



LITERACY TRUST 100 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER-FALL 2022

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

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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We are the
Literacy Trust...

“I have so many goals...

to learn to read, to use my laptop, to walk into a restaurant and
be able to read the menu, to sit somewhere

with a book to enjoy...”

- Bob, Skill Builders Student

Literacy Trust Members

ANONYMOUS
TAMMY ARNOLD & DANA JAUNZEMIS ***
AGGIE CHAMBERLAIN
JEAN CREDLE
CARLTON FISHER
JORDAN HAGAMAN
TERESA HUFFMON
KIM JACKSON
BLAIR KUTROW
PATRICIA LAWLER
LINDA LYTVINENKO
JOHN & PEGGY MEEHL
ADRIENNE MOORE
MARCIA MORGAN
LYNN & DAN MURPHY ***
KEVIN O'GRADY & DIANE GUIDA
RACHEL & JOHN PACE
ERIN & JOE PAYNE
FRANK & GENEVA REID

LORI RICHARDS
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 ***
SARAH STONE & JOSHUA JONES
LYLE & SARA STRASSLE
BOB & BERNADETTE TOMKINSON
JOSHUA & STEPHANIE TUCKER
JEFF & JAN TURPIN
ALEXANDRA UMSTEAD-WRENN & JOHNATHAN WRENN
ROSE WALKER
BARBARA F. WAXMAN

*** - 2021-22 Platinum Member

A Special Note...

In June 2022 we lost a very dear friend, dedicated volunteer, and founding Literacy Trust member, Mrs. Aggie Chamberlin. Aggie's support of our students came much earlier than her membership in the Literacy Trust in 2010. She was a long-time volunteer for our Annual Spelling Bee, serving on the 'Word Selection Committee' for many years. She was also an impactful volunteer for our Literacy Gala, securing many fantastic auction items. Finally, Aggie was a constant at nearly every Luncheon we have hosted, including the 2022 Luncheon for Literacy just a month before her passing. She held our adult learners and their journey in high regard, as we did her. She will be deeply missed by her friends here at CFLC.

More about Aggie's life and legacy can be found here: <https://www.starnewsonline.com/obituaries/pwlm0239300>



The Impact of Your Membership ...



Cape Fear Literacy Council provides
free and confidential instruction to adults age 18 and older

who have educational goals that are personal or academic.

With thanks to our 152 volunteer tutors, we offer 1-on-1 tutoring and small classes for:

- **Reading & Writing**
- **English as a Second Language**
- **Math**
- **Test Preparation**
- **US Citizenship**
- **Digital Literacy**

During the 2021-22 program year, your Literacy Trust membership
supported our adult learners

in achieving these high-impact goals, among others:

- ✓ **91%** of students with 40+ hours of instruction met child-related goals like reading to children, engaging with teachers, and helping with homework.
- ✓ **95%** of students with 40+ hours reported positive life-changes and/or demonstrated increased independence or community engagement, such as volunteering, voting, participating in church, gaining independent living, getting a job, etc.
- ✓ **82%** of post-tested students showed quantitative improvement on standardized tests.
- ✓ **95%** of computer students reported improving their digital literacy skills and 31 Northstar Digital Literacy Certificates were earned.
- ✓ **100%** of students with Health Literacy goals reported increased understanding and communication skills.

5 ADULTS
EARNED U.S.
CITIZENSHIP

315 ADULTS
ENROLLED
IN OUR
PROGRAMS

36 STUDENTS
GOT A
BETTER JOB



Your Investment in Action...



NICOLE WOLF-CAMPLIN



JOANNE CHENG



CATHY BOWENS

In the Fall 2021 Newsletter, the Literacy Trust met two new employees— [NICOLE WOLF-CAMPLIN](#), our Adult Literacy Coordinator, and [JOANNE CHENG](#), our ESL Coordinator. We are pleased to also introduce the Trust to another new team member, [CATHY BOWENS](#), who joined us this spring as our Program Assistant. Together, along with [NANCY WOOLLEY](#), our Program Manager, the team has worked hard to invigorate and diversify our students' learning experience with new or revamped programs and partnerships. Here are some of their initiatives and collaborations:

Community Partnerships:



MEMOIR WRITING CLASS

In partnership with New Hanover County Public Library

Utilizing Biblioboard, a national resource for self-publishing of content from local writers, the NHC Public Library has invited our adult learners to create their own database of student memoirs. Over the summer, Nicole Wolf-Camplin and Adult Literacy Tutor, Steve Weitzner, have crafted 8 weeks of coursework to assist students in creating their autobiographies and memoirs. Check it out here, under Community Collections: <https://library.biblioboard.com/home>



