



Adrian Rea Literacy Center

News

Accredited Member of ProLiteracy

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Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that we are about to begin a new year and are completing our ninth year of service in adult literacy. To date we have had the opportunity of assisting nearly 1,000 adults who desire to improve their literacy skills or learn for the first time to read, write, and speak in English.

Without our tutors and volunteers none of this would be possible, so it was fitting that we honor and thank them at the Appreciation Dinner in November. This dinner could never have happened without the generosity of Pastor Drew Hart and his staff who welcomed us to their fellowship hall at the First United Methodist Church. We all remarked that the friendship and fellowship we shared that evening was tangible in this place of welcome. Thank you so much Pastor Hart, and thanks to our ARLC Board members who decorated the hall and provided wonderful door prizes for the evening.

A very moving part of the dinner was the personal witness talks given by two of our learners. Neither Edith nor Rafael had ever written a talk, and neither ever imagined they would be able to speak in front of ninety-two people—a HUGE accomplishment for these learners who expressed their feelings of gratitude as well as appreciation on behalf of other learners.

Enjoy reading about and seeing photos of our newest technology, the interactive board. Thanks to our donors, we will be able to purchase additional software for this new board, programs for our computers, and student books for the learners who are unable to pay for them. Thank you a million times over for your donations!

As you celebrate during the holidays know that all of us on the staff wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and peace-filled new year.

Sister Carleen



We fondly remember our dear tutor, Sister Aileen McClain, who died on September 24, 2016.

She was dearly loved by all of us at the Center. She and her learner, Maria Elena, had a very special relationship.

Sister Aileen is greatly missed!



We Thank You!



The Adrian Rea Literacy Center is a designated 501c3 non-profit educational program that provides one-to-one tutoring at no cost to our learners. We exist entirely on grant funding and donations. Therefore, our donors are a vital part of the Literacy Center and we are grateful for their support.

The following donors supported the Adrian Rea Literacy Center since July 1, 2016 through December 1, 2016.

Monetary Donors

- Joan E. Blackman
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In Memory of:

- Elvira Schoenlein and Marie Damian
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- Marie Damian Schoenlein O.P. –
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- Aileen McClain, O.P. – Patricia and Brian Dubel
- Donald La Follette –
L.T. Sylvestre and Katherine Mock

In Honor of:

- Sister Ann Fallon – Elizabeth and Michael Howard
- Sister Jubilarians 2016
Romona Nowak, O.P.

Multi-Year Grants

- Hilda E. Bretzlaff Foundation, Inc
- The Berlin Family Fund of the
Toledo Community Foundation

**IN-Kind: Time, Expertise, Snacks
Supplies, Equipment, Books**

- ARLC Board
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WE HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER

Effective immediately, the **new main phone number** for the Adrian Rea Literacy Center is:

517-264-7320

The **Spanish phone line** new number is:

517-264-7327

Please change your records including your cell phone.

Our Learners write....



My Baby Story by M.L.

My name is Maira Lopez. I have three children and now I am pregnant for a fourth time. Everybody in my home is happy with this news. I am seven months and two weeks pregnant. Now the baby, who is a boy, is moving all the time, but I like this feeling. The name of my new baby is Emmanuel. He will be born on February 17, 2017.

My Week at the County Fair by R.O.

My week at the fair was the most fantastic week for me and my family! On Wednesday I took my family to the fair. We started watching the animals. We saw lots of animals: cows, horses, pigs, chickens, sheep, and rabbits. Later we started to ride the rides with my daughters.



We took a break and looked at each food place to choose the greatest food for my family; lemonade, elephant ears, hamburgers and pizza were some of the foods we chose to eat. We finished the day riding the rides again. Then we picked up our family picture.

We saw a lot of friends and family in the fair. We had a great day at the county fair!



Death Days by E.S.

Death Days is a great tradition in Mexico. I don't know when or even who started this; I only know this tradition has gone on generation after generation.

