



**THE LITERACY COUNCIL
OF LANCASTER-LEBANON**

The LiteracyLine

Spring 2012

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Buck A Book® 2012 ~Jenny Bair

This year, Buck A Book® raised nearly \$20,000! The following schools participated this year:

Eastern Lebanon County Middle School
Conestoga Valley Middle School
Hans Herr Elementary
Lampeter Elementary
New School of Lancaster
Palmyra Middle School
Reamstown Elementary
Strasburg Elementary

Greg Mizii of Reamstown Elementary School raised almost \$800. Thank you, Greg! Greg said, “I read 17 or 18 books and I hope it helped with adult literacy in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.” His teacher, Mr. Dave Miller, commented, “I am always happy to promote literacy awareness and support such a worthy cause as Buck A Book®. I am very proud of Greg.”

The top fund-raising school, Lampeter Elementary, raised almost \$12,000. Thank you to the students, teachers, schools, and families who supported The Literacy Council through Buck A Book®. These dollars will be used to purchase text books and instructional materials for adult learners in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.



The Literacy Council of Lancaster- Lebanon

38 West King Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

756 Cumberland Street, Suite 4
Lebanon, PA 17042

New in Basic Skills Instruction — the WIN Pilot ~Cathy Roth

WIN is an Internet-based testing and instructional program aimed at screening job applicants and preparing them for the skills required by today’s workforce. It is offered by the CareerLink® in Lancaster and Lebanon counties to those who have established a participant ID through the CareerLink® website at <https://www.cwds.state.pa.us>.

The Literacy Council has been chosen to participate in a pilot project using the WIN program for students in our classes and placed with tutors. Because it has Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information components in the context of the workplace, we hope to see our students’ math and reading abilities increase as they work through the seven WIN levels. In addition, students should gain knowledge about the modern work environment.

WIN will not replace teachers and tutors. It will supplement the instruction they provide. Instructors can assign students to work on WIN on computers while they look over writing assignments, pull together lesson materials, or instruct other students one-to-one. Because WIN is online, students can access it any hour of the day or night. We hope those students with Internet access at home will use it every day.

Students can print out certificates as they complete each post-test. The system will monitor the number of hours students have worked, so instructors will be able to see dedication outside of tutoring or class time. Tutors and students who are interested in participating can contact Cathy Roth at 717-274-3461 for additional details regarding getting started.





Saying Goodbye to Jay ~Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director

Jay Latham was well known to the staff and students of The Literacy Council. Jay volunteered as a reading and language tutor for 15 years. Jay worked with many students over the years. One of his students, Lucy, is now the owner of a local restaurant. Others have gone on to get their GED and get jobs. His last student was Delphine who moved to the United States with her husband from France and came to The Literacy Council to improve her English. Delphine wrote this in her journal:

“I have just learned that my tutor passed away. I am very surprised and very sad. It was so fast. The illness took him in so such short time.

I planned to write to him and now it’s too late. So with this letter, I will try to say my last words. These last weeks, I was always thinking about him, about our meetings, about what I wanted to tell him about my trip to France.

I played Scrabble in France with my mum and my brother. We had a happy time with that. Of course, it was in French.

Since we came back, my husband and I went to flea markets and we tried to look for a Scrabble. We finally bought one, a vintage one and we played together, two days later.

One day later, I played again with Sylvie in a coffee shop and we played well. A man told us that he plays Scrabble every week. His friend told us it wasn’t a good idea to play with him because he’s very good. We said it was our first time together, but with Jay I have played many times. The man said that we were pretty good. He also said that we could play against him, next time.

Thanks to Jay, I will continue to play Scrabble and learn more English. Besides each time I will play Scrabble, I will always think about Jay.

I will miss you! Thanks for your time and all the dedication you gave me.”

In addition to helping adult learners reach their goals, Jay was also a benefactor to The Literacy Council, contributing significantly over the years.

We are honored to have had Jay as a part of our team. When someone gives so much of himself, it is important to acknowledge their contribution. Every day, Jay contributed to making this world a better place and he will continue to inspire us to consider our own contributions to others. Rest in peace, Jay – we miss you very much!

