

THE PRINTED WORD

The Washington County Literacy Council

Fall Issue—2006

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55 South College Street

Washington, PA 15301

WASHINGTON COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL TELLS FALL TALES!

Welcome New Tutors!!

The Washington County Literacy Council has trained 10 new tutors in the Fall tutor training class. Trainers Dick and Carol Hand report that this class is very capable and enthusiastic and ready to combat illiteracy in Washington County!

Tutors meet with students a few hours bi-weekly using the Laubach Each-One-Teach One method of literacy training to improve reading skills. Our sincere thanks to our new volunteer tutors Scott Beveridge, Andrew Callan, Marci Callan, Cindy Campsey, Donna Hradil, Connie Hornickel, Meg Lalli, Candace Stockey, Debbie Mansfield and Mary Ann Tharp!

Five volunteers braved the late Fall chill to provide storytelling to children at the final Main Street Farmer's Market on October 26th. Fall tales were told by Executive Director Amy Braden-Manko, David Roof, Hazel Brashear, Rosa Snyder-Boyd, and Jan Murray. 35 children stopped by to listen. Thanks to our volunteers!!



WCLC Receives Community Foundation Judge Rodgers Grant

The Washington County Literacy Council has received a \$1,000 grant from Washington County Community Foundation's Judge Rodgers Fund in support of our Laubach Each-One-Teach-One literacy project.

"This grant from the Community Foundation demonstrates a commitment to our county and its residents," said Literacy Council Executive Director Amy Ross Braden-Manko who added that the grant will be utilized to expand the literacy training program to include more individuals who wish to improve basic reading skills.

"The most recent statistics indicate an illiteracy rate of nearly 20% in Washington County. With a population of 168,000, that's about 33,000 residents of this county who could use our services. The need is there for aggressive growth in our programming."

Specifically, the Literacy Council will use the WCCF funding to purchase the resources and materials needed for the project. The funds will provide tutor training and student materials.

"Additional funding will be necessary to market and raise awareness of the availability of free and confidential one-on-one literacy training" said Braden-Manko. "The grant from WCCF Judge Rodgers Fund will serve as a springboard for this program that has the potential of improving the lives of thousands of Washington County residents." We appreciate the support of the Washington County Community Foundation and the Judge Rodgers Fund. Together we will combat the cycle of illiteracy in Washington County!

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT: www.WCLC4Literacy.org

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

MISSION: TO PROMOTE LITERACY BY TEACHING LOW-LEVEL & NON-READING ADULTS BASIC LITERACY SKILLS USING TRAINED TUTORS, AND BY GENERATING COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND SUPPORT.

SUPPORT: WCLC is supported entirely by fundraising, individual donations, corporate contributions, and foundation grants. WCLC operates on a budget less than \$37,000/year. A Board of Directors and an Executive Director are responsible for day-to-day operations.

WCLC IS A VITAL ORGANIZATION. . .

- **TUTOR/STUDENT MATCHES** throughout the County; using the Laubach Each-One-Teach One Phonic method
- **70 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS** who make our continued success a reality
- **TUTOR TRAINING** at least 3 times per year

Literacy Council Wish List

Manila Envelopes	Tape Recorders
Hp Printer cartridge 56 and 57	Small Whiteboards & Markers
Legal size envelopes (#10)	Small Chalkboards & Chalk
Postage	Hanging File Folders
Laser Printer	6 Foot Conference Table
Wal Mart or Staples gift cards	Reams of Copier Paper (white and colored)

VOLUNTEER NOW!

TUTOR – Volunteer tutors must attend two 5-hour training sessions before being matched with an adult non-reader.

The next Tutor Training Sessions will be held in the Spring. Registration is required, Please call 228-6188 to register.

STORYTELLER – Reading to young children is part of the preventative measures used for modeling good reading habits. The Washington County Literacy Council works on collaborative projects with local agencies to provide story time sessions for area youth.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – Coordinate or participate in one of our special events or promotions.



“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

– Sir Winston Churchill

PUBLIC SPEAKING – WCLC receives many speaking requests each year. Tutors & volunteers are invited to join our “Speakers’ Bureau” and promote literacy awareness.

OFFICE – Work on the newsletter, “The Printed Word,” coordinate mailings, make community contacts, answer phones, or update data bases. There’s always something to do!

CALL US TODAY TO DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN HELP BEAT ILLITERACY!

724-228-6188

BABY BOOK BAG SPONSORS 2007

The Washington County Literacy Council would like to thank our wonderful Baby Book Bag Sponsors:

Observer-Reporter

Chapman Corporation

Community Action Southwest/ Early Head Start Program

Washington Hospital

Washington Rotary

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Boy, has this first year gone quickly! It's hard to believe I came on board that long ago! We've had a lot of changes at the Literacy Council in the last year. Donations and grants are flowing in. Student numbers are up. Tutor numbers are up. We are approaching our goals. I couldn't be more excited about the growth we're experiencing.!

I've embarked on an ambitious journey. My goal for 2007 is to continue to develop this program by raising awareness and funds. Please remember that nearly 20% of Washington County residents CANNOT READ THIS NEWSLETTER! I am hoping all of you will help us to help them by volunteering at the Literacy Council if you haven't done so. Tell a friend about what we do. Pass on your newsletter to someone who may not know about us. Encourage your group to stuff Baby Book Bags for a few hours. Give our contact information to someone you know who may be struggling with reading skills. Our students are not all learning to read from their ABCs. We can assist students who can read but would like to improve their skills too.

My challenge to you is simply this: Help us to help them. Share your time. Share your funds. Share your knowledge. Help in whatever way you can. Together we CAN break the cycle of illiteracy in Washington County!

Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy holiday season,

Amy Ross Braden-Manko

Executive Director



A BIG Thanks to our

Friends of Literacy

Margaret Adams	Dr. & Mrs. John Lesnock
Martha Berman	Community Bank
Hazel Brashear	WesBanco
Bracken Burns	John McCarthy
Richard & Edwina Cameron	Robert Wicker
Stephen & Millie Crouse	Jackson & Vivian Milhollan
James Femia	Bill & Carolyn Campbell
Dick & Carol Hand	Fred & Jean Frank
Paula & Lane Merrill	Reed & Christine Day
Robert & Jan Murray	Washington Penn Plastics
Al Rabenstein	Kathy Sabol
Anica Rawnsley	David Kraeuter
The Bon-Ton Stores	Accutrex Products
Stout Election Committee	Rosa Snyder-Boyd
Martin Ware (Clark & Co.)	Mary Heavner
Marcia & John Stavovy	John Northrop

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Nearly 19% of the adult population in the state of Pennsylvania is functionally illiterate. **(PA Department of Education)**

“Functionally illiterate” is the inability of an individual to use reading, writing, and computation skills in everyday life.

(Literacy Volunteers of America)

On average, a functionally illiterate adult earns 42% less than a high school graduate.

(U.S. Department of Education)

It is estimated that \$5 billion a year in taxes goes to support people receiving public assistance who are unemployed due to illiteracy.

(Laubach Literacy)

It is estimated that adult reading scores improve approximately one grade level with 35-45 hours of tutoring.

(Literacy Volunteers of America)

An estimated 15 million adults holding jobs today are functionally illiterate.

(Nations Business Magazine)

More than 40 million adults in the U.S. are functionally illiterate.

(National Adult Literacy Survey)

CALL TO START HELPING TODAY!

724-228-6188