



# Adrian Rea Literacy Center

# News

Accredited Member of ProLiteracy

Vol. 10 Summer 2017

## ARLC

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Dear Friends,

In the hall outside of the Adrian Dominican Sisters' historical area there is a quote which reads, "Our life is a journey." This sums up well the "life" of our Adrian Rea Literacy Center as I reflect on the journey of our ten-year history.

Two forward-looking, committed Adrian Dominican Sisters, Marie Schoenlein and Sarah Cavanaugh, said "yes" in November of 2007 to the request of the Prioress of our Congregation to establish a literacy center on our campus. By early spring of 2008 they had the first twelve adult learners registered to begin classes with the first group of certified tutors, our semi-retired and retired Sisters. We owe a debt of gratitude to these pioneer women as we celebrate ten years of continued growth having served to date **1,084 adult learners!** Their spirit inspired us then and continues to inspire us now as we carry on this valuable work of adult literacy.

Throughout this anniversary year we will be inviting you, our learners, tutors, benefactors, donors, friends and family to celebrate with us as we continue to build a welcoming ARLC community. In this issue you will come to know from our tutors how resilient our learners are, how happy they are with seemingly "minor" achievements (which are huge to them and us), in spite of the challenging times of these past few months. You will read about our new website which we were able to create through a grant we received. It goes without saying that we cannot do what we do without you, our donors, supporters, and amazing tutors—our partners in literacy. THANK YOU, one and all.

With a grateful heart,  
Sr. Carleen



*We remember with great affection, two of our tutors who died recently. They are pictured with of their learners. We will miss them.*

**Sister Kay Muzzy**  
(seated on left)

Sister Kay was among the first tutors who began teaching at the literacy center. Since 2008 she has shared her love of math assisting 11 learners to prepare for their GED.



**Sister Nadine Foley**  
(standing on left)

In 2009 Sister Nadine began tutoring her learner who was from Colombia. Nadine not only faithfully taught her learner English conversation skills but also supported her during her husband's illness and at the time of his death.

# Adrian Rea Literacy Center 2016-2017 Annual Report

Served: Total learners: 129  
Female-55

Male-74

## Diverse population:

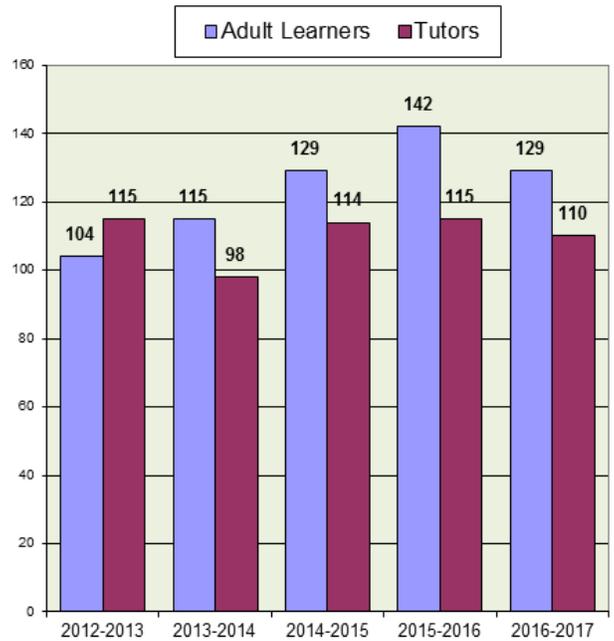
- Spanish-speaking learners from five countries - Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Venezuela
- Learners from four other countries - India, Pakistan, Russia and Taiwan
- Caucasian learners

