



Sponsored by Adrian Dominican Sisters

# Adrian Rea Literacy Center

# News

## ARLC

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Adrian Rea Literacy Center

Phone: 517.264.7320

Phone for **Spanish**

**Speaking Only:**

517.264.7327

[www.adrianrealiteracy.org](http://www.adrianrealiteracy.org)

[info@adrianrealiteracy.org](mailto:info@adrianrealiteracy.org)

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Vol. 16 Summer 2023

Dear Friends,

When the Literacy Center Board met in May, we had on the agenda finishing the details of the annual Appreciation Dinner honoring our tutors. The planning committee asked for ideas about a theme for our summer, end of June event, and received ideas like, "beach," "baseball," and all the flowers which had begun to bloom more gloriously than ever.

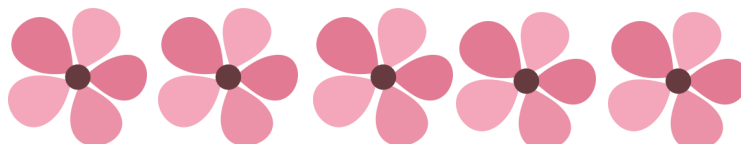
Following the board meeting the committee settled on the blooming flower idea and the theme "Get Your Bloom On." Creative juices began to flow: prizes awarded for the most flowers worn at the dinner, the "most courageous male's flower outfit," etc. But perhaps more significantly, three of our learners who have "blossomed" in their love of learning despite setbacks in their lives would give personal witness of how their education at the Center has opened new horizons for them. (See their stories on page 6.)

Our end of year statistical report shows that many more learners have developed a love for writing and grown in comprehension skills. The amazing care and nurturing of the "seeds" of new ideas for their learning have continued to blossom thanks to the openness and creative use of technology by our tutors.

The blessings have grown and flourished, and thanks to you our donors, they will continue. We are so grateful to you and ask God's blessings for you and yours in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Sr. Carleen



## We remember our dear Sister Kathleen McCann

Adrian Dominican Sister Kathleen generously gave of her time and talents to serve our literacy center. In 2014 when she retired from her various ministries on the motherhouse campus she began tutoring her first of two learners whom she helped to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship Test. She was 88 years old at the time.

Sister Kathleen expressed a desire to help keep our library books in order and became the ARLC librarian until her "retirement" in December 2022. Sister's health began to fail and she died peacefully on April 4, 2023 at the age of 97. Rest in peace, dear Sister. We give thanks to God for the gift of you in our lives.



# Adrian Rea Literacy Center 2022-2023 Annual Report

**Served: Total learners - 93**

**Female - 54**

**Male - 39**

**Diverse population:**

- Spanish-speaking learners from seven countries - Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela
- Learners from four other countries - China, Philippines, Taiwan, and Ukraine
- Caucasian learners

**Programs Offered:**

**ESL Learners- 88**

**Basic Literacy- 5**

56 advanced in learning

10 learned to budget/  
open bank account

9 prepared/obtained  
citizenship

3 registered to vote

2 studied pre-GED  
material

20 got a better job

29 learned to use  
dictionary

26 filled out job applica-  
tion, doctor forms, etc.

31 wrote a story or letter

25 read medical  
instructions

65 improved spelling  
skills

60 improved conversa-  
tion skills

63 improved writing  
skills

70 improved  
comprehension skills

35 read Bible, menus,  
coupons, etc.

16 read newspaper for  
information

22 read to children

6 obtained driver's  
license

10 obtained library card

14 improved math skills

22 attended children's  
school meetings

26 Improved computer  
skills

## One Learner's Unique Experience:

### What Is "Reading" About?

By Sister Carol Gross

Several months ago, Ubaldo's son called saying his father wanted to learn to read. His real dream, however, was to learn to read in Spanish, his native language. It just so happened that a tutor fluent in Spanish was available to help him. That was me.

