



**THE LITERACY COUNCIL
OF LANCASTER-LEBANON**

The LiteracyLine

Spring 2014

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An Evening of Matched Pairs

On October 13, 2013 the Literacy Council hosted our first ever Evening of Matched Pairs! The goal of the evening was to celebrate our matched pairs of students and tutors with a wide variety of food provided by local Lancaster restaurants matched with various wine and beer. It was a successful and fun filled evening where guests were invited to make their way around the room exploring the various taste combinations. In addition, there was a silent auction where supporters bid on various items including a hand crafted clock, a boat ride, and a home cooked meal by Literacy Council alumnus, Chef Fernando Garcia. We were excited to work so closely with Fernando to plan this event, and it would not have happened without his help. Throughout the evening, we danced to the music of Lancaster's Sonic Tonic.



At the Literacy Council, we concentrate on matching our learners with tutors who can zero-in on our students' skills and areas for improvement and can use that information to create the most effective learning environment possible. The Evening of Matched Pairs was designed to highlight this aspect of the Literacy Council. Throughout the ballroom, posters featuring student and teacher relationships told the stories of both learners and teachers and their educational relationships with each other. Thanks to the efforts of sommelier and manager of The Penn Square Grille, Chris Trendler, the drink and food pairings were well representative of our student-teacher pairs!

A variety of event sponsors made the evening possible:

Lancaster Marriott; Penn Square Grille; J S Graphic Design; Turkey Hill Dairy; H & H Group; The Pennsylvania School of Culinary Arts at YTI Career Institute; Bertz Hess, LLP; Brown, Schultz, Sheridan & Fritz; Barley Snyder, Attorneys at Law; Command Fire Apparatus; and Tennco, Inc.

The following restaurants donated their chefs and the food:

Penn Square Grille; Sakura, Sukothai; The Pennsylvania School of Culinary Arts at YTI Career Institute; Hershey Hotel; Gypsy Kitchen; and La Cocina Mexicana.

The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon

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

Lebanon CareerLink
243 Schneider Drive
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-274-2554

www.getliterate.org

Network for Integrating New Americans

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education and World Education kicked off a new project to support networks that assist new Americans in adjusting to their new homes. The competitive grant was announced in the Fall of 2013 and invited existing networks to be one of five participating network in the nation. The Lancaster Refugee Coalition with The Literacy Council as the anchor agency applied. In March, we learned that our local network was selected for this prestigious project. The Lancaster Network was represented at the Kick Off event in Washington, D.C. (see picture on page 4) by Gary Hobday of the Lancaster Refugee Coalition, Tim Shenk and Susan Finn Miller of Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 and Cheryl Hiester of The Literacy Council.

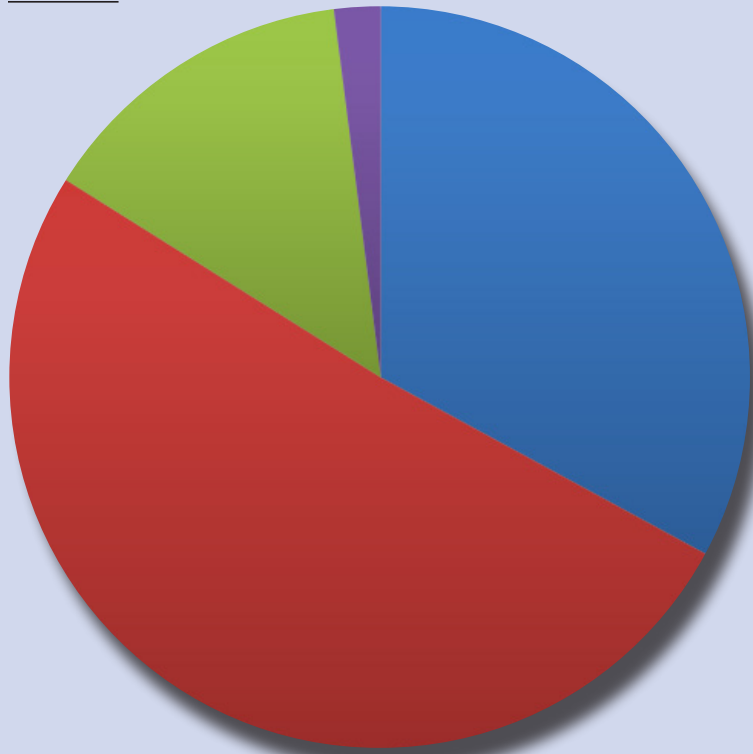
Through this two-year project, we will work to enhance our existing networks' ability to offer broader reaching services with the support of training and technical assistance coordinated by World Education. Upon arrival in

