

Literacy of Northern New York

Winter 2011
Jefferson/Lewis Counties



Providing free one-to-one tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing, math and English language learning.

Program Initiative Underway

Forty-three percent of adults with the lowest literacy rates in the United States live in poverty.

~ Proliteracy

We are in the midst of changing how we train and support tutors in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Literacy New York, our state organization, has updated its tutor training program. Our staff in the Watertown office attended the new 12-hour training and then co-taught each segment while being supervised and evaluated by a master trainer.

The training changes our tutoring textbook and requires us to purchase a laptop and projector, along with other tutoring materials.

The Northern New York Community Foundation has awarded us a grant of \$3,133 to purchase the equipment and books we need to implement the new training in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. We appreciate the generous support from the NNY Community Foundation for this project. We plan to roll out the new training in January 2012.

As part of the Program Initiative, we will also be keeping in closer contact with our tutors and learners. Instead of collecting tutoring

hours every three months, we will begin collecting this data on a monthly basis. We will also meet with all tutors and students every three months to update the learner's educational plan and goals. This new schedule will let us know, in a timely manner, which matches are inactive and keep us current about changes with learners.

Our overall goal is to provide more frequent and better support to both our tutors and learners.

Children's Book Drive in Lewis County Very Successful

Book Drives

We are collecting children's books in St. Lawrence County for the first time this year and will distribute them this month. Jefferson Community College and the Kiwanis Club are collecting children's books for us in Jefferson County.

Thanks to generous donations from the people of Lewis County, we have collected well over a 1,000 children's books this fall. We also collected five cartloads of books for adults. Special thanks to TOPS Friendly Markets for allowing us to put a large collection box in their Lowville store. The box was near the store entrance this year and supermarket patrons filled it up three times. People also brought children's books to our booth at the Lowville Cream

Cheese Festival in September. Special thanks to Board Member Sally Brennan for helping us to collect the books in Lewis County. We will distribute the books to low-income families picking up food and gifts at Lewis County Opportunities' Christmas Sharing program at the Lowville Elk's Lodge on December 20th.

Thank you for helping us spread the gift of literacy to those who can't afford to buy books for their children.



Sally Brennan, left, and TOPS Assistant Manager Kandi Smith, show off some of the wonderful books that were donated.

Tutor Training Scheduled for January

We need volunteers from Watertown and Chaumont to work with learners waiting for a tutor.

Our next tutor training is scheduled for January at our Watertown office. We are offering both a basic literacy learner course for people interested in teaching an adult to read better and an English Language Learner course to teach people from other countries how to speak English better. Each course consists of four, three-hour sessions for a total of 12 hours.

Anyone interested in either course must take both the orientation and successful

tutoring sessions. Volunteers also must take either BLL 1 and 2 (reading course) or ELL 1 and 2. Or you can do all six courses and be certified to teach either one.

Volunteers who successfully complete the course are matched with one adult who needs help with literacy skills. Tutors meet their learner in public places such as libraries. We provide the books and materials used during tutoring sessions. Registration is required. Call

us at 782-4270.

Orientation: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mon. Jan. 9th.

BLL 1 and BLL 2: 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Mon. Jan. 16th and 23rd.

ELL 1 and ELL 2: 1-4 p.m. Thurs. Jan. 19th and Jan. 26th.

Successful Tutoring: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm. Monday Jan. 30th.

Tutor Tip

Looking for an activity to do with your English Language learner? This is a fun and heartwarming activity.

A Gift for Someone Special

Materials:
Sheet of paper, pen or pencil

Have your learner draw a gift to present to someone special. No-one needs to be

an artist, stick drawing is fine.

Have three or so questions prepared to go along with the picture. Your student will write the answers and then speak about them. Some examples are:

Who is the special person who will receive this gift?

Why did you choose this person?

What is your gift?

Why do you want to present this gift?



Computer Training Available Soon

Computer skills are important to know in our high-tech world. Tutors who are interested in taking a four-hour on-line training course so they can teach computer skills using our basic skills computer curriculum should contact our office. We have a computer

lab in the Watertown office that is available for tutors to use with their learners.

Many jobs require basic computer skills these days. In addition, students who use e-mail or social media such as Facebook and Twitter have a fun way of practicing

their writing and spelling skills. Teaching learners to use technology is also a great way to keep them motivated.



English Language Learners

Jefferson County has experienced a growth in the English Language Learner (ELL) population. Many are working with tutors and the others attend either the Tuesday or Thursday ELL classes. The Tuesday class serves mid-to-high beginners, although some learners prefer the easy pace because their goal is to develop confidence and fluency.

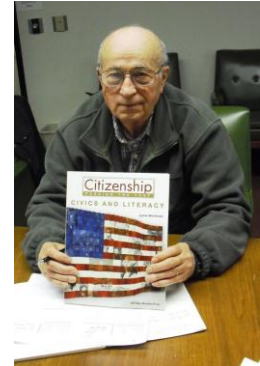
Tutor Linda Blake is

working with a small group of advanced learners who are preparing for the TOEFL or Accuplacer tests. Learners must pass the Accuplacer test in order to be admitted to Jefferson Community College.

Tutor Pamela Stoeber has been teaching basic computer skills.

The US citizenship preparation class continues to serve learners as needed.

Ilie studied U.S. history with his tutor and this fall he became an American citizen. He is from Romania.



ELL University is a Great Tutor Resource

English language tutors now have a great place to go online and talk to others about teaching English to people who were not born in the United States. ELL University is a virtual college campus. There are free courses, study circles and practical, evidence-based resources. The website is located at www.ell-u.org

The free online courses are self-paced and interactive.

The courses center on five topics: principles of second language acquisition, teaching adult ELLs who are emergent readers, assessment in adult ELL programs, planning, implementing and managing instruction, and the role of culture in teaching adult ELLs.

ELL University also offers study circles to explore topics of interest. Participants

review research, reflect on the research and interact with other members of the study circle. ELL University also has clubs, which are collaborative networking spaces where people can discuss ELL topics of interest and share their insights and suggestions.

According to 2009 U.S. Census data, 4.2 percent of the population – 4,965 people - in Jefferson County were born in a foreign country.

Pot-Luck Luncheon Planned for ELL Classes

Our English Language Learners will bring a dish to pass and share some foods from their homeland at our annual pot-luck luncheon on December 15th.

We all enjoy tasting

favorite dishes from other countries. Last year we ate Brazilian chocolate balls, sushi, lasagna and lots of cookies. A learner from Japan made cute Santa Claus treats out of strawberries and whipped cream.



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Learner Success Stories

Angella finished the certified nursing assistant training and got a full-time job at a local nursing home.

Tamiko went up two grade levels in math and took the GED test in December. Her goal is to get a better job that offers more family-friendly hours.

James improved his reading by two grade levels. He opened up a bank account, implemented an exercise routine and his tutor helped him understand

his rental lease contract.

Donna improved her reading skills and now reads for pleasure. She joined a book club. She is taking computer classes and joined a fitness class.

Rose increased her reading and math skills by two grade levels each. She went from part-time employment to full-time.

Jennifer went up 1.5 grade levels in math. Her tutor is teaching her how

to use a computer.

Johanna improved her English speaking skills and is enrolled in a cosmetology class.

Leptune improved his English speaking skills and is enrolled at Jefferson Community College. He is studying to become a paralegal.



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