



The Literacy Alliance

## Media Release

March 30, 2006

Contacts:

Judith Stabelli,  
Executive Director

Brian Schlichtenmyer  
Public Relations and Marketing Manager

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### **The Literacy Alliance Serves Allen County's Unemployed**

The unemployment rate is 49% for Literacy Alliance students this program year. Of the 353 adult students studying in learning centers, family literacy programs, and one-on-one with tutors, 49% are unemployed and 17% work part time.

According to the Department of Labor, the unemployment rate for people without a diploma is 8.5%, compared to 5% for high school graduates and 2.7% for college graduates. For those without diplomas who are employed, their average weekly incomes are \$479, compared to \$660 for high school graduates and \$1,243 for college graduates.

With changes at Dana and the imminent closing of Fort Wayne Development Center, the agency has seen students who expect to be unemployed soon. Despite their success working long term for their current employer, they are too young to retire.

Literacy Alliance Executive Director Judith Stabelli says, "We serve the un- and under-employed. For many, the GED is the first step to full entry into the work force."

Of those who attain the GED, many work towards a post-secondary education in pursuit of a career. Others are able to obtain full time work. Some advance in their current employment.

Last year, a record 65 Literacy Alliance students passed the GED exam.

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

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