



READ

503 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Fall 2000

ANNUAL REPORT FY 1999- 2000

Every year, the Orange County Literacy Council (OCLC) compiles statistics and evaluates the effectiveness of our programs and services in terms of addressing our mission: achieving 100% adult literacy in Orange County in order to help adults achieve their employment, community, family and life goals. According to the most recent statistics, 15% of Orange County adults are functionally illiterate; an additional 18% have significant literacy needs. We want to take this opportunity to share highlights from our 1999-2000 fiscal year with you.

A total of 305 adult learners participated in OCLC programs this year and 64 new tutors were certified. Of the 305 participants, 163 were from Chapel Hill, 76 were from Hillsborough, 22 were from Carrboro, 13 work in Orange County but live in a neighboring county, 16 were from unincorporated Orange County, and 9 were from Efland.

INDIVIDUAL TUTORING

This program continues to be the focus of the Literacy Council's work. Adult learners who need to strengthen their reading, writing or basic math skills receive free, individualized instruction with a trained volunteer tutor once or twice a week. Tutors work with students to achieve the learner's short and long-term goals. Learner's goals range from filling out a job application, helping their children with homework, or getting a driver's license to getting a GED. Workplace instruction continues to be offered at UNC-CH, the Town of Chapel Hill, Carol Woods, Orange County government, and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. Other tutoring sites include Project Homestart, Freedom House, Orange County Correctional Center, Skills Development Center, Chapel Hill and Orange County public libraries.

OCLC tutors provided 2,445 hours of instruction to 120 adult learners this year.

FAMILY READING WORKSHOPS

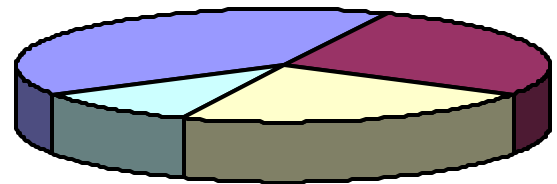
Smart Start funding has allowed the Literacy Council to expand this program to encourage and support parents/caregivers in reading to their young children. Family Reading volunteers conduct interactive workshops to help parents/caregivers understand the importance of reading to children, integrate reading into everyday life activities, and begin building a library of books for their children. This year, 18 workshops were offered at the following sites, including 3 workshops conducted in Spanish: Whitted Forest Apartments, Orange County Correctional Center, Carr Court Family Resource Center, the Achieve Program, Chapel Hill Head Start, Cedar Grove Early Head Start, Adolescent Parenting Program, Chapel Hill Early Head Start, Horizons/Casa Works, South Estes Family Resource Center, InterFaith Council Family Connections Group, and Carrboro Community Health Center.

82 parents and caregivers attended the Family Reading Workshops this year.

Program Participants in FY 1999-2000

Individual Tutoring
120

Family Reading
Workshops 82



Computer-based
Literacy Labs 32

Creative Writing
Workshops 71

(annual report continues next in document)

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE
TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF LITERACY**

Over 130 people joined authors Jaki Shelton Green, Hal Crowther, and Lee Smith in our very successful benefit author reading and silent auction at Fearington Village Barn October 22. This special event would not have been possible without these wonderful authors, as well as the generous support of many people. Thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their support of adult literacy:

➤Honorary Chairs

Bill and Leesie Guthridge, Stick and Teresa Williams

➤ Contributors to the Silent Auction

Algonquin Books, A Stone's Throw, Susan Attermeier, Baum Diamonds, Barry Browner, Bayleaf Peddler, Carolina Hurricanes, Chase Hair, Durham Technical Community College, Clyde Edgerton, Patricia and Steve Gee, Ginger Young Gallery, Interior Design Services, Ellen and Peter Lee, Kent Murray Photography, NC Craft Gallery, Pace's Gifts, Pamela Pease, Persian Carpet, Pringle's Fine Crafts, Jim Protzman, Red, Hot and Blue, Allan Rosen, So Little Thyme, Sharon Luggage, Barbara Stiles, UNC Athletic Association Educational Foundation, Vietri Pottery, Viking Travel, Bernice Wade, Rita Weimer

➤ Participants in The Pleasure of Your Company

Anson Dorrance, Bill Guthridge, Frances Hargraves, Cal Horton, Mayor Horace Johnson, State Senator Ellie Kinnaird, Mayor Mike Nelson, Carla Overbeck, US Congressman David Price, Mayor Rosemary Waldorf

