



LITERACY TRUST 100 NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION - OCTOBER 2021

LITERACY TRUST 100
IS A LEADERSHIP GIVING GROUP
THAT SUPPORTS CFLC'S MISSION OF
PROVIDING PERSONALIZED EDUCATION
SO ADULTS CAN TRANSFORM
THEIR LIVES AND CONTRIBUTE
TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

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THE VALUE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

*"The Literacy Council is far more than a community organization deserving support
it is a way of life..."*

*The community benefits immeasurably for years to come from the people who
you help to become better contributors to society,
and I am happy to continue participating as much as I can in your efforts."*

- Literacy Trust Member



Literacy Trust Members

ANONYMOUS
TAMMY ARNOLD & DANA JAUNZEMIS
AGGIE CHAMBERLAIN
JEAN CREDLE
CARLTON FISHER
JORDAN HAGAMAN
TERESA HUFFMON
BLAIR KUTROW
PATRICIA LAWLER
LINDA LYTVINENKO
JOHN & PEGGY MEEHL
MARCIA MORGAN
LYNN & DAN MURPHY
KEVIN O'GRADY & DIANE GUIDA
RACHEL & JOHN PACE
ERIN & JOE PAYNE
RICHARD "DICK" ROBBINS

KAY ROBINSON
CHUCK & KAREN ROGALSKI
CORNELIA "NINI" ROGAN
DANIELLE SAINTARD VALIENTE
KELLY SECHRIST
WILLIAM & POTTER SEWELL
FARIDA SHAH
JIM & LINDA STANLEY
ROBERT & ANNE STOKLEY
LYLE & SARA STRASSLE
KANDIE TITO
BOB & BERNADETTE TOMKINSON
JOSHUA & STEPHANIE TUCKER
JEFF & JAN TURPIN
ALEXANDRA UMSTEAD-WRENN & JOHNATHAN WRENN
BARBARA F. WAXMAN

2021 ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNERS



YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHANGES LIVES

Cape Fear Literacy Council provides **free and confidential instruction to adults - age 18 and older-** who have educational goals that are personal or academic.

During the 2021-21 Program Year, your Literacy Trust membership supported the 244 adults enrolled in our program **to achieve these high-impacted goals:**

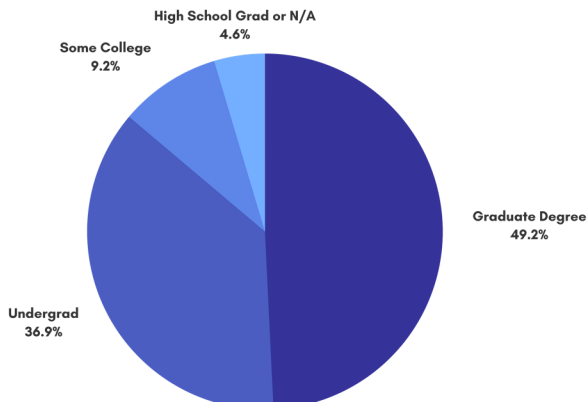


- ✓ **187** IMPROVED THEIR EMPLOYMENT SKILLS
- ✓ **165** INCREASED THEIR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- ✓ **35** GOT BETTER JOBS
- ✓ **21** BECAME U.S. CITIZENS
- ✓ **4** REGISTERED TO VOTE
- ✓ **2** EARNED THEIR GED/DIPLOMA

Our adult learners achieved these impressive goals in partnership with our **dedicated volunteer tutors and small group instructors:**



Tutor Level of Education



CFLC's Volunteer Tutors & Instructors

Total Number of Active Instructors/Tutors

122

Total Number of Newly Trained Instructors/Tutors

51

Total Number of Volunteer Hours Served

9,666

Value of Volunteer Hours Served

\$245,807

[Independent Sector.org]

IN DEPTH WITH THE ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Meet
Doug & Ted...

We're proud to introduce Doug and Ted - a student-tutor pair working together since 2019 to achieve Doug's goal of earning his GED. Their hard-fought success came this August.



