



The Literacy Alliance

Literacy News

A quarterly publication of the Literacy Alliance

2006 Issue 3

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Learning Center Student Succeeds

In January 2005, when the letter from the GED testing site at Ivy Tech arrived, Tyrus Stephens just couldn't open it. It was the fourth such letter he'd received in five years. The three previous letters informed him that he had not passed the GED exam. He couldn't stand to see that he'd failed it a fourth time.

A lifelong Fort Wayne resident, Tyrus, 26, began his preparation for the GED exam in August 1999. He took classes at Ivy Tech and soon found them a greater challenge than he'd expected. An instructor at Ivy Tech referred him to The Literacy Alliance.

He studied at the St. Hyacinth Learning Center, which was close to home. He appreciated the caring teachers and remarked how great the volunteers were "taking the time to help the students."

After failing the GED exam in April 2001, however, he was so discouraged he gave up and didn't return to St. Hyacinth.

For about a year, he was in and out of a lot of jobs. He realized he couldn't live without the diploma. His mother, Sharon, encouraged him to "get back in there and get it." She said, "I know you can do it."

The work still wasn't easy when he returned to St. Hyacinth. Teacher Nan Wilson suggested a private tutor, and



Through perseverance and hard work at St. Hyacinth Learning Center and with help from one-on-one tutor Marcella Burtch, Tyrus Stephens earned his GED. He is now working towards a business degree at Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio.

Tyrus was matched with Literacy Alliance tutor Marcella Burtch.

"She really helped me out," said Tyrus. "She stayed on me." She gave him confidence, "I know you can do it," and homework which he completed and turned in every Friday morning.

"I admire Tyrus's perseverance," said St. Hyacinth Site Coordinator Debbie Hetrick. "Preparing for the GED can be difficult. Many students don't just walk in and get it. For some, it requires a lot of time."

In December 2004, he took the GED exam a fourth time. When the fourth letter arrived, Sharon was there. She opened it and said, "Here it is."

He'd passed the exam and received his GED.

Currently, Tyrus is preparing for a business degree at Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio. He wants to open his own custom automobile shop.



At the Magnificent Embassy Theatre
125 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Sunday, September 24
2:00 p.m.

\$4 admission, 12 & under FREE
Tickets available at
The Embassy Box Office

Enjoy performances by Fort Wayne Children's Choir
& Fort Wayne School of Dance

All ticket sales benefit The Literacy Alliance.



The
Musson
Family



Fort Wayne
Children's Choir

CELEBRATE
DANCE
The Fort Wayne
School of Dance

Put your nose in a book!

On Saturday, September 23, join hundreds at the Hanna-Creighton campus for the 2nd Annual Rally to Read.

Tick-Tock Reads A-Lot (pictured) will be there, as will The Literacy Alliance, with Allen County Education Partnership, Allen County Public Library, CANI Head Start, Citilink, Fort Wayne Urban League, and other local organizations.

The purpose is to promote literacy. Enjoy free books, free lunch, storytelling, a cakewalk, and other family events.

The fun begins at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Hanna and Creighton Streets.



Announcements

The next set of tutor training workshops will be held 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. September 30 & October 7, 2006. The location's to be announced. For more information, call Kathleen at 426-7323.

The Literacy Alliance reports strong numbers for the 2005-2006 program year. Total instructional hours increased 10% over the 2004-2005 program year. Overall, 607 adult students attended Literacy Alliance programs.

September is literacy month. The Literacy Alliance will be celebrating with a Literacy Weekend. First, Rally to Read at HC will be September 23. The free event includes giveaways, lunch, entertainment, and activities. Second, The 2nd Annual Movie Event Fundraiser brings the hilarious classic Singin' in the Rain to The Embassy Theatre.

November 3 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Adult Education Act. "A momentous occasion in the history of adult literacy education," according to adult education consultant Tom Sticht, "passage of the AEA formed the partnership between federal and state governments creating the Adult Education and Literacy System of the United States." Millions nationally and tens of thousands locally have benefitted from the Adult Education and Literacy System.

United Way Kicks Off Fundraising Campaign

The United Way of Allen County kicked off its 2006-2007 fundraising campaign by announcing a fundraising goal of \$6.3 million.

The amount is \$150,000 more than what was raised during the 2005-2006 campaign. Campaigns in 2004-2005 and 2003-2004, respectively, raised \$6.3 million and \$6.6 million.

According to UWAC's Interim President and CEO Jerry Peterson, UWAC and its board decided to establish a realistic goal this year, not a stretch objective.

"It is our hope, of course, that our community, which has always been generous, will rally to top the goal," Peterson said. "The needs here -- including shelter, food and utility assistance -- continue to grow."

UWAC currently supports 80 programs and initiatives largely carried out by 37 agency partners, including The Literacy Alliance.

The theme of this year's fundraising campaign, which is being chaired by Irene Walters of IPFW, is "Invest in Our Future: Kids. Families. Community."

Board Chair John Rogers said this is a critical year for UWAC fundraising because economic conditions have elevated needs in the community.

"Everybody," he said, "who reads or hears this likely knows somebody who's used the services supported by United Way. We are only one or two steps from someone in need."

Comcast Gives to The Literacy Alliance

The Comcast Foundation has awarded for the third year \$20,000 to support the Anchor Learning Center.

The Anchor Learning Center helps adult students strengthen basic skills, improve workplace skills, and prepare for the GED exam.

"We are delighted to receive the Comcast Foundation Grant," said Executive Director Judith Stabelli. "Comcast's ongoing support for literacy has allowed us to help many young adults achieve their GED and pursue post-secondary and employment opportunities."