READ ACROSS THE COUNTY

In partnership with New Hanover County Public Library & New Hanover County Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Student and tutor pairs are enjoying this program; a partnership between the County's Public Library and DEI Office, that aspires to bring people of different backgrounds and ages together for a community-wide summer of reading. More here: <https://libguides.nhc.gov/RaC>



BROADWAY FOR A BETTER WORLD

In partnership with Cape Fear Community College's Wilson Center

CFLC received a grant award that provides free-of-charge tickets to the Wilson Center's PNC Broadway and Stars Series. The mission of this program is to make the theater experience and all of its associated benefits available to underserved populations. CFLC students have enjoyed performances of 'Hairspray', 'The Color Purple', and 'Chicago'. Students and their tutors also prepared writing assignments reflecting on their experiences at the performances. More here: <https://wilsoncentertickets.com/betterworld/>

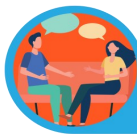
Learning Initiatives and Celebrations:

THE LIVING LANGUAGE LAB



A new ESL initiative pairing English language students of all levels with tutor partners to practice conversation skills. The lab encourages both paired and group conversations, and judging by the laughter and boisterousness of the meetings, students and their tutors are truly enjoying this immersive experience.

TUTOR MEET-UPS



A popular Adult Literacy program initiative, Tutor Meet-Ups foster a sense of community and connection among volunteer tutors—allowing them to exchange ideas, share creative tutoring materials, and discuss best practices in an encouraging and fun environment.

CFLC'S NIGHT OF DREAMS



A celebration of student achievements under the stars at CFLC in August that included an ice cream social and student presentations.

VOTER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



You Can Vote, a local non-partisan organization, gave a presentation on the voting process and ballot changes and conducted a voter registration.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT SURVEYS



Surveys of all student-tutor pairs and classes to capture student achievements for grantors and funders.

Measuring Our Progress...




NANCY WOOLLEY

THE VITAL ROLE OF POST TESTING


In late 2021, Nancy Woolley was promoted from Adult Literacy Program Coordinator to Program Manager. In her new role, she oversees the entire Program Department - which includes the Adult Literacy, ESL, and Digital Literacy Programs. One of her most vital managerial roles is oversight of all program data, including reporting on the post-testing of enrolled students. Many Literacy Trust members who are tutors are familiar with student assessments, but we wanted to share an overview of why this process of evaluating our students' progress is so essential.

WHAT IS POST TESTING AND WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT SERVE?




FOR THE STUDENT: When adult learners begin instruction at Cape Fear Literacy Council they start with an **intake interview**. The intake interview allows staff to assess the educational and personal needs and goals of the individual and to guide and develop instruction. Part of the intake interview is a **pre-test**. The students' pre-tests help us determine their incoming level so we can place them in the right class or pair and choose appropriately-leveled instructional material. It also helps us hone in on specific skill sets they may struggle with, such as vocabulary, main ideas, cause and effect, etc.

After a student has received **40+ hours of instruction**, federal funding requires that they be **post-tested** to evaluate their progress. However, CFLC recommends post-testing students at 70-100 hours to ensure that adequate instruction has been completed. The post-test helps us track the progress they are making and adjust classes and materials as necessary. For students with specific academic goals, such as the GED, post-tests are critical for us to know when they have reached a level where they could be expected to pass that rigorous test.



FOR THE PROGRAM AND FUNDING: Second, post-testing is crucial for us to secure funding. Our federal funding has post-testing requirements – CFLC must post-test at least **65% of our enrolled students**, and a targeted amount must show **significant progress** (currently 43.6% must progress an Educational Functioning Level, or EFL, which is 2-3 grade levels). Being federally funded as a nonprofit organization is much akin to accreditation for educational institutions, the ability to earn federal funding serves as a litmus test for leveraging other dollars. For adult literacy organizations, federal funding is exclusively based on just three measures of student progress: academic merit – proven by post-testing statistics, job acquisitions, and entrance into post-secondary education.

HOW DID WE MEASURE UP IN 2021/22 AND WHAT'S NEXT



Post-testing for qualified students must always be completed by the end of the program year, June 30th, and we have good news to share:

101
STUDENTS
POST-TESTED

82%
OF THOSE STUDENTS SHOWED
QUANTITATIVE PROGRESS

60%
OF THOSE STUDENTS TESTED
GAINED AN EFL

"For all of our funders, impartial, measurable, quantitative data which proves that our program works and students are gaining academic skills is necessary to achieve donor buy-in and produce results which grantors can document."

—Nancy Woolley, Program Manager

Our Financial Stewardship...

