



VOL. 19

# ADRIAN REA LITERACY CENTER

AdrianReaLiteracy.org | info@adrianrealiteracy.org

Winter  
2025

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine MacNaughton,  
President

Michael McFarland,  
Vice-President

Emma Brooks, Secretary

Kade Doyle, Treasurer

Bob Barringer

Janice Brown, OP

Rev. Alice Ford

Kate Hamilton

Carrie Hartley

Cassandra Hermosillo

Tim Kelly

Jake Single

Darlene Southward

Renee Villegas

## STAFF

Rhea Staniszewski,  
Executive Director

Vicki Schmucker,  
Technology Coordinator

Doris DeNudd,  
Administrative Assistant

Joanne McCauley, OP,  
Legacy Liason



## Dear Valued Supporter,

This year, we're celebrating a major milestone in our journey — and asking for your support to help us move forward stronger than ever.

For over 18 years, the Adrian Rea Literacy Center has been committed to helping adults improve their English literacy skills. Since 2007, when we first opened our doors, we have been blessed to operate under the sponsorship of the **Adrian Dominican Sisters**. In late 2024, the Sisters notified ARLC and the other 5 ADS-sponsored literacy centers that they were no longer able to provide sponsorship. The Sisters have graciously gifted ARLC an endowment that will offer financial support into the future.

In July 2025, the Adrian Rea Literacy Center officially became an **independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization** — an exciting step forward in our mission.

This past year, your support helped us:

- Provide free literacy instruction to over **75 adult learners**,
- Support learners from **diverse cultural backgrounds** in building skills and confidence, and
- Equip our tutors with the **training and resources** they need to make a lasting impact.

As we head into 2026, we're asking for your help. With our newly independent status comes greater financial need. **Your year-end, tax-deductible donation will ensure we can continue offering life-changing programs** to those who need them most — now as a fully independent nonprofit.

**Make your gift before December 31** to support adult literacy in our community. Thank you for believing in the power of adult education. Your support means more than ever this year, and we're grateful to have you with us in this new chapter.

Sincerely,

Rhea Staniszewski



DONATE

## *Our Next Chapter:* Continued from June 2025 Issue



**2014** – A significant flood in the building forced ARLC to temporarily relocate to nearby Madden Hall, where tutoring and operations continued without interruption.



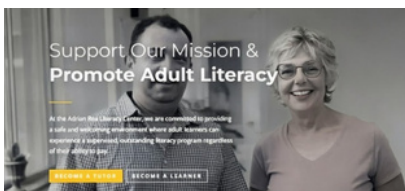
**2018** – ARLC expanded its programming to include digital literacy, incorporating more computer-based instruction and learner support into its tutoring model.



**2020** – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ARLC quickly transitioned to remote and hybrid tutoring formats, maintaining access to education during shutdowns. That same year, Sister Carleen Maly received the Amelia Earhart Award in recognition of more than a decade of dedicated leadership.



**2022** – Sister Kathleen McCann, ARLC's beloved volunteer librarian, retired in December and passed away in April 2023 at age 97, remembered for her years of warm and steadfast service.



**2024** – ARLC launched a fully redesigned website and began preparing for its transition beyond Dominican sponsorship, scheduled to conclude in 2025.

**2025** – Following Sister Carleen's injury in January, the Adrian Rea Literacy Center entered a period of leadership transition. In June, Rhea Staniszewski was officially named Director, ensuring continued momentum in the Center's mission of transformative literacy education and community partnership. Sister Fran Lombaer also retired from her longtime role assisting with attendance records. That same year marked another milestone: as of July, the Adrian Rea Literacy Center became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, continuing its commitment to providing literacy tutoring and ESL classes for adult learners.

## *In Gratitude to the Adrian Dominicans*

Founded in 2007 by the **Adrian Dominican Sisters**, the ARLC has long assisted adults in improving their literacy under the sponsorship of the Dominican Literacy Corporation. The Sisters have generously supported this ministry for 18 years, and although they are no longer the sponsor of ARLC, they have provided a significant endowment to sustain our mission into the future as an independent nonprofit.

