

Summer 2019

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Time for Reflection and Anticipation

-Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director

Summertime at The Literacy Council is a time for both reflection and anticipation.

We reflect on the past program year. We review our outcomes and accomplishments. We celebrate the accomplishments of our students. We look ahead to the new program year and think about how we can do better. What can we do to ensure that our students have what they need to meet their goals?

This summer, we are especially excited about our upcoming anniversary. In 2020, The Literacy Council will celebrate 30 years of service in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. Like summer, our upcoming anniversary reminds us of where we have been; but most importantly, it makes us think about where we are going. What will the next 30 years look like for The Literacy Council?

To get a jump on the next 30 years, we will be refreshing our look (and our name). In September, we will reveal our new brand and our new look.

But first, a look back. This year, three of our longtime employees have moved on to the next phase in their lives.



Bobbi Hurst retired in October 2018. Bobbi served as a board member, Buck A Book coordinator, teacher and student advisor. Today, Bobbi is busy working with her champion dogs.



In February 2019, **Jonile Miller** retired. Jonile served as a program assistant and volunteer coordinator in the Lebanon office. Today, Jonile is busy volunteering.



In June 2019, **Linda Cullen** retired from The Literacy Council. Thirty years ago, Linda wrote the grant that started The Literacy Council. Back then, she worked at Catholic Charities. Fifteen years ago, Linda came back to The Literacy Council where she has taught English as a Second Language to thousands of newcomers.

Thank you, Bobbi, Jonile, and Linda for your contributions to adult education!

Now a look ahead. In the summer 2019 issue, you will meet the newest members of our team. Please join me in welcoming Amanda Ruth and Brittany Foose. You will read about community connections and student achievement.

Thank you for being a friend of The Literacy Council and for your support of the mission.



Making It Real: Classroom Instruction to Real Life Applications *-Steve Hess, Student Services Coordinator*



Rebeka, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is a student in our welcoming class. Along with her classmates, and led by her instructors Rita Nutter, and Lisa Bowman, they toured Fire Station 1 on West King Street,

Lancaster on June 29, 2019 with two of the firefighters. The firemen donned their gear and showed the students their equipment. In addition, they talked about different kinds of emergencies and who to call depending on the situation.



Sergeant Officer Morrant, from the Lancaster Police Department, also visited the welcoming class at the Literacy Council (Lancaster) on July 9, 2019. He explained the work of the

police in our community, showed the class the equipment he carries around and allowed the students to touch his bullet proof vest. He also answered student questions about problems in their neighborhoods. Sergeant Officer Morrant went on to explain what the students should do if they are stopped by an officer while driving. This was extremely helpful as most of our students would not know what to do or how to respond in a safe manner.

These two visits with local community helpers coincided with classroom instruction on the gatekeepers of safety in the community. As Dr. James Comer notes: "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship." These visits provided the students an opportunity to have direct contact with community helpers and use what they have learned in the classroom in a contextualized manner. Our students now have a better understanding of the people who serve their communities and the vital roles they play in ensuring the safety of those they are entrusted to protect.

For our students, these visits serve not only to build relationships with the community, but also to build a sense of classroom unity. Thank you to Rita and Lisa for organizing these activities and increasing collaboration and understanding with the Lancaster community.

A Warm Welcome and Introduction to Two New LCLL Staff Members *-Jenny Bair, Program Director*

In July, The Literacy Council added two new staff members to our team. Amanda Ruth joined us in the Lebanon Office as a new Program Coordinator with an emphasis on tutor recruitment and engagement. Brittany Foose joined us as a Program Coordinator in Lancaster with an emphasis on student services and advisement. Both Amanda and Brittany have an extensive background in adult education and we are excited to welcome them to our team! Next time you are in the office, please stop by and say hello.



All About Amanda

Hometown: Big Flats, NY

Childhood Dream Job: marine biologist

First Job: TAFFY Counselor (Town Activities for Flats Youth)

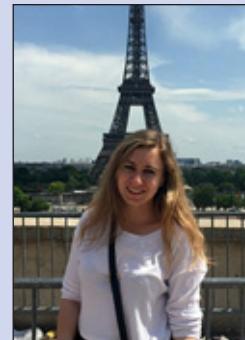
Education: BS in Education with a concentration in math & minor in chemistry

Movie Recommendation: The Princess Bride

Book Recommendation: BFG by Roald Dahl

Guilty TV Pleasure: Teen Mom

Hobbies: Running; reading



All About Brittany

Hometown: Lancaster, PA

Childhood Dream Job: ice skater

First Job: baby sitter

Education: BA in TESFL; MA in Teaching with a specialization in ESL

Movie Recommendation: Black Panther

Book Recommendation: Dreams from My Father

Guilty TV Pleasure: America's Next Top Model; Hoarders

Hobbies: traveling; going to the gym; cooking/baking

From Second Language to High School Equivalency Diploma *-Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator, Lebanon*

How can an adult student who speaks a first language other than English gain the skills and cultural knowledge to obtain a High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma? It's not easy, but some motivated individuals have the determination to forge through all the barriers.

Imagine trying to learn academic English, history, science, math and all those other aspects of culture while raising a family and holding down a job or jobs. It's not easy to squeeze time out of busy lives to attend classes and do homework. With the support of their families, success comes over time. That success - the HSE diploma opens doors to opportunities.