Why did you feel it was so important to earn your GED? How does it affect your family?

DOUGLAS: I felt really frustrated with my lack of job prospects. Most employers won't even look at your resume if you don't have that credential. I want an actual career in a skilled trade and a chance to move forward, and the GED was the only way to get it. This is also so important for my kids. I want to set an example. My 12 year-old son is getting to the point where he doesn't like school, and I keep trying to tell him how important it is, and that he's got to stick with it. But how do I get onto him, if I haven't done it myself? He needs to see me do this - to work at it and actually complete it!

What are you most excited about accomplishing now that you have your GED?

DOUGLAS: I really want to apply to CFCC...I want a chance at a real career and a job with a future.

What would you say to a person who is on the fence about getting a GED - how would you encourage them?

DOUGLAS: I would say go for it! You're only going to better yourself; you have nothing to lose. People say sometimes when you're looking for a job that it's about who you know, but the truth is, it's also about what you know. You have to have that background, that knowledge, that diploma - you have to stick with it and do better by yourself. I've tried to get my GED on and off since I was 19. I've tried so many different times, so many different programs. I think what finally worked for me was having one-on-one support. Ted made all the difference for me. He was so patient and encouraging. He really explained everything, as many times as I needed it. His support helped me keep going and believe I could do it, and I wanted to do it for him, not just myself. My success is his success. If it wasn't for Ted and CFLC, this wouldn't have happened. I can't say thank you enough!

Tell us how you felt when your student passed the GED. Would you like to tutor more students who aspire to earn a GED? Why do you feel it's important?

TED: It was an amazing feeling when Douglas passed! I felt so happy for him. He'd worked so hard and kept going through so many challenges. He deserved to hit the finish line! It was all his hard work, but I felt really honored to be a part of it.

A Note From
Erin & Yasmin:

"At Cape Fear Literacy Council, much of our reporting to our supporters focuses on the progress made by our adult learners. We wanted to take this opportunity, as career opportunities arise for both Nancy and Lauren, to highlight some of the personal contributions our colleagues have made to advance the mission and vision of our organization. Many of our Literacy Trust Members work closely with Nancy and Lauren, and we know you will join us in appreciation of these fantastic accomplishments of the past several years."

Adult Literacy
'Wins' ...



In 2020, after a 6-year streak of cuts in Federal funding, CFLC saw an increase in federal grant awards that were not pandemic-related. Yasmin attributes much of this successful increase to Nancy, saying:

"Nancy is the singlemost capable and knowledgeable person for maintaining and utilizing our complex data and assessment systems. Funding is a very nuanced and compliance-driven process on the federal level, and Nancy has an incredible gift as a highly-organized systems thinker who can present key information about our students and program to illustrate the quality education we provide. I credit our increase in funding to Nancy's capabilities as a leader and data analyst."



Nancy has also been instrumental in the creation and successful growth of the Computer on Wheels (COWs) Program. The COWs Program, which was established to bridge the growing digital divide in our community by providing a mobile computer lab, has seen much success because of partnerships with other nonprofits - reaching over 300 students since its inception. COWs is currently on hold because of the pandemic.

IN DEPTH WITH THE ESL PROGRAM

A New Era for the Citizenship Program...

Becoming a naturalized US Citizen can be complex, even for native English speakers, but rewards include a sense of security, better job opportunities, the right to vote, and college financial aid benefits. CFLC is the only free local resource to help eligible immigrants navigate this life-changing process.

For many years, CFLC has supported immigrants seeking US Citizenship through 1-on-1 tutoring or small classes. In 2018, we designed our program to target the three phases of an applicant's process:

- ✓ **COMPLETE PAPERWORK:** initial eligibility and fee waiver/reduction consultations, and filing comprehensive N400 paperwork. This requires digital literacy instruction/support, extensive fact-checking, and one-on-one consultations with each candidate.
- ✓ **LEARN CIVICS CONTENT:** there are 100 questions about US history and government that applicants may be asked. We provide instruction for the exact questions as well as background information for more robust understanding of context.
- ✓ **PREPARE FOR SPOKEN AND WRITTEN TESTS:** volunteers conduct mock interviews, provide dictation practice, and support conversational English skills so that applicants are familiar and comfortable with the examination experience.

