



**THE LITERACY COUNCIL
OF LANCASTER-LEBANON**

The LiteracyLine

Summer 2015

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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

Happy 30th Birthday to The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon!

Thirty years ago, The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon (LCLL) was created to fill a critical need in our community. LCLL started out serving a small number of adult learners through trained volunteer tutors, with a focus on reading instruction. Much has changed during our 30 years of service, but one thing remains the same—a passion for the possibilities created by an education.

So many of us take for granted the opportunities afforded to us by our education. Through our students, we are reminded every day that not everyone has been so lucky. Life has been hard on many of our students. For some, the stressors of poverty made focusing on learning impossible. For others, the stressors of war and political unrest put their very survival at stake. Here, our students find a place where they can start again. They can learn new skills, relearn old skills, and prepare for the next step on their life journey.

When adults come to LCLL, they find a supportive and caring environment that places a high value on the unique qualities of each learner. Here, adults can explore possibilities, discover new opportunities, and prepare for new careers and continuing education.

Today, we have 9 full-time staff, 6 adjunct teachers, and 145 volunteer tutors. We are serving more than 800 adult learners each year!

2014-2015 At a Glance

- 814 students served
- 23,679 hours of classroom based instruction
- 8,003 hours of instruction hours provided by volunteer teachers and tutors
- 19,310 hours of classroom based instruction
- 53% of our students improved their basic education skills
- 40% of students who needed a job obtained employment
- 90% of employed students retained their jobs
- 6 students completed the GED and 30 passed portions of the test and are continuing
- 49% of students with the goal of higher education transitioned to college

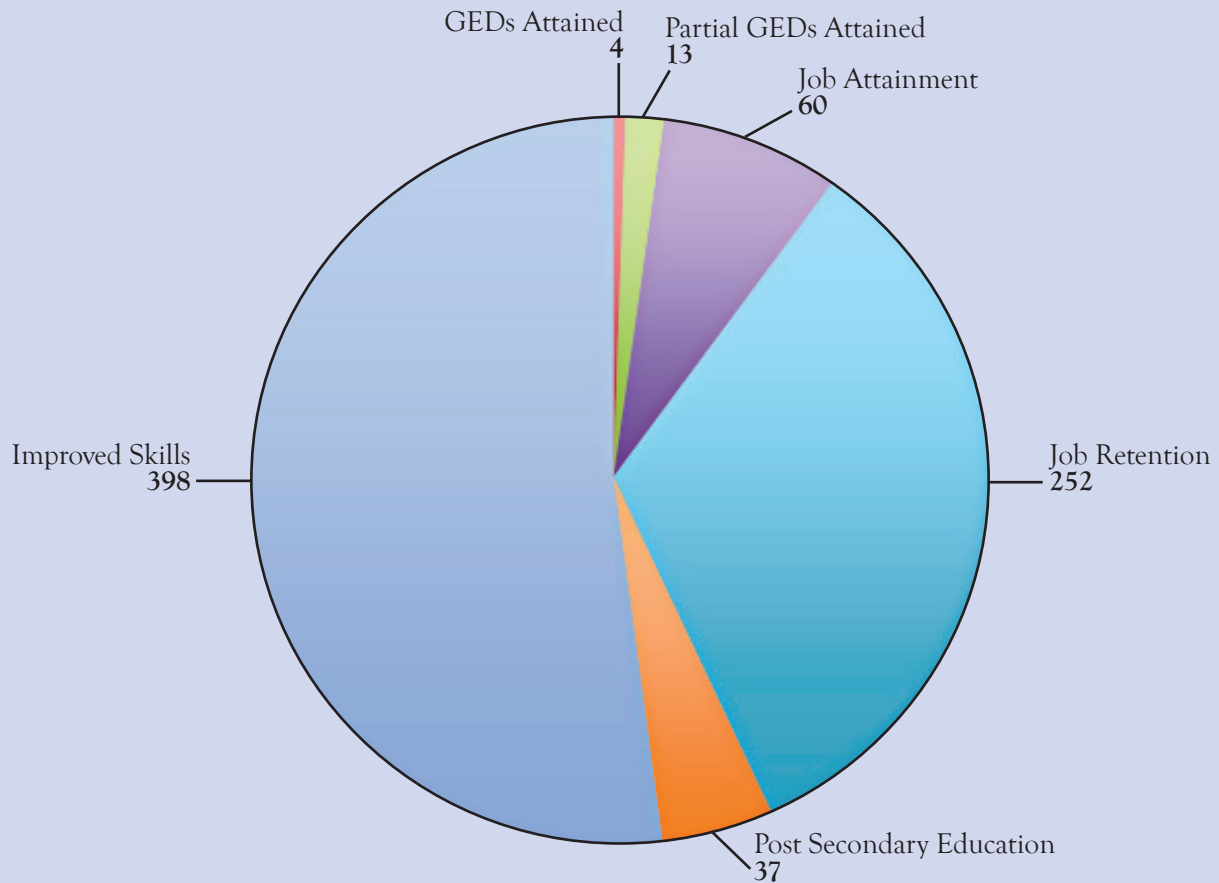
Student achievement is at the heart of everything we do. We depend on supportive community partners to help us fulfill our mission. There are so many people in the Lancaster and Lebanon communities who have been champions of literacy and this year, in honor of our 30th anniversary, we will be honoring 30 Literacy Leaders. Over the next several months, we will be featuring our friends and supporters who have made literacy a priority in their professional and volunteer lives. Keep your eyes open for more on 30 Literacy Leaders!