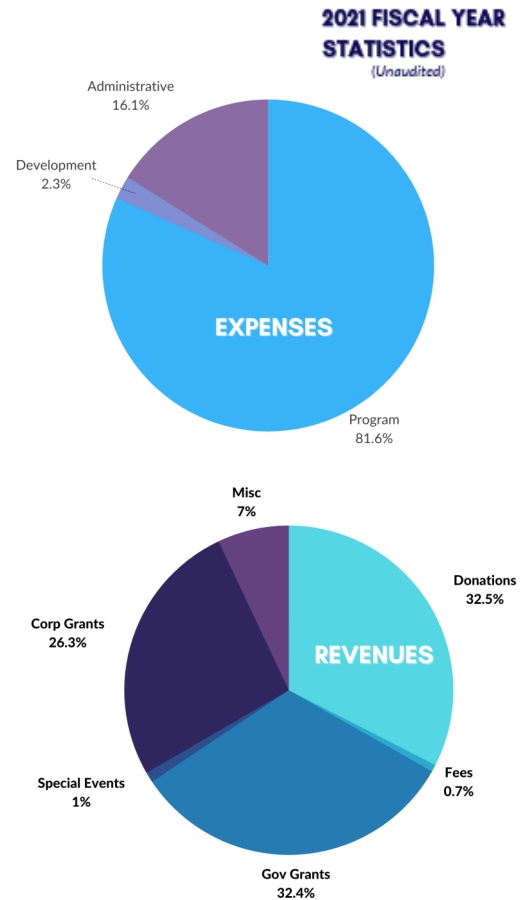
Cape Fear Literacy Council provides updates on our organization's Revenues and Expenses to our donors and constituents in order to maintain accountability and transparency as a fiscally-responsible nonprofit organization. We wanted to share with our Literacy Trust members some of the other notable financial practices and outcomes of our on-going financial stewardship:

- ✓ **Staff oversight by an established Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee meets quarterly with the Executive Director and Financial Coordinator. The committee is comprised of the President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and additional Board members who have a relevant background.

Chair of Committee: Josh Tucker

Members: Chuck Rogalski, Bill Sewell, Sarah Stone, and Alexandra Umstead-Wrenn

***Notable:** 100% of the Finance Committee Members are also Literacy Trust Members.



- ✓ **CFLC financial policy states that the organization maintain 3-6 months of operating expenses in Checking Accounts, Savings Accounts, and Certificates of Deposit (CDs)** with maturities no greater than 3 months. Excess funds are invested in liquid, interest-bearing checking, savings, and CDs with maturities no greater than 12 months. **CFLC's current operating account exceeds the required amount.**
- ✓ **CFLC financial policy states that the organization maintain 12 months Operating Reserve Accounts (ORAs) in a diversified portfolio** with low to moderate risk to the aggregate principal invested. The makeup of the portfolio may vary based upon market conditions, advice from our Investment Advisors, and the recommendation of members of the Finance Committee. **CFLC's current ORA well exceeds the required amount.**
- ✓ **All budgeted repair work, contracts, and equipment purchases in excess of \$2,500** requires at least three Requests For Proposals (RFPs) to be sent out and at least two bids received. These bids are reviewed by the appropriate board committee and the Executive Director. The Board of Directors approves any non-budgeted expenditure or expenditure over budget that exceeds \$5,000 before incursion. The Finance Committee is apprised of this expenditure before presentation to the Board of Directors.
- ✓ **CFLC maintains annual financial audits and preparation of the 990 Form financial statement required** by federal, state, and local governments. **CFLC has had successful, clean audits for many years**, utilizing established local auditors. Our current auditor is Jason Keller, CPA.
- ✓ **CFLC maintains, at a minimum, a Gold Standard of Transparency on the GuideStar Charity Check.** GuideStar is the nation's most comprehensive philanthropic research database and charity evaluator. **Our profile can be found here:** <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/58-1613254>

Getting to Know our Members...

Lori Richards

Meet Lori Richards....

I retired 9 years ago from corporate life, having worked as an accountant in various managerial capacities for 25 years. I spend my days playing tennis, learning to play the piano, and most importantly, volunteering as a tutor for CFLC's adult literacy program. I have been tutoring for 9 years. I have been lucky to work with the same dedicated student the entire time. Tutoring has been the most rewarding thing I have ever done. There is so much joy in helping someone better their reading skills and improve their lives. It has been very life-changing for me, and for my student as well.

A little-known fact about Lori....

I moved from Wilmington (Delaware) to Wilmington (North Carolina). Prior to my move to North Carolina, I called CFLC and spoke with Yasmin Tomkinson to secure a spot in one of CFLC's tutor orientation classes. I couldn't wait to start volunteering at CFLC!