***"I passed my citizenship interview yesterday, May 20. Thank you for the HELP!
Ms. Heather is a very good teacher, she helped me a lot."***

- Anna from Russia

***"Yes, I passed! It was very easy. The person [who tested me] was nice and easy for me to understand.
The interview YOU gave me was much more difficult!"***

- Ricardo from Venezuela

Since we re-structured our program three years ago, 71 immigrants have become naturalized US Citizens, and they have also secured 18 Proofs of Citizenship for their children. During the pandemic, we've had to rely on virtual, one-on-one instruction, but as public health requirements change – and with recent grant awards from the Landfall Foundation and International Paper – we look forward to resuming "Citizenship Sundays" to meet the needs of our community.

ESL, 'Wins'...

With her welcoming and caring personality, Lauren Rogers has transformed the ESL Program in the four short years she has been with CFLC. We met Lauren through our community partnership with the Interfaith Refugee Ministry, where she served as their AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator. She began her career with us as the ESL Program Assistant and became the ESL Program Director in 2018, after we lost use of the ESL building due to Hurricane Florence. Even through natural disasters, Lauren worked tirelessly to serve our ESL Community and has left a lasting legacy for our new colleagues with these programmatic wins:

- ★ **ESL CURRICULUM** – Lauren devoted countless hours to updating our ESL curriculum materials to make them more accessible to students of all literacy levels and backgrounds. She developed 2 years of curricula that integrate state and national ESL content standards and can be adapted for in-person and virtual learning. This package is available in turn-key modules for any NC-based ESL program to purchase.
- ★ **CITIZENSHIP** – The Literacy Council's US Citizenship Preparation Program has seen more applicants and subsequent citizenship success stories than in any point in our 36-year history - see above for program highlights!
- ★ **CUSTOMIZED ENGLISH CLASSES** - Since 2019, CFLC offers local and regional employers customized, fee-based, industry-specific English language instruction to suit the needs of both the employer and employees.
- ★ **CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY WORKSHOPS** – Since 2019, the Literacy Council has partnered with numerous local businesses and organizations to provide accredited professional development workshops that enable employees to have more effective communications with the ESL populations they serve.

EXCITING CFLC NEWS

Please
Welcome....

Fall has brought significant and exciting changes to Cape Fear Literacy Council's Program Department. Please help us to welcome three new staff members and congratulate two leaders in our organization for their recent accomplishments.



NICOLE WOLF-CAMPLIN - ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Nicole holds a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College in biology and philosophy and a master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin. After 25 years in education (public, independent and home-based), she moved to Wilmington seeking a new adventure. Nicole began volunteering for the Literacy Council in the spring of 2019. When she's not at the CFLC office, she's happiest on or near water: kayaking, rowing, walking the beach or birding.



JOANNE CHENG - ESL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Joanne came to the Literacy Council as a volunteer ESL teacher soon after her 2016 move to Wilmington. Her initial teaching involvement began years ago with a volunteer literacy tutor training program that gave her the "teaching bug." She has had diverse teaching opportunities in lots of different locales, from those among the U.N. related international community in NYC, to teaching college composition, to providing reading tutoring and enrichment for Pre-K through 3rd graders. Joanne holds a B.A. in English from Emory University and an M.A. in Teaching with a concentration in ESL from Georgetown University. She enjoys yoga, hiking, golf -- and of course reading!



JENNIFER HOLDEN - ADULT LITERACY/ESL PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Jennifer has been living and teaching in Wilmington for over 30 years but is originally from Louisiana. After graduating with a degree in mathematics from Louisiana State University, she began her teaching career at Laney High School where she met her husband, David. They have five children, ages 15-26. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering with Meals on Wheels, hiking, biking, cooking, and walking their crazy rescue dog, Mardi.

