



LITERACY FOR LIFE

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” – Frederick Douglass

WINTER 2005

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Henderson County Even Start

As one of the collaborators with the Henderson County Even Start Family Literacy Program, the Blue Ridge Literacy Council provides one-to-one tutors for Even Start students who need additional help with their studies. Some of these students are at beginning level while others just need that last bit of brushing up in order to get their GED.



Linda Dresback with Nancy Aguilar Lopez

Even Start, located at Bruce Drysdale Elementary School, provides Adult Basic Education, GED, and English as a Second Language to adults with children ages 0 – 8. A five-star children’s education program is available for children ages 3 – 5 whose parents are part of the adult education component. Even Start operates Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 2:15pm.



Earl Kratzer with Terah Turner

We currently have four tutors at Even Start, but the staff says they always need more. If you are interested in tutoring at Even Start, please call Amanda at the Literacy Council for more information.

BRLC Announces Creation of Student of the Year Awards

We know that every tutor thinks their student is incredible, and now we’re giving you the opportunity to let everyone else know just how great your student is. This spring, BRLC will send all tutors Student of the Year nomination forms. At our Annual Meeting in August, 2005, we will present one award to the ESL Student of the Year and one to the Basic Literacy Student of the Year.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Claudia Acosta, Roxanna White, *Laubach Way To English 2*
Maria Alvarez, Marion Knybel, *Laubach Way To English 1*
Ester Araya, Mary Dufner, *Voyager 5* **Soraya Bustos**, Bobbie Auld, *Voyager 2* **Soraya Bustos**, Joe Taylor, *LifePrints 2*
Soraya Bustos, Joe Taylor, *LifePrints 3* **Marite Davila Gomez**, Bev Kelley, *Voyager 3* **Miguel Davila Antonio**, Carl Johnson, *Laubach Way To English 2* **Maria Gregorio Calvillo**, Vi Blount, *Laubach Way To English 1* **Chris Edwards**, Susan Smith, GED **Rosa Gutierrez**, Dorothy Bottjer, *LifePrints 1*
Bopha Holden, Lillis Brackett, *Voyager 1* **Jaqueline Leon**, Rosemarie Caldwell, *Challenger 1* **Raymundo Machorro**, Catherine Tupper-Faires, *LifePrints Literacy* **Sarah Melendez**, Carolyn Alperin, *Voyager 6* **José Montero**, O.B. Kelley, *Voyager 3* **Juan Montes**, Bruce Bente, *Voyager 1* **Miguel Nolasco**, Roxanna White, *Voyager 2* **Raquel Orihuela Diaz**, Catherine Tupper-Faires, *LifePrints Literacy* **Aida Ortiz**, B.J. Klein, *Voyager 1* **Lorenzo Oviedo**, David Chapin, *LifePrints 1*
Pam Peters, Barbara Kurdelmeier, *Voyager 4* **José Ramirez**, Paul Gold, *Voyager 4* **Minerva Rodriguez**, Sharon Tirrell, *LifePrints 1* **Martina Rodriguez**, Dottie Sheehan, *LifePrints 1*
José Sanchez, Vic Maier, *Voyager F* **Aaron Solano**, David Bishop, *Voyager 2* **Jonas Solano**, Art Bender, *Voyager 5*
Donald Strickland, Norm Makowski, *Voyager 4* **Donald Strickland**, Norm Makowski, *Wilson 1* **Donald Strickland**, Norm Makowski, *Wilson 2* **Barbara Taylor**, Mary Ellen Makowski, *Wilson 5* **Franklin Vargas**, Pat Keyse, *LifePrints 1*
Franklin Vargas, Pat Keyse, *Voyager F* **Mariana Velazquez Salis**, Kay Nelson, *Laubach Way To English 1* **Jennifer Williams**, Earl Kratzer, GED **Santiago Zamudio Morales**, Hans Iwen, *Voyager 6*

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the newsletter of:

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From The Director's Desk

I hope you all had a happy safe holiday season. Now that the first of the year has come and gone I have a few points for you to ponder and bits of BRLC business for you to take care of. Before you start groaning and moaning, let me mention that each and every one of these are guaranteed to help you shed those pesky extra Christmas pounds, cure hangovers and ensure that the remainder of 2005 will be perfect in every way!

We are currently in the process of applying to be part of the GE matching gifts program. If you or your spouse is a GE retiree or employee and you would like to make a donation to the council which will be matched by GE, please let us know.

If you itemize on your Federal return, remember that travel expenses incurred when volunteering are tax deductible. The federal rate for the 2004 tax year is 14 cents per mile. Even if you don't itemize, your charitable contributions are deductible from your NC income taxes. In general, you can receive a 7% tax credit on all contributions above 2% of your adjusted gross income. Check your NC State Income tax instruction book for the details.

With the help of new volunteer photographer, Karen Ashby, and our own stalwart computer volunteer, Richard Simmers (who worked and worked on getting a donated scanner working), we are busy updating and improving our web site. Long about the second week of January, start checking us out for all the pretty new pictures and a greatly expanded Resources for Tutors - Tips and Techniques section. We will be posting downloadable word lists, activities, flash cards and a great section on using the Times-News with our literacy and ESL students.

Of course, January is ILP month; tutors' semi annual goals update is due this month. Tutors have received a letter with all the details on how to proceed. Please remember how important Amanda is to all of us and do your part to preserve her sanity!

