



LITERACY FOR LIFE

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

FALL 2004

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BRLC Earns Kudos from NC Community College System

In May the Blue Ridge Literacy Council underwent a mandatory on-site evaluation required of programs receiving Federal Workforce Investment Act funds. Bob Allen and Linda Ray of the NC Community College System Office in Raleigh spent the day meeting with our staff, Board, volunteers and students, going through our files and analyzing our data. When the report came back, we received a perfect score on program practices and were 88 points above standard in our students' completion of an educational level! They also found a lot more to compliment us on and summed up their report by recommending that BRLC “be showcased ...as one of our best community-based organizational models” and cited us as a “wonderful example of an exemplary program operation.” The report also gave special recognition to our Board, volunteers and staff.

Blue Ridge Literacy Council Annual Meeting

BRLC held our annual meeting Aug. 7. Re-elected to the Board of Directors were Bill Woerner, Mary Farnsworth, Andy Gyuro, and Dene Hellman. Nancy Nichols was elected to her first term. Volunteer awards were presented to Stephen Klein, Jack Williams and Lisa Morrill (see page 3).

The annual report was presented and the meeting concluded with speeches and readings of original works from current and former Blue Ridge Literacy Council students Reyes Chavez, Chris Edwards, Barbara Taylor and Rosa Montes.

At the August Board meeting following the annual meeting the 2004/2005 officers of the Corporation were elected. Bill Woerner was reelected to serve as President, Dene Hellman was elected Vice President, Alice Crisp was reelected Secretary and Jay Behrens was reelected to the office of Treasurer.

Copies of the Annual Report for 2003/2004 are available by request from the office.

Group ESL Classes Have Begun!

At last, after delays caused by securing meeting space and selecting the best possible text, group tutors have completed training and our new small group ESL classes have started.

Seven classes have been formed to serve 31 of the 45 students who signed up to participate in a group class. There are six students in most classes, although groups as small as two have been created in order to accommodate special needs.

A great deal of research went into selecting a text that addresses the language and life skills appropriate to our students while being easy to use by our tutors. *Stand Out* is an exciting five-level series that most effectively addresses these needs. Other tutors wishing to review the series may call the office.

The classes would not be possible without the help of the community and our volunteers. Special thanks to Trinity Presbyterian, the First United Methodist, and the YMCA for providing classrooms; and to our group tutors, Cindy Beane, Evelyn Bowman, Linda Burright, Debbie Elyea, Barbara Frazier, Carl Johnson, and Nancy Pew, for sharing their time and skill.

To serve the rest of the students waiting to learn English, we need more tutors for small groups and one-to-one. There is a need for morning and evening tutors for all levels. We have a special need for a tutor for a couple of students who need to meet at 7:00 p.m. Please contact us if you can spare a few hours a week - and tell your friends!

Focus on Tutor Recruitment

BRLC is starting a major tutor recruitment campaign. We have a Speakers Bureau composed of 11 brave volunteers; now we need places to speak. If you belong to a group (of any sort or size) and would like to arrange for one of our speakers to give a short (or long) presentation about the Literacy Council, please call Diane or DJ.

Each month we have an hour and a half orientation for folks who want to know more about tutoring. Talk with your friends and acquaintances about BRLC; invite them to an orientation; give them the opportunity to change the life of one of the 170+ students on our waiting list!

Literacy For Life

the newsletter of:

Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Inc.
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Board Of Directors:

Bill Woerner (President)
Dene Hellman (Vice President)
Alice Crisp (Secretary)
Jay Behrens (Treasurer)
Archer Browning
Mary Farnsworth
Andy Gyuro
Kelly Johnson
Mark Morse
Nancy Nichols
Lee Smith

BRLC Staff:

Diane Bowers (Executive Director)
Amanda Yendall (Program Dir.)
Cindy Jefferson (ESL Coordinator)
Dianne (D. J.) King (Prog. Admin.)
Don Bailey (Newsletter Editor)

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9 AM to 5 PM

A Fully Accredited Affiliate Of:



**PROLITERACY
America**

A Member Agency Of:



**Henderson County
United Way**

My Expectations

A Student Composition by Miguel Nolasco

I do not have computer experience. I want to learn to use a computer. I talked with Diane. I asked her if literacy council had a computer class. She said, we have a computer and we teach a little. She proposed I talk to my tutor. Now I am using the Ellis computer program. I love it! With the Ellis disk I practice conversation phrases, culture, etc.

I like very much the lessons on the computer. My expectations are to know how to use the computer so some day I will have a business and then I will use my skill on the computer.

Dear Teacher

A Student Composition by Dora Hernandez

I am happy because I have a grandson. His name is Jason; he is a beautiful baby. Now Jason is walking. He likes to play with the soccer ball. He is only one year old and four months. In a few months he will be talking. I would like to live with Jason because I could teach him English. I don't know why my son does not like to study. In the future he will need English for Jason. Who will help Jason? Maybe the grandmother of Jason.

