



The Literacy Alliance

Media Release

June 10, 2005

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The Literacy Alliance Ready for Hispanic Population Boom

The Census Bureau's recent population estimate indicates a Hispanic population boom, currently representing about 1/7 of all people in the U.S. Attributed to immigration and birth rates greater than non-Hispanics, the boom calls for more education services for Hispanic and other immigrant families.

Working with CANI Head Start, East Wayne Street Center, and Fort Wayne Community Schools, The Literacy Alliance continues to serve just these families.

Two family literacy sites at Adams Elementary and Hanna-Creighton work with parents and children learning English as a new language. This year, 50 adults have attended the program along with their children. According to Executive Director Judy Stabelli, "Not only do we see parents growing in their English skills, we see their children rapidly gaining age-appropriate knowledge of the language."

Adams Elementary becomes an English as a Second Language (ESL) school this fall which will bring to the family literacy site more parents who have children in class at the school.

In light of the Hispanic population boom, ESL tutors are always in high demand. The Literacy Alliance trains and places volunteers in adult ESL classes at Fort Wayne Community Schools' Anthis Career Center and several church ESL sites, in addition to training and placing ESL volunteers in its own programs.

Non-native speaker, Freddie Diaz studies weekly with Literacy Alliance one-on-one tutor Barb Petroff. The gains he's made allow him to read newspapers and read to his children.

The Literacy Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending illiteracy in the community through adult education and family literacy programs.

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