Student Progress 2015

The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon served 479 students between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, registering a large number of gains in the past calendar year. Of the 479, 398 students (83%) showed markedly improved skills compared to their previous year. Further, 4 students received their GEDs, 13 received partial GEDs and 37 reached the Post-Secondary Education level. In regards to entry and maintenance of positions in the work force, 60 students attained jobs within the past year and 252 retained jobs they previously held. Overall, the 2014-2015 numbers reflect a highly successful year and promising continuation of positive progression in the future.



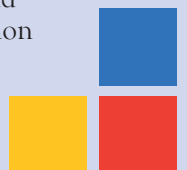
How Do Potential Students Find Us? - Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator

If English is limited, the community is foreign, and computer research skills are non-existent, how do students find us? In this cell phone environment, a telephone book may be hard to come by and too challenging to use.

Not everyone realizes that the community library and community colleges provide information about local services. Some folks don't know that most communities have United Way Agencies, Chambers of Commerce,

Community Information Centers, and CareerLinks.

Surprisingly, the most common answer to this question is through word of mouth from family or friends who know someone who knows someone else who was once a successful student in the program. What would you be able to tell a potential student about our program and the services The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon provides?





Lebanon HACC's Phi Theta Kappa Donates Fundraising Proceeds to The Literacy Council - Jonile Miller, Office Manager

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members of Lebanon HACC sponsored their first Reading Rock-A-Thon in April, 2015. Their goal was to support The Literacy Council's efforts, and raise the community's awareness about the importance of a solid literacy foundation in today's world.

HACC students participated in the event by gathering pledges for the amount of books or magazines read during the Rock-A-Thon hours. The college set aside an area on the third floor, decking the hall with rocking chairs. The students then rocked and read throughout the day. The event was held over a two-day period for eight hours each day. Many of the rocking students brought

blankets and slippers and settled in for a long session of reading. Others came and went as they broke to attend classes. On the second day, I noticed that one student fell asleep with a book in her lap. She had been reading for two straight hours and needed a break! (Maybe it was all that rocking!) Like a trooper, she continued to read when someone awakened her.

The students raised \$260, donating the entire amount to The Literacy Council. Not bad for a first time event! Many thanks to PTK, The Learning Center, the library and English instructors for choosing The Literacy Council as the recipient of their fundraising efforts. We hope to see the Rocking Readers next spring!

First Stop on the Road to GED Success - Bobbi Hurst, Student Services Coordinator

Your journey on the road to GED success must begin with digital literacy, specifically, computer skills and keyboarding proficiency. At this particular juncture in the GED testing world, Pennsylvania has adopted a computer based test that requires test-takers to have a command of technology in order to pass the GED. It is necessary to communicate quickly (type a minimum of 20 words per minute) with a keyboard in order to effectively answer the written response items on the test.

In addition, basic computer skills and functions need to be automatic in order to be successful with all the subject areas to include English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Math.

What does this mean for adults who are preparing for the GED? Well, it means that computer skills and keyboarding proficiency are a key to passing the test. Casually surfing the web, sending and receiving email, and slow, index-finger typing

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Mark Your Calendar!



Here are some important events for the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon. More details to come:

September 19, 2015: East Petersburg Days—LCLL staff will have a booth promoting Imagination Library

November 5, 2015: LCLL will host a Women in Business Networking Session sponsored by the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry

November 20, 2015: The Extraordinary Give—LCLL will once again be one of the participating organizations in this incredible event.

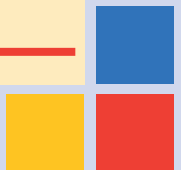
November 20, 2015: Gift of Reading—coinciding with the Extraordinary Give—there are two ways to support LCLL today!

April 10, 2016: An Evening of Matched Pairs, Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square—annual fundraiser for LCLL

Free Computer Skills Tutorials - Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator

Check out: www.seniornet.org/howto/mouseexercises/mousepractice.html if you know someone who is a complete novice in computer skills. Lead them to this site that was developed to bring senior citizens into the computer age.