I am pleased teacher for my words. I am happy with you because now I understand English. Thank you teacher.

Being Good Citizens



ESL students **Shu Chen** and **Shang Qi** became United States citizens this year. They were so excited about being able to vote for the first time; they are shown above at the Board of Elections exercising their rights of citizenship.

Annual Golf Tournament A Success

On June 28 we held our **11th Annual Golf Tournament**. The weather was beautiful (it didn't rain too much), and everyone had a great time. This year's tournament, chaired by **Bill Woerner** with a lot of help from **Dave Nichols** and other volunteers, was acknowledged by all to be the best ever and netted over \$11,000 for BRLC Programs.

Can You Help?

The Literacy Council needs additional secretarial and conference chairs. Do you have any chairs in good shape that you no longer need?

Tutor of the Year

This year's Tutor of the Year is Stephen Klein. Stephen has been a tutor with the Literacy Council for two years. He learned of the need for tutors when Diane made an appeal at Trinity Presbyterian Church. After hearing her, Stephen says many different things motivated him to become a tutor. He speaks a little Spanish and he wanted to meet some Spanish speakers. He wanted to make it possible for students to gain an "equal footing" in the work place and in the community by acquiring and/or perfecting facility in English. And, he adds, he wanted to keep busy.

Well, of course he wanted to keep busy. How does one fill all those hours if all they do is work full time as a physical therapist - a good 40 plus miles away, garden, and serve as organist at Trinity Presbyterian? Everyone, especially his students, is glad Stephen fills those hours tutoring for the Literacy Council.



Discussing a point with Sandra Sandoval

Until August 17th, Stephen met one student every Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, met five more students from 7:30 to 9:00. Currently, however, his single student is taking a short sabbatical so he tutors his beginning level class of five students.

Of Stephen's group, four are from Mexico City and one from Guadalajara. All five have been in the US about 4 years. Sandra Sandoval, the newest member of the group, says the class is very good and the experience in English is very valuable, especially in the work place.

Clearly the students enjoy their work with Stephen and it is equally clear that Stephen enjoys the classes. One night recently he brought dessert to celebrate the birthday of one of his students. "I think we have fun," Stephen says; "The students are very bright and ask about work or life related subjects".

Volunteer of the Year



Jack Williams holding his Volunteer of the Year Award

Jack Williams received the Volunteer of the Year award for his long and tireless service to the Literacy Council. Jack has been a BRLC volunteer for 8 years. He has served on the Community Relations Committee for 3 years and for 7 years he edited the Council newsletter. Jack has worked in the office, created Council displays and generally put his finger in the dike when any problem presented a need for creative solution. He says of his work, "It doesn't seem like work when I come to the office; it seems more like visiting my family. The staff is wonderful."

Hugh Lowry Extra Mile Award



Lisa Morrill holding her award

Lisa Morrill received the Hugh Lowry Memorial Extra Mile Award for maintaining the Blue Ridge Literacy Council data base for the past 10 years. Lisa is the only volunteer we know of in North Carolina who is proficient on the LitPro data base, and the user manual she wrote for BRLC is used by councils across the country. Lisa is also a tutor; in the past she has served as a member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer of Blue Ridge Literacy Council.

I Would Like To:

- Learn more about volunteering.
- Make a tax-deductible contribution for \$ _____
 - My check to Blue Ridge Literacy Council is enclosed.
 - Please charge my donation to my credit card.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____

(Work) _____

(If not using a credit card omit the items below.)

Credit card type: _____

Credit card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please clip and return to:

Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Inc.
P. O. Box 1728
Hendersonville, NC 28793

Program Statistics

07/01/2003 -06/30/2004

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS -

# Students Achieving 1 or more goals	204
(Basic Lit - 44)	
(ESL - 160)	
# of Goals Achieved	2,802
(Basic Lit - 512)	
(ESL - 2290)	
# Completed Federal Literacy Level 2003/04	72

STUDENTS

Total Tutored	
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004	300
(Basic Lit - 66)	
(ESL - 234)	
Active Students as of 06/30/2003	161
# on Waiting List as of 06/30/04	179

VOLUNTEERS

# Tutors in 2003/04	231
# Other Volunteers in 2003/04	59
# New Tutors Trained in 2003/04	60
# Active Tutors as of 06/30/2004	130

VALUE

Tutor Hours Reported	14,834.80
\$ Value*	\$255,010.21
Other Volunteer Hours Reported	4,574.70
\$ Value*	\$78,639.09
Total Hours	19,409.50
Total \$ Value	\$333,649.30

(*Based on \$17.19/hour as determined by "Independent Sector")