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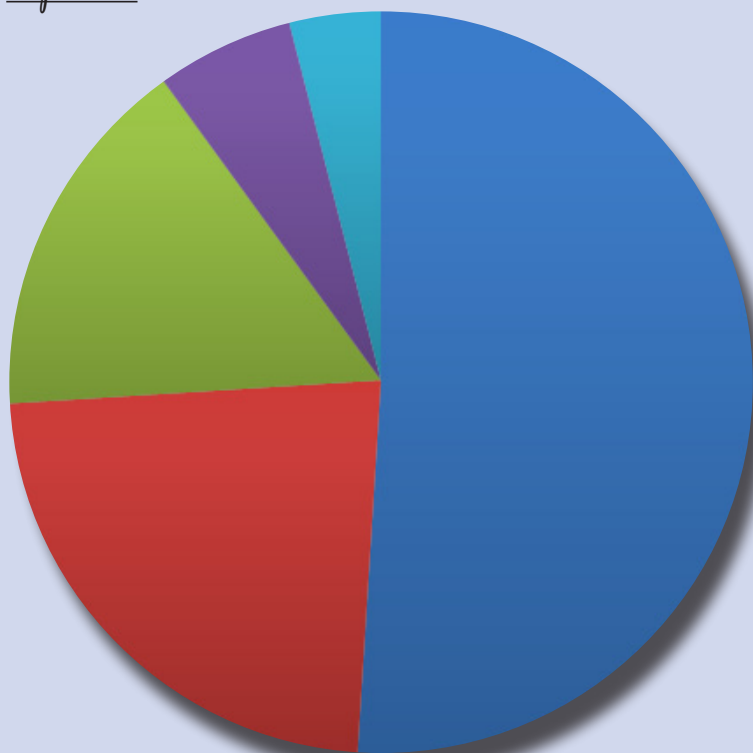
Annual Financial Report: 2012-2013

Revenue



- Grants & Contracts: 51%
- United Way Income: 33%
- Events & Contributions: 14%
- Other: 2%

Expenses



- Instructional Services: 51%
- Tutor Training: 23%
- Outreach: 16%
- Fund Raising: 6%
- Administration: 4%



New at The Literacy Council

Several months ago, folks from Church World Service, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of Lancaster County, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and The Literacy Council met to talk about a group of refugees who are deaf and have no language skills. The only language used by this group was a locally developed sign language that was used by their families. They were isolated and unable to interact with people outside of their families and small group.

Church World Service was able to secure funding to provide instruction to this group of deaf refugees. The Office of Refugee Resettlement in the US Department of Health and Human Services provides funding to help support refugees in need of special services. These funds are distributed through the Pennsylvania State Refugee Coordinator's Office. A request to support a class teaching American Sign Language and English literacy was honored and the students have been attending class since October. Instructor, Pam Rutt explains that one of the most important goals of this class is to remove communication barriers. The first thing students do is physically remove barriers by rearranging the tables into a U-shape or circle so everyone can see all of the communication. A second goal is to be able to communicate—to understand and be understood. Most of these students are the only

deaf members in their families and communication is a challenge at home. Teachers and students act, draw, sign and find pictures to communicate their message. Information is repeated or rephrased/re-signed many times until there is satisfactory understanding.

Teachers have adapted ESL curriculum so students are learning American Sign Language and English at the same time. A major focus has been on everyday vocabulary for experiences such as shopping, banking, healthy living and medical appointments in the US. Teachers have adapted the Language Experience Approach. Lessons are planned by teachers, but often take off in different directions as the students discuss events, holidays and traditions of their native cultures. A commonly used phrase is, “back in my country...”. The teachers use this discussion as a springboard to understand traditions of the students and compare similar US traditions. Signs in students' native language are used to learn similar signs in American Sign Language.

The students are an inspiration. Their desire to learn and joy at being together is evident in their happy faces as they come to class. They walk long distances to come to class. They ask for “more school.” They come early and stay late—just ask the staff!



2014 GED Test — New and Improved!

On January 2, 2014, a new GED test was implemented. Although there are many changes, a few things will stay the same. The GED will continue to measure high school equivalency and include reading comprehension, writing, editing, science, social studies, and math.


However, it also comes with some important changes. The following are some of the most significant changes to the 2014 GED test:

1. There are four modules instead of five. The modules include: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science and Social Studies.
2. Two performance levels can be assessed – a high school equivalency level and a college and career readiness level.
3. Background knowledge in the content areas is necessary. This means not all of the information will be provided in the reading to answer the questions.
4. Three of the four tests 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.

