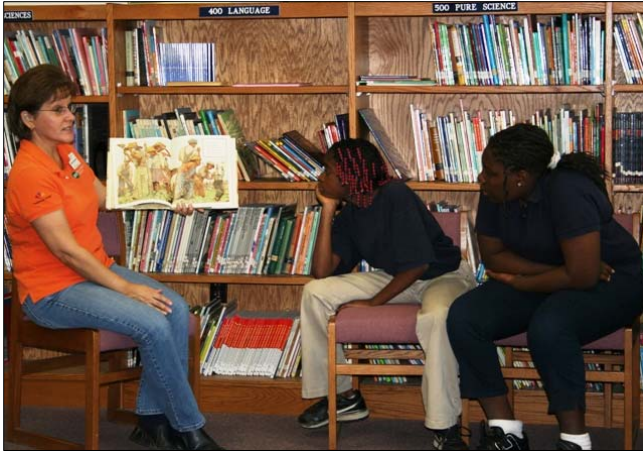


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**VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK WITH BAKERS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Employees of Roanoke Electric Cooperative and The Roanoke Center take time out to enjoy
story hour with students*



STAFF PHOTO/Stephanie Duffey Personnel Specialist Sandy Daughtry of Roanoke Electric Cooperative and subsidiaries reads to an attentive group of fourth grade students during National Library Week at Bakers Elementary School in Scotland Neck. Daughtry was one of several who volunteered their time in partnership with Communities In Schools of the Northeast to encourage literacy and reading among youth.

SCOTLAND NECK, N.C – (April 15-21, 2007) Volunteers from Roanoke Electric Cooperative and The Roanoke Center were welcomed by smiling faces at Bakers Elementary school library this week.

Participating in the American Library Association’s National Library Week, volunteers took time out of their corporate schedules to read to students in an attempt to encourage youth literacy and the utilization of the wide array of resources available to them at area libraries.

“When people in the community volunteer to make a difference in the life of a child in the area of literacy, everyone benefits,” said Bakers Elementary School Media Coordinator Jackie Ruffin. “National Library Week is just a reminder for us to do what we should be doing all year long. There is no substitute for continual learning.”

Sandy Daughtry, Personnel Specialist for Roanoke Electric Cooperative and its subsidiaries was one of the employees who volunteered her time to read to the students. “I did it because I love kids,” she said.

Every year, the American Library Association chooses a theme for National Library week and this year the theme, “Come together @ your library,” fell right in step with the mission of Communities In Schools of the Northeast (CISNE). Recently, CISNE entered into a memorandum of agreement with Bakers Elementary to provide volunteer tutors/mentors to help third graders prepare for end of grade exams.

According to an American Library Association press release, “Library use is up nationwide among all types of library users (with) almost 1.8 billion visitors check(ing) out more than 2 billion items last year from one-room rural outpost libraries to new modern facilities.”

Form more information about CISNE or to volunteer, contact Rosetta Smith or Diana Mitchell at 252-539-2236 ext. 280 or ext 230.

About The Roanoke Center

The Roanoke Center, located in Rich Square, N.C., was founded in 2003 and fosters sustainable economic and community development in northeastern North Carolina by addressing the needs of individual citizens and businesses.