Check out: www.gcflearnfree.org whether you are utilizing Microsoft Office software from 2003 or need to upgrade to the latest versions. The same foundation that supports Goodwill Stores provides free instruction on its websites. There are many lessons on using social media wisely.





GED Success (continued from page 3)

may be enough for personal needs, but it won't be enough for academic and test-taking needs. Again, there must be automaticity with computer skills so that attention can be directed at reading, reasoning, composing and problem solving.

The best way to begin practicing these test specific computer skills and functions is on the website, gedtestingservice.com, and then, by linking to the MyGED internet portal. This is the entry point to all GED activities, including a practice session with the computer-based testing functions utilized for all the question formats. But remember, computer and keyboarding proficiency is required, so one practice session may not be enough.

Another way to improve GED digital skills is with the study manual, Kaplan GED Test—Strategies, Practice and Review: Book plus Online. The book provides a list of all the question formats and the specific functions (word processing) and tools (online highlighter) to be utilized on the different tests. Specifically, the Online Center provides access to a full-length Practice Test for each subject. Students can enhance their digital skills by practicing with the tools, functions and formats used on the actual tests.

Keyboarding skills, especially for speed and editing, need to be developed over time, so don't wait any longer to start typing those sentences, paragraphs and essays. Start by writing your answers to essay questions and then transferring to a word document. Know that eventually, you will need to eliminate the hand writing step when

taking the actual tests. A fun way to work on typing speed is on the website www.typeracer.com.

Remember, computer and keyboarding proficiency will take you far down the road on your journey to GED success.

One of the leaders in GED preparation, Essential Education, has identified the computer skills and functions students need to master for all the subject areas. They are:

1. Using a mouse.
2. Typing on a keyboard.
3. Following website navigation prompts.
4. Opening, closing and moving informational windows.
5. Using a scroll bar.
6. Using editing tools such as copying and pasting.
7. Using undo and redo features.
8. Using backspace and delete keys to remove content.
9. Moving words from one position to another.
10. Using correct symbols in short and long responses.
11. Using tabs to access content on multiple pages.
12. Flagging an item for review.
13. Dragging and dropping text and images.
14. Using hot spot questions.
15. Selecting answers on a coordinate grid plane.

Manheim GED Program - Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator

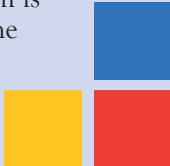
In the small town of Manheim, a dialogue began between the community and the Manheim Central School District concerning the need for GED classes. Cathy Gust, Early Childhood Liaison and Assistant Project Director for Keystones to Opportunity (KTO) at Manheim Central, represented the school district, and is the coordinator for the program. The Literacy Council was asked to partner in the project because of our experience and success in adult education.

GED classes began in September, 2013 at the Manheim Central Middle School and are on-going. Funding has been provided through a portion of the KTO grant that Manheim Central School District receives. Classes meet five hours per week, and all GED components are taught

with special emphasis on reading, writing and math. Sandy Osborn has been teaching the class since its inception, with recruitment through the school district and community outreach.

In the past two years, 24 adults started the program and nine passed the GED test. In addition to the students who passed the GED during program year 2014/2015, three others passed math, language arts and science, and two students passed social studies. These students plan to continue to pursue their goal of attaining a GED when classes resume in September.

It is evident that by offering GED classes, Manheim is making an investment to help improve the lives of the adults and families who live in the community.





Student Spotlight

Adan Orozco's Story - Linda Cullen, ESL Services Coordinator



is a healthy father with two boys. I give thanks for learning English.”

Adan completed all the ELA levels at Bright Side Opportunities Center in 2013. He recently retired and knew that there would be limited opportunity to practice

“My young son was dying; I was desperate. No insurance and no money. I remember when they put him in an ambulance to go from Lancaster General Emergency to Hershey Hospital. I could not speak English. Where was Hershey? Where were they taking my son? I never forget those days and now I can help people when they first come to the United States. My son

his English at home. His Level Four teacher, Liz Savitsky, suggested that he offer to help me with the new arrivals in Level One.

Adan has been an inspiration to newly arrived immigrants for four semesters. He volunteers faithfully Monday through Thursday from 9 AM-12 PM. Helping the students with their English is just a small part of what he does. He is a friend. He is someone who has “been there and done that.” He is a guy they can turn to when they don’t understand why their car won’t work or why their first electric bill is so high or how to understand that first confusing phone plan. He is there for a private talk in the hall or a ride home for the sick. His first language is Spanish, but last semester, Dang Nguyen sent him pictures of his family at the beach in North Carolina—proof that Adan is able to minister to people from all over the world. He is a problem solver, a door stopper, a room cleaner upper, and a blessing to me.

Leonard's Story: Life is Like a Dream and a Job

Hello everyone. My name is Lenard, and my topic today is “Life is like a dream and a job.”

