainable support for literacy across St. Joseph.

Quorum Members Leading With Purpose

Quorum St. Joseph members exemplify Quorum's mission of **raising their voices, sparking action, and driving meaningful social change**. Their leadership within Saint Joseph Reads shows what's possible when committed women come together to strengthen their community.

To learn more or donate, visit the [St. Joseph Reads](#) website.