"We have deep appreciation, respect, and gratitude for the extraordinary work our literacy centers have done over the past 30-plus years," said Elise D. García, Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. "It gives us great joy that the Adrian Rea Literacy Center will thrive into the future providing critical and needed adult learning services in Adrian and the surrounding areas."

*We are grateful to the Adrian Dominican Sisters for their past and continued support.*



## *Sr. Carleen Maly's Retirement Party*

### **Heart of the Literacy Center**

On September 14, 2025, we celebrated Sr. Carleen Maly's retirement from the Adrian Rea Literacy Center. Over 170 guests, many of them ARLC tutors and learners, came to celebrate Sr. Carleen's impact on our community. Sister Carleen was presented with a quilt featuring squares created by tutors and learners, an idea brought to life by tutor Trish Fanning.

A commemorative plaque honoring Sr. Carleen's service was added to the entryway of the literacy center. Sr. Carleen has been a part of the Adrian Rea Literacy Center since 2008 and served as the Director of the agency most of that time.

Sr. Carleen was recognized as the 'Heart of the Literacy Center,' and we are forever grateful for the gifts and expertise she shared with us and the community. Happy retirement, Sr. Carleen!



# Learner/Tutor Spotlight

RIGOBERTO AND STAN



**Stan** saw an ad in the newspaper requesting volunteer tutors for ARLC. His former career involved advising and educating adult learners, which he found rewarding, and he thought tutoring might be a good fit. Stan shared that the most rewarding part of volunteering has been “seeing students learn new language skills that allow them to do things they weren’t able to do before. It is very rewarding to know that I’ve played some part in their development.”

Stan was matched with his learner, **Rigoberto**, who heard about ARLC from coworkers who were already students. Rigoberto’s goal in coming to the Literacy Center was to learn the rules of English, communicate better in English, learn about the culture of the United States, and make friends.

Stan reports that “Rigoberto is extremely bright, curious, and displays a genuine joy of learning. Couple that with good effort and a good work ethic, and the result is a great student.”

When asked about Stan, Rigoberto shared, “I like working with Stan because he is an excellent tutor. He always looks for ways to teach me in such a way that I understand. What I like most is that the sessions are very dynamic and we talk a lot. I am grateful to Stan for his patience with me.”

LOLA AND KATHY



**Lola** learned about the ARLC from a co-worker. She decided to reach out so that she could have more opportunities in her life and work towards a goal of working at a hospital. Lola was matched with **Kathy**, who was an ESL tutor in Ann Arbor before moving to Tecumseh and becoming a tutor at ARLC.

Kathy says of Lola, “She is such a fast learner. Seeing her excel brings such joy. Lola is dedicated to learning how to read and write English. She always goes above and beyond what is required.”

Having a goal of becoming a nurse has motivated Lola to stay committed in her learning endeavors. Lola shares that Kathy is a wonderful person and teacher, and is always very patient.

**SINCE JULY 2025,  
ARLC HAS WELCOMED  
15 NEW LEARNERS  
IN TUTORING & ESL CLASSES!**

# APRIL 2026

Join us for an entertaining and inspiring evening where adults compete in a lively spelling bee to support literacy in our community. Whether you're a word whiz or just love a good time, this event promises laughter, learning, and local impact. *Date Coming Soon - Watch our website or follow us on social media for more information.*



Tenille Marowelli,  
Strategic Partnership  
Manager, Red Letter



*Thank you!*



GIVE.  
DREAM.  
HOPE.



A-DRAIN PLUMBING, LLC  
Commercial & Residential  
New Construction  
Remodels & Additions  
517-403-9188  
Damon Gutierrez, Master Plumber  
Damon and Carol Gutierrez,  
Owners, A-Drain Plumbing



Brandi Johns,  
Member Service Representative,  
TLC Credit Union



Joe Johns,  
Production Director,  
WLEN



## LEARNER VIDEO PROJECT

On October 7, ARLC welcomed individuals from eleven local businesses and agencies to record short videos. These videos were funded by a grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and created as learning aids for ESL learners. They will help learners practice their receptive (listening) language skills and will be available on our website. Thank you to the following individuals for helping with this project:

Damon and Carol Gutierrez, A-Drain Plumbing

Misti Free, Hungry Howie's of Adrian

Jenna Salazar, Visit Lenawee

Kade Doyle, Adrian Steel

Karri Tarsha, Karri's Cookies

Ronnie Giles, Align Center

Tenille Marowelli, Red Letter

Carrie Hartley, Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee

Katie O'Holtzke, Hope Community Center

Joe Johns, WLEN

Brandi Johns, TLC Credit Union and Adrian Morning Rotary.

