



The Literacy Alliance

# Literacy News

A quarterly publication of the Literacy Alliance

2008 Issue 4

**Judith Stabelli**  
executive director  
[judith.stabelli@fwliteracyalliance.org](mailto:judith.stabelli@fwliteracyalliance.org)

**Brian Schlichtenmyer**  
editor  
[brian.schlichtenmyer@fwliteracyalliance.org](mailto:brian.schlichtenmyer@fwliteracyalliance.org)

709 Clay Street, Suite 100  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Phone: (260) 426-7323  
Fax: (260) 424-0371

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



*In the Fort Wayne Urban League's computer lab, a student uses KeyTrain. The Literacy Alliance began the 2008-2009 program year with two small group tutoring sites in partnership with the Allen County Public Library and the Urban League. They meet for two hours on Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m. at the Urban League and 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library.*

## Students See Progress at New Small Group Sites

One of The Literacy Alliance's newest programs is small group tutoring. Designed to enhance the one-on-one program, small group provides tutors and Internet connected computers to help students strengthen their basic skills.

Mike exemplifies the small group student. Though accomplished in many ways through life experience, he lacks a high school diploma. A hard working family man, he has a good job, but he has lost jobs because he lacks a diploma. He knows that his struggles with reading will keep him from earning a GED and from his ultimate desire to own his own business. His struggles with reading also keep him from reading to his grandchildren.

To improve his reading, Mike went to the library and gathered books to read. He didn't believe he was making enough progress, so he asked a librarian about tutoring services and was referred to The Literacy Alliance. When asked how the small group site has helped, he credits it with helping him learn to use the computer and brush up on reading, vocabulary, and math.

In partnership with the Fort Wayne Urban League and the Allen County Public Library, The Literacy Alliance began the 2008-2009 program year with two small group sites, meeting Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Urban League's computer lab at the Hanna-Creighton campus and Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library's computer instruction classroom.

At the morning site, coordinator Laura Taliaferro sees about six students and helps them with reading and math as well as life skills. One is preparing for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' test to secure a driver's license. Another is developing keyboarding, mouse, and Internet skills despite an aversion to computers. A third student is very good at computers and concentrates on her reading and math.

The routine at each two hour session is similar for both group sites, an hour of computer work using KeyTrain and other basic skills software and an hour of group work. The group work usually involves reading aloud. For example, at the evening site, students take turns reading aloud, allowing coordinator Sean Shryne to identify weaknesses in their pro-

New Small Group Sites, continued on page 2

## New Small Group Sites, continued from page 1

nunciation and speech patterns. Overall, group reading prompts discussion and lessons on grammar and vocabulary. In addition, Sean points out that students gain confidence when they read aloud. "They realize their reading skills are better than they thought."

Sean praises the students for their hard work and dedication, noting how eclectic the group is. What's really important, he says, is that the students discover they really can do it. They can work on computers and navigate the Internet. They can progress from one skill level to the next.

### **Small Group Tutoring Sites**

Fort Wayne Urban League                      9:00 a.m.  
2135 S. Hanna Street

ACPL - Main Library                              5:30 p.m.  
900 Library Plaza

Both sites meet on Tuesdays.



Executive Director Judith Stabelli receives a donation check from Matthew Kelley of Verizon Public Affairs, Policy and Communication. Verizon's donation will support The Literacy Alliance's small group tutoring sites. During the check presentation before students of the agency's small group site in the Main Library's computer instruction classroom, Matthew offered words of encouragement to the students.



Representative Mark Souder shares a book at Family Practice Residency Center on October 10. A longstanding supporter of Reach Out and Read, Representative Souder was reviewing the program at the Family Practice site. Reach Out and Read promotes early literacy through pediatric clinics. Family Practice is one of five pediatric clinics in Allen County that provide free children's books and guidance to parents and caregivers when they bring their children in for well-child checkups and immunizations. The Literacy Alliance administers Reach Out and Read through Read to Me.



Children greet the Berenstain Bears' Sister Bear at this year's Rally to Read on September 27. The annual event promotes literacy and draws hundreds who receive free books and free lunch. Participants were entertained by stories, activities, and performances. At the end of the event, names were drawn for four reading rooms. Each room was for a particular age group, child, youth, teen, adult, and all contained chair, lamp, rug, bookcase with books, computer, and computer desk. More than twenty local organizations collaborate to make the Rally to Read a success.

# Announcements

The next set of tutor training workshops will be held 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on January 24 and February 7 at the Main Branch of the Allen County Public Library. For more information, call Laura at The Literacy Alliance, 426-7323.

The Literacy Alliance continues to have intake sessions for its adult literacy programs. Morning and evening sessions are available. Each session lasts about two and a half hours. Adults interested in strengthening their basic skills or preparing for the GED exam must register for one of the sessions by calling The Literacy Alliance, 426-7323.

## Events

Senator Richard Lugar and ISTA Foundation for Improvement of Education are conducting a children's book drive through January 9, 2009. People with new or gently used books for infants through third grade level may bring them to Senator Lugar's office in Covington Plaza, 6384-A W. Jefferson Blvd. Books collected will be donated to Reach Out and Read and local schools in need.

The Fort Wayne Komets and Comcast are sponsoring Report Card Night again this year at the Memorial Coliseum. Students with an "A" or "A Equivalent" will be admitted FREE to the 2008 Turner Cup Champions' match against the Flint Generals at 8:00 p.m. on February 6, 2009. Eligible students should get their tickets early at the Coliseum box office.