Jocelyn Garcia-Yanez has received her HSE diploma. She came from Mexico to the USA 18 years ago. She and her husband Arturo have four children ranging in ages from 10 to 16 and operate A and J's Pizza in Jonestown. Jocelyn says she learned a little English in Mexico and a lot more when her children entered school, but not enough to reach her goal of becoming a medical assistant. Three years ago, she decided she needed to make time for her education. She came to the Literacy Council in Lebanon for classes. Her family took on extra responsibilities and

cheered on her efforts. She studied every time she took a break in the restaurant and after her children were in bed.

Francheska Irizarry is another success story. She dropped out of Cedar Crest High School to raise her son, Arnez. In 2009 she went to the Family Literacy Program at IU13. As her skills improved, she aimed for the HSE and began attending classes at the Literacy Council in 2015. During that time, she worked part time at Highlander laundry, relying on her mother for childcare and abandoning her pride to ask for help to support her son. Immediately upon receiving her HSE, she secured a job at Tru by Hilton Hotel in Hershey. She loves it. She is so happy to be able to buy things for her son. She won't stop with that accomplishment. She is hoping to take a medical assistant class at Central Penn College. Challenged by her daughter, her 56 year old mother also hopes to go to college.

Jocelyn and Franceska proudly hold their HSE diplomas for all to see. They encourage their children to make education a priority. Jocelyn and Franceska are very thankful for the guidance of their teachers Kerry Hurst and Kathy Large.



Jocelyn Garcia-Yanez



Franceska Irizarry

Save the Date: Extraordinary Give 2019

On November 22, 2019, through the Lancaster County Community Foundation, The Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon will once again be participating in the Extraordinary Give. Look for more information about our participation coming your way soon. To learn more about the Extraordinary Give, visit www.extragive.org. There are many worthy organizations participating in the Extraordinary Give, so on November 22, don't forget to be extraordinary and give extra!



Health Literacy: Resources for Real Life

-Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator

The Literacy Council's Health Literacy and Wellness Curriculum Framework was developed through funding received from the WellSpan Health Community Partnership Grant. Although we have highlighted this project in previous communication, it is important enough to re-share the positive impact on our students.

WellSpan's Vision: To improve the health and well-being of the people we serve.

The Literacy Council's Vision: To promote life-long learning and learning for life.

With the target audience for our curriculum framework being low-literacy adults and second language learners lacking the knowledge and skills to make informed health decisions, the two visions formed a perfect union – a great partnership with shared goals. In Part One of the framework that was developed, the “Wellness Wheel” encompasses seven dimensions of health: physical, emotional, social, occupational, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental. When the curriculum was ready to be piloted, I agreed to teach part of the “Wheel” to my class. As an instructor of a class of high level second language learners and someone who had never taught any type of health curriculum, I was apprehensive about doing justice to the new material, the extensive vocabulary, and my students. I chose the Emotional and Social components and found that, although my students engaged immediately, it was challenging. Many tears

were shed. The students have lived with loss and stress. They have had to cope with the pain of leaving family, friends, and jobs to move to a new country. We started brainstorming strategies on how to make connections, taking care of yourself while caring for others, reducing stress and coping with loss. We talked about listening to others, feeling sympathy, learning new things, developing new relationships and volunteering. Everyone agreed that the class was helping them to overcome their sense of loss by belonging to a group of “like” minds and having the opportunity to share their stories. Their awareness of the close connection between Social Wellness and Emotional Wellness led them into looking at the remainder of the “Wheel” components. They were eager to continue the study to find out if all areas were an integral part of being healthy. The group of students who participated are from France, Iraq, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nepal, Turkey, China, and Korea.

The Literacy Council is grateful to WellSpan for providing the funding for the Health Literacy and Wellness Curriculum Framework through a WellSpan Health Community Partnership Grant. This curriculum is a meaningful tool which will have a powerful influence on our students by helping them build support systems and stay healthy mentally and physically. Please contact me for additional information on using this with your students (jane@getliterate.org or 717-295-5523).

From the National Coalition on Literacy: Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week raises public awareness about the need for and value of adult education and family literacy. Its goal is to leverage resources that support access to basic education programs for the 36 million U.S. adults with low literacy skills. Advocates across the country use this opportunity to elevate adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media, and the community.

For 2019, National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week will be observed from September 22 to September 28.



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 lifelong 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.**



**The Literacy Council of
Lancaster-Lebanon is
accredited under the PANO
Standards for Excellence®**

Board

The Literacy Council is governed by a volunteer board of directors. 2018-2019 board members:

Eric Luckenbaugh, President
Dave Diffendal, Vice President
Mary Edith Leichliter, Secretary
Erik Cianci, Treasurer

Scott Cole Martha Guagua
Rich Druby Cheryl Hiester*
Willa Freer Heather Sharpe
Ashley Garcia *(Non Voting)

Staff

Jenny Bair, Program Director
Brittany Foose, Program Coordinator, Lebanon
Steve Hess, Student Services Coordinator
Cheryl Hiester, Executive Director
Jane Myers, Volunteer Services Coordinator
Ilisa Powell Diller, Outreach & Resource Coordinator
Cathy Roth, Student Services Coordinator, Lebanon
Amanda Ruth, Program Coordinator
Monica Shannon, Receptionist

Adjuncts

Laura Crocker Sandy Osborn
Barbara Dorozynsky Ian Severson
Kerry Hurst Crystal Sload
Sue Kurtz Lauren Swartz
Rita Nutter

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.