



# Literacy Action Corps of Columbia

Spring 2015

## Welcome, New Tutors!



LAC welcomes its new tutors. During the Fall 2014 session, there were 8 students who received their certificates in either the ELL and ABL programs. Pictured above, from left to right, are: Robert Sutter (ABL), Walter Bargaen (ELL), Nancy Silvers (ABL), Karen Smith (ELL), Luke Johnson (ELL), and Beth Stepanovic (ABL). Not pictured are Sarah Garcia (ELL) and Melody Kroll (ABL), who were not available for the group photo.



Above, left: ABL trainer Carol Miller, Robert Sutter, Beth Stepanovic, and Nancy Silvers practice developing lesson plans. Above, right: ELL trainer Shirley Colbert awards Karen Smith her certificate. Congratulations, new tutors!

The Spring 2014 session begins on **February 7th**; save the date and share the date!

## Mark Your Calendars!

### NEW Spring Tutor Training Sessions Begin in February

Literacy Action Corps will host  
Tutor training sessions:

**February 7th, 14th, and 21st**  
**9AM – 1:00PM**

#### First Baptist Church

All training sessions are  
required for prospective tutors.

The deadline for registration is  
**February 4th.**

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



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.

# Tutor Tips and Tools

This installment of tutoring tips comes from Melody Kroll, a graduate of the 2014 fall ABL training.

A useful but relatively untapped tool for ABL is literacy applications for mobile devices. Literacy apps are widely available for helping children develop literacy skills. While few apps are explicitly tailored for adults, a number can be used by adult learners.

Literacy apps offer a different mode of literacy learning. Some adult learners might find a literacy app more relevant than other methods; many are already familiar with other types of apps.

One literacy app is Wurdle, which is similar to Boggle and offers a free version. Other apps can be found on a publication from the Central Coast Children's Foundation, "[Literacy Apps for Struggling Learners](#)" by Harvey Pressman and Andrea Pietrzyk.

If you have a tutoring technique to share, please e-mail ideas to [laccolumbia@yahoo.com](mailto:laccolumbia@yahoo.com) or send them to LAC at P. O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205-7105.

## Explore with Your Student Upcoming Events and Activities

Columbia hosts a range of opportunities to encourage learning, as well as to explore Columbia and have fun with your student. Here are some upcoming events.

- **First Fridays in the North Village Arts District**  
North Village Arts District businesses showcase art and entertainment Fridays 6-9pm on S 10<sup>th</sup> St (free)
- **Columbia Farmers Market**  
Winter market Saturdays from 9am-12pm in Parkade Plaza (free)  
Outdoor market returns in April 2015 on Ash St near the ARC (free)
- **True/False Film Fest**  
Several locations throughout downtown Columbia, March 5 – 8, 2015
- **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Veterans Celebration & 2-Day Airshow**  
May 23 & 24, 2015 from 9:30am-3:30pm
- **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Art in The Park**  
June 6 & 7, 2015 in Stephen's Park (free)
- **Show-Me State Games**  
Many dates and locations in Columbia, beginning June 11 and concluding July 26 2015

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LAC would love to hear from YOU! Connect with LAC through Facebook: search for "Literacy Action Corps Columbia". You can email LAC at [laccolumbia@yahoo.com](mailto:laccolumbia@yahoo.com). You can also visit LAC's website for info on tutoring, LAC's mission, ProLiteracy, and to access newsletters.

[www.literacyactioncorps.org](http://www.literacyactioncorps.org)

# Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

November marked the annual LAC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The dinner was held in the newly renovated dining/auditorium area of First Baptist Church. The delicious meal was catered by Country Kitchen. There were many familiar faces and new ones, too. The raffle was a hit, and board member Shirley Colbert organized a fun ice breaker game that had everyone laughing and problem-solving.

The dinner was an opportunity to spotlight two tutors who have made significant contributions during their time with LAC. Betty Carpenter, below left with Linda Breedlove and Mahree Skala, was the ABL President Award recipient. Margaret Ruvalcaba, below center with Shirley Colbert, was the ELL President Award recipient. Betty has tutored through LAC for 10 years and Margaret for 15 years. Both are still going strong. Congratulations!



Above, right, are several attendees enjoying the dinner.

Thanks to First Baptist Church, Country Kitchen, the LAC board members, and especially the tutors and students for making the 2014 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner great.

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## Literacy News

ProLiteracy recently released a report on adult education volunteerism in each state. LAC is affiliated with ProLiteracy and utilizes its educational materials for tutor training and student development. The report draws on ProLiteracy's annual report data<sup>1</sup> and the organization Independent Sector's state volunteer information<sup>2</sup>. Missouri is in the top 10 states for highest value of adult education volunteer work. The work of Missouri volunteers in adult education, including ABL, is estimated at a value of \$3,188,805. Congratulations to being a part of Missouri's success!

<sup>1</sup> "The Value of Adult Literacy Volunteering". [proliteracy.org](http://proliteracy.org). ProLiteracy, 2014. Web.

<sup>2</sup> "Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time". [independentsector.org](http://independentsector.org). Independent Sector, 2015. Web.

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM TUTORS

In order to make our annual report to ProLiteracy, we need to know many hours you spent on LAC tutoring during 2014. Included with this newsletter is a Recording and Attendance calendar for recording your tutoring hours. Please complete the enclosed form and deposit in the **drop-box at the First Baptist Church – Literacy Center** or mail to: **Literacy Action Corps, P.O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO 65205**. You may also email the completed form to [laccolumbia@yahoo.com](mailto:laccolumbia@yahoo.com). Estimates of time spent with your student are fine. Thank you!

# CoMo Gives and LAC

LAC was one of 53 nonprofit organizations in Columbia/Boone County to participate in the 2014 CoMo Gives campaign. The CoMo Gives campaign helped connect donors with nonprofit organizations for the second year in a row, building awareness and support in our community. During the month of December, donors gave a total of \$1,335 to LAC!

Thanks to your generous donations, LAC ranked 34<sup>th</sup> among the participating organizations. In the coming weeks, CoMo Gives will determine any winners of the “challenge grants”, which reward nonprofits for highest total donations and for other criteria.

The CoMo Gives team is in the process of compiling donor contact information (only for those donors who chose to release this information) and will be providing this to LAC. LAC will recognize CoMo Gives donors in the upcoming fall 2015 newsletter.



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.

Thank you for contributing to and spreading the word about LAC—we hope to meet many new students and tutors in 2015 and are grateful to have the funds to support them.

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## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all who generously donated to LAC during 2014, either as part of the CoMo Gives campaign or otherwise. LAC succeeds through your charitable contributions. Below is a list of all 2014 donors.

- ◆ Mark and Mary Becker
  - ◆ Boone Electric Community Trust
  - ◆ Patricia Cole & James Elfrank Revocable Trust
  - ◆ Rosa England
  - ◆ First Baptist Church (in-kind contributions)
  - ◆ The First Presbyterian Church
  - ◆ Pascucci Charitable Trust
  - ◆ Joan Watson
- ◆ All CoMo Gives donors



Donations can be made to LAC directly any time. You or your organization may mail a check to: P.O. Box 7105, Columbia, MO, 65205.