



2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1 – June 30

*The mission of Blue Ridge Literacy Council is
to provide adults in Henderson County
the English communication and literacy skills
they need to reach their full potential as
individuals, parents, workers and citizens.*

**P.O. Box 1728
Hendersonville, NC 28793
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www.litcouncil.org**

Our 2008/09 Board of Directors

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Kathy Kyle, *Basic Literacy Coordinator*
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Cloey Niemack (volunteer), *Translator*
Roxana White (volunteer), *BRLC/UU/WCCA Program Coordinator*

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Sue Hewlette
Bettie Liebzeit
Linda Mendez

The Volunteer Office Staff

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Rusty Bradke	Joyce McCall	Phoebe Timberlake
Dawn Clopton	Cloey Niemack	Jack Williams
Diane Jankowski	Ilah Porterfield	

Student of the Year: Rosa Martha Paniagua

With tears running down her face, Rosa Martha sobbed, “I can’t do it. I’m not going to pass and I’m going to lose my job.” Thus began Rosa Martha’s return to BRLC in August 2008.

Rosa Martha first came to BRLC in 2000 with limited English skills and a dream: to teach. She had a degree and had taught in her Mexico, but did not have the credentials to teach in this country. So she studied—hard. As her English improved, so did her opportunities. She completed a course in Early Childhood Education at Blue Ridge Community College. She got a job teaching pre-schoolers in the Head Start Program. She kept studying English. Things were good. Then she was assigned students participating in a new state program and was told that her qualifications were not enough; she would need to get certified in B-K Education or lose her job.

To get her certification, Rosa Martha needs 18 credits. She enrolled in WCU and has to take at least 1 course a semester—not an easy feat with two kids in college, one in high school, a husband and a full-time job. She had left BRLC to have time for college, but returned when she realized she lacked the writing skills needed to succeed in her college courses. She has an exceptional tutor, Glenn Rodgers, who has worked way above and beyond to help her. She has passed all of her courses to date and continues to study.

In the midst of this hectic schedule, Rosa Martha found the time to pursue one other goal—perhaps the most important of all—and on June 18 she was sworn in as a United States Citizen.

Tutor of the Year: Ted Connors

Ted Connors’ student, John Swygert, refers to him as his “angel from heaven.” Gaining holy status has not stopped this tutor from doing more. This year, Ted helped develop an observation form for Wilson tutors, and has been observing pairs. He then gives the tutor verbal and written feedback. He is supporting our tutors, and getting ideas on how BRLC can better support the tutors and students.

The retired engineer and his student have been meeting regularly for almost six years using Wilson, a methodical, but effective reading program. It is working. In addition to teaching his student to read, the pair have volunteered their time to promote the Blue Ridge Literacy Council in workshops, meetings and in a nationally-broadcast promotional video. Thank you Ted for all you have done, and continue to do. You make a difference. We are all lucky to have you.

Volunteer of the Year: Kathaleen McWilliams

We would need to make this Annual Report many pages longer to describe all the tasks Kathaleen McWilliams has taken on for the Literacy Council this year. Suffice it to say that whatever needs to be done, Kathaleen jumps in with both feet to accomplish the job—and she does it smiling all the while!

As Vice President of the Board of Directors, she is involved in all aspects of the Executive Committee and spends hours fulfilling those duties. As chairperson of our Nominating Committee, she guides her committee to identify potential board members. She then meets with the candidates to determine if our board is the right fit for their skills. The quality of our Board of Directors is a testament to how hard Kathaleen and her committee work to make it all happen.

Kathaleen tutors, helps with fundraisers, is active on the Community Relations committee—the list goes on and on. The amazing part is that she does all this while working a fulltime job and being active in other community activities.

We are grateful that Kathaleen has chosen to share her passion and energy to help improve the lives of those in our community who need the Literacy Council. We have all benefited greatly from her willingness to help.

Hugh Lowry Award: Jack McCarthy

The Extra Mile Award was inaugurated in 1998 to honor the work of a volunteer who takes on a special project—one that takes special expertise and talent that is not generally available. The work that these volunteers do is essential to BRLC and could not be accomplished without them.

Jack McCarthy is the right person at the right time. In August 2008, Jack was elected President of the Literacy Council—just in time to be greeted with the fact that the declining economy was indeed going to hit us hard. Jack took immediate action; he contacted WNC Nonprofit Pathways, an organization offering resources and support to nonprofits in WNC. BRLC was accepted to receive a professional organizational assessment. And that was just the first step Jack took to re-energize the Board's development role. He led them to generate short and long term financial development and marketing plans. We have a new Development Committee at work and on the way to achieving our financial goals. Without Jack's leadership BRLC would have had to reduce some services.

