

September 15, 2020

To Whom it may concern:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter about Great Valley High School rising Junior Prithvi Parthasarathy, who was a devoted online volunteer with United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey's VELLO virtual reading program during the summer of 2020.

Prithvi contributed to the program during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. An advocate for bringing the study of indigenous literature into the school systems, Prithvi is founder of storyjourney.org, a literacy organization creating raised visibility for and a platform from which the voices of indigenous peoples can be heard through the literature of their authors.

Prithvi read and explained indigenous literature books to underserved Philadelphia-based students with less than ideal access to educational resources. Always patiently taking questions, defining words, and explaining the moral of each story, Prithvi gathered 15 students into his regular reading groups, spending 30 hours reading 50 books. Students came away with a valuable understanding that diverse peoples have important stories and that stories teach us how bonded and similar we are to each other.

A technologically astute student, Prithvi also took up the role of reading host, acting as the lead liaison between the students and their readers and resolving technical issues as they arose during sessions. His technological expertise and can-do nature helped the students complete their reading schedule. Prithvi even took it upon himself to host additional sessions when other scheduled hosts had to cancel.

We wish Prithvi all the success in his future endeavors and thank him for his devoted efforts. His impact elevated student comprehension and respect for literature and diverted their fear in a time of volatility and educational disruption.

Regards,

Madeline M. Jarvis

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