"Anchor Learning Center benefits the community," said Karen Limkemann who manages The Literacy Alliance adult instruction programs. "Many of the students by preparing for the GED exam are preparing to fully enter the workforce."

"Literacy is the fundamental element in work force quality," said John Crawford, Fort Wayne City Council President. "The City Council is thrilled and very appreciative of Comcast's contribution to helping The Literacy Alliance fulfill this mission."

"We are pleased with the efforts of The Literacy Alliance," said Mayor Graham Richard. "A special thank you to The Comcast Foundation for their commitment to learning. Lifelong learning assists us in our efforts to build a better city to retain and gain jobs and have the best quality of life possible."

Comcast has been a partner with The Literacy Alliance for years. Ongoing support includes sponsoring Report Card Night and the Annual Movie Event.

Since 1988, The Literacy Alliance has been dedicated to ending illiteracy in Allen County. Learning centers, literacy programs, and tutoring services empower adults to succeed at work, at home, and in the community.

This grant from The Comcast Foundation is in recognition of Comcast's commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work. Since its founding in 1999, The Comcast Foundation has distributed over \$30 million in support of programs implemented locally in Comcast communities.

Thanks to Individuals & Organizations for Their Generous Support



Scott's Helps TLA

Scott's Food & Pharmacy is now supporting The Literacy Alliance through its ABC's for Education Program.

ABC's for Education allows people to help The Literacy Alliance by doing what they do every week, going to the grocery store!

Here's how it works. Just save the ABC's portion of your Scott's receipts and mail them to The Literacy Alliance every month. They can be used to purchase books, computers, audio/visual materials, & Scott's Gift Cards.

For more information, contact Brian at 426-7323.

Individuals

C. Philip Andorfer
Marjorie Baumgartel
Frederick Beckman
Robert & Margaret Bliss
Ralph & Clara Bracht
Janice Burgette
Elizabeth & Isa Canavati
Phyllis Cass
May Rose Ceccanese
Arthur & Linda Chapman
John Crawford
B.A. Dildine
Jeffrey Halter
Dennis & Joan Headlee
James & Mary Hornak
Roderick & Marcia Howard
Linda Huger
John & Angele Judd
Sally Kemp
Michael & Helene Krafft
Virginia & Dale Lutz
Harry & Barbara Manges
Doris Mather
Laurabelle & Steven McCaffery
Michael & Mary Musson

Enid Rosenblatt
Carol Shedd
John Shoaff
Robert Stouffer
Laura & Ry Taliaferro
Mary Ann & Thomas Teetor
David & Peggy Trenkner
Jean & William Vrabel
Hildreth Williams
Robert & Jane Wuthrich
Larry & Diane Zent

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&
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It's so simple!

Present the card when paying your bill for any Hall's service at any Hall's location.

And Hall's will donate 5% of the bill to The Literacy Alliance.

Cards are available from Brian at The Literacy Alliance, 426-7323.

Choice.

Many people, even highly literate people, often have trouble understanding their healthcare coverage.

Keep it simple. Choose the best.



Ask your employer about PHP group healthcare insurance.

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Call Brian at
The Literacy Alliance
426-7323.



**Think
about
prison
costs**

Sponsor *Literacy News*, Support TLA

Here is a chance for your organization to support The Literacy Alliance. You can publish your logo and catch phrase along with other important information in the *Literacy News*. The *Literacy News* reaches 3,800 homes and businesses four times a year.

For more information, contact Brian at The Literacy Alliance, 260-426-7323.

More than 70% of adults housed in state prisons can barely read.

The cost to put someone through an adult literacy program is considerably less.

To Sponsor the Newsletter

	1 - 2 Issues	3 or More Issues
5.00" x 4"	\$300	\$240
3.25" x 5"	\$250	\$200
3.25" x 4"	\$200	\$160
3.25" x 3"	\$150	\$120
3.25" x 2"	\$100	\$80

From the Director's Desk

Fall is a time for new beginnings at The Literacy Alliance. Our phone starts to ring in mid-August as parents preparing to send their children off to school decide that it is time that they, too, go back to school. They have heard from friends and family members that Literacy Alliance programs offer tutoring and other supports to help them achieve their educational goals.

Fall is also a time of celebration. The first International Literacy Day was observed on September 8, 1967 and continues to be celebrated on September 8. On that day, individuals, organizations, and countries throughout the world renew their efforts to promote literacy and demonstrate their commitment to providing education for all.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 771 million people—one-fifth of world's adult population—do not know how to read or write. The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy found that 30 million adults in the U.S.—14 percent of the country's adult population—have only the most minimal ability to read and write in English. Locally, we see similar figures with one in seven Allen County adults lacking a high school diploma.

Late in September Allen County will celebrate a literacy weekend. We invite you to join us on Saturday, September 23, for a family fun day that highlights the importance of literacy. Rally to Read @ H-C (Hanna-Creighton Block), from 11 AM to 2 PM that day, features family-oriented, free activities from a scavenger hunt to a puppet show. On Sunday, the Literacy Alliance will present *Singin' in the Rain*, a Turner classic movie at The Embassy Theatre. Proceeds from ticket sales (\$4 per person) will support Literacy Alliance programs.

Fall is also time for another important campaign in Allen County. When you are contacted in your work place and asked to contribute to United Way, we urge you to do so. With its Investment Plan, United Way identifies and seeks to meet the most urgent needs in our community. United Way funds support Literacy Alliance Learning Centers and Family Literacy.

We thank all of you who responded to our recent mail solicitation. Your contributions enable more adults to achieve success in their leaning — to be able to follow Tyrus's path and fulfill their dreams.



Judith Stabelli, Executive Director



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The Literacy Alliance



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