



**THE LITERACY COUNCIL
OF LANCASTER-LEBANON**

The LiteracyLine

Spring 2013

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The Literacy Council of Lancaster- Lebanon

24 South Queen Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-295-5523

756 Cumberland Street, Suite 4
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-274-3461

www.getliterate.org

Adult Education Program Helping People Prepare for Jobs

The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon and IU 13 will be holding two job readiness programs at the PA CareerLink Lebanon County this spring. These courses are funded by the South Central Workforce Investment Board and delivered through a partnership with PA CareerLink Lebanon County. The classes are free to those who meet eligibility.



The four week course titled I'll Succeed is scheduled to begin April 1, 2013. It is designed for those who need a job but are aware there may be gaps in their basic skills. Participants will review math and reading skills and learn basic computer skills to create attention-getting resumes and cover letters. They will improve oral communication skills and take part in mock interviews. The goal is to learn job search skills while improving their basic skills.

The next course, Work Certified, is scheduled to begin in May. It is a nationally recognized work readiness program in which participants complete course work in nine areas crucial to employment and are issued a certificate recognizing their competencies.

IU 13 and The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon provide free adult basic education and family literacy services.

PAACE Honors Literacy Council Executive Director

On March 12, 2013, Cheryl Hiester received the Outstanding Adult Educator of the Year Award. Since 1979, the Pennsylvania Association for Adult and Continuing Education (PAACE) has been honoring educators for distinguished service and dedication to the field of adult and continuing education. PAACE is the professional association for practitioners in the field of adult and continuing education.

Cheryl was nominated by the staff of Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13, led by director Tim Shenk and the staff of The Literacy Council. Cheryl worked at IU 13 for 17 years prior to becoming executive director of The Literacy Council in 2007.

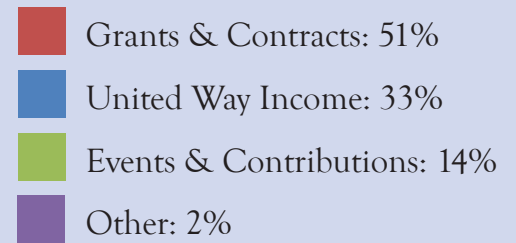
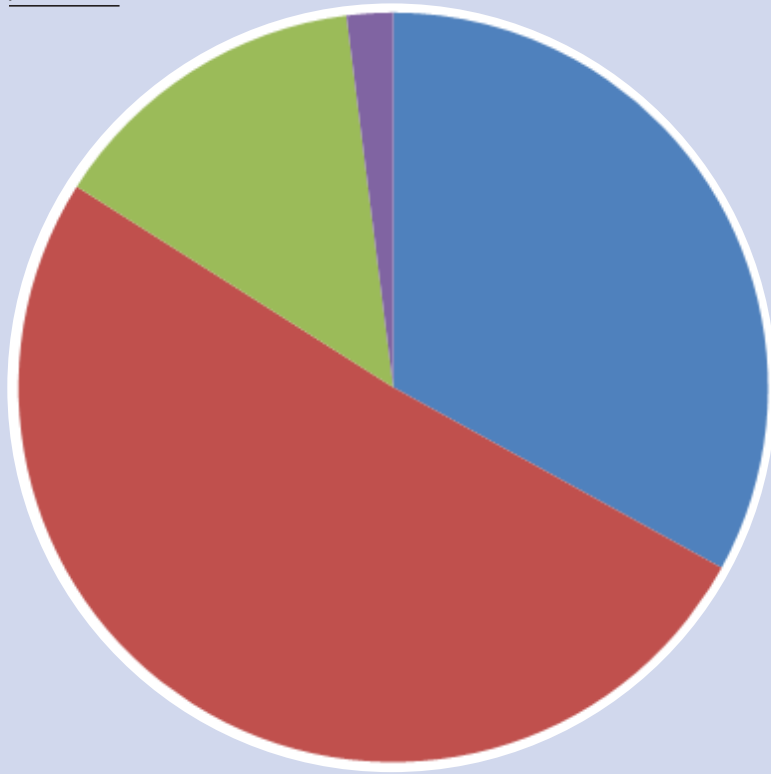
At the banquet, Cheryl accepted the award, and thanked and honored The Literacy Council staff and IU partners. "When achievement is publicly recognized, we must remember that it takes a team to carry out our mission. The Literacy Council/IU 13 team is remarkable and I am very lucky to be working with these people. They are professional, dedicated, hard-working, highly capable, and caring. Being nominated by them would have been enough – being selected by the PAACE committee was the most delicious icing on the cake!"