He told me at the intake interview that he went to school during a few years in Mexico but very intermittently. As a child he worked in the fields and around the age of ten, came to Texas where he worked full time and so his schooling ended.

In the first lesson, I wondered why he had asked to learn to read in Spanish. It soon became obvious that he knew all the sounds of the letters both consonants and vowel sounds. Spanish is a phonetic language and there is hardly any variation in sounds of the letters or spelling. It seemed like he already knew how to read.

In the second lesson, however, I noticed that he never stopped at periods or commas or even the ends of words. What he was doing was reading the syllables of the words. He could not answer even the simplest question about what he was "reading."

I began to investigate how to teach comprehension. In the meantime, he got a library card and met Lizbeth Perez-Cazares, the bilingual library Assistant at the Adrian District Library. She guided him to the easiest children's books and each week he brought one to read to me. Suddenly he began to understand what "reading" meant. Ideas were conveyed and it was enjoyable to understand them. It didn't bother him that the basic books were written for children.

Ubaldo has graduated to the youth section and now is able to tell what a whole book is about. Recently, he started to learn to read in English. Knowing how to read in Spanish has given him a good head start and he knows the joy that reading can bring.

## Welcome to New Tutors and Learners



Geremias Tomas and  
Sr. Judith Benkert



Ubaldo Martinez and  
Sr. Carol Gross



Marisa Soto and  
Natánáel Perez Perez



Angel Salazar and  
George VanCoppennolle



Dawn McAdam and  
Xiomara Valdes



Omar Chavez, Tom Schrock,  
and Marcelino Ramirez



Kristy Warner and  
Viviana Maren



Lisbeth Vasquez and  
Suzette Schwab



Mary Weeber and  
Josue Salazar



Fabiola and family celebrate the graduation  
of her daughter Itaris from Adrian College.  
Nikole, Gerry, Itaris, Fabiola and Shahina

Celebrating  
the success  
of family!

Ana celebrates with  
her daughter, Ana, a  
graduate of Eastern  
Michigan University.





## We Thank You!!

**The Adrian Rea Literacy Center is 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 from December 1, 2022 through June 1, 2023. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone's name. Thank you for your understanding.**

### General Donations

Lawrence & Marilyn Angelo  
Frank & Brenda Baker  
Brazeway Believes  
Joan Chappa  
Laurie Church  
Doris DeNudt  
Bill & Shirley Ehnis  
Richard & Trish Fanning  
Gleaner Lives Gives 2023  
Barbara Gordon  
Anne Hackett  
Helen Kelley  
Kay Kutzley  
Sister Miriam Joseph Lekan, OP  
Sister Joanne McCauley, OP  
Michael & Julia McDonnell  
Douglas & Luann Nelson  
Michael Newman  
Natasha Nikolchuk  
Margaret Noe  
Margaret O'Malley  
John & Paula Pilarski  
Gary & Mary Poore  
Victoria Powell  
Mimi Rungeranoont  
Martin & Sharon Scott  
Dennis & Denise Shelle  
Lynn & Darlene Southward  
Patricia St George  
Vicki Schmucker  
Chris & Simone Sutton  
LT Sylvestre