Programs Offered: ESL Learners-122 Basic Literacy-7

## Achievements:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 12 learned money values                          | 102 improved comprehension skills                   |
| 97 advanced in learning                          | 18 read Bible, menus, coupons, etc.                 |
| 7 learned to budget, open bank acct.             | 15 read newspaper for information                   |
| 2 prepared/obtained citizenship                  | 20 read to children                                 |
| 1 registered to vote                             | 5 obtained driver's license                         |
| 7 got a better job                               | 8 obtained library card                             |
| 14 learned to use dictionary                     | 3 improved math skills                              |
| 12 filled out job application, doctor forms, etc | 18 attended children's school meetings              |
| 19 wrote a story or letter                       | • Clocked 925 total hours on computers/ Smart Board |
| 14 read medical instructions                     | • 600 individual visits to computer lab/Smart Board |
| 95 improved spelling skills                      |   |
| 102 improved conversation skills                 |   |
| 78 improved writing skills                       |   |

Adrian Rea Literacy Center  
Adult 5 Year Statistics



## Tutors' Comments About Their Learners:

**“His confidence has improved a lot and he believes his pronunciation has also become clearer—I agree!”** *“It is easier for her to register her children for classes and sports. Her writing and conversation skills have improved. She is grateful to the Literacy Center for making such a difference in her life.”*  
**“I am amazed at her continued commitment, dedication and initiative to do two lessons of homework each week. She is a delight and gives back to me much more than I give her!”** *“For the past 6 months, he has been writing a*



*short story on the computer. Working directly on the computer has been an important component in his progress. Being able to type rather than use long-hand has helped him get his thoughts on the paper more easily.”* **“She is writing more complex sentences and paragraphs. She was able to file a police report on her own when her bag was stolen.”** *“She has been working hard studying for her citizenship exam.”* **“She ordered at McDonald’s for herself and a friend who didn’t speak English. She reads all parts of the Daily Telegram one time a week—sometimes two times a week.”**



## Tutors' Comments About Their Learners Continued.....



“He is a citizen of India and his oral speaking is British English. He is working hard to speak American English.” **“She performed a skit with her son at his school. Not only does she use the computer at the center, but also uses translation apps on her phone to aid in expanding her vocabulary.”** *“She works hard on her own and shares what she is learning with her children. The past few months, she has read several small books, love stories, myths and folktales.”* **“He is a life-long learner and has insights in the reading that he shares. He has made amazing progress.”** “She has written several articles and continues to work on her writing skills.” “He has good reading skills and comprehension and is

showing improvement in his ability to compose more complex writing.” **“She’s such a hard worker, and quite bright! I love working with her.”** “His spelling and pronunciation are getting much better. He says he can read all the work orders at his job without asking for help.” *“She continues to improve her reading skills, vocabulary and conversation skills.”* **“Working with Rosetta Stone has helped him understand the words better because he can see them as well as hear them.”** *“She is eager to learn and has improved her reading skills and reads with emphasis. She can sign*



*her name beautifully.”* **“After some confusion and conversation, he was able to ask for - and got—a “mohawk” haircut.”** “He is letting go of unhelpful reading habits. He is highly motivated and works very hard.” **“He has more confidence and can read his text messages, TV commercials and other incidental material.”** “She had a baby and is able to communicate with the doctor in English. Her other children are communicating with her in English. She has a library card and a desire to read more books in English.”



**“Her skills are improving and she speaks readily. She has gained confidence and goes to her children’s activities at their schools and does her shopping alone. We are working on the skills needed for the**

**naturalization test.”** “She is so excited when she understands what someone says to her in English. She has encouraged several friends and family members to come to the literacy center.” **“She is learning and training herself to think in English. She understands more things on English TV.”** “He already understands many issues pretty well. His goals are to write a story and read the newspaper.” **“He is able to join in conversations with more ease, and is able to read and understand longer stories. There has been an improvement in his ability to write dictated words and sentences. He likes to read to his 3 year old son.”** *“She is working hard on studying questions for her citizenship test.”* “He understands the importance of learning English to better his employment position and when having conversations at the grocery store.” “Her more regular attendance has enhanced her motivation to succeed.” **“She feels more confident in relating to others-peers, doctors, etc. Remarkable progress has been made in many areas and I attribute this to the untiring efforts she puts into her preparation for classes.”**

And finally—from one of our learners: **“I want to say thanks to this center, especially to Tom who is my tutor, friend, etc. All people who know me say that my English is much better. As you can see it makes me feel very happy.”**



# Our Learners write their stories . . .

## MY STORY FROM TAIWAN TO AMERICA by M.R.

I was born in Taichung, Taiwan. I was one of seven children. I graduated with a degree in nursing. Then I met my husband and we moved to Thailand. While I was there I had my daughter.