Cheryl served as the vice president of PAACE in 2011 and president in 2012.

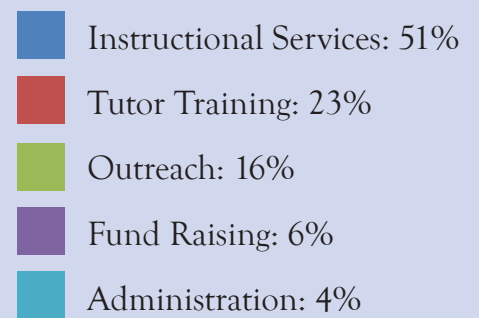
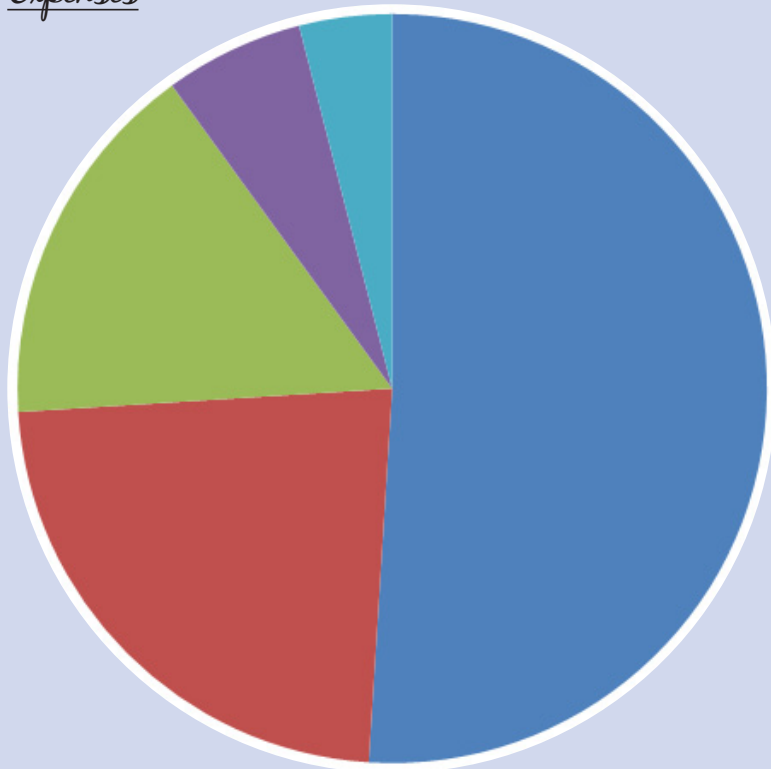


Annual Financial Report

Revenue



Expenses





GED to Succeed – Elizabethtown GED Pilot Program

High school dropouts who live in the Elizabethtown area and want to get a GED no longer need to travel to Lancaster to do so. Through the efforts of Jennifer Kenny, Elizabethtown Area School District social worker, and several community partners, “GED to Succeed” was launched. The program is hosted by Cornerstone Community Ministries. Instruction is provided by the Literacy Council. This program is a great example of a community coming together to solve a problem.

Classes began in June 2012 with 15 students and teacher Amy Carroll, a tutor with the Literacy Council who had previously taught GED classes in the prison system. The first student earned his GED in September. In December, three more students passed their tests. Amy decided to take a break, and Dick Merritt agreed to continue. Fifteen new students started in January. We added an aide to the class. By the end of the month, eight more students passed, and one dropped out because he got a job. At this time, two more students have earned their GED’s and three of the students have taken and passed three of the five sections. Fourteen out of 30 students have earned GED’s in 10 months. In all probability, four more will finish by May. Thanks to all who have supported the program and a special thanks to Jennifer for her vision and persistence!



Let’s Gear Up to Tackle the New 2014 GED Test

Yes, the rumors you have been hearing are true. On January 2, 2014, a new GED test will be implemented.

What does this mean for students, tutors, and staff at The Literacy Council? This means that partially completed GED tests will expire on December 31, 2013. No test scores will carry over to 2014, even if students only need to pass one more test, or just need some extra points to pass the test. It also means that everyone must put forth a concerted effort for 2013 GED achievement.

What will the 2014 GED test continue to do? In a nutshell, it will continue to measure high school equivalency and include reading comprehension, writing, editing, science, social studies, and mathematics.