### Donations given In Honor of:

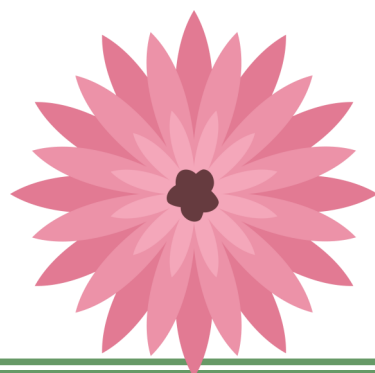
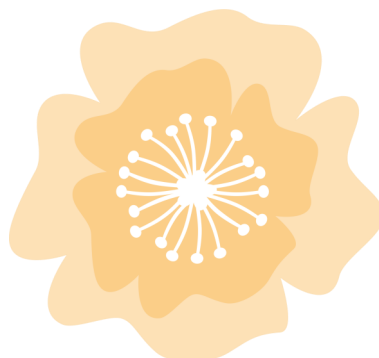
Adrian Dominican Sisters Council Members  
Sister Maria Odelia Romero, OP  
Sister Tarianne DeYonker, OP  
Sister Judith Benkert, OP  
Sister Dorothy Boom, OP  
Joan Chappa  
Sister Josephine Gaugier, OP  
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Sister Attracta Kelley, OP  
Sister Judith Benkert, OP  
Sister Arlene Kosmatka, OP  
Susan Jacobson  
Sister Miriam Joseph Lekan, OP  
Dolores Udofia  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP  
Anna Allison  
Scott & Maria Doman  
Jim & Connie O'Brien  
Rose Obrochta  
Sister Rosemary Finnegan, OP  
Sister Joanne McCauley, OP  
Donna DeFrancesco  
Jeanne Harvey  
John & Maria Horning  
Sister Lorraine Reaume, OP  
Sister Judith Benkert, OP  
Adrian Dominican Sister 2023 Jubilarians  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP

### Donations given In Memory of:

Cristine Wisseer Bennett  
Connie Aichele  
Eleanor P Crytzer Charney  
Johnny & Melissa Austin  
Esther Chappa  
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Richard & Mary Ellen Nagrocki  
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Joel Rodriguez  
Sister Marie Damian Schoenlein, OP  
Ivan & Linda Brand  
Sandra Gauzman  
David & Karen Schoenlein  
Larry Schoenlein  
John Solis  
Irene Garcia Solis

### Grants Received

Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Hill Family Fund  
Kiwanis Club of Adrian  
Lenawee Cares  
Maurice & Dorothy Stubnitz Foundation  
Sigmund Foundation



## Donors continued

### In Kind Donations: Time, Expertise, Snacks, Supplies, Equipment and Books

Yuliana Anzures  
Marisol Borrego  
Anita Clegg  
Tina Davis  
Maria Doman  
Sharronn & Dan Etter  
Ann Hackett  
Lisa Hart  
Garry and Colleen Hobbins  
Janice Kiger  
Ed Lee  
John MacNaughton  
Peg O'Flynn, OP  
José Luis Perez  
Victoria Powell  
Linda & Ron Radtke  
Seka Remsing  
Joel Rodriguez  
Daniel Seo  
Mary Thompson  
Dolores Udofia  
Silvia Uresti

### ARLC Wish List. . .

Items we can always use:

- Individually wrapped cookies or snacks.
- Wrapped hard candy
- Gently used children's books
- Index cards— 4x6

## Tutor Training Workshop

### September 9, 2023

Call for information  
517-264-7320

## My Little Story, by Rogaciano

In 2018 I decided to move to the state of Ohio looking for a job opportunity to work in a greenhouse. After working at Natural Fresh Farm as a general worker for two years, they gave me the opportunity to be a supervisor. This was something new for me. Many of the instructions and meetings are in English. Because I did not know English very well I decided to start studying how to read and speak English. Now I know a little more English. I like my job and now they just gave me a new job. I am assistant to the general manager. I am very happy with the change that has taken place in my life.

## Technology Changes the Way We Communicate



Whether we are sharing photos, directions, or looking up a translation, cellphones are one way to broaden understanding. If tu-

tors have any difficulty explaining a word to a learner, they can simply use a phone to look up a definition, translation, or an image and understanding is immediate. In the photo above, learner Andres shows Sr. Carleen and his tutor photos from his recent trip to Mexico. It was an opportunity for him to use English—his second language—to describe the people, places, and events of his trip. Many tutor/learner pairs keep in touch throughout the week with their phones as well as share videos and websites to enhance learning opportunities. The cellphone is just one technology tool that we use. Many pairings spend time working in our computer lab or on a Chromebook supplied through the literacy center from grants we have received.