In 1999 my daughter and I left Thailand and came to America to live with a sister in New York. In 2001 we came to Adrian to live with another sister and her American husband. I sent my daughter to St. Joseph Academy while I went to Adult Education to try to learn English. Because I was the only Chinese student, I did not learn much English.

One day I went to the Health Department and my friend's daughter told me about the Literacy Center. I started with the Laubach books and now I am in the Challenger book 4. Currently I am a caregiver at an assisted living facility. My next goal is to become a U.S. Citizen.



## Haircut by S.G.

One friend called me. Another woman needed her hair cut. This woman cannot walk. She was in a car accident, and her legs were cut off. I said OK. I will drive to Blissfield for you. I cut her hair. Her husband and the woman liked my work and then said you can come back and cut her hair again. I went there three times. The lady is in bed all day. The lady says I'm happy to see you and thank you for cutting my hair.



**Want to read more of our learners' writings? Go to our new website at [www.adrianrealiteracy.org](http://www.adrianrealiteracy.org), and click on the News tab. You will find "Our Learners Write" under Topics.**

A Place for Tutoring...A Place for Adult Learning...  
A Place for You!



In celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are launching a new website. It will be the same address, [www.adrianrealiteracy.org](http://www.adrianrealiteracy.org).

The new website will be much more interactive than our old one. Pages included will be **Home, About Us, Learners, Tutors, Supporters, Calendar, News, and Contact Us**. Users will be able to select in what language they would like to view the site. Another very important feature is that the website will be **Smartphone friendly**. Our News page is actually a blog and Brenda, our computer coordinator, will be updating this page to include *learner and tutor happenings, special events, writings of our learners, and other interesting tidbits about the Center*. There is a link to our *Facebook page* at the top. Our Contact Page has an information form and the Tutor Page has a tutor interest form. Both will be sent directly to our [info@adrianrealiteracy.org](mailto:info@adrianrealiteracy.org) email address.

Another new feature is the ability to donate monetarily through our new website or our Facebook page.

So, check it out. If you have any comments, please use the Contact Form, call the office, or email us. Happy surfing!

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 **In the Spotlight**  **Featuring one of our Learners and one of our Tutors**  **In the Spotlight** 



Congratulations and thanks to Tutor and Siena Heights University student, Nick Blumenau. He won the Michigan Campus Outstanding Community Impact Award and was given a \$200 grant to give to a non-profit organization of his choice. **He chose us!**

Learner, Ofelio, received the “People First” award for successfully completing the Leadership Certificate Program at his job.



## 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  
December 15, 2016 through June 30, 2017

### Donors

Anna Allison  
Melissa and Johnny Austin  
Kathleen and Leroy Betzoldt  
Joan E. Blackman  
Nick Blumenau  
Deb and Philip Carter  
Sarah Cavanaugh, O.P.  
Joan M. Chappa  
Kathleen and Sam Ciaramitaro  
Karen Dace  
Maria Ibarra and Scott Doman  
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Marianne and Edward Soistman and  
friends in Winter Park, Florida  
John and Irene Solis  
Brenda Sparkman  
St.Mary's Church, Adrian, MI

L.T. Sylvestre and Katherine A. Mock  
Gail and Tom Thelen  
Mary Ann Westlund  
Joe Williams

### In Memory of:

Marie Damian Schoenlein, O.P. – Rita M. Hoffman  
Marie Damian Schoenlein, O.P. – Sandra H. Guzman  
Donna Marie Wencel, O.P. – Catherine and Frank  
Barrack  
Donna Marie Wencel, O.P. – Kathleen Clausen, O.P.