Well, that doesn’t sound so different. How is the test going to change? The following are highlights of the changes to the 2014 GED test:

1. The entire GED test will include four modules instead of five.
2. The modules will include Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies.
3. Two performance levels will be assessed – a high school equivalency level and a college and career readiness level.
4. Background knowledge in the content areas will be assessed. This means not all of the information will be provided in the readings in order to answer questions.
5. Three of the four tests will include short answer or extended response items. This means that test-takers will need to use evidence-based writing rather than writing from a personal perspective.
6. Over half of the Mathematical Reasoning test will assess algebraic problem solving.
7. The test will be computer based, not paper based.

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Tutor Corner

Louise Bixler

Who is that woman and why does she have such a contagious smile on her face? Is it possible that she's enjoying what she's doing so much that she leaves a wake of good feelings behind her?

Just ask Louise Bixler what it is that makes her so happy and she will tell you that she is a volunteer math instructor in adult education. Now most people would have to scratch their heads in wonder at the fact that teaching math could make someone so happy. How is that possible? Math, of all subjects!

We at the Lebanon office of the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon are not questioning. We have been observing this unusual attitude toward teaching math since Louise began volunteering with us in 2002. Prior to volunteering for the Literacy Council, Louise worked in adult education teaching GED classes at Intermediate Unit 13 for 17 years. Louise is a natural teacher, who maintains a good sense of humor and cares for all of her students equally. We have been fortunate that Louise has such a love of math. She has served as a one-to-one tutor and a classroom teacher of small and large groups with equal glee. Her students make progress, and there is a waiting list for her class! Louise not only volunteers her time, but she has been a long time supporter of the Literacy Council donating to our fundraisers and purchasing books. (Yes, math books!)

Seriously, what makes her so happy? What she will tell you is that it is because she can teach math without the headache of the tons of extra paperwork involved! To any retired teacher, that is a definite plus. We are grateful to Louise and her love of math!



Dick Merritt

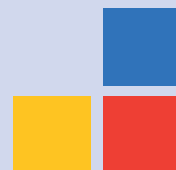
"Give me a white board and a marker. That's all I need," said Dick Merritt. In 2007, Dick arrived on the doorstep of the Literacy Council. Fortunately, for the Council and numerous adult learners, he has stayed.

Before volunteering for the Literacy Council, Dick was an educator for 21 years in a variety of settings: elementary teacher, building principal, college professor, and supervisor for the gifted program of Intermediate Unit 15. When Dick completed the tutor data form, he selected GED as the type of student he preferred. He has tutored ABE, ESL, and GED students. In July 2012, his student earned a GED. Dick is currently teaching the Elizabethtown GED class.

With his training and background as an educator, Dick Merritt brings a wealth of knowledge and life experiences to the classroom. He has the ability to meet learners where they are and to show the compassion, understanding, and patience they need to move their lives forward despite adverse circumstances. Thank you, Dick! You are making a difference!



We want to thank all of our tutors for volunteering. All of you are making a difference in the lives of adult learners, their families, and the community!





Lancaster County Refugee Coalition

What would make you leave a lovely home full of family heirlooms and memories sitting on a mountainside farm full of oranges and nuts with a million dollar view of the Himalayas?

A man with a gun and a young king who had just stripped you of your citizenship. Why? Because you spoke the wrong language and wore the wrong clothes.

In 1992, Khem Gurung along with roughly 108,000 other Bhutanese were herded into refugee camps in Nepal and there he built a 10'x20' hut with bamboo supplied by Lutheran World Services. A simple one room hut without a bathroom or kitchen was the home for a family of five for the next 18 years.

In 2010, Khem and his family flew from Kathmandu to New York City at the cost of \$1,536, which was paid by the VOLAG (Voluntary Agencies) here in the USA. The three most familiar VOLAGs in our area are Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and Catholic Charities Immigration and Refugee Services. Since 1987, 4,589 refugees just like Khem were resettled in Lancaster County.

The Lancaster County Refugee Coalition was formed to encourage service providers who assist refugees to talk to each other. Hospitals, landlords, police, churches, businesses, midwives, and public, private, and nonprofit education providers prove that it “takes a community” to resettle refugees. How can we help each other? Who has a list of translators? Who could start a soccer program for kids? How should the landlords deal with all the clogged toilets? Where can we get help for mental health problems? Does anyone have a manual in Karen for nursing mothers? When and where are English classes? Who is hiring limited English speakers? What protocol should nurses follow upon the death of a Muslim refugee?