## “Get your Bloom On” at the 2023. . .



### Three Learners' Stories:

Bob has the distinction of being our oldest learner at 76. He was born and raised in Adrian. He, his parents, and nine siblings lived in poverty. School was sporadic and Bob missed the basics of reading. When he was 13, he and his brothers and sisters were taken away by the state and put in foster homes. At 18, Bob joined the Navy. He married his wife Sharon in 1967 and they have two children. Bob worked at Ervin Foundry in Adrian for 42 years.

In 2019, Bob started looking for, in his words, “a place where I could learn how to read and write better. I started going to the Adrian Rea Literacy Center in August of 2019. I had also lost my hearing in my right ear due to an ear infection. I had to start wearing a hearing aid in my right ear to hear better. As I was learning at the center, my hearing aid got so bad that I could not hear the words. I heard about the cochlear implant. In April of 2021, I got approved for it and in September I had surgery at the U of M. I was totally deaf for 3 1/2 weeks before I could hear again. In 6 months, I went from 40% hearing to 80%. I thank God every day for giving me my hearing back. Now God has blessed me with the ability to read and write. I started reading a lot of books. I like to read so much that when I read a book or the Bible I can't put it down. Most of all, I want to thank my tutor Barbara and the Literacy Center for being there for me. Now I can preach the Gospel to my brothers and sisters.

Juana is 26 years old and from Zacatecas, Mexico. She has been in the United States almost four years, and came because she wanted to know what it was like. People in her town in Mexico talked about how beautiful it was to live in the United States, but when Juana arrived, she realized how hard it was to live here.

In her words, “They didn't talk about how hard it is to not be able to communicate because you do not speak the same language; they didn't talk about that we have to work hard to have a place to live and to have a plate of food; they didn't even talk about lonely days.

My cousin in Adrian told me about the Adrian Rea Literacy Center. I decided to come to this Center to learn English. My tutor Laurie and the Literacy Center helped me study to get my citizenship, use a computer, and to be a member of the library. I'm still working to improve my English skills.

I work in a factory as a line leader, and I think the things I am learning at the Literacy Center will help me get a promotion.

My next goal is to buy a house. I love going to the Center because I'm learning a lot. I feel so comfortable and I'm so lucky to be there.



Javier is from Oaxaca, Mexico. He came to the United States with two friends when he was 17 years old and lived in California, Florida, Georgia and Ohio. He came to Michigan because his brother was living here, and he started working at the Family Kitchen in Adrian as a busboy. He met “Elizabeth” – who was his boss for three months. Then he went to work at several farms, working with cows. Javier and Elizabeth started dating and got married in 2005. They have 3 sons – Javier, Fernando, and Ricardo. The family moved to Clayton four years ago.

In Javier's words, “My family likes that small town. Now I work for Hardy Farm. I breed cows, take care of sick cows, and run the robots that milk the cows. I like my job and I like working with cows.

I decided to learn English for my job and to speak with my sons. My friend Fabian told me about the literacy center and I started in 2020. Now I work with Darlene on speaking, reading and writing. Thanks to her I speak English better. I feel better going to a restaurant by myself, and I was able to take a job where no one spoke Spanish.



# Tutor Appreciation Dinner!



June 30, 2023

# Calendar Highlights

July	1 3-4 24-31	New term begins Closed for July 4 Closed for summer break
August	1-3 7	Closed for summer break Classes resume
September	4 9 20	Closed for Labor Day Tutor Workshop ARLC Board meeting
October		
November	15 22-23	ARLC Board meeting Closed for Thanksgiving
December/January	Dec. 21-January 2	Closed for Christmas Break
January	3	Classes resume

Beginning our sixteenth  
year of service!



Adrian Rea Literacy Center

1257 E. Siena Heights Dr.  
Adrian MI 49221-1793