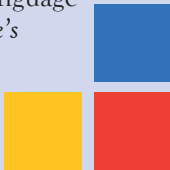
A Success Story — Part One ~Bobbi Hurst

Margie came to The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon on June 29, 2006. She was a single mom with a 9-year-old special needs child, and was holding down a full-time job. It had been 10 years since Margie dropped out of high school after completing the 11th grade. Her goal was to get a General Education Diploma (GED).

After the initial interview, orientation, and assessment session, it was determined that Margie’s instructional placement would be best with a one-to-one tutor. She was matched with a volunteer tutor and they began sessions to begin GED preparation. For the next 4.5 years, Margie and her tutor methodically worked through all the background content needed for the GED, one subject area at a time. All the while, Margie continued to handle her work, family, and personal responsibilities – no small feat.

Margie passed her first GED test, Language Arts Reading, in March 2009. She passed the next three tests, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics in 2010. Margie passed the Language Arts Writing test on March 21, 2011 and realized her goal of getting a GED. Goal accomplished, but not the end of the story.

The combined dedication and persistence of both Margie and her tutor was a life-altering process. Margie said, “I never dreamed that I’d ever be talking about going to college.” Well, she is now ready to talk about going to college. Margie returned to The Literacy Council in January 2012 to continue improving her reading, mathematics, and language skills, and to do some career and education counseling. Please stay tuned for part two of this success story – Margie’s *Career Pathways*.





Students in the News ~Linda Cullen

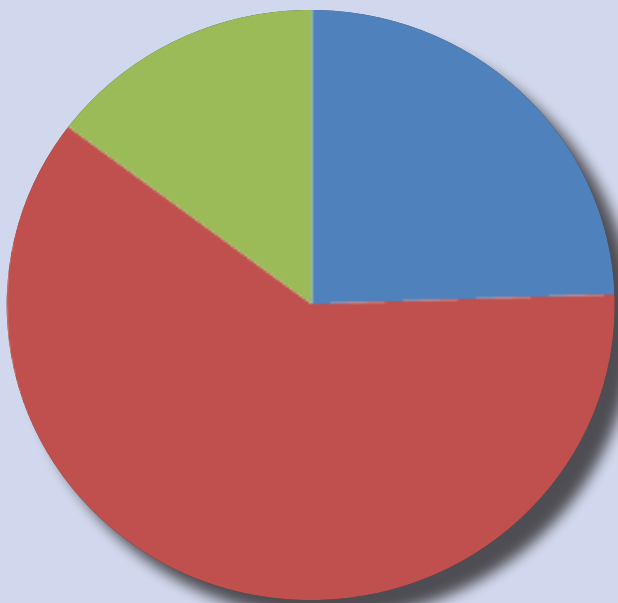
Our students have been in the news! Here are some examples of students who improved their skills to get great jobs! Soe Reh, a rice farmer from Burma, never went to school. When he arrived in the United States, he attended English classes at The Literacy Council and was soon offered a job at a restaurant as a dishwasher. Five months later, he was training as a chef.

Soe and his wife, She Meh, have a son who also made the news! Jeff Hawkes dedicated a column in the Lancaster Newspaper to 12-year-old, Peh Reh, a fifth-grader at Lafayette Elementary School. Mr. Hawkes was moved by Peh Reh's leap from being a "shy outsider" to an honor student. We were not surprised because the staff here had seen the determination of Peh Reh's parents as students here. When they arrived, they knew no English and had no knowledge of indoor plumbing, smoke detectors, or refrigerators. They are loving and dedicated parents. Although She Meh had no education prior to coming here, she sits quietly beside her son for hours while he completes his homework.