The Coalition grew out of a conference sponsored by The Ware Institute, Church World Service, and a student organization of Franklin and Marshall College. The Literacy Council was involved from the start. Although refugees are only a fraction of the many different types of students we serve, The Literacy Council had much to offer in the area of teaching survival English and vocational English to new arrivals. In our 28 years of service, we have helped adults acquire essential language skills. Although only a year old, the Coalition reflects the partnership of those who have been dedicated to helping refugees and reflects the historic welcoming nature of the Lancaster County community.

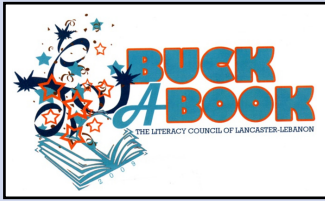
New 2014 GED Test (continued from page 3)

8. The test will include technology enhanced interactive items like drag and drop, clicking on hot spots, and using a drop down menu.
9. All tests and item types will be computer scored, including the written response items.
10. Detailed feedback about strengths and weaknesses will be given to test takers.

WOW, that is a lot of change! How are we going to prepare? In April, a teacher advisory group from Pennsylvania will attend the National Adult Education College and Career Readiness Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. This group, along with PA education service providers and the PA Department of Education will collaborate to create statewide professional development. The goal will be to ensure that PA Adult Basic Education programs are equipped to prepare learners for the 2014 GED test. Bobbi Hurst, student services coordinator at The Literacy Council, will be one of the teachers attending the Institute!

So, please stay tuned for upcoming information about the new 2014 GED. The Literacy Council will be providing in-service training in the fall of 2013 for all tutors and staff who work with students pursuing a GED and/or post-secondary education. Until then, encourage students to prepare for and be persistent in completion of the current GED. It will be time well spent.





Buck A Book® 2013

More than 300 students from Conestoga Valley Middle School, Eastern Lebanon County Middle School, Hans Herr Elementary School, Lampeter Elementary School, New School of Lancaster, Reamstown Elementary School, and Strasburg Elementary School read over 1,000 books and raised over \$14,000

during Buck A Book® this year. The top reader, Samantha Ferrari, raised more than \$300! Samantha is in second grade at Lampeter Elementary. The top fund raising school was Lampeter Elementary, raising \$9,800!

Thanks to all of the students, teachers, and families who helped make this event a success!



Left to right: Kimberly Smith, Samantha Ferrari, and Kara Grove

Upcoming Events

Phone-a-Thon Coming in May

Stay tuned for The Literacy Council Phone-a-Thon fundraiser coming in May. This year, revenue raised by this fundraiser will be used to purchase text books and expand services for GED preparation. We are expecting a flood of students in need of assistance to pass the test before the new version takes effect in 2014. Please help us reach our goal of raising \$15,000 to purchase text books and add three additional GED classes.

HELP US
HIT OUR
TARGET



Ride for Literacy — May 11, 2013

The Tenth Annual Bicycle Ride for Literacy, sponsored by the Lancaster Sunrise Rotary Club, will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Proceeds from the event support the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon and the Rotary Club's eye missions to Ethiopia.

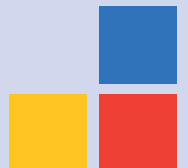
Three rides are featured at 10, 21, and 43 miles in length and lunch is provided at completion of your ride. All rides begin and end at the Manheim Township Community Park



\$30 preregistration by April 21, 2013

Sign up at: lancastersunriserotaryofpa.com or active.com

For additional information please contact Steve Bareuther at 717-290-1719 or sbareuther@msn.com



The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon

We serve the people and communities of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties; working in partnership with multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, business and industry employers, governmental staff, and organizations. Key to our success is a network of highly qualified volunteers, professional staff, and a supportive community.

Vision

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

Mission

Promote lifelong learning and provide effective personalized adult education services.

Values

- **Quality** – Our high-quality programs and services are rooted in evidence-based practices and offered in an encouraging and caring environment.
- **Goal-Driven** – Our programs and services demonstrate results that support the education 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 of Lancaster-Lebanon is a partner agency of the United Way of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

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 Roberta Hurst, Student Services Coordinator
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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. There are 75 GED students waiting for a tutor and as the GED deadline approaches, more will be contacting us for help. 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.