

Dear volunteer hero,

Welcome to the *Project Armchair* team!

I am delighted you have chosen to join me in this endeavor. I believe you will find that reading aloud to children in crisis is time well spent. It is no exaggeration to say that it has fundamentally changed my life. I began this venture with the hopes of brightening the day of an ill or homeless child. I did not anticipate how it would also touch the lives of parents and siblings, who are also in need of a break from distressing circumstances. Long days and nights spent in a hospital room or homeless shelter with stress, fear, and confusion as constant companions takes their toll on all involved. Sometimes the child being read to is simply too ill to care much about anything, but all present will enjoy the book, regardless. You are about to intersect lives in crisis with a sunny smile, an engaging text, and a moment of distraction from stressful circumstances. "Thank you" seems inadequate. You will find your reward in a smile, soft words of thanks, and shining eyes. I hope you find this journey to be as life-changing as I have.

Blessings,

Vonda Dahl