5. Over half of the Mathematical Reasoning test is assess algebraic problem solving. A calculator can be used on all but the first four questions.
6. The test is computer based. Students have to know how to drag and drop, click on hot spots, and use drop down menus.
7. The tests are computer scored. Test takers receive detailed feedback about strengths and weaknesses to help further prepare if necessary.

Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 (IU 13) has testing sites up and running in Lancaster at Bright Side Opportunity Center and in Lebanon at One Cumberland Street. Visit www.gedtestingservice.com/ged-testing-service to learn more about the GED test.



Student and Tutor Corner

Since she started in July of 2001, Holly Williams has already worked with quite a few students. In September of 2011, Holly began working with a woman from the Philippines named Keiko Heiser. Holly and Keiko have devoted countless hours of hard work developing language and reading skills. In August of 2012, the hard work paid off. Keiko was granted her US citizenship! Since then, the pair has progressed even further. Through shared interests such as spending time outside, Holly and Keiko have gotten to know each other over the past few years, a relationship vital to Keiko's improvement as a language speaker and an engaged member of the community.



Keiko Heiser and Holly Williams

Jere "Osty" Ostermayer has been a Literacy Council teacher since February of 2011. He is a retired math teacher who has been teaching a group class since he started with us. His goal is to improve his student's math skills and he works with motivated students who share his enthusiasm. Since his first class, he has helped over 45 students improve their math skills and work toward passing their GED tests. Osty is a committed educator and a vital member of our team.



Jere Ostermayer and students

We are extremely grateful for motivators like Holly, Keiko, Jere, and his students who prove that success is attainable through hard work and determination.

Network for Integrating New Americans (continued from front page)

the United States, immigrants face many challenges including: limited to no English proficiency, access to employers and job training, access to credentialing and licensing, familiarity with the U.S. educational system, and comprehension of the U.S. system of government.

The Network for Integrating New Americans is an integration effort designed to identify ways to reduce linguistic, academic, and employment barriers for new Americans. These new approaches serve to assist skilled and unskilled immigrants and refugees in not only becoming integrated in the U.S. workforce but becoming active members of their communities.

The Network for Integrating New Americans is exploring how adult education can:

1. Generate greater accessibility for innovative English as Second Language programs
2. Pave the path to citizenship
3. Encourage job development

To achieve these goals, the project has issued a series of milestones that further the development of these important issues. Having created a technical framework, they are looking to design and implement ways to accurately mea-

sure the effect of these educational programs. Their goal is to create "immigrant integration networks" to monitor the technical assistance.

With its three pillars of immigrant integration: Economic, Linguistic and Civic engagement, the Network for Integrating New Americans is establishing the barriers for immigrant education and figuring out ways to circumnavigate these barriers.

The other four networks participating in the project are the Central Valley Network for Integrating New Americans in California, the Refugee Community Plan in Idaho, We Rhode Island Network in Rhode Island, and White Center Promise in Washington State.



The Lancaster Network at the Kick Off event at the White House. Left to Right: Tim Shenk, Cheryl Hiester, Gary Hobday, Susan Finn Miller, and Andy Nash (World Education)

Upcoming Events

Phone-a-Thon Coming in May

Stay tuned for The Literacy Council Phone-a-Thon fundraiser coming in May. This year, revenue from this campaign will be used to support services for GED 2014. The new GED was rolled out in January 2014. As a result, students will need new materials. Our staff will also focus on supporting tutors through the changes with trainings and workshops. Please help us reach our goal of \$15,000.

Ride for Literacy – May 10, 2014

The 11th Annual Bicycle Ride for Literacy, sponsored by the Lancaster Sunrise Rotary Club, will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2014. 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

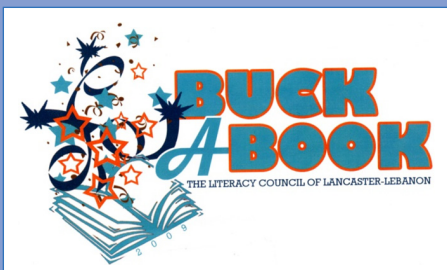


Registration: \$30

Sign up at: lancastersunriserotaryofpa.com or active.com

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

Buck A Book® 2014



More than 200 students from Conestoga Valley Middle School, Lampeter Elementary School, New School of Lancaster, Reamstown Elementary, and a local homeschooler read over 500 books and raised over \$9000 during Buck A Book® this year. The top reader, Grace Atticks, raised over \$500. Grace is a homeschooler

from Columbia. Grace participated because she LOVES to read and wanted to do something to help others.

The top fundraising school was Lampeter Elementary, raising \$7,465.76!

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



Top reader, Grace Atticks

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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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. 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 717-274-2554.