➤ Restaurants in The Pleasure of Your Company

Il Palio Ristorante, Acme Grill, Carolina Crossroads, Colonial Inn, Tyler's Restaurant and Taproom, Grill at Glen Lennox, Panzanella, Michael Jordan's 23, Spotted Dog, 411 West/Squid's

➤ Raffle Donor

Midway Airlines

➤ Sponsoring Businesses

Trace Pittman and Southern States, McIntyre's Fine Books and Bookends at Fearington, Gee Associates, Mentor Marketing, Mama Dip's Kitchen, Wellspring Grocery

➤ Musicians

The Daddy Doodle Ensemble

➤ Fundraising Committee

Tim Crowley, Rita Weimer, Ellen Lee, Gladys Matthewson, Polly Moreau

➤ Event Volunteers and Staff

Susan Attermeier, Loryn Barnes, Bill Burston, Nancy Morton, Peter Lee, Charlotte Ruth, John Ruth, Miriam

READ

Lynch, Suzanne Unger, Sandra Yaggy, Susan Dennis, AnnMarie McCaig, Paula Borden, Andreas Crowley, Kacy Gore, Allan Rosen, Bob Weimer, Ahnie Riesing, Bill Hodder, Christine Hodder, Lucy Lewis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Literacy Council relies on the Friends of the OCLC to provide critical financial support so that we may continue to provide free tutoring and learning materials to many of the 10,000 adult learners who have significant literacy needs in Orange County. Many thanks to the following Friends who contributed in FY 1999-2000:

Mel and Zora Rashkis, Barbara Kuligowski, Raleigh Mann, Bonnie Layman, Elizabeth Halsten, Charlie Kast, Jennifer Browning, Sonia Prezant, Allan Conley, Betty Zelman, Margaret Parker, Patricia Langston, Nancy Dole Runkle, Susan Attermeier, Rita and Bob Weimer, Gwen Price, Hazel Lunsford, Lucy Steiner, Joseph Templeton, Brendan Moylan, William Guthridge, Myron Silverman, Laurence Dahners, Barbara Overby, Gordon Light, Dr. Beverly Long

And to the following businesses and organizations:

Alpha Phi Omega, Barnes & Noble, Chapel of the Cross Delta Kappa Gamma, Rho Inc., IBM, Zonta,

MORE THANK YOU'S

Due to the generosity of local vision providers, the OCLC Vision Program is able to offer adult learners the opportunity to receive one free eye exam and/or glasses. Thanks to the following for their support in FY 1999-2000:

Mr. Fred Conner, Optical Reflections; Dr. Barry Adler; Dr. James Shade; Dr. Barbara Wujciak, Carrboro Family Vision Center, Dr. Donna Hillsgrove

EVERY CLICK COUNTS

Earn money for the Orange County Literacy Council every time you surf or shop on the Web.

Visit the WebVillage* created for the Orange County Literacy Council at

www.4mycommunity.com

Here's all you need to do:

1. Go to www.4mycommunity.com
2. Type in the OCLC zip code, 27516
3. Select the Other Community Organizations button
4. Click on Orange County Literacy Council

The Village web page includes a list of numerous vendors. Anyone can shop and purchase items from these vendors via the web (at the same price as a purchase directly through their site) and a percentage of the money will be contributed to the Literacy Council.

READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP BASED ON DIABETES

All kinds of people get diabetes. If you have diabetes or have a friend or family member with it, you know that there is a lot to learn about taking good care of yourself. For this reason, I worked with the OCLC to teach a reading and discussion course this summer based on diabetes. The class put into practice a new spin on the meaning of “functional literacy” by addressing a topic of particular value to course members – diabetes survival skills.

The class was open to anyone with an interest in the disease. Four students enrolled, each with a different level of literacy and a different knowledge base about diabetes. The course ran weekly for seven weeks with each meeting centered around a different topic. These topics included: what is diabetes; healthy eating; exercise and diabetes; blood sugar monitoring; high and low blood sugars; foot care; and diabetes medicines.

Regular class activities included reading aloud, review of vocabulary, discussion, and time devoted to questions. To help make the material more understandable, models and visual aids were used. Students also learned from each other by sharing personal experiences and resources. In addition, manufacturers donated to the students blood sugar meters, skin moisturizers, syringes, glucose tablets and other items related to self-care.