Death Days are the first and second days of November. On the first day, we celebrate "all angels;" this means all children who have died. On the second day, we celebrate all the adults who have died.

According to the tradition, all dead people come to eat on these days, so we prepare different kinds of food including desserts and beverages for them. We adorn tables with flowers, candles and obviously, the food.

This is in our home, but we also go to the cemetery to clean the tombs and we leave flowers. Some people take music.

These days are sad because we recall our loved ones, but it is a meaningful and beautiful tradition.

The New Blue Truck by F.L.

My daddy and I went to Lansing to buy a truck with a lady from church. We went to see the truck. She said that it was selling for \$6,000. We went for a ride in the truck. Daddy inspected it. It was in good condition: good brakes, good engine, and good tires and we liked it. The inside of the truck's cab was decorated with blue dogs. I liked this best of all. It was a good price. We bought the blue truck.



and write....



By J.C.

In Mexico, the people have a lot of sayings. I remember when I was younger the older people would use them. My grandmother and her sisters used the sayings all the time, and to me it was funny. My grandmother had three sisters. They were living in a beautiful state where the people couldn't speak offensive language in public places, nor could they throw garbage on the streets. This state is close to the city, almost four hours away. It is a nice, clean and relaxing place. I would like to live there because I have family. One of my cousins has a printing shop and his sisters work with him. My oldest cousin is a hard worker. She works all the time on different things and cares for her mom. My aunt was a nun, but now she is almost 90 years old. She has birds and grows violets of different colors. These beautiful plants look artificial. The reason that these plants grow so nicely is because the weather is perfect, it is a little bit cold in the morning and the rest of the day it's hot. I have wonderful memories of my family there.

Treetop Conversation by E.S.

We read a book Rooted Together written by a local author, Jolene Witt. She did something very brave. She and her daughter drove across the country, from Deerfield, Michigan to the Pacific coast. This trip was to make their dreams come true.



Their dream was to get to Eugene, Oregon to camp overnight in the treetops. Along the way, they had disagreements over texting and using Facebook. Sometimes there were periods of long silence.

An e-mail from her daughter helped Jolene and her daughter to realize the importance of family. She was grateful because technology started the conversation that opened their hearts.

Interactive Whiteboards Enhance ARLC Classroom Instruction and Learning

by Sister Kathleen Clausen and Brenda Sparkman

A new emphasis on developing 21st century skills for learners, the requirement for educator proficiency in technology, and research documenting increased learning with the use of interactive whiteboards have spurred the Adrian Rea Literacy Center to purchase an Interactive Projector and Whiteboard thanks to grants and donations. An interactive whiteboard combines a dry erase whiteboard with a LCD projector. The projector projects the content from a computer onto the surface of the board while the teacher controls the content either with a pointer or a touch of the hand instead of a keyboard and mouse. The combination of software with the projector results in much more than simply a projected image.

Anything that can be done on a computer monitor, can be replicated on the interactive whiteboard. A tutor can create engaging lessons that focus on one task such as a matching activity where learners use either their fingers or a pen to match items. Research has repeatedly demonstrated that students learn better when they are fully engaged and that multisensory, hands-on learning is the best way to engage them.

Sister Pat McKee, a tutor at Aquinas Literacy Center in Chicago, has designed lessons for the interactive board which compliment our sequential Laubach Way to Reading program.

We have purchased licenses for different software that is applicable to our learners needs. One is called SMART Software and allows tutors to access 6,600 learning objects and customizable lesson plans for Literacy Skills. We also are able to use some of our existing software with the smartboard, i.e. Lexia and Rosetta Stone.

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We are in the process of reviewing other software programs that would benefit our learners as they increase their literacy skills.

Brenda Sparkman and Sister Kathleen recently held demonstration sessions for learners and tutors who quickly entered into practice on the interactive board. Their success and enjoyment is evident in the pictures below. **More opportunities for demonstrations will be offered to tutors and learners in the weeks ahead.**



TUTOR APPRECIATION DINNER 2016



A great time was had by all as we gathered for an Appreciation Dinner honoring our wonderful volunteers and tutors. Without these generous women and men the ARLC could not continue outreach to adults who want to improve or learn for the first time how to read, write, and speak English.

