



Tutor Trainings Scheduled

Volunteering to help an adult reach his or her literacy goals is a rewarding experience. Adults who don't read well or who are from another country and can't speak much English have limited opportunities to obtain a good paying job, help their children with homework or raise themselves out of poverty.

If you want to make a difference in someone's life, sign up for our upcoming tutor training courses. Our 12-hour reading course will be held from 5 - 7:30 p.m. on Mondays from Sept. 13—Oct. 11th. Class participants will learn reading techniques such as phonics, word patterns, how to sound out longer words and the language experience approach. Participants will also learn about writing and editing techniques. After learning about each technique, the class members practice what they learned. There is no cost to take the class.

If you love to travel and learn about other cultures, our English as a second language program may be just the thing for you. You do not have to speak another language to tutor someone who was born in another country and is learning to speak English. The 12-hour course will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays on Sept. 14, 16, 21 and 23.

Pre-registration for the courses is required. Call us at

782-4270.



Bethany, far left, helps two students learn to speak English better.



“A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.”

- Chinese proverb

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DID YOU KNOW ...

In the U.S., 30 million people over age 16 don't read well enough to understand a newspaper story written at the 8th grade level. **That's 14 percent of the adult population.**

There are 8,407 adults ages 25 or older who do not have a high school diploma in Jefferson County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau data for 2008.

The Watertown High School graduation rate was **64 percent**, according to the NYS Education Department's 2008-2009 data.

Low literacy costs the U.S. \$225 billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

High School dropouts are 3.5 more likely than high school graduates to be incarcerated in their lifetime.

Sixty-eight percent of state prison inmates dropped out of high school and 40 percent had a disabling condition that interfered with learning, according to Literacy Behind Bars: Results from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy Prison Survey.

What can you do about this? Volunteer to tutor an adult who needs help with literacy skills and turn a life around!

FUNDING PROVIDED BY SENATOR AUBERTINE

Thanks to Senator Darrel Aubertine, Literacy of Northern New York will receive a \$10,000 member item to help us purchase new computers for our computer lab in Jefferson County. We will also use the funds to teach computer and math skills to our clients.

This funding comes at a fortunate time for us since our Adult Literacy Education (ALE) grant from the NYS Department of Education was cut \$15,000 as of July 1. All Literacy Volunteer affiliates in NYS had their ALE grants reduced by 32 percent.

While many Literacy Volunteer affiliates in NYS have been forced to cut back on their office hours or staff, we have managed to avoid doing either.

We purchased three new computers in June to replace the outdated six-year-old ones that were not working that well anymore.

Our students use the computers to learn skills that will make them more marketable in the workplace. They can also practice math, reading or English pronunciation skills in the lab.

BOOK GRANT PROVIDES MANY ESOL MATERIALS

Literacy of Northern New York received a **National Book Fund grant** from ProLiteracy, our national adult literacy organization. The \$2,070 grant has provided us with many new English as a Second Language materials for our students and tutors in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties.

Some of the new materials we received include updated citizenship books, which reflect the recent changes to the citizenship test, Lit-Start books, which are used in our tutor training program, Oxford picture dictionaries, books to help students learn how to pronounce words in English and activities to help them improve their ability to listen and understand spoken English.

SUPPORT LITERACY AND BUY A BOOK CARD

We are selling \$1 book cards to raise funds to support our literacy programs. All funds raised will be used to support our literacy programs.

Please consider buying some of the book cards today and help support our adult reading and ESOL programs as well as our children's book giveaway program.

SUCCESS STORIES

Anna learned budgeting skills and completed training on how to use a computer. She improved her reading by 2.8 grade levels. Today she reads at a 9th grade level and is much better able to understand the items she needs to read.

Andrew studied math several times a week with his tutor and took the GED test in June. His goal is to enroll in college.



Andrew came for GED math help and took the GED test in June.

Shannon learned how to e-mail her daughter in Texas and help her select a wedding dress and wedding hall long distance through the Internet. Her reading skills improved 1.3 grade levels and she is sounding out longer words much better now. She reads books for pleasure. Shannon works part-time.

Raquel improved her math skills by 1.6 grade levels. She learned how to do fractions, percents, decimals and signed numbers. She works part-time and would like to get a full-time job.

Jack works full-time but attends his tutoring sessions faithfully. His employer allows him to leave work for two hours once a week so he can meet with his tutor. His reading went up one grade level.

Jay obtained a part-time job, was accepted into a college program and improved his English conversational skills by two levels.

Rose learned computer skills, got a better job and went on field trips with her tutor to learn about the community. She improved her conversational English skills by one level.

East Hill Community Center ESOL class, from left to right, Samara, Yolanda, and Sung Woo.



Emma became a U.S. citizen after studying for the test with her tutor. People who take the test must be able to speak, read, write, and understand English. Emma obtained a full-time job and her conversational English skills improved by two levels.



Every year Literacy of Northern New York gives away hundreds of books to children whose families can't afford to buy books in Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

Every child deserves the gift of literacy!

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE IN LEWIS COUNTY

We are once again collecting new or gently used children's books in Lewis County. The new TOPS Friendly Market (the former P&C) in Lowville has graciously allowed us to put a collection bin in their store during the month of September.

Literacy of Northern New York will staff a booth at the Sept. 18th Cream Cheese Festival in Lowville and collect books there as well.

The children's books will be distributed to low-income families in Lewis County in December. If your children have outgrown some of their books, please consider donating them to families who can't afford to buy them.

Last December we gave out 800 books to families collecting food and gifts at the Christmas Share program. The families receiving the books were very happy to be able to pick out a bagful of books for their children.

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