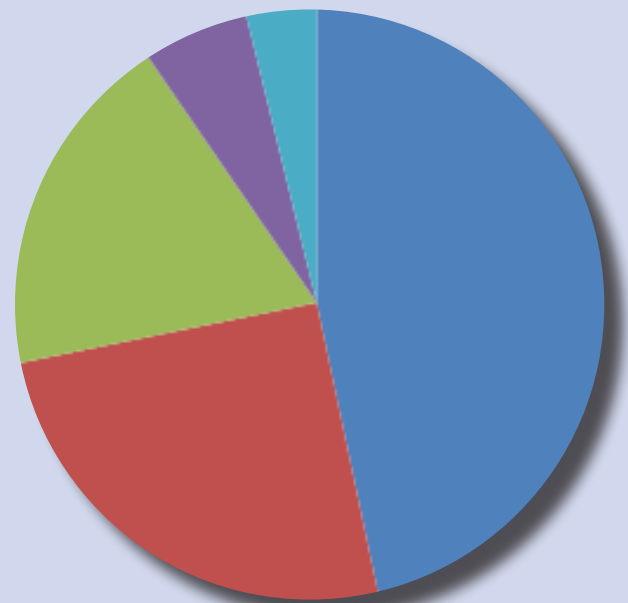
Soe and She made a difficult decision to leave behind the security of loved ones and the life they knew in a refugee camp for the sake of their children. It has been a privilege for us to be a small part of their resettlement and watch in awe as they make Lancaster their new home. It is no wonder that their son is such an achiever!

Fernando Garcia-Aquilla landed an internship with Top Chef winner, Fabio Viviani, and moved to California a few months ago. He credits his tutors at The Literacy Council for helping him build his language skills and confidence to write a letter to Chef Fabio asking him for the job. Now, Fernando cooks at Café Firenze in California and, who knows, you may see this former student on Top Chef!

Annual Financial Report



- United Way Income: 24%
- Grants & Contracts: 61%
- Events & Contributions: 15%



- Instructional Services: 47%
- Tutor Training: 25%
- Outreach: 19%
- Fund Raising: 6%
- Administration: 4%

The Tutor Corner: Volunteering 24/7 ~Jane Myers

On December 24, Marlene Usdin, Tama Etra, and Carole Gore volunteered to wrap packages at Barnes and Noble with the proceeds going to The Literacy Council. When I discovered the plan, I asked if I could help. I love to wrap, and I am good at it. “No way!” said Marlene. “This is an opportunity for the Jewish girls.” Demonstrating respect for cultural, racial, and religious differences is an attribute of staff and students at The Literacy Council. To those volunteers, thanks for the day off.

Kim Dunn’s student passed all sections of the GED test! Because Kim works during the day, they were meeting at night. When her student got a job on second shift, he was afraid that he would no longer have her help. Kim made the decision to tutor on Saturdays. Thanks, Kim.

In 2008, Donna Kline was matched with a young woman who wanted to get her GED. The student had dropped out of school after completing 7th grade. Donna was a new tutor, did not have teaching experience, but was ready to help. In 2011, after having worked through each section of the GED, the goal was accomplished. The student thanked me for matching her with the perfect tutor. She has transitioned to post-secondary education and continues to stay in contact with Donna. Donna continues to volunteer and meets with two pre-GED students in Columbia.

These are only the beginning of the stories that I hear from all of you who give so much to help our adult learners. I plan to continue featuring tutors in The Tutor Corner. Please share your stories. All of you are special and are making a difference. Thank you!

HAPPY TUTORING!



Window Dressing at the Lancaster Office ~Marlene Usdin

On January 17, volunteer tutor, Laura Howell, turned to Cheryl Hiester and asked if she could do something with the front display windows at 38 West King Street at the Lancaster Office. Cheryl gave Laura the green light to create a window display that would reflect our mission.

The power of one person set off a chain reaction that led to our new spring window display! One person led to another person, and the result is positive – people like it! They understand the message we are conveying.

People walking by give a thumbs up when they take in the new display. What they see is an explosion of newspaper, paying tribute to the generosity of Lancaster Newspapers for their ongoing support to The Literacy Council. There is a woman covered in newsprint thinking about what an education makes possible.

The second window displays three banners of black and white photos of our current students. Glenn Usdin graciously donated a day to photograph our students. The patchwork of faces is very powerful; some photos are taken with students and teachers. Just behind the photo banners are three banners that express our mission. In front of the photo banners are books cascading downward ending in a pile at the front window. There are numerous novels, self-help books, cookbooks, text books, non-fiction books, travel guides, and so much more. These books display what lies ahead for our students when they are able to read them so they can continue their journey of life-long learning.