### In Honor of:

Ann Fallon, O.P. – Elizabeth Howard

### Sister Jubilarians 2017:

Kathleen Clausen, O.P.  
Jane Quirk, O.P.  
Romona Nowak, O.P.

### Multi-Year Grants

Adrian Dominican Ministry Trust  
Dominican Rea Literacy Corporation  
Hilda Bretzlaff Foundation  
Michigan WIOA Fund  
Maurice and Dorothy Stubnitz Foundation  
Raskob Foundation  
Lenawee Community Foundation and Lenawee Cares

### IN-Kind: Time, Expertise, Snacks

#### Supplies, Equipment, Books

Connie Aichele	Lisa Hart
Melissa Austin	Linda Herman
Julia Cazares	Maria Ibarra
Celestine Dunne, O.P.	Frances Lombaer, O.P.
Sharron Etter	Jose Luis Perez
Trish Fanning	Tom Schrock
Grace Garno	Brenda Sparkman
Jack Georgal	
Pauline Gross	
Barbara Kruger	
Lenawee Community Agency	
Jack Powell	
Victoria Powell	

# Welcome to Our New Tutors

## January 27 & 28, 2017 Workshop



(Seated L to R) *Jeri Melnik, Sister Carleen Maly, Cassandra Johnson, Sister Jo Gaugier, Sister Mary Kastens*  
(Standing L to R) *Brenda Sparkman, Dennis Pelham, Anne Jameson, Pat Housekeeper, Sister Joanne McCauley, Ed Lee, Zachary Flack, and Kevin Brehmer*

## April 21 & 22, 2017 Workshop

(Seated L to R) *Erica Sandusky, Irene James, Jane Cameron*  
(Standing L to R) *Sister Carleen Maly, Brenda Sparkman, Helio Rincon, Sister Joanne McCauley, Mary Thompson, Mary Barrie, Mark Vandenberg, Lynne Knoblauch, and Sister Mary Kastens*



### Tutor Appreciation Luncheon and In-Service June 17, 2017

“What a great opportunity to get to know each other.” That was the comment repeated by many of the tutors who were able to enjoy lunch together, meet new friends, and/or renew acquaintances from their tutor workshops. Sisters Joanne and Mary had tutors practice with new materials to enhance their teaching skills: syllables and spelling techniques, the pocket chart, interactive card games, and Laubach Books 2 & 3 words, pictures, and scrambled sentences. Tutors shared additional ideas they found helpful so all could add them to the “Other Bright Ideas” sheet they received.



Adrian Rea Literacy Center  
 Open 8:00 am- 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday  
 2017-2018 Calendar Highlights

July	1 24-31	2017-2018 Term Begins Summer Break—No Classes
August	1-4 7	Summer Break—No Classes Classes Resume
September	4 15 & 16 19	Labor Day—No Classes Tutor Workshop Board Meeting
November	21 22 & 23	Board Meeting Thanksgiving Break
December/Jan	25-2 3	Christmas Break Classes Resume

**ARLC Wish List . . .**  
 items we can always use

Cookies & Individually Wrapped Hard Candy  
 1 inch 3-Ring Binders  
 White Boards (8-1/2 x 11)  
 Dry-Erase Markers  
 Biodegradable Coffee Cups  
 Paper Cold Drink Cups  
 Instant Coffee—Reg. & Decaf  
 Coffee Creamer  
 Wrapped Tea Bags—Reg. & Decaf

**Help us assist Sister Carol Weber and the Moms at N.E.W. Life Center in Flint:**  
 Bring to the ARLC: trial size (or samples from motels) bars of soap, shampoo, and hand lotions.



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