



A United Way
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The Reader Leader

The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County
December 15, 2002

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*Warmest Wishes
to all our Supporters and Volunteers
for a season filled with
LOVE and PEACE and JOY.
Thank you for giving the gift of READING!*

Season's Greetings!

I am excited to join the Burke County Literacy Council and look forward to meeting the many tutors, volunteers and community supporters dedicated to improving the literacy skills of Burke County residents. The past few months have been active between learning about the various programs, attending workshops and investigating potential grant sources. I look forward to becoming a more integral part of program implementation in 2003.

Thank you for your time and generosity during 2002 and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Susan Baumann Berley



Program News

The Literacy Council was pleased to donate 50 gently used books to the Circle of Friends HEADSTART program in Rutherford College. They will use these books to begin a lending library for HEADSTART students to take home for their parents to read to them.

The Literacy Council had a good program year. Each of our service areas has added numbers to our total headcount.

Motheread/Fatheread sessions were held at:

- All 16 elementary schools in the county
- Family Connections GED class
- Family Connections Teen Mom Program
- FIPP Enrichment sites in Morganton and Valdese
- Blue Ridge Community Action at Generations and Circle of Friends
- Burke/Catawba Detention Facility

Project FLOWER (our ESL program) has maintained a steady number of immigrant families in the group as we work with them to speak English. One hundred percent have shown improvement and 80% moved up a level.

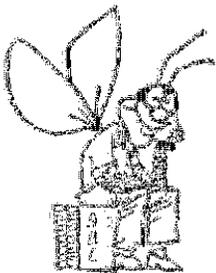
Project Citizenship (coordinated by Carol Ware) has made good headway this year with 10 students passing the INS exam in Charlotte - thereby becoming U.S. citizens.

Our **one-to-one adult program** continues to accept new students who want to learn to read or to better their reading skills. One of our one-to-one students, Donald Franklin, was the speaker at our annual Spelling Bee for Literacy.

Reach Out and Read (an early pediatric literacy program) added a new location this year. The Valdese site of Mountain View Pediatrics joins the Morganton office and the Burke County Health Department.

Volunteers are always needed for these programs. If you know someone who may be interested in helping in one of our programs, please call 437-7477.

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who make our programs work - we couldn't do it without you!



Spelling Bee Plans Underway

Companies and organizations are **BUZZING** with excitement about the upcoming Spelling Bee for Literacy. The worker bees will be contacting groups soon. If you know of a business, industry, or organization interested in sponsoring a team please call 437-7477 for more information.

A \$175 registration fee allows a team of three to compete in the Bee. The team may come from the business or the company may want to sponsor a team from a non-profit organization. Tickets will be \$2 at the HIVE (door). All proceeds go to the Literacy Council.

Council Receives Donations

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between July 1, 2002 and December 15, 2002.

Individuals

Mrs. Kathy Garrou
Mr. Robert Kilpatrick
Mrs. Karla Lanier
Dr. Jeffrey Roller
Mrs. Gladys Tillman
Mrs. Doris Wilson

Service Organizations

Pilot Club of Morganton

Grants/Private Foundations

Beatrice Cobb Trust
Burke County United Way
Dollar General Foundation
Harris Teeter, Inc.
North Carolina Community College System
Sam's Club Foundation
The Mull Foundation
Wal-Mart Foundation

In Kind Donations

Mr. Cecil Bishop
Mrs. Carol Cochran
Mrs. Kathy Garrou
Mrs. Lee Kirksey
Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGarry
Mrs. Calvin Sossman
Burke Partnership for Children
The Muses

Recent Grant Submissions

Community Development Block Grant
(City of Morganton)
The Huffman-Cornwell Foundation
The Staples Foundation
The UPS Foundation



Program Merger

Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc. have merged to become ProLiteracy Worldwide.

Special Thanks To...

The Literacy Council would like to thank Amy Coley and Krista Davis for cleaning our carpets as part of an outreach project at First Presbyterian Church.



Contact Us

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
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| Kathy Garrou | bclckathy@hci.net |
| Sherry Houser | bclcsherry@hci.net |

Volunteers please remember to submit your hours monthly to Sherry. Thank you!

Visit our Web Site

Visit the Literacy Council web site at
<http://www.hci.net/~bclc/>

Council Wish List

The Literacy Council is in need of the following items:

Calculator
Children's books (gently used)
Construction paper
Juice boxes and vanilla wafers
for children of mothers at Project
FLOWER
Globe
Glue sticks
Office supplies

Burke County Literacy Council
300 North Green Street #204
Morganton, NC 28655
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How Illiteracy Hurts The Business Community

Adult illiteracy is a challenge to all Americans, but it is a special problem for business and industry.

Millions of employees suffering from varying degrees of illiteracy are costing their companies daily through low productivity, workplace accidents and absenteeism, poor product quality, and lost management and supervisory time.

One out of every eight employees is estimated to read at no more than a 4th grade level, and one out of five reads only to 8th grade level. This translates into about 14 million workers respectively. Yet research indicated that some 70% of the reading material in a cross section of jobs nationally is between 9th grade and 12th grade difficulty, and 15% is even higher. A 12th grade reading level is needed to understand the average newspaper.

Up to three-fourths of the currently unemployed are functionally illiterate, seriously reducing the pool of qualified persons for new hire. In addition, in the coming years an increasing proportion of the youth labor pool will be made up of new immigrants and minorities with poor reading, writing and English language skills.

The millions of adults who can't qualify for much of the work of our technological economy represent a major loss of potential customers for products and services. The scope of adult illiteracy is such that no one sector of society can solve it alone. It will take a partnership between public and private interests to make any significant impact on the problem.