



Literacy Action Corps of Columbia

Spring 2013

Congratulations, New Tutors!



The fall tutor training program wrapped up last October and Literacy Action Corps welcomed twenty new tutors! Of the new tutors, 13 graduated from the English Language Learners (ELL) program and seven from the Adult Basic Learners (ABL) program. Everyone has been paired with a student.

Pictured in the front row, left to right: Merry Matters, Carla Campbell, Terri Lodwick, Ann Ashby, Cindy Allen, Gina Graves, and Rosa England. In the second row, left to right: Fern Anderson, Laura Maglio, Katherine Cummins, Florence Hicks, Linda Yaeger, Natasha Young, Suza Wooldridge, and Ivy Case. In the back row, left to right: Nancie Hawke, Kent Ford, Maggie Wong, Kay Martinez, and Sandy Watts.

Thank you, tutors, for committing to make a difference in your students' lives!

Please don't forget to share the date for our training sessions starting in February!

Mark Your Calendars!

NEW Tutor Training Sessions Begin in February

Literacy Action Corps will host Tutor training sessions:

**February 16, March 9, and
March 16
First Baptist Church
Columbia**

All training sessions are required for prospective tutors.

The deadline for registration is February 13.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Tuesday, November 12 First Baptist Church

**Literacy Action Corps
of Columbia
P.O. Box 7105
Columbia, MO 65205
(573) 442-4280**



Donations

The new year has started off with generous donations from the community! We thank all of our donors for their contributions to LAC. Donors' generosity is vital to LAC's continued support of adult literacy education. Donations go a long way and are put to good use. The need for training materials grows as the number of tutors increases. Please remember LAC as you or your organization consider charitable giving. Thank you again!



A very special
"THANK YOU!"
to our donors:

**First Baptist Church
(for in-kind
contributions)**

**First Presbyterian
Church**

David Machens

**John & Jacqueline
Pascucci
Charitable Trust**

Tom Thomas

Joan Watson

Sandy Watts



Student Success Story

Louis Miller* is an Adult Basic Literacy (ABL) Tutor with LAC. Louis submitted this "Student Success Story" about his experiences working with Gordon*, an ABL student.

I have been tutoring Gordon for a little over a year. Gordon is about 58 years of age and learning disabled, but he lives independently on his own and holds a part time job.

Gordon is a wonderful person, unfailingly polite and upbeat. I have learned a lot from him and have enjoyed and appreciated my sessions with him.

While I am limited in my training and ability to recognize learning disabilities, I have noticed that Gordon seems to have a learning impairment similar to dyslexia which sometimes causes him difficulty with a word (large or small), word sequencing (transposing words), or substituting words. It is important for him (or me) to carefully and thoughtfully point out and isolate each word to ensure visual engagement. I have also noticed that he tires fairly quickly when reading and has greater difficulty the longer we read.

That said, Gordon does a good job of reading and associated comprehension under the right conditions..While rewarding, it has been a challenge for me to recognize how best to work with him and make our sessions meaningful for continued progress.

*Names changed by request. Special thanks to LAC tutor Louis Miller and Gordon for sharing their story.

If you and your student have a tutoring story or experience to share, please email laccolumbia@yahoo.com or mail LAC at P.O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205.

Tutor Tips and Tools

This installment of “Tutor Tips and Tools” comes from Sara Clark, LAC's Tutor Training Coordinator for ELL.

First of all, I want to begin by thanking each one of you for all the hard work you do for our students and our organization day in and day out. Your dedication strengthens our organization and our community.

Literacy training for ELL students is often challenging but abundantly rewarding. Hopefully through this piece I'll be able to provide tips that will make tutoring a bit easier and more fun.



I find the use of visual aids consistently works wonders. There are abundant sources of free visual aids. When planning a lesson for your student, incorporate one or two props. Think about the space where you meet your student. Is it a library, coffee shop, living room, dorm lounge area? What props can you find in those areas? What props can you find in your own home that will enhance the learning experience for your student?

Recently, my student and I spent our time together discussing the different varieties of clothing available at a local retail shop. We discussed the difference between hoodies, pull-overs, jackets, coats, sweatshirts, and sweaters. We then spent the next couple of weeks modeling the different varieties of clothing for each other in our subsequent meetings. Seeing and touching the items we discussed helped further reinforce what the item is, when and where it's most appropriate to wear it, and its overall purpose in relation to the other items of clothing.



The visual aids in this example were the actual items of clothing, but a sale bill from a local retailer would have also worked to discuss the different varieties of clothing. Newspapers and magazines are other great places to view pictures of clothing.

In closing, visual aids help ELL students better recognize and understand the vocabulary you discuss with them. Use your creativity to find visual aids and encourage your student to bring items when you meet.

Some of the best tutoring techniques come from our fellow tutors. Please share your favorite tips and tools for success to be included in future issues of this newsletter. We can all learn from each other!

E-mail ideas to laccolumbia@yahoo.com or send them to LAC at P. O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205-7105.

Friendship, Food, and Fun

LAC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The annual LAC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at First Baptist Church in November. Country Kitchen catered a wonderful meal enjoyed by tutors, other volunteers, students, and their families. Along with the delicious meal and friendly conversation, attendees participated in a raffle for fun prizes. Thanks to each and every LAC volunteer and everyone who made the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner possible! Thanks to First Baptist Church for providing a welcoming location.



Above, left, clockwise: Terry Lodwick, Carol Miller, Naw, and Naw's children (around the table).
Above, right, clockwise: Mark, Steve and Cindy Sheltmire, and Sandy and her husband.



Left: Linda Yaeger and granddaughter. Center: Linda Breedlove and Mahree Skala. Right: Leslie Clay.

Literacy News

Research on literacy provides perspective on the time, effort, and donations LAC volunteers and others contribute to improve the literacy of their students.

A study supported by NIH found that “a mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success.” The study looked at more than 3,000 families. The study found that a mother's reading skill outweighs other factors on her children's future performance in school. Time spent with mothers who are ELL students and ABL students can directly affect not only the literacy skills of these students, but also their children's academic achievement.

Adult literacy education is an important endeavor with far-reaching consequences. Keep up the good work!

Bock, R. & Miller, M. G. (2012, October 25). Improving mothers' literacy skills may be best way to boost children's achievement. Retrieved from <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/oct2010/nichd-25.htm>

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM TUTORS

In order to make our annual report to ProLiteracy, we need to know many hours you have spent on LAC tutoring during 2013. Please email laccolumbia@yahoo.com with the following information: your name, your student's name(s), and how many hours you have spent with each of them in 2013 (please include both tutoring and prep time). Please don't include any hours you have already reported. Estimates are fine. Thank you!