New
Beginnings....



Congratulations are in order for **NANCY WOOLLEY**, as she takes on a new role as the Program Manager for all CFLC programs. This position draws on Nancy's seven years of experience at the Literacy Council and her expertise in analysis, organization, and strategy. We are proud to have her take on this important leadership role for our Program Team. Read about the many accomplishments earned in the Adult Literacy Program on Page 4.



Sadly, we must wish a fond farewell to our current ESL Program Director, **LAUREN ROGERS**. Lauren will be relocating to Charlotte in order to be closer to family and to explore an exciting new career opportunity. We are so honored and grateful to have shared the past 4 years with Lauren and we are proud to share some of Lauren and the English as a Second Language Program's 'wins' on Page 5.

GETTING TO KNOW THE LITERACY TRUST MEMBERS

Danielle Saintard Valiente

Meet Danielle Saintard Valiente....

I am a right-brained entrepreneur who enjoys creating, writing and dreaming big. I have owned Port City Design Group for 7 years - where we have held annual fundraising events for The Carousel Center for the past 6 years. I have served on the Wilmington Toastmasters board for 5 years, I have been a hip-hop dance teacher for 4 years, and I am in my second year of serving on the board of the CFLC! Wilmington has been my home sweet home for 12 years, where I have been able to tap into my passions while writing a children's book series called *Smunchkin Learns* inspired by my true loves, my dogs, and in 2020, I published my autobiography, *180 Degrees: Emerging from Childhood Darkness*.

A little-known fact about Danielle....

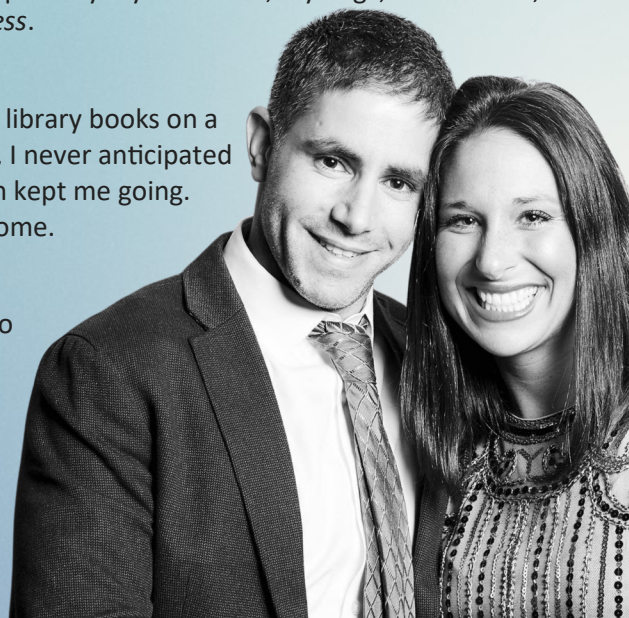
Growing up, I was a huge nerd. I would read 3 books a day! I would check out library books on a different animal every week and hand-write book reports for fun. At that age, I never anticipated being an author; but with a less than ideal home life, reading and writing both kept me going. Education is what kept me on track and college is what got me out of a bad home.

Why the Literacy Trust is important to me....

Being a Literacy Trust member is important to me because I am immersed into a community where ESL and citizenship have changed the lives of my friends, colleagues, and my husband, JP, who learned English at CFLC 16 years ago. I see the opportunities adult literacy has created and I am committed to helping others experience these life changes.

If you could share a meal with any 4 people....

Jennifer Lopez, Beyonce, Jeff Lewis, Mark Cuban



John and Peggy Meehl

Meet John Meehl....

I am a retired K-12 teacher and administrator, after a 42-year career. I currently am the Board President of The Hill School of Wilmington, a school for children with learning differences and am a former Cape Fear Literacy Board member. I am a school Accrediting Chair for The Southern Association of Independent Schools in Atlanta and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS).

A little-known fact about John....

