



# Hivemind

## BUSY AS A BEE

This May marked the return of our Kentucky Derby Party with Hat-i-tude fundraiser. This year featured a larger crowd and even bigger hats (see pg. 2-3). Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all of our volunteers and sponsors for making the event an exciting evening of hats, hors d'oeuvres, and horsey hobnobbing. We were also able to gather with Communities in Schools staff and volunteers at their appreciation luncheon (see pg. 5). We are grateful to all of our volunteers who worked in schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

If you are looking for a one-time volunteer opportunity, Speedway Children's Charities, an RCLC supporter, is looking for volunteers during the Coca-Cola 600 (see pg. 5).

As always, the tutoring never stops! If you are looking to for a new activities to try with your student, check out BookSmart for free e-books (see pg. 5), or take some time during your ESL lessons to work on small talk (see pg. 6).

## MILESTONES

**Completed a workbook:** Nan Lund's student and one of Deb Chirico's students.

**Entered Employment:** One of Don Doering's students, one of Jenny Hubbard's students, and Jean Wurster's student

**Improved employment:** One of Don Doering's students.

**Read a book for pleasure:** Toni Teeter's student and Ethan Chirico's student.

**Enrolled in Community College:** One of Jennifer Welch's students and Jean Wurster's student.

**Obtained Library Card:** Marty Woods' student.



**Passed a section of the GED:** Jenny Hubbard's student, Latisha Smith, passed her Language Arts GED test and is moving on to the next!



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## A NIGHT TO SHOW OFF SOME “HAT-I-TUDE”



**Most Creative Hat:** Tracy McMillin and her bird of paradise hat.



**Most Stylish:** Mia Stockton was voted Most Stylish.



**Honorable mention:** Kim McAdams and her Kentucky Derby and literature inspired hat.



**Dream Team:** RCLC Board members Alyssa Redmond, Macon Stewart, Don Doering, Carol Lewis, Daniel Wallace, Davian Ellison, Allison Doby, and staff Laurel Harry and Samantha Jones.



**Winner, Winner:** RCLC board member Carol Lewis won the top prize: a grow your own mint julep kit!



Board members and party goes posing for a picture.



Board member Nan Lund looking snazzy in her roses.



Board member Carol Lewis and RCLC student Cesar Barranco.



Guests Kim McAdams, Jennifer Hudson and Kristen Hodges.



Board member Macon Stewart and friends.



Giddy up! Almost race time at the brewery!



New Sarum all dressed up for Derby day!



Guests Dolph Murphy and Austin Dickey.

Thanks again to our event sponsors:

**GOLD**

Wallace Realty  
Missie & Greg Alcorn

**SILVER**

David Post

**BRONZE**

KMD Construction \* Novant Health  
\* Leah and Shawn Campion \* Lexsa  
and Bryan Abramowski \* Donald P.  
Doering \* Allison and Mark Doby \*  
Daniel Wallace \* Heart of Salisbury  
\* Dr. Nan Lund \* Susan & Edward  
Norvell \* Ting Hao Chinese  
Restaurant \* Kevin & Laurel Harry



Guests Gwin Barr and Tracy McMillin.

# The Buzz

## CIS HOSTS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

On April 27, Communities in Schools Rowan (CIS) hosted their annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Livingstone College Event Center. Volunteers were recognized from each of the ten CIS supported schools. During the event, RCLC volunteer Amy Goodnight was named as a nominee for CIS Volunteer of the Year. Amy volunteers with the Gator Reading Club at Isenberg and at North Rowan Middle. We are so grateful to Amy and to all of our youth volunteers this year.

If you are interested in volunteering in schools next year, give our office a call! We would love to help you get started.

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## WORLD READER—BOOKSMART

Looking for new books to incorporate into your lessons, or hoping to direct your student to a new resource? Booksmart by World Reader is an online reader that offers E-books for children and adults seeking to improve their literacy skills. Booksmart offers books in English, Spanish, Ukrainian, and more.

Booksmart is available on a computer at [booksmart.worldreader.org](http://booksmart.worldreader.org) or on the BookSmart by Worldreader app on the Apple App Store or Google Play. There is no cost to use or download the app. If you make an account, the app will keep your place in your book, and you can download books to read offline.



