



PROJECT LITERACY
of Greater Bergen County

WINTER
2015/2016

Serving Literacy since 1987

NEWSLETTER

A Word From Chris:



Transparency is important in everything we do. To succeed, we depend on lots of people so we need to keep them all informed. We are pleased to have recently received the GuideStar Gold Award for financial reporting – this in light of a period of waning revenues which resulted in an operating deficit in each of our past two fiscal years.

Over the past several months, we have been concentrating with a sense of urgency on crisis management, stabilizing the situation quickly to allow Project Literacy to return to addressing normal business activities. I am pleased to report that we have successfully turned the corner and are now operating with an excess. With your support, we look forward to fulfilling our mission to provide the gift of literacy to adults who confront life in Bergen County without the skills to effectively communicate.

**If you can read this, you have that gift. You are lucky –
150,000 of our neighbors cannot.**

Our 113 volunteer tutors offer 10,374 hours of free one-on-one tutoring instruction at a theoretical cost of \$2,741 per student.

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

 /grammarly

-ANONYMOUS

What's Possible...



Anastasio was handcuffed in the courthouse, because he walked through a door marked "Do Not Enter". A new immigrant, he couldn't speak or read English, but after only one year working with a Project Literacy tutor, Anastasio now holds down a job and is studying for the New Jersey driver's license test, all in English. Your support makes it possible for Project Literacy to train and support tutors like Anastasio's.

Sergio dropped out of high school and needed a job. With no diploma, registered with a temp agency and got a job at a distribution center. He was later given a permanent position.

After 10 years, the center closed and he lost his job. At 32 years old but with no diploma, employers were not calling back after a number of interviews. He came to Project Literacy and was matched with a tutor. Early last month he took and passed the HSE. Now he can apply for any job that he is qualified for and looks forward to being employed again soon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are always looking for adults interested in tutoring Bergen County residents how to read, write and speak English or prepare for the High School Equivalency. Using volunteer tutors, Project Literacy offers free one-on-one tutoring in the following areas:

- Adult Basic Literacy - Reading and writing;
- English as a Second Language (ESL);
- Mathematics for the High School Equivalency (formerly GED) exam.

12-hours of training and all tutoring materials are provided. Tutor training sessions are held at least three times during a twelve month period.

Our staff guides volunteers through the necessary steps to becoming a tutor by providing 12 hours of training, matching the tutor with a student whose learning needs and schedule fit.

Lessons are held at a time and location mutually convenient for student and tutor. Students and tutors generally meet once a week for one and a half hours. Students stay with us for an average of 18 months.

Workshops are held so tutors can share ideas and experiences. For more information and to volunteer please call Antonio Brugnoli at 201-489-7066 ext. (3) or e-mail to read@project-literacy.org.

FYI...

Even our students are volunteers. There is no state mandate or other that requires them to come to us. They come voluntarily. Our constituents are all local residents with the following general demographics:

Total students: 133
 Adult literacy: 69 ESL: 46 HSE (math): 18
 Female: 92 Male: 41
 Asian: 21 Black: 42 Hispanic: 40 White: 30

Afghanistan: 1 Albania: 1 Barbuda: 1 Bolivia: 1
 Brazil: 2 Chile: 1 China: 1 Columbia: 5 Cuba: 1
 Dominican Rep: 6 Ecuador: 3 Egypt: 2 El Salvador: 3
 Ghana: 1 Guinea: 1 Guyana: 1 Haiti: 3 Iran: 2
 Italy: 1 Jamaica: 16 Japan: 6 Jordan: 1 Korea: 10
 Liberia: 1 Malaysia: 1 Mexico: 3 Morocco: 2 Nigeria: 1
 Palestine: 1 Peru: 4 Puerto Rico: 3 Russia: 1 Senegal: 2
 South Sudan: 1 Syria: 3 Taiwan: 1 Trinidad: 1 Turkey: 3
 USA: 32 Venezuela: 1

	August 2014	December 2015
Active Tutors:	86	113
Active Students:	100	133
Students Waiting:	93	66

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

CEREMONY: In September, Sheila Furrey and John Katzianer were honored as "Tutors of the Year" at the 27th annual awards ceremony in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments in the field of adult literacy.

Rozeta Tosuni and Rachida Nacim were recognized as "Students of the Year".

Others receiving recognition were Applebee's Restaurants, Corporation of the Year; the Bergen County Workforce Development Board as Organization of the year; Benedict Focarino as Volunteer of the Year.



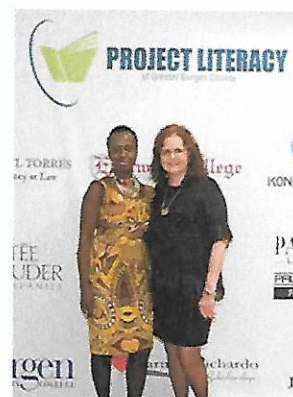
Volunteer Recognition Honorees

GALA – LITERACY FOR ALL SEASONS: In October, we hosted our main fundraiser, the 12th annual gala at the Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack. The Guest of Honor was Dr. Bill Evans, author and Senior Meteorologist, WABC-TV Eyewitness News.



Project Literacy's newest Trustee, Bergen County Freeholder Dr. Joan Voss, and Gala Honoree WABC-Eyewitness News Senior Meteorologist Bill Evans.

Student Speaker
 Evelyn Manjoe and
 her tutor Martha Scanell



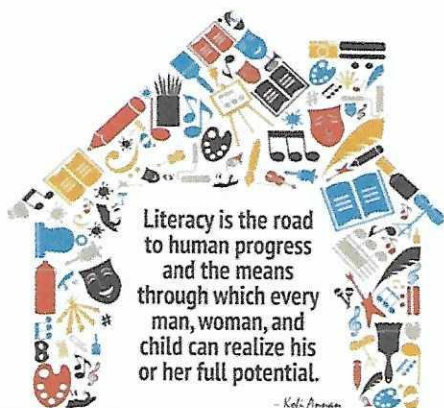
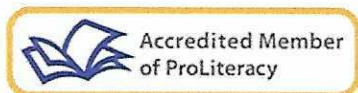
Our 2016 Calendar:

January 1	Ciarco Learning Center closed
January 18	Ciarco Learning Center closed
March 9	Five-week Tutor Training Begins
May 30	Ciarco Learning Center closed
June 9	Volunteer Recognition & Awards Ceremony
July 4	Ciarco Learning Center closed
September 5	Ciarco Learning Center closed
September 28	Five-week Tutor Training Begins
October 21	13 th Annual Gala
November 23- 25	Ciarco Learning Center closed
December 20	Annual Holiday Party
December 25- January 2, 2017	Ciarco Learning Center closed

OUR HISTORY: In 1981, the American Library Association (ALA) made a commitment to literacy education when it brought together 11 national volunteer, private and public sector organizations to organize the Coalition for Literacy.

By the fall of 1986, local, state and national awareness programs had been planned. The largest national program was Project Literacy U.S. (PLUS) Organized by the Public Broadcasting System and the American Broadcasting Company, it was meant to develop television programming and support local community task forces against illiteracy.

The project had the endorsement of both the coalition and the ALA. Project PLUS Bergen County Area, founded a year later in 1987, now known as Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, is affiliated with Literacy NJ and is one of the few remaining "task forces".



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Is your donation **Matching Gift** Eligible? If your company participates, your gift could double or triple! Please contact us at cstout@project-literacy.org for information.