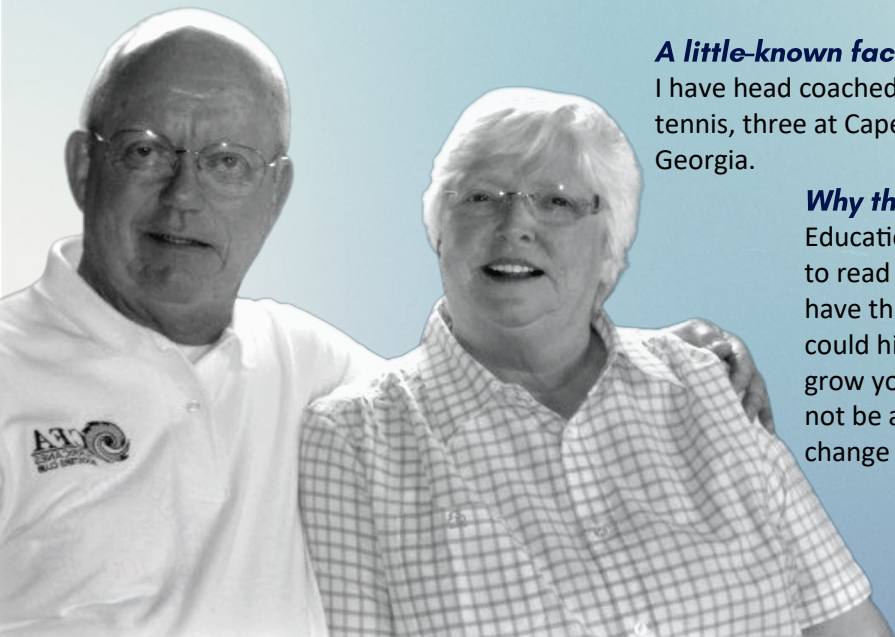
I have head coached five high school state championship teams in boys tennis, three at Cape Fear Academy and two at my previous school in Georgia.

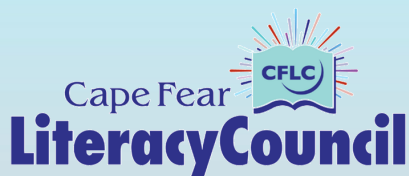
Why the Literacy Trust is important to John....

Education has always been my passion, and I feel that the ability to read can be a sudden life changer for individuals who did not have this skill before. Think of how an inability to read well could hinder your job possibilities and handicap any chance to grow your knowledge. Think how disheartening it would be to not be able to help your kids with their homework. Literacy can change futures faster than about anything else.

If you could share a meal with any 4 people....

Tulsi Gabbard, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Sir Richard Branson, Coach Mack Brown





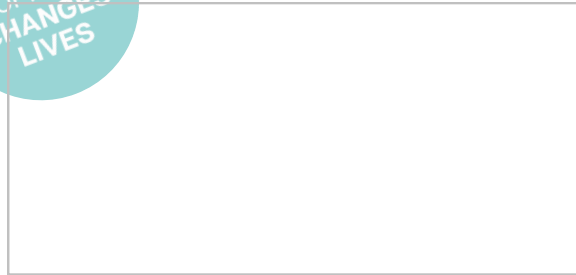
Adult Education & Community Enrichment Since 1985

1012 South 17th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 251-0911

www.CFLITERACY.org

Business Office
Monday–Thursday
9 AM–3 PM

Tutor Rooms
Monday–Thursday
9 AM–4:30 PM
By Appointment Only



SIMPLE WAYS TO MAKE *a Big Difference...*



**DONATE
YOUR Books**

\$16,000+
RAISED IN 2020

Donations of gently-used books to CFLC's 'Friends of Literacy' E-Bookstore make a big difference in the lives of adult learners. Proceeds from our bookstore sales help subsidize our Adult Literacy, Digital Literacy, and ESL Programs.

www.CFLITERACY.org/donate-your-books



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WITH A Smile**

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OVER \$1,100
FROM ELIGIBLE PURCHASES

www.SMILEAMAZON.com



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