



Literacy Action Corps of Columbia

Fall 2014

Mark Your Calendars!

NEW Fall Tutor Training Sessions Begin in September

Literacy Action Corps will host
tutor training sessions:

**Sept. 23rd, Sept. 30th,
Oct. 7th, Oct. 14th, Oct. 21st
6PM – 9:30PM**

First Baptist Church

All training sessions are
required for prospective tutors.

The deadline for registration is
Friday, Sept. 19th.

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



Welcome, New Tutors!



LAC is excited to welcome a new class of ABL and ELL tutors! The 2014 Spring tutor training class was outstanding. All of the tutors-in-training who attended the first class completed the program. The new tutors were excited to start working with students and many of the ELL tutors soon began working with members of Columbia's refugee population at Douglass High School.

Pictured above are the graduates of the 2014 Spring tutor training. Front row, left to right: Valerie Hammons, Sharon Lee, Judy LaRose, and Martha Lerch. Middle row, left to right: Rachel Puidk, Corrine Remeika, Katherine Gale, Maola Suzie Thomas, and Stephanie Baechle. Back row, left to right: Michele Schutte, Valerie Holley, and Sandy Hild.

LAC is proud of all of its tutors—keep up the good work!

**Remember:
Fall training sessions start soon. See sidebar for details.
Please spread the word.**

Literacy Action Corps of Columbia is a non-profit organization founded in 1968. It is affiliated nationally with ProLiteracy Worldwide, and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Literacy News

Celebrate International Literacy Day...

September is International Literacy Month. On September 8th, organizations around the world will celebrate International Literacy Day. UNESCO first declared September 8th International Literacy Day in 1965. Consider doing something fun to celebrate International Literacy Day—maybe meet with your student and read this newsletter.



...And a Founder's Birthday

Just three years after the celebration of the first International Literacy Day, LAC was founded in 1968. One of those founders was none other than Dell Keepers. Dell was instrumental in starting and keeping LAC going strong. Dell herself is still going strong and will be celebrating her 90th birthday in August. A reception to celebrate her birthday will be held on Sunday, August 17th at First Baptist Church. See First Baptist Church's newsletter *The Spire* for details.



The Spire:
<http://fbc-columbia.org/news-and-calendar/newsletter>



A very special
"THANK YOU!"
to our 2014 donors:

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

**The First Presbyterian
Church**

Joan Watson



2014 Appreciation Dinner

It's time to recognize LAC's hard-working students and tutors. LAC's Annual Appreciation Dinner will be held on November 11th at First Baptist Church. There will be food, friends, and fun. It's an enjoyable and informal opportunity to meet other tutors and students. Tutors will be recognized for their achievements during the year, including tutoring milestones and continuing education.

Tutors, please keep an eye out for an invitation to RSVP to the dinner—students are welcome, so please invite them to join you!

CoMoGives and LAC

This year, LAC is participating in the CoMo Gives campaign and LAC needs your help! For the second year in a row, the CoMo Gives campaign will help unite nonprofit organizations in Columbia/Boone County with donors. Between December 1 through 31, 2014, donations to LAC can be made online on the secure CoMo Gives website, www.comogives.com.

Donations received by LAC will be used to help increase literacy for ELL and ABL students in the community. A donation of \$50 can purchase **3 workbooks** for ELL students. A donation of \$100 can purchase a **citizenship workbook kit** for an ELL student.

The nonprofit with the highest total donations at the end of campaign will be awarded \$2,000 in matching funds from the Community Foundation of Central Missouri. There are also matching funds available to the nonprofits with the highest number of individual donors; the highest number of donors under age 35; and the highest number of individual donations \$250 and over. Please help spread the word about LAC's participation in CoMo Gives so LAC is in the running to receive matching funds.

All donations are tax deductible; donors will receive an automatic email receipt. The minimum donation is \$10 and donors can elect to remain anonymous.



If you prefer to make a donation to LAC directly, you may mail a check to:
P.O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205

**Please consider making your donation to LAC between
December 1 – 31, 2014 online at www.comogives.com.
Thank you**

Explore with Your Student Upcoming Events and Activities

There are great opportunities throughout Columbia to spark new avenues for learning, as well as provide a chance to explore Columbia and have (free) fun. Here are some upcoming events.

- **Family Fun Fest: Around the World**
Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in Flat Branch Park
- **37th Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show**
Saturday and Sunday, September 20 & 21, 2014 in Historic Nifong Park

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Send us
an email

LAC would love to hear from YOU! Connect with LAC through Facebook. Search for "Literacy Action Corps Columbia". You can send LAC an email at laccolumbia@yahoo.com. You can also visit LAC's website for information about tutoring, LAC's mission, ProLiteracy, and to access newsletters.

www.literacyactioncorps.org

Student Success Story

Tutor Jan Ritter shares the success story of her ELL student, Jinmyung.

New volunteer Jan Ritter started with LAC in August 2013. She moved to Columbia the summer before due to her husband's job transfer. Jinmyung Choi moved here from Korea that same summer because her husband is a student at MU. She found it hard to adapt in a strange place and could not find any opportunity to improve her English since she was a housewife.

A Korean friend told Jinmyung about Shirley Colbert and LAC. Due to a lack of volunteers, it took eight months before she could be matched with a tutor to assist with her English. Shirley helped Jan and Jinmyung to meet in October 2013 and they have continued to meet weekly since then.

When they first met, Jinmyung confessed that she had kind of an English phobia. It brought comfort to her to know that Jan had lived overseas and understood what she was experiencing. Jinmyung states, "As a tutor Jan asked me what I wanted to improve upon and what topics I would like to discuss. She would correct my wrong pronunciations and help me practice English accents and intonations. She spoke slowly so I could understand and have conversations. She would listen to my story very carefully with patience."

As a conversation partner, Jan was very impressed with

Jinmyung's English abilities. The more they met the more Jinmyung built confidence in her speaking. Jan noticed when they went out, cashiers had a tendency to look at her for all the conversation. So Jan would intentionally look down and have Jinmyung stand in the front so that the conversation would be between her and the cashier.



In the spring Jan offered Jinmyung an opportunity to volunteer with her at church one morning per week. Jan felt this would give her a greater chance to encounter more Americans and also work with American 3 year olds. Reading and speaking to children all morning would not be as intimidating as speaking with adults. Jinmyung felt this was a great experience.

When asked about her favorite lessons, Jinmyung said she enjoyed learning about American holidays and origins. Jinmyung said, "Every week Jan and I discussed topics about American culture, traditions, and foods. I've learned things from our conversations that I could not have learned through books. Thanks to Jan, I got a chance

to visit an American person's home. She invited me and my husband to a Christmas party in her house. It was the first time to attend to an American party, so I was very excited. I met Jan's family and her friends there and had a great time."

According to Jan, this new friendship has been a blessing. Jinmyung has taught her more about Korea and even cooked a Korean meal for her. Their husbands enjoyed talking about and watching World Cup Soccer. Jan thinks Jinmyung is an amazing person who has enriched her life.

Jinmyung closed with this statement, "For me, Jan is not only a tutor but also a good friend. We have met every week, and talked about many things. Sometimes I discuss my personal issues with Jan, and she always listens very carefully and will give me wise and considerate advice. I am a stranger in this country and I am still unfamiliar with American culture. However, meeting with Jan gave me a positive power to adapt to this society as well as to improve my English. Meeting her was a lucky thing that happened in my life in America."

Do you and your student have a tutoring story to share? Email laccolumbia@yahoo.com, contact LAC on Facebook, or mail LAC at P.O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205.