



BETWEEN THE LINES



Fall 2016

Lives Are Changing!

Every day at the Adult Literacy League we have the opportunity to see our students learn and grow. We are able to watch amazing volunteers as they help our students reach for their dreams and achieve them.

Hearing students say "I had been looking for over 12 years to find a place that would accommodate my needs while I worked and went to school, so I may reach this point in my life. It has truly been a blessing, YOU GUYS are a blessing. This Program is a blessing!!!!" or "I had a great job interview and was hired. Thanks to my tutor, my English has improved so much I wasn't even nervous." is possible because of **YOU!**

Something so special about the Adult Literacy League is how the gains our students make can be so tangible, so life changing. Many of our Adult Basic Education students work hard to earn a **driver's license** which means freeing up hours of travel time in daily, access to a better job, and more time to spend with their family every day. Learning to **read** and **write** gives them the opportunity to help children and grandchildren with homework, instill in those children a love of learning and the chance to end the cycle of low literacy. A **GED** is more than piece of paper; it's the embodiment of overcoming challenges, of commitment and hard work. It means that the recipient now has the potential to earn \$10,000 more a year than the average high school dropout, and if they chose to go on to get a bachelor's degree, an additional \$36,000 a year. Learning **English** and becoming a **U.S. citizen** is the opportunity to not only survive, but thrive in a new country, to participate in voting and politics, and to aid in making a positive change in our community. **Family Literacy** participants are able to build an at-home library, spend invaluable time together as a family and set their children up for success in the coming school years.

Without **YOUR** support through gifts of time, monetary donations, supplies and unwavering dedication to the Adult Literacy League, our students couldn't accomplish so many incredible things. We love what we do here and we are so grateful for the opportunity to positively impact not only the lives of our students, but the whole Central Florida community.

Welcome New Citizens

We have so much pride in seeing what ALL students accomplish.

This year we have welcomed **30 new citizens!** We are so proud of the dedication they have shown in committing to earn their citizenship. Congratulations to all of these new citizens and we look forward to celebrating even more before the year is over! These students are excited to vote in the upcoming election and do their part as new United States citizens!



New citizen,
Ada!

Read to My Baby!-

Never too Early to Start that Bedtime Story Routine!

As we continue our mission to build a literate community, we need to pay special attention to breaking the cycle of low literacy. ALL's solution to this for the last 15 years is the **Read to Me! Book Club**, a program for parents and their preschool children ages 3 to 5. The amazing partnerships



with Head Start and other preschools has allowed for training, books and learning materials to be provided to families who lack these resources at home and are frequently unaware of the importance of reading to their children. Already in 2016, **250** families have been served!

Now, thanks to a grant from Dr. Phillips Charities, we are fortunate to already be serving over **50** parents with infants from birth through 2 years of age through the new **Read to my Baby!** initiative.

These programs we are able to see new moms and dads not only learning the importance of reading to their children, but learning to **LOVE** reading to their children. When parents share that they never knew it was important, let alone enjoyable, to read with their children, we are able to see how valuable family literacy is to our mission.

Raising reading-ready children cannot start too soon. This program provides training and information to parents on how and why to read to infants and supplies them safe, age-appropriate baby books and materials which are things our families often do not have and cannot afford. Our target is to serve **50** families this year and we are so grateful for our Family Literacy Manager, Laura Fisher.

Gateway to Success!

For ALL's GED students, earning their degree is a completely life-changing experience. In an increasingly competitive job market, education is crucial. So far this year we have had **11** students earn their Florida High School Diploma, thanks to support from Heart of Florida United Way and other generous

donors. Because of these relationships and the support received, we are able to assist our students in paying to take the test - something which would otherwise be a barrier to them.

Our GED Lab is a concentrated, twelve week program to which students apply and are then selected based on several criteria. It's imperative these students commit to attending class two days a week from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The instructors specialize in the subject matter required to take and pass the test: Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Volunteers are critical to the success of this program as all instructors are donating their time. We are so grateful for the support shown to these devoted students. We would be remiss to not also recognize ALL's Volunteer & Instructional Coordinator, Sarah Tareco, for her great leadership of this program. Congratulations to our new High School graduates - **100% of whom have gone on to post-secondary education.** We are so proud of you!



Lekishia proudly showing off her GED!

Thank You For All You Do!

ALL is very fortunate to have so many selfless tutors, instructors, and volunteers. To show our appreciation, we want to celebrate some of



Here is Carla (right) with new citizen, Claudia!

the amazing work they're doing by going above and beyond for the students. One such volunteer is Carla Bitterling, who has been a volunteer with ALL since 2010! She not only tutors three students, but she was the brains behind the reading group at the Southwest Library (or 'her' library as she likes to call it) last year! Similar to a book club, students in her group meet to discuss what they've read, and also discuss new vocabulary, culture, and have the opportunity to practice their English. Carla had a vision and brought it to fruition! The success of her reading group exposed a need that led to the development of an ESOL conversation class at that location as well! Thank

you Carla, and all of our volunteers, for everything you do!

You can also read our newsletter [HERE](#).

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