*BookSmart by World Reader is available on Android and Apple devices.*

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*“Small talk is the biggest talk we do.”*

*—Susan RoAne*

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## LIBRARY HQ HOURS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 9:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Closed

## UPCOMING RPL HOLIDAYS/CLOSURES

May 27—29

Closed—Memorial Day Weekend

July 4

Closed—Independence Day

## TEACHING SMALL TALK FOR CITIZENSHIP AND LIFE

When a candidate for citizenship arrives at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office, their test begins the moment they walk in the door. While most people know about the civics portion of the naturalization test, there is also an English language component. During the interview, candidates must demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including the ability to read, write, and speak basic English.

A candidate's ability to speak and understand English is determined by the USCIS officer conducting their interview. Therefore, the interview begins once introductions are made. Although students are not required to be adept with small talk to pass the test, a lack of response could lead an examiner to believe that the applicant is not proficient enough in English to pass the test.

Even if your English as a Second Language student isn't studying for the citizenship test, explicitly teaching small talk can help your student better navigate situations they may encounter at work, at their child's school, at the doctor's office, or out and about.

Here are some small talk phrases that are good to cover with your ESL student:

- Greetings: "Good morning/afternoon." "How are you doing?" "How's it going?" "How was your weekend?"
- Compliments: "I like your (jewelry/shoes/handbag)."
- Weather: "What's the weather like (out there/outside)?" "Is it still (raining/snowing)?" "Is it getting (hot/windy) out there?"
- Transportation: "How did you get here?" "Did it take you long to get here?" "Did you have any trouble finding the office?" "Did you have any trouble with parking?" "Did you run into traffic?"
- Waiting Room/Companions: "Have you been waiting here long?" "What time did you get here?" "Is anyone here with you today?"
- Citizenship Related: "Why are you here today?" "Did you study for the citizenship test?" "Are you ready for your test/interview?" "Why do you want to be a citizen?"

Keep in mind that a lot of phrases mean the same thing, but can be said in different ways.

Navigating small talk is something that native English speakers do without much thought. By preparing our students to engage with small talk, we can help them make better first impressions and improve their confidence in their English skills.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPEEDWAY CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

Race season has kicked off at the Charlotte Motor Speedway! The Speedway Children's Charities is looking for volunteers to help out during the Coca-Cola 600. Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) of Charlotte provides funding for hundreds of nonprofit organizations (including RCLC) that meet the needs of children.

Volunteers are needed in two main areas: golf cart drivers and raffle ticket sellers. Golf cart drivers will assist fans around the track on golf carts. This is a fun and easy way to raise money for SCC through generous tips from race fans.

SCC will be hosting their first 50/50 raffle during the Coca-Cola 600 weekend. Volunteers are needed to walk around and sell tickets to fans on the concourse, fan zone, grandstands, and various high-trafficked locations.

Volunteers will be needed May 26, 27, and 28 for various shifts. If you would like more information or to sign up, please contact our office.



*Speedway Children's Charities is a 501 (c)(3) that supports many local non-profits (including RCLC!)*

**RCLC WHO'S WHO**

**2023 Board of Directors:**

- Don Doering-President
- Nan Lund-Vice-President
- Macon Stewart-Secretary
- Carol Lewis-Treasurer
- Scott Maddox
- Davian Ellison
- Allison Doby
- Bonnie Harrell
- Ana Avila Araniba
- Alissa Redmond
- Daniel Wallace

**Staff:**

- Laurel Harry-Executive Director
- Samantha Jones-Program Coordinator

**BY THE NUMBERS...**

**63%**

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, **63% of graduating seniors** cannot read at a 12th grade level.

**43**

Roughly **43 million** Americans ages 16 to 65 scored at or below the lowest levels on literacy.

**30**

**Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list.** Demand for our services continues to grow due to ever-increasing referrals. While we are flattered that our students continue to bring in their friends and neighbors, this means we must keep pace by adding new volunteers. Please contact the office if you or a friend can pitch in 1.5 hours a week to change a life!

**Rowan County Literacy Council**  
 201 W. Fisher St.  
 P.O. Box 95  
 Salisbury, NC 28145  
 Phone: 704-216-8266  
 E-mail: info@rcliteracy.org



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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- Mailing Address Line 3
- Mailing Address Line 4
- Mailing Address Line 5