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobbi for teaching us in this English class. I very much appreciate her as a teacher.

When I was 20 years old, my country was at war. At that time, things were getting pretty bad. Everybody is afraid of what would happen if the communist takes over the country. So my parents sent me out of the country so I can have a better life and a better future.

Then I ended up in Thailand refugee camp. Thanks for Thai government let the refugees stay there for a while until they can go to the third country. I was stuck in the refugee camp for two long years of my life. Then fortunately someone had a good heart willing to sponsor me to come to the United State. I never forget him and he’s still with me in my heart.

After I came to the United States, I realized that now I was by myself, all alone. I felt scared, fear, afraid of the outside world. Now, I have to face a very difficult and important decisions all by myself, because my parents is


not here to help me now. But life moved on. Live and learn along the way. I managed ok.

As I’m getting older, thinking about marriage and have a family. Then I became a family man. Now I know I have a mission and a job to do, so I’m busy working days in days out, years after years, so I can provide the best quality of life for the family and the kids. So, they can have a better life and a better future, and teach them well to be a good person, just like my parents care for me when I was young.

Life goes on. So many unexpected things happen along the way—struggling, hardship, difficult time, good times, bad time, and happy time. All the time in life that we have to go through, I feel life has to go through that process. Life is like a circle of life pass on generation after generation.

Today my kids are all grown now, so I take this opportunity to attend class again. I enjoy coming to class. Every day in life you never stop learning and you’re never too old to learn. Always have something new to learn every day.

That’s why I feel like this is a dream and a job. Thank you.



Student Writings

Today I'm going to talk about love. You know there are many different kind of love. Like, family love; brother and sister, mom and dad. Friendship and boyfriend and girlfriend. You know about love. I know about love. Everybody know about love, but sometimes we don't know exactly because we pretend ourselves and we don't think about it deeply what it is.

What is love? Love is helping one another, caring for one another, understand for one another, and bear for one another. We already know, no love is no peace; no peace is no freedom. Look at our world right now, look at situation right now. It is too bad because no love. A lot of problem, disaster and evil things happen in the world. Everywhere, a lot of people became a refugee, a lot of people became a displace people so did I. For me, I thank God I not misplace.

You know there are three things remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love. LOVE is patient, is kind, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is no self-seeking, it is not easily angered, keep no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices with the truth, always hopes, always perseveres and never fails.

What I like about American culture:

1. Accommodates everyone
2. Provides liberty for people
3. All people have equal rights
4. Very interesting wedding culture
5. More freedom and opportunity
6. Freedom and good place to live
7. Very good food
8. Self-service in restaurants
9. Freedom of speech
10. Modesty of American people
11. Liberty and freedom
12. American basketball
13. Football and music
14. American greetings—shaking hands friendliness
15. Respect for each other

The advice I'd give someone coming to America:

1. Be flexible
2. Obey the law
3. Accept any job
4. Study English
5. Learn some skills before coming
6. Learn American culture before coming
7. Be aware of your freedoms and opportunities
8. Stay out of trouble
9. Respect everyone
10. Don't be impolite
11. Welcome your new life
12. Have hope for the future
13. Try to stand up for yourself
14. Find chances to improve
15. Determine your career plans

What I don't like about American culture:

1. Difficult to get a job if not a citizen
2. Women have more opportunity than men
3. People don't take care of their parents
4. Injustice for victims of murder—keeping murders alive
5. Strict rules
6. Not taking care of the homeless
7. Nothing
8. Racism
9. Dislike of immigrants
10. Meal culture—people eat alone
11. American football
12. Restaurant food
13. Freedom can't guarantee safety

What I miss most about my native country:

1. My family
2. Hospitality
3. Truthfulness
4. My New Year
5. My cousins
6. Food and parties
7. Singing around houses in December
8. My parents, friends and house
9. My tribal music
10. My mother
11. My community
12. Thanksgiving Day
13. Sharing the good and the bad

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.

Mission

Promoting life-long learning and learning for life.

Vision

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

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.

Board

The Literacy Council is governed by a volunteer board of directors. 2015-2016 board members:

Derek Dissinger, President
 Julie Rhoads, Vice President
 Eric Luckenbaugh, Secretary
 Robyn Dougherty, Treasurer
 Carmen Guaigua
 David Taylor
 Frank Byrne
 Marlene Usdin
 Martha Guaigua
 Sandy Strunk

Staff

Jenny Bair, Program Director
 Linda Cullen, ESL Services Coordinator
 Karey Getz, Program Assistant
 Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director
 Roberta Hurst, Student Services Coordinator
 Jonile Miller, Office Manager, Lebanon
 Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator
 Ilsa Powell Diller, Outreach & Resource Coordinator
 Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator, Lebanon

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.