Also make sure you have returned all of your yellow sheets from July 1 through December 30. If you are unsure if you missed any months, give us a call!

If you have any literacy council books, tapes or videos you and your student are finished with, especially those from our library, please get them back to us in January.

As always, I thank you and value you for the work you do - you are the most special group of people I have ever known!

Sincerely,

Diane

I Would Like To:

- Learn more about volunteering.
 Make a tax-deductible contribution of _____ (amount).

[If not using a credit card omit the first two items below.]

Credit card type and number _____

Signature _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Please clip and return to: Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Inc.
P. O. Box 1728
Hendersonville, NC 28793

Jack and Heavy

When meeting Heavy Hill (a student at BRLC) one is impressed that his name tells you a lot about him. Heavy is a rather large, compact man; and he is a product of the hills. His family, he says, has been in this location for a “long time”. When asked how he came to the Literacy Council, Heavy says he was “pushed”. He was told by his (then) employer that he needed a high school education to keep his job. So after trying another local organization, with which he was ultimately unhappy, Heavy found his way to the Literacy Council.

Jack McCarthy (Heavy’s tutor) on the other hand is tall, thin, and a transplant. He moved to Hendersonville from Maryland in the summer of 2000. Jack became a tutor for BRLC naturally, because he had been involved in a literacy program in Maryland for 7 or 8 years. He describes himself as a service oriented person, and he believes that one should help people help themselves.



Heavy and Jack at BRLC

This pair of very different individuals has been together now for almost three years. And it is clear that progress has been made. Evidence of that progress can be found in Heavy’s article entitled “Heavy’s Mule Won’t Race” which follows. But Heavy’s continuing with his program is also evidence of progress. Heavy is now self employed, and among other things sells apples, along with fruits and vegetables he has canned and preserved. Just this selling keeps him busy 4 or 5 days a week, and in addition he does hauling and cleaning. Moreover, Heavy also finds ways to give back to his community. He is in great demand as a Santa and has volunteered at churches and civic groups for years. He has a complete outfit, right down to the wide black belt. On top of all this he still finds time to work with Jack each week. And, to show his appreciation, he is a regular donor to the BRLC. One has to suspect that it is an understatement when Heavy says that he and Jack “get along”.



Heavy Selling Produce

HEAVY’S MULE WON’T RACE

I have never had a mule. I never knew anyone who had one. I have never even been around one much.

I think they have better looks than horses or any other animal.

They are hard workers. They may be stronger than horses. And in my opinion, they may be smarter than horses. A horse may work itself to death, but a mule will not. They will stop working before it is too late.

Mules don’t need too much care. A mule does not expect fancy food. She will be happy with just about anything: field grass, hay, oats, sweet feed, grain, apples, and carrots.

And they are fun to be with.

I like their big ears.

I like the way they holler or bray.

They come in many colors. Some are black. Some are red, white or gray. And some are spotted. My favorites are black with white trim; and they remind me of the old timey mules.

They have more confidence than horses. I am reading some books about mules in the Grand Canyon. There, guides take people on trail rides on mules. The trails are narrow and steep. In many places on one side there is a wall. On the other side of the trail there is a steep drop off for hundreds of feet. People who have never ridden any animal before quickly learn to trust the mule to take them down into the canyon and back up. But you will not find any horses on these trails. Only mules are smart enough to make this trip.

I do not know much of anything about mule racing, but I know some people do race them.

I would not race mine if I had one. I am not sure a mule should race.

I would keep my mule on my farm. I would use him in the field, plowing and cultivating. That would be his exercise.

And I think that is where a mule belongs. With me in the field. I think I would like to keep a mule that way, because that is the heritage of the mule.

It is O.K. for others to race mules. But for me, I just want them the way they are.

A NEW TOOL FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Stories on Call, Bruce Drysdale's new twenty-four hour telephone storyline opened early in December and children have been calling! "I knew that many of my students were not being read to," says Sara Smith, Bruce Drysdale's librarian. "When they come to the library they have an opportunity to tell me about their book and I was finding that as much as 40% were not being read to on a regular basis. I also know that we have a growing population of non-English speaking families and the Blue Ridge Literacy Council reports that about 23,000 adults in our county are at the non-to low literate level. I have been working on this for about a year and am so excited to have it up and running. The first week we had 250 calls!" Call 694-7989 for a 5-6 minute story that changes weekly.

Some of the stories are fables and folktales; others are works of local authors like Louise Bailey and childhood favorites. In January, Dr. Steven Page, Henderson County's School Superintendent, will kick off the *Stories on Call* Grand Opening. Dr. Page said, "Reading is so essential to a successful life. I wanted to do something to expose more children to the magic of stories and the life lessons they can learn from them."

Children will also enjoy watching *Story Soup* on Channel 11 Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. This is a service of the Henderson County Public Library.

TUTORS: Please call the BRLC office for information on how to use these stories with your student and for text copies of the stories .

LATE BREAKING NEWS: We are happy to announce that **BRLC** has been chosen as a beneficiary of the 2005 **BMW Pro-Am Charity Golf Tournament at the Cliffs**. The tournament in April will be played on three Cliffs courses, including The Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Asheville. For information on purchasing tickets or playing in the tournament, call the office, 696-3811.