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

I am very passionate about the importance of education and the joy of reading. I also understand how the ability to read is the foundation for many important life skills. CFLC does such important and meaningful work in our community, and I am very proud to be a part of it.

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

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Billie Jean King, Carole King and Charles Barkley



Alexandra Umstead-Wrenn and Jonathan Wrenn

A little-known fact about Johnathan and Alex...

Jonathan and Alex were high school sweethearts who reunited years later. Alex moved from Greensboro, their childhood hometown, to marry Jonathan and become a part of the coastal life here in Wilmington. They have three beautiful children, Devon, Chase, and Emma who are the most important things in their lives. Otherwise, when not immersed in their careers, they enjoy the magic of the water and traveling to remote seaside destinations.

Why the Literacy Trust is important to Johnathan and Alex...

The couple have been dedicated to community service as far back as they both can remember. Jonathan spent 25 years in the Fire-Rescue service, all of it as a volunteer, starting as a rookie Firefighter and retiring as a Fire Chief in New Hanover County. Alex has a Master's in Social Work and spent time working in public mental health, foster care, and in private practice as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for many years. She made a dramatic career change in 2014 when she was hired at Live Oak Bank. She learned about CFLC there and became a volunteer adult literacy tutor before joining the board; of which she is now President. Her experience as a tutor was life changing and motivated her to become even more connected with and dedicated to CFLC's mission. Alex's grandmother and Jonathan's mother were both teachers as well. Their commitment to the importance of reading and writing was nothing less than inspiring and strengthens the connection between the couple and CFLC.

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

Alex – my mother (Ann Kernodle Umstead), Jane Fonda, Oprah Winfrey, and Frida Kahlo

Jonathan – my grandfather (General Oscar Ivey Wrenn), General George S. Patton, Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy



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



Exciting Updates to Share...

You may have seen that the Council's campus received a bit of a 'face lift' this Spring!

With many thanks to board member Danielle Saintard Valiente, the lead designer at *Port City Design Group*, and the excellent team at *Morales Construction of North Carolina*, we received much-needed updates to the interior and exterior of both of our buildings. We are so grateful to have a fresh space that honors our dedicated learners, volunteers, and staff!

UPDATES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING INCLUDE:

- ◆ New flooring, ceilings, and recessed lighting
- ◆ New bathroom fixtures
- ◆ Replacement of damaged windows
- ◆ Full interior and exterior paint with an uplifting paint scheme
- ◆ Updated security lighting

UPDATES TO THE PROGRAM BUILDING INCLUDE:

- ◆ New flooring in the conference rooms
- ◆ Screening of the Study Gazebo
- ◆ New fence
- ◆ Roof/exterior repairs and new gutters
- ◆ Full exterior paint and updated security lighting



THE DETAILS

Our Fall Speaker Series: **Adult Story Hour** features beloved local authors and entertainers reading from literary works by authors they admire. Q&A will follow each event, hosted by personalities from WHQR Public Media, News 91.3 FM.

Proceeds from these events benefit CFLC's adult education programs and helps to keep them free for our students.

TICKETS & TIMES

Doors open at 5:00 pm, program begins at 5:30 pm.

Tickets are **\$20** per event and are available at cfliteracy.org and on location.

SEE YOU THERE!

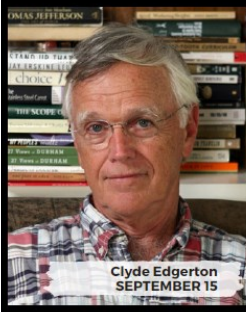
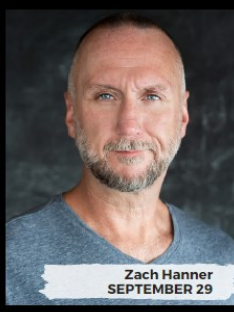

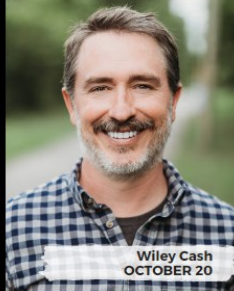
Bill's Brewing Company and Taproom at 4238 Market Street

Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Thanks to our friends at Bill's, who will donate **\$1** from each sale of select beer at all events!

Proudly sponsored by PNC

with thanks to our partners at WHQR and Ghost Hill Press

The Cape Fear Literacy Council presents
**FALL SPEAKER SERIES:
ADULT STORY HOUR**

 Clyde Edgerton SEPTEMBER 15	 Zach Hanner SEPTEMBER 29
 Celia Rivenbark OCTOBER 13	 Wiley Cash OCTOBER 20