

## The Kansas City Star

March 30, 2011

### 24 Hours of Giving: noon to 5 p.m.

*Every day — nearly every hour — volunteers young and old help businesses and agencies and regular people tick in metro Kansas City. They wash pans for charities, read books to children, visit with the sick or lonely and feed people who are hungry. It's about helping. Feeling good. Satisfying a gnawing inside to do something for someone else.*

**Here are some of their stories, gathered in one 24-hour period by Star reporters and photographers.**

**4:11 pm**

Sarah Kelly helps the 6-year-old with a baby-tooth-gapped smile read the line.

“Do you like my hat?”

Saladeen Abdullah twists, his face bending down into the pages, reading the answering line, “I...do...” Then his head pops up, chin high, his big brown eyes level with Sarah’s, their noses practically touching. “....not!” he finishes.

His exuberant “t” sounds like a snapping twig.

Saladeen wasn’t reading when the school year started. But here he is, with Sarah — a Notre Dame de Sion senior who has accumulated some 470 volunteer hours. She’s one of 120 volunteers helping the **Upper Room’s One to One Challenge** tutoring program.

“What do we do when we don’t know?” Sarah says when Saladeen stumbles at another word.

He answers in the spirit of a drum major: “Sound ... it ... out!”

Moments later, he works one out: “wha-wha-wha...water!”

“See?” Sarah says. “You’re figuring it out. You’re *reading*.”

Now Saldeen curls close to her, the top of his head against her chin.

“Give me five for that,” Sarah says.

**To volunteer:** 913-339-8332