Recognition was given to five tutors who have been with us for the past five years, and have assisted a total of twenty-three learners! Sister Sarah Cavanaugh was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Awarded" for her continued service throughout our nine years from co-founding the Center, to tutoring, and now daily offering office assistance.

Two special guests, learners Edith Sanchez and Rafael Jimenez, gave personal witness as to what coming to the Center has meant to them and expressed gratitude to their tutors.

(See page 7 "Spotlight")



Learners in the Spotlight



Good evening, my name is Edith Sanchez. It's an honor to be here this evening. I've been studying English at the Adrian Rea Literacy Center for the past four years. My goal is to read and write more.

I am grateful to my tutor. She has been helping me with my writing and reading. We've been reading two books, Rooted Together by local author Jolene Witt and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. I am studying hard to increase my reading and writing. We all are thankful for this program, and I am so grateful to have Gail as my tutor. Thank you so much, Gail, and thank you all who have made this program possible.

Hello, my name is Rafael Jimenez, and through the help of the tutors at the Adrian Rea Literacy Center, I am learning English.

My first language is Spanish. I was born in Mexico and did not attend school because from a very young age, my brothers and I worked to help provide for the family.

I started working when I was 4 years old. At the age of 16, I moved to California where I worked in the fields picking strawberries, tomatoes, cabbage, green beans, grapes, and almonds. This job was easy for me because all the other workers spoke Spanish too, and I still did not need to learn English. After working for 15 years in California, I came to Adrian, Michigan and again worked in the fields for one year, and then took a job in a factory in Manchester where I worked another 15 years. In the factory, when I had to speak with my supervisor or someone from the office, it was difficult. They always had to find someone who spoke Spanish to be able to speak with me. This job ended when the factory closed.

For almost 2 years I looked for a new job. I put in many applications, my Mother-in-law helped me to complete them. I first realized that I needed to learn to read, write and speak English when I tried to apply for a job in Jackson and had to fill out the forms there, by myself. Without someone's help, I could not do this, I failed and actually cried. This is when I knew that I had to find a way to learn English.



In 2005 I took a job cleaning at Adrian College. I investigated what was available at Adrian College to help me learn English. They did not have a program for me, but someone told me about the Literacy Center. I did not call the place soon. It took me two years to call because I was very busy and did not have time to learn. So, when I called, they accepted me and I went for a short while. It was helping me, but I had to quit because my time was consumed at the Spanish-speaking Church where I was Pastor.

I came back to the Literacy Center two years ago, and have been working very hard at learning. I want to thank God for this place, because they are always ready to help everyone who comes to them. And I want to say thank you to my tutor Barbara, all the tutors, and God bless you, and thank you so much!



Welcome to Our New Tutors September 16 & 17, 2016 Workshop



Front Row (left to right): **Paula Patteuw, Kathy Tripp, Melissa Austin & Sister Mary Kastens.** Back Row (left to right): **Sister Carleen Maly, Shellie Grayer, Brenda Sparkman, Sister Joanne McCauley, Karen McKeon & Robert Eardley**

The next opportunities to give the gift of reading will be **January 22 & 28, 2017** and **April 21 & 22, 2017** at our next tutor workshops. Tell a friend!
Call to register: 517.264.7320

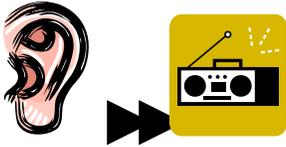
Adrian Rea Literacy Center

Severe Weather Days

Winter is coming and with it snow and ice! There may be times when streets and roads are dangerous for travel, and it will be necessary to close the Literacy Center. To find out if we are closed on the day you come for class:



Watch ABC TV in the morning



Listen to WABJ AM 1490 or
WLEN FM 103.9

or



Call

517-264-7320

and listen to the recorded message.

Completing our ninth
year of service!

