



Literacy Lite Newsletter

Summer 2013

Empowering Local Adults Since 1985

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HARNETT COUNTY LITERACY

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Each one, teach one

**Just a reminder...
The Harnett County Literacy Office will be closed on July 4th.**

We are proud that we have helped 115 students so far this year and 2 have earned their GED! Knowing there are thousands in our area who need help, we cannot slow down. You can help us in many ways to change adult lives: invest your time, connect us with businesses you know, and invest your dollars in the fight against illiteracy.

Greetings,

HCL's 2013 Scrabble Benefit was a wonderful fun night and an excellent fundraiser!! We raised \$3,400! We made enough money to pay our rent for the next year! I want to thank our board members, tutors, and students for their hard work getting sponsors, donations, and providing food. I appreciate all the hard work everyone put into the event! I thoroughly enjoyed the night, as did all who attended!

The agency is currently focusing on doing assessments on all of our students. Why do we have to do assessments? We have to identify the student's learning needs and help the tutor tailor instruction. Funders like to see money invested wisely, and assessments are one way of showing progress with our students. Lastly, our students gain a sense of accomplishment when progress is made and documented. If you have not received your student assessment or

completed your student assessment, please give me a call and we can arrange to complete the process.

Some people may ask "why" we do what we do. The why is simple and clear: because at HCL adult learners build their reading, math, language, and computer skills to change their lives for the better in real world ways that matter to them. Here are a few comments from some of our students:

"I am learning my alphabet and learning to read and write at the same time. Hope that I get to where I can read good so my husband has not so much to do for me."

"Like to learn more English. It is hard to learn and speak. Like my teacher and want to go on and learn more."

"If it was not for Ms. Sharon and Brooke I would not have learned what I know now. It has made me feel like I can learn anything I want to with a little help from people who care about others." (This student just received her GED!)

Sharon Syck, Executive Director

2013 SCRABBLE EVENT WINNERS

Advanced Winners

Champion
1st runner up
2nd runner up

Nancy Blackman
Edward Fubara
Leslie Scott

Amateur Winners

Champion
1st runner up
2nd runner up

Scott Daniel
Pamela Goodwin
Barbara Holmes





The next Board and Members meeting featuring Board member installation will be **Thursday, July 18 at 11:45am in Triangle South in Room 106.**

You can purchase lunch for \$8 or bring your own. Please call the office to request a lunch to purchase.

910-891-4111

Computer Lab

Computer literacy is a must in our modern world.

Supervised Lab hours are:

Mondays 3 to 5 PM

Thursdays 1 to 3 PM

We welcome the following new volunteers to our coveted volunteer team!

Kay Cook, Corine Kerns, Cherianne Black

Welcome aboard!!!!



VOLUNTEER TUTOR TIPS

Vocabulary is initially acquired naturally, by listening to oral language. Oral language is the foundation on which all future language skills, including reading and writing, are built.

Research has shown that native English ABE students with word recognition scores at the 5th grade level had no better oral vocabularies than the children at that same level. After a certain point, vocabulary growth depends on reading and this is difficult for adults with underdeveloped reading skills; therefore, adult learners need more direct, explicit vocabulary instruction to help redress the situation. The following points will help tutors master this approach.

Principles of Vocabulary Word Selection

Whenever possible, use authentic texts (material that is learner-centered, meaningful, and relevant to student needs and interests) as springboards for vocabulary instruction.

Vocabulary words don't have to actually appear in a text you are reading. They frequently will not because most beginner and low-intermediate texts do not contain challenging words. Many words will be inspired by the text, and will surface in discussions about the readings.

“Less is More” : Loading students with long lists of words to study or memorize each week is likely to yield superficial results. Choose between 2-10 words per week.

Select words that hold the possibility of multiple meaningful contexts.

Select words that, if not understood, would disrupt comprehension.

Select words that have multiple meaning in different contexts or as different parts of speech (i.e. novel as noun vs. novel as adjective).

Select words that can be the subject or source of a lesson on word analysis and word building (i.e. words to which affixes are commonly attached).

Refer to student's reading profile- as much as possible, select words which can be studied in both terms of phonetic/alphabetic principles and meanings.

Students who are non-native English speakers will have different vocabulary needs than a native speaker.

from ProLiteracy's "A Way with Words"

If you have any newsletter items to share, please contact the HCL office.

AGENCY FUNDRAISING NEWS

Grant Writing Report The committee has been busy writing grants to cover the costs of various components of the agency. We have recently received money from NC Community College Grant under the Workforce Investment Grant for our Basic Skills program for 2103-2014. We are pleased to be supported by the NCCC system as it validates our efforts to offer services for those who want to improve their quality of life. We have also submitted a grant to them for English Language/Citizenship and are awaiting the decision.

Fundraising Report Our annual **Scrabble Benefit** resulted in \$3400 for the agency. This will be very helpful in covering the costs not covered in the NC state grants. We also participated in the 301 Endless Yard Sale recently. The proceeds were \$270. We also sold some Cookbooks and candy bars. A HUGE thanks to those who volunteered time and items.

As always, we need everyone—tutors, students, and volunteers—to be active in our fundraisers in these critical economic times. Thanks for your support!