Jack has a long history of contributions to BRLC since 2000. In that time, he has served as a tutor, a Tutor Trainer, and Chairman of the Community Relations Committee. In 2006, he joined the Board of Directors and was elected Secretary in 2007. We are truly fortunate that a person with Jack's experience and knowledge of the Council at every level is at the helm in these challenging times.

2008/2009 Highlights

“System Office staff really enjoyed our visit to Blue Ridge Literacy Council because the program is excellent—one of the best, if not the best, in the state.”

The North Carolina Community College System is responsible for assuring federally funded NC Basic Skills programs (all 57 NC Community Colleges and 25 Literacy Councils) meet the required Educational Outcomes and Program Practices set by the US Dept. of Ed. Every five years each program must have an on-site monitoring visit; this year it was our turn. And what a visit it was! Our monitoring team talked with tutors, students, board members, volunteers and the staff. They went through our procedures, practices, resources, data—just about everything we have. Although the report went into detail, the quote above sums up their findings. In addition to exceeding required Educational Outcomes and fully meeting all 20 required Program Practices, we were given 6 commendations in the areas of staff; volunteers and Board of Directors; tutor training; community support; marketing; and record keeping.

Alliance Accredits BRLC at Highest Level

This year we were awarded our third five-year Level 3 accreditation from the Henderson County Alliance for Human Services. While the federal monitoring looks most closely at program, the Alliance process is more heavily concentrated on measuring how the organization meets or exceeds the established standards of non-profit management including governance and legal compliance, financial controls, fund development, public accountability and ethics, human resources and collaboration. Our Level 3 Accreditation attests that Blue Ridge Literacy Council adheres to the highest standards of non-profit management.

Women for Women Grant

BRLC was one of 6 organizations to receive a grant from Women for Women. The \$15,000.00 grant will fund one year of operating support to continue providing the English communication and literacy skills the women in our Head Start Moms and Mainstay programs need to reach a higher level of independence.

Monte Carlo returns to Hendersonville

Our 2nd Annual Monte Carlo night, held in July at Kenmure, was a phenomenal success. Once again we partnered with Vocational Solutions raising \$10,000.00 for each agency. Those who attended enjoyed poker, roulette, black jack, and craps for the chance to win fabulous prizes. Our third annual Monte Carlo night will be held July 17, 2010.

Program Statistics 2008-2009

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

# Students Achieving 1 or More Goals	213
# of Goals Achieved	5497
# Completed Federal Literacy Level 2008/09	96

STUDENTS

# Matched July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009	266
# with 12+ hours (counted for goal achievement)	216
Basic Lit	41
ESL	175
Active Students on 06/30/2009	156
# Separated from Program in 2008/09	86

VOLUNTEERS

# Tutors Matched in 2008/09	158
# Other Volunteers in 2008/09	118
# New Tutors Trained in 2008/09	33
# Active Tutors Separated in 2008/09	22

Total Volunteer Hours Reported **24,993**

Total Value of Volunteer Service** **\$506,108**

**Based on \$20.25 per hour as determined by Independent Sector as the value of a volunteer hour in 2008

Statement of Activities
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Revenue and Support

Contributions	37,873.00
Fed'l and County Gov't Grants	79,800.00
United Way	25,185.00
Other Grants	15,000.00
Fundraising Events	14,792.00
Contributed Use of Facilities	15,000.00
Gain/Loss on Investments	(6,105.00)
Other Income	559.00
Interest Income	399.00
Total Revenue and Support	<u>182,503.00</u>

Expenses

Program Services	167,805.00
Management and General	20,611.00
Fundraising Expense	12,151.00
Total Expenses	<u>200,567.00</u>

Change in Net Assets During Year **(18,064.00)**

Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2009

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	36,321.00
Receivables	220.00
Total Current Assets	<u>36,541.00</u>

Long Term Assets

Investments	21,121.00
Property and Equipment, Net	9,961.00
Total Long Term Assets	<u>31,082.00</u>

Total Assets 67,623.00

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	219.00
Other Current Liabilities	6.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>225.00</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Board Designated	33,996.00
Undesignated	18,513.00
Total Unrestricted	<u>52,509.00</u>
Temporarily Restricted	32,953.00
Net Income	<u>(18,064.00)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>67,398.00</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 67,623.00