Anthis Continuing Education and The Literacy Alliance will host the 2008 GED Graduation Reception and Commencement at the Scottish Rite Center on February 26, 2009. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Valencia Ballroom, attendees will enjoy light refreshments while congratulating the graduates, their friends, and family. At 6:45 p.m., all will go upstairs to the auditorium for the graduation ceremony. For more information about the event or about sponsoring the reception, call Brian at The Literacy Alliance, 426-7323.

## Welcome

The Literacy Alliance welcomes new volunteers Jack Benjamin, Lora Lee Kendall, Daniele Pence, Fontelle Powell, and Max Sharp. Aaron Rutt, an intern from Concordia Seminary, has been helping students at Anchor and Fellowship Learning Centers.

The agency also welcomes new board members David Hanley, Shequitta Kelly, and Mary Lehto.

## The Literacy Alliance Privacy Policy

The Literacy Alliance retains information on all donors. Donors include people who contribute to The Literacy Alliance through gifts or volunteer time.

The Literacy Alliance limits its use of donor personal information to the following:

- Periodic Literacy Alliance Mailings such as
  - o semi-annual fundraising letter
  - o quarterly newsletter distribution
  - o occasional volunteer recruiting for special events
  - o occasional informational mailing such as
    - special event invitations
    - nomination forms
- Publication of *names only* in recognition of contributions to The Literacy Alliance
- Aggregate reporting for audits and agency profiles

The Literacy Alliance does not:

- Share or sell donor information
- Use tracking software to grab personal information about visitors to The Literacy Alliance web site

By appointment, donors can review or change their own information. Appointments are available Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. To make an appointment, donors may contact The Literacy Alliance via

- Phone – 260-426-7323
- Online – [fwliteracyalliance.org/donor.html](http://fwliteracyalliance.org/donor.html)
- Letter – 709 Clay Street, Suite 100, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Donor information is entered into an Access database where it is stored on The Literacy Alliance's network server. Only The Literacy Alliance staff have access to the database through individual workstations. All workstations require usernames and passwords.

The information is not available through the Internet.

The Literacy Alliance policies define the limits of staff access and use of donor information.

In addition to this Privacy Policy, The Literacy Alliance Personnel Policy states:

*Prohibited uses of Literacy Alliance communication systems include, but are not limited to . . . Distributing Literacy Alliance sensitive, proprietary, confidential, or private information without appropriate authorization.*

Staff violations of these limits and prohibitions will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

# Thanks to Individuals & Organizations for Their Generous Support

## Individuals

C. Phillip Andorfer  
Marjorie Baumgartel  
Martha Beugnot  
Janice Burgette  
Kenneth & Stephanie Dunsire  
Linda Wight Harmon  
Martha Hatch  
Paul Haughan  
William & Marva Herx  
Noel Hupp  
Richard Merren, Jr.  
Paul & Rosemary Reszel  
Bonnie Rogers  
Sandra Lee Sukolsky  
Ann Wallace & Mark Troutman

Kelly Wickerham  
David & Bette Worley  
Diane & Larry Zent

## Corporations & Foundations

Foellinger Foundation  
Hall's Drive Ins  
JMS Properties  
Local 305 IBEW Building Corp  
Macy's  
Northern Indiana Neonatal Asso  
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters  
Prophet Sisters Foundation  
Sam's Club  
Verizon

# In Memory of Carolyn Foellinger

Gloria Bengé  
Lynn Berry  
William & Kathleen Bradshaw  
Lloyd & Donna Easterday  
Lisa & Marty Heller  
Edward & Susann Hiatt  
Patricia Igney  
Joan Luther

Lindsey Maksim  
Glenda Marsh  
Richard & Julia Miller  
Michael & Mary Musson  
D.M. & P.F. Overcash  
Susan Overcash  
Wendall & Kathryn Parks  
Sarah Vetter

# Thanks to Our Sponsors. . .

# . . .for Literacy News




**Working for Northern Indiana**

Many people, even highly literate people, often have trouble understanding their healthcare coverage. PHP makes it simple, and is dedicated to improving the lives of our neighbors and friends in Northern Indiana.



**PHP**  
The insurance your health deserves.



**Literacy News**  
A quarterly publication of the Literacy Alliance

## Interested in sponsoring Literacy News?

# Call Brian at The Literacy Alliance, 426-7323

# From the Director's Desk

Halfway through the 2008-2009 program year, The Literacy Alliance has made progress in improving service to adult students. In the last issue of *Literacy News*, you read about our new intake and fast track programs. In this issue, you read about our small group sites at the Fort Wayne Urban League and the Main Library. All of our new programs are designed to place students where their needs are best served.

In this first half of 2008-2009, our adult instruction programs, including learning centers, KeyTrain setups, one-on-one, and group tutoring, have served 327 students with 6,177 hours of instruction. The need for basic adult education and GED preparation persists and may grow as the economy continues to slow. The demand for our services may increase while funding decreases. With our mission in mind we are braced for the ramifications of the slowing economy.

The significance of the need can be seen in our intake numbers and the 2000 U.S. Census numbers. Of the 288 adults who attended our intake sessions from June through October, none had graduated from high school, and only 22% were fast track eligible. That means 78% needing our services arrive with skills at the eighth grade level or below. The 2000 U.S. Census indicated nearly 30,000 (14%) 25 years and older in Allen County did not graduate from high school.

At the mayor's Social Services Summit on December 5, attendees identified the lack of high school diploma as a primary barrier to achieving family stability. The Summit's steering committee identified thirteen tracts in the greater Fort Wayne area with the greatest need based on education and household factors. In ten of the tracts, the percentage of non high school graduates was greater than 14%, and in three it was greater than 20%.

Our awareness of this need keeps us going.



Judith Stabelli, Executive Director



709 Clay Street, Suite 100 • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

The Literacy Alliance



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Permit no. 124