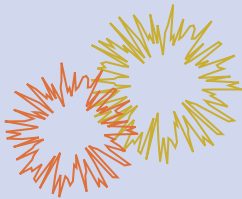
We wish to thank Laura Howell for the idea and help in creating the new look. We also express thanks to Karen West, a former tutor, for her vision to create a window that was artful and meaningful. Thank you, Karen, for your creativity and hard work. Stop by 38 West King Street, Lancaster and have a look!



Rotary Bike Event to Benefit Literacy

On May 12, 2012, the Lancaster Sunrise Rotary and The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon will be sponsoring its eighth annual Ride for Literacy. There are three scenic Lancaster County bicycle rides planned of varying lengths and a metric century. Hot food will be available at the completion of the ride and t-shirts will be given away. All rides will begin and end at the Manheim Township Community Park in Neffsville, PA. Proceeds from the event benefit The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon.

Registration is \$30. Additional information is available at www.lancastersunriserotaryofpa.com.



Save the date for the Eighth Annual
Ride For Literacy
May 12, 2012

Three Scenic Lancaster County Bicycle Rides
and a Metric Century

All rides begin and end at:

Manheim Township Community Park
Neffsville, Lancaster County, PA

Sponsored by:

Lancaster Sunrise Rotary &
The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon
Additional information available at
www.lancastersunriserotaryofpa.com

Special Thanks to our Title Sponsor:



Signs of Lancaster County Poster is Here!

Bring the charm of beautiful Lancaster County into your home with this entertaining photo collage. Quaint signs along back roads and main pikes, photographed and compiled in a 24"x36" art poster by Tana Reiff of Lancaster, make it hard to believe this is the 21st century.

Local or tourist, be among the first to own the Signs of Lancaster County poster. It makes a great gift, too. To place your order, please stop by the The Literacy Council's Lancaster Office, call 717-295-5523, or order online at www.getliterate.org. Available now for \$22.95 (+ PA sales tax). Shipping charge will apply.

Proceeds benefit The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon.



Signs of Lancaster County

The 2012 Annual Literacy Challenge

Our Annual Literacy Challenge will be held in June. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information!



Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Promoting life-long learning and providing effective personalized adult education.

Vision

Adults have skills to transform their lives, sustain families, and strengthen their communities.

Values

- **Quality** – Our high-quality programs and services are rooted in evidence-based practices and offered in an encouraging, caring environment.
- **Goal-Driven** – Our programs and services demonstrate results that support the learning students need to successfully transition to the next step of obtaining their life goals.
- **Respect and Integrity** – Our compassionate and caring approach and interactions are highly respectful of diverse backgrounds and differences. Our integrity rests in our word, all deeds and actions that ensure trustworthiness and confidentiality.
- **Leadership** – Our staff, board members, volunteers, and students are engaged and are actively advocating for adult education. Our responsibility to continually enhance our own leadership skills will keep us prominent in the field.
- **Innovative** – Our effective partnerships, strategic approaches, and being open to possibilities allow us to respond creatively to our work.
- **Collaborative** – Our willingness to build strong relationships and alliances with others that support our mission ensures commitment to serving our community and the betterment of society at large.



The Literacy Council is a United Way partner agency.

Board and Staff Directory

Board

Sean Frederick, President
 Kelly Wells, Vice President
 Carmen Guaigua, Secretary
 Robyn Dougherty, Treasurer
 Frank Byrne
 Beth Crosby
 Marlene Usdin
 Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director

Lancaster Staff • 717-295-5523

Bobbi Hurst, Student Services Coordinator
 Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator
 Jenny Bair, ESL Services Coordinator
 Linda Cullen, ESL Services Coordinator
 Joan Carosielli, Lancaster Office Manager
 Sandy Simms, Receptionist

Lebanon Staff • 717-274-3461

Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator
 Jonile Miller, Lebanon Office Manager

Volunteers Needed

Do you want to make a difference in someone's life and in your community? Please consider tutoring an adult student. Tutors are needed to teach basic education skills including reading, writing, mathematics, English language, and GED preparation. All it takes is a desire to help someone and three hours a week. We provide training, all materials, and technical support. For more information in the Lancaster area, please call 717-295-5523. For more information in the Lebanon area, please call 717-274-3461.

The Literacy Council of Lancaster- Lebanon

38 West King Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 • 756 Cumberland Street, Suite 4, Lebanon, PA 17042