Many Thanks to Our 2008 – 2009 Volunteers

Ron Anderson	Jane DeMartini	Marion Knybel	Glenn Rodgers
Jane Apple	John Difiore	Belle Koester	Kathryn Rodgers
Karen Ashby	Dave Doidge	Richard Kranker	Diane
Alexis Baker	Janet Doyle	Anita Krzywicki	Rosborough
John Baker	Chuck Elston	Juanita Lambert	Carin Rupp
Rosalind Bauer	Bea Emerson	Peter Landry	Debra
Cindy Beane	David Farnsworth	Karen Larken	Santospago
Raymond	Mary Farnsworth	Al Lasitter	Pat Schlueter
Beckwith	Steven Fee	Anne	Gerry Schroer
Jay Behrens	Nancy Fish	Laubengeiger	Mindy Schult
Ed Bell	Ginger Fisher	Louaine Leisching	Diane Sellers
Bruce Bente	Jack Fitzgerald	Marlene Leone	Sandy Sessoms
Linda Benton	Susan Fitzgerald	Bettie Liebzeit	Ann-Marie
Brenda Berg	Barbara Frazier	Jim Liebzeit	Sharrits
Marlene Birkhead	Leon Galloway	Jamie Lomax	Donna Sheline
Marsh Blunt	Fran German	Catherine Lynch	Lorena Silverman
Victor Bogo	Jessica Goodman	Marlene Martin	Jack Smith
Evelyn Bowman	Claire Graves	Kathy Matthews	Martha Smith
Susan Boyd	Yolanda Gray	Joyce McCall	Richard Smith
Rusty Bradke	David Gregory	Jack McCarthy	Ruth Smith
Norma Bradley	Kathy Guerard	Betty McMillan	Shirley Smith
Rusty Breeding	Jan Guess	Thomas McTigue	Steve Smith
Mary Brothers	Andrew Gyuro	Kathaleen	Annette
Sally Brown	Judy Hansen	McWilliams	Somerford
Jim Bryson	Daniel Harris	Linda Mendez	G'Anne Sparks
Michele Burnette	Pierre Hart	Ro Metcalf	Laura Stallard
Marcia Cage	Dene Hellman	Kimberly Moore	Judy Stewart
Rosemarie	Barbara Hodik	Lisa Morrill	Helen Struve
Caldwell	Libby Hoffmann	Myra Morris	Mary Jane
Suzy Camp-	Ted Hoffmann	Lyn Morton	Swanson
Goodman	Terry Houck	Ray Myers	Richard Tanker
Nancy Carlson	Jim Howard	Eva Nelson	Jean Terry
Dana Carter	Patricia Hudson	Kay Nelson	Teresa Thompson
Clyde Case	Betty Lou	Sandi Newman	Brenda Thorne
Jeanne Cassidy	Jamieson	Cloey Niemack	Phoebe
Margaret	Diane Jankowski	Molly Parkhill	Timberlake
Caughman	Barb Johnson	Julia Phillips	Sharon Tirrell
Margaret	Kelly Johnson	Ilah Porterfield	Carroll Toole
Cavagnaro	Lee Johnson	Sandra Pressley	Gloria Wagner
Dawn Clopton	Gail Jones	Katherine Price	Claire Warner
Ted Connors	Stephen Jones	Lucy Prim	Robert West
Tony Crimi	Sandra Jung	Donald Ray	Roxana White
Gerri Critikos	Joe Kaplan	Nick Recktenwald	Dwight Whitlock
Elizabeth Curtis	Sue Kaplan	Ethel Rehder	Jack Williams
Barbara Darden	Robert Kaufl	Louise Reid	David Winnett
Liz Davis	Helen Kidwell	Linda Reiser	Helen Witthoft
Gladys Debruyne	Ken Kilgore	Judy Renning	Bill Woerner
John Debruyne	Stephen Klein	Karen Rigg	Karen Workman

Thank you to the following supporters:

\$1000 and above

Anonymous

Arvin Meritor

Blue Ridge Community College (in kind)

Evelyn Bowman

Carolina First

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fazio

First United Methodist Church

Leon Galloway

Henderson County

Hendersonville Times-News (in kind)

Jim Howard

NC Community College System

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pierce

St. James Episcopal Thrift Shop

United Way of Henderson County

Dr. and Mrs. John Williams

Women for Women

\$500 - \$999

Ted Connors

GE Employee Matching Funds Program

Paul Gold

Osteen Electric

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Wachovia Foundation Matching Gifts

\$100 - \$499

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\$5 to \$99

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