Feedback from students has been very positive. One class member summed it up by saying, “I really enjoyed it. It was a great experience for me. I learned a lot about my diabetes.” She and another student went on to attend a daylong workshop in Raleigh on September 30 for people with diabetes. During class, she also learned to use a new blood sugar meter that now enables her to check her own sugar instead of depending on others to check it for her. Another student plans to give a book about diabetes to each of her children at Christmas.

I would like to teach the class again, beginning in January or February. A meeting day and time has not yet been arranged. Previous class sessions officially ran for 1½ hours but often extended to 2 hours to allow for more questions and discussions.

- *Naomi Slifkin; Naomi is a local diabetes educator with a background in adult literacy*

names, contact information, and a day and time preference.

GOODBYE PAULA

Who would have thought that the time would fly by so quickly? I’ve decided to keep this “good-bye” letter short and sweet, and not to consider it so much as “good-bye” but more so as a “till I see you again.”

I wish the Orange County Literacy Council nothing less than the best of luck in the agency’s future endeavors. I leave a huge thanks to all of the tutors who put so much time and dedication in making a difference in an adult learner’s life. I wish you all success in your matches with your students as well as in your personal lives.

I would like to say thank you to the Literacy Council Board for working so hard and commend them for the continued success of the OCLC. Lucy, Kathy, Linda and Christine, I thank you most of all for the support that you have given me since the day that I first arrived. I wish AnnMarie, the intern who will be taking over my responsibilities, the BEST of luck!! She is eager to make a difference and will continue to be a great asset to the Council.

Most of all, I would like to commend all of the Literacy Council students for working towards their goals and their continued motivations. Remember that it is not easy to face what we sometimes see as a weakness in our lives, for anyone. So keep up the hard work! I will miss all of you and I have learned so many things from you.

So this is not good-bye. Thanks again to all of you, and I look forward to hearing great things of the Literacy Council’s endeavors in the future.

- *Paula Borden; Paula was our AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer for 2 years. Thanks Paula for all of your hard work and dedication. We will miss you too, and wish you the best! AnnMarie McCaig, our new Americorps* volunteer comes to us through the Chapel of the Cross; she will introduce herself in the next newsletter.*

WELCOME NEW TUTORS

The following tutors completed the July and September Tutor Training Workshop. Welcome to our community of learners!

Liza Farmer	Marion Davies	Melina Piluras
Joan George	Marina Heatzig	David Rider
Karen Isaacs	Karen Hendry	Jan Ritchea
Judy Via	Grace Ann Hovet	Elisa Slattery
Carol Wolford	Theodore Hovet	Pearson Stewart
Ann Bajua	Spencie Love	Elizabeth Wheeler

If you have a student who is interested, please ask them to call the OCLC at 933-2151 and leave their

Kathy Breen
Mary Collier
Marion Davies

Lisa Lynch
AnnMarie McCaig
Jeff Nolan

Teshania Wiley
Brent Winter

LEARNING

My name is Mary. I am a student of the Literacy program. My job is at the University and I am a Mail Clerk.



I couldn't read or write and the job required reading and writing. The University sent letters to let the people know the literacy program was available. I have been in the program 16 years.

The program is great to be in when you want to learn to read and write and it is a program to help you in this world. It helped me to read the Bible and read labels on different things.

Because I can read I have my license and I can drive my car. And now I vote. Also at one time I couldn't make out a money order but now I can. I have learned a lot by being in the program and I would like to continue to improve my spelling and writing.

I would like to say to other students do not give up trying to learn. It is important to each person to be able to read and write.

Teachers, I would like to say to you I know that you have jobs and other responsibilities, but don't give up because it is a challenge to teach someone to read and write. This is my advice, have faith.

-Mary Alston

SCHOOL LIFE**TWENTY YEARS AGO AND NOW**

School life twenty years ago is very different from school today. All though they are very different they have good things about them.

In school twenty years ago, kids never brought guns to school to kill their teachers or classmates. Also, you never heard of drug use in school. Finally, kids had more respect for their teachers and classmates.

In school today there is more to offer students, like computers and trades. Today schools are built a lot nicer and safer. Lastly, the teachers are more educated.

I know for myself that school life for me was great. I never saw any violence in school, and the teachers and students really cared about one another. We may not have had the technology and better things they have today, but one thing is for sure and that is we got a good education and everybody had love for one another.

- Barry Hatchett

**FREEDOM EXPRESS NURTURES
COMPUTER SKILLS, LITERACY**

This is the first part of an article by Jason Pulley and Eric Taylor, reprinted from Freedom Express, a publication of the inmates at Orange County Correctional Center. Part 2 of this article, which will appear in our next newsletter, will discuss the work of Literacy Council tutors, who have conducted computer labs, as well as individual tutoring, writing classes, math classes and family reading workshops, at the OCLC for the last 3 years.

