



A United Way
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The Reader Leader

The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County
December 2, 2003

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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!*

Farewell to a Friend...

For the past 12 years Kathy Garrou has been the dedicated Program/Family Literacy Coordinator and friend of the Burke County Literacy Council. Kathy has assisted countless residents of Burke County whether it be with literacy skills or referrals to other agencies. In mid-January 2004 Kathy will be relocating to Charlottesville, Virginia. The Literacy Council will truly miss Kathy and her willingness to make the extra effort to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Best wishes Kathy on your new adventure and may you be met with the warmth and friendship you have shared with us over the years!

International Literacy Day and Family Literacy Day

Fall is a time of recognizing the importance of literacy in our lives, our community, and our world. On September 8, 2003, in celebration of International Literacy Day, Executive Director Susan Baumann Berley, spoke on WHKY 1290 First Talk about the state of literacy in Burke County. Nationally, it is estimated that one in five adults is functionally illiterate, which would equate to roughly 13,000 residents in Burke County. On November 20, 2003, in celebration of Family Literacy Day (which was actually November 1), Kathy Garrou, Program Coordinator, and Susan Berley visited Blue Ridge Community Action and Circle of Friends. Kathy and Susan, along with volunteer Lisa Shook, distributed gently used books to the children to take home and read with their parents.



Helping Adults Learn

The North Carolina Community College System has been, and continues to be, a primary source of funding for the Burke County Literacy Council. The Literacy Council strives to provide programs and services that do not overlap with the Basic Skills program at Western Piedmont Community College but rather are complementary. Recently, the NCCCS kicked off a new campaign to promote Basic Skills/literacy in North Carolina. Both the Literacy Council and Western Piedmont Community College are participating in this campaign. The aim of the statewide public awareness campaign for adult Basic Skills/literacy is to reach every household in North Carolina with the message that Basic Skills/literacy is a critical part of the solution to our state's urgent economical problems. Over the next three years the *Race 4 Literacy* campaign will progress through three different phases. The initial stage is aimed at North Carolina citizens and potential students. Please pass the word along about this important campaign and if you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor or know of someone in need of Basic Skills/literacy assistance contact the Literacy Council at 437-7477 or call the statewide toll free hotline at 1-800-553-9759.



Program News

The two summer reading programs for elementary school age children--one at Mt. View School for the Mt. View Rec Center program and one at Hillcrest for the Salvation Army summer program went well. These two programs, taught by school teachers from the two schools, ran for one and one half hours, five days a week for two weeks in June.

Several high school students from Freedom and East Burke, who needed summer volunteer hours for the National Honor Society, did reading for Reach Out and Read in the pediatricians' office during July and August.

This summer we enrolled new one-to-one students --- several who are presently unemployed and cannot attend a WPCC class. Kathy has also referred students who can attend a program every day to one of WPCC's programs.

Kathy attended training at Caldwell Community College. The training was offered to our agency by the NC Community College System for the new Madison Heights material sent to all colleges and community based organizations.

Kathy attended the Education Summit in September. She thought it was well done and a lot of very good information was presented.

Kathy continues to do Motherread/Fatheread at Burke Catawba Detention Facility, Family Connections Teen Mothers group and George Hildebrand Family Resource Center. Other schools and Blue Ridge Community Action Headstart have scheduled sessions for the fall.

Project Flower began the first of September and we are beginning what appears to be a good year--again meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1:30 pm at the Salvation Army church.

Project Citizenship is going well. Usually, each time we have a student who passes the test, we get another student--so, even though this group runs year round, the enrollment stays up.

Council Receives Donations

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between July 1, 2003 and December 2, 2003.

Individuals

Mr. Richard Blackwelder
Mrs. Ruth Carr
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kilpatrick
Mrs. Elinora Miller
Mrs. Doris Wilson

Community/Service Organizations

First Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church

Grants/Private Foundations

Beatrice Cobb Trust
Burke County United Way
CVS Corporation
Grace Episcopal Church Foundation
Hillsdale Fund, Inc.
Mull Foundation
North Carolina Community College System
Sam's Club Foundation
Sisters of Mercy
Target

In Kind Donations

Mrs. Susan Baumann Berley
Mrs. Charlyne Bugg
Dr. William Cloud
Mrs. Carol Cochran
Mrs. Betty Ervin
Mrs. Kathy Garrou
Ms. Judy Hensley
Mrs. Hope Johnson
Mrs. Elinora Miller
Mrs. Robin Plyler
Mrs. Beth Walker
Mrs. Doris Wilson
Mrs. Merlene Yates
Atlanta Bread Company
Habitat Restore
The Muses



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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:

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

Natures Lessons On Teamwork

Fact: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a V, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community get where they're going quicker and easier because they're traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into formation to take advantage of the arrangement's lifting power.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, and resources.

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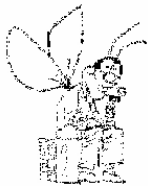
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Fundraising News...

Spelling Bee for Literacy



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.

Spring Fashion Show

Due to the overwhelming success of the spring fashion show this past April we are in the process of organizing the second annual show. Details will be announced soon, but in the meantime if you are interested in volunteering to model, please call the office.

Belk Charity Day

On November 1, 2003, Belk stores nationwide held their annual Charity Day. Belk allowed non-profit agencies to sell tickets for \$5 that entitled the purchaser to \$5 off their first purchase over \$25 between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. as well as 20% off their purchases the entire day and the opportunity to register to have their Belk charge paid off up to \$1000. The Literacy Council sold 86 tickets which raised \$430 to support programs and services. Thanks to all who sold or purchased tickets!