## *In Memory of Jonathan Quinton*



The Adrian Rea Literacy Center remembers Jonathan Quinton, a dedicated board member since 2022.

Jonathan believed deeply in the power of education. His time with the Adrian Rea Literacy Center left a mark that will last well beyond his time with us.

### ***NEW VOLUNTEER TUTORS***

During the month of September, Adrian Rea Literacy Center trained 8 new volunteer tutors. Volunteers are the heart of our organization. They commit to weekly tutoring sessions with an adult learner and help that learner to meet their goals.

We are grateful to these newest tutors for joining our team and making a real impact in our community.



#### ***ARLC Wish List:***

Individually wrapped Cookies, Chips, Trail Mix, Granola Bars or other snacks — We use these snacks in our hospitality area to create connection and community!

#### ***In-Kind Contributions:***

Yuliana Anzures	Elaine Monahan
Linda Blohm	Paula Patteuw
Andres Briones	José Luis Pérez
Elizabeth Fomin	Victoria Powell
Barb Gordon	Joel Rodriguez
Kathy Graham	Catherine Royer
Carlos Galeana	Carolyn Schwartz
Annemarie Kallenbach	Youngsoo Seo
Janice Kiger	Darlene Southward
Kay Kutzley	Pat Sturk
Lenawee Great Start MSU Extension	Rigoberto Ulloa
	Silvia Uresti

#### ***Become a Volunteer Tutor!***

Adrian Rea Literacy Center is seeking volunteers to provide weekly one-on-one tutoring for adult learners.

In just two hours a week, you can help adults in our community strengthen their reading, writing, and English skills.

Tutoring sessions are scheduled Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., based on your availability.

To learn more or register:

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

✉ Email: [director@adrianrealiteracy.org](mailto:director@adrianrealiteracy.org)

☎ Call: 517-264-7320

**AdrianRealLiteracy.org | info@adrianrealiteracy.org**

**ADRIAN REA LITERACY CENTER**



## DONORS

The Adrian Rea Literacy Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing free one-to-one tutoring for adults. Our work depends entirely on grants and donations, and we're deeply grateful for the generous support that makes it possible.

The following donors supported the Center from July 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025. We apologize for any unintentional omissions and sincerely thank all who support our ongoing work.

### General Donations

Dan & Sharronn Etter  
Martha Fordon  
Judith Francoeur  
Roger & Lisa Hart  
Javier Martinez  
George Mass  
Ray Meza  
Douglas & Luann Nelson  
John & Paula Pilarski  
Maria Odelia Romero  
Will & Kay Schumacher  
Lynn & Darlene Southward

### In Honor Of

Sister Joanne McCauley, OP  
Donna DeFrancesco  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP  
Helen Kelley  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP  
Kay Kutzley  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP  
Edward Primeau  
Sister Carleen Maly, OP  
Joan Verheyden

### In Memory Of

Betty Burkemper Hartman  
Trudy McSorley  
Christine Bennett  
Connie Aichele  
Ruth McDiarmid  
Chuck & Maggie Maly  
Margaret Primeau  
Ruth McDiarmid  
Edward Primeau  
Felipa Rodriguez  
Joel Rodriguez

## GRANTS RECEIVED

- Berlin Family Fund, Greater Toledo Community Foundation
- The Knight Fund, Lenawee Community Foundation
- Adrian Noon Rotary



Thank you for supporting adult literacy in our community. Every gift—large or small—helps adults gain the reading, writing, and English skills that open doors to work, connection, & confidence.

To donate, visit [adrianrealiteracy.org/supporters](http://adrianrealiteracy.org/supporters)



DONATE

## WHAT YOUR DONATION DOES:

*EVERY CONTRIBUTION CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING*

- \$35 provides curriculum for one adult learner
- \$100 equips a new class of volunteer tutors with training and materials.
- \$500 sustains an 8-week ESL course that builds language and confidence.



# GIVE THE GIFT OF LITERACY