Some may wonder what goes on in the educational trailer at the back of the visitation yard. Most have heard about the computers that are down here. Currently there is a list of almost 30 guys who are allowed to use these computers for various uses; the unit newspaper (the one in your hands was created down there), computer literacy tutoring, and supplemental GED use. Four years ago this was not the case.

There used to be only a handful of old 286 and 386 computers (products of the 1980's) with limited DOS based software. The GED instructor at the time occasionally utilized a few of these machines to help his students study for their tests, but that was the only use they saw...

Our annual Appreciation Banquet will be held on Tuesday, December 5, from 6-8 pm at the Big Barn in Hillsborough. We hope that all adult learners and volunteers can join us for this very special evening.

ANNUAL REPORT Continued

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Chapel Hill/Carrboro Learning Center and Administrative Offices

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 phone (919) 933-2151
 fax (919) 969-3038
 oclc@co.orange.nc.us
 Northern Orange
 Learning Center
 118 N. Churton St.
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 phone (919) 732-0868
 fax (919) 732-9791
 oclc@mindspring.com
 www.orangeliteracy.org

Creative Writing Workshops

For the fifth year, Literacy Council volunteers led weekly drop-in writing workshops at the InterFaith Council Community House in Chapel Hill from September to April. The purpose of the workshops is to encourage and promote creative writing among the residents.
71 participants attended at least one of the writing workshops.

Computer-Based Literacy Labs

The OCLC continues to explore the use of computers to enhance and supplement traditional tutoring approaches. Literacy volunteers currently conduct a weekly computer-based literacy lab and a weekly family computer lab at the South Estes public housing neighborhood, a weekly computer-based literacy lab and a monthly family night at the Trinity Court public housing neighborhood, and weekly computer labs at the Orange County Correctional Center. Learners work on computer basics and keyboarding skills as well as use adult literacy software including basic skills, pre-GED and GED software.

Family nights provide an opportunity for parents and their

children to work together on educational software activities.
32 learners attended at least one computer-based literacy lab.

Tutor Training

The Program staff provide monthly one-hour orientation sessions for prospective volunteers. The Tutor Training Team provides quarterly twelve-hour training workshops for new literacy tutors. The interactive trainings include information about the Council's participatory, learner-centered philosophy, working with adult learners, and goal setting. Workshops also provide a "toolbox" of approaches and resources for adult literacy instruction. This year tutor inservices focused on assessing and working with students with a learning disability and incorporating technology into literacy tutoring. Opportunities were also provided for tutors to study the Phono-Graphix method of teaching reading.
Three 12-hour tutor trainings were offered this year; 64 new tutors were trained this year.

YEAR END GIVING

Each year we ask our friends and supporters to respond generously to our **Annual Appeal** for the Literacy Council. Please consider a contribution to the Literacy Council as a special holiday gift in

obtain the skills they need to be competitive in the workforce, active in the community, and to support their children as learners.

As you plan your end-of-the-year giving, please consider a **gift of securities** to the Literacy Council. This is a great time to make an end of year charitable contribution to the work of the Council and avoid capital gains taxes on any highly appreciated stock. For more information contact Lucy Lewis at 933-2151

honor of a family member or friend. Your tax-deductible contribution will help ensure that Orange County adults

READ

BECOME A FRIEND OF LITERACY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

I would like to become a friend of the OCLC.

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$500 purchases an adult literacy software program
- \$100 subsidizes a tutor training workshop
- \$ 50 purchases a family literacy software program
- \$ 25 provides an adult learner with workbooks
- \$ 15 continues 15 years of adult literacy instruction

Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Orange County Literacy Council
503 W. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

My name may be mentioned in newsletter

Thank you for supporting adult literacy!

Thanks to Mindspring for providing Internet access to our Hillsborough office and adult learners!

Orange County Literacy Council
503 W. Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

OCLC Holiday Gifts

Travel Coffee Mugs \$6

Mouse Pads \$8

Magnet \$3

Package of all 3 - \$15



Join us in celebrating 16 years of lifelong learning!

The white plastic travel coffee mug, gray mousepad, and white magnet are all imprinted with our anniversary sunrise logo in orange and blue. These great holiday gifts also increase community awareness about adult literacy.

Come by the Skills Development Center to purchase anniversary logo items, or call 933-2151 for more information.



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