



Hivemind

BY A NOSE!

This May marked the return of our Kentucky Derby Party with Hat-i-tude fundraiser. This year featured a new location and some new prizes (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 2023-2024 school year.

If you are looking for ways to give in 2024, consider making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA (see pg. 4).

As always, the tutoring never stops! If you are looking to for a new readings and activities to try with your student, check out ReadWorks for free, printable reading passages (see pg. 5). Our waitlist is at an all-time high; if you have 90 minutes a week to work with a student, please contact our office!

MILESTONES

Passed a portion of the HiSET: Czarina So-bejana's student.

Completed a workbook: One of Deb Chirico's students, one of Jenny Hubbard's students, Don Doering's student, Chris Kepley's student, and Ed Tezla's student.

Entered Employment: One of Mathias de Comarmond's students.

Improved employment: Don Doering's student and one of Jenny Hubbard's students.

Read a book for pleasure: One of Deb Chirico's students.

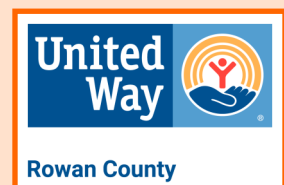


Became a U.S. Citizen: Laurel Harry's student, Luz Suarez, is now a U.S. Citizen! Congratulations, Luz!



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The Rowan County Literacy Council is a partner agency of the Rowan County United Way.

A NIGHT TO SHOW OFF SOME “HAT-I-TUDE”



Most Creative: Christy Lockhart (right) won Most Creative.



Most Stylish: Erica Robinson (right) was voted Most Stylish.



The hosts with the most: Lane and Jonathan Wallace opened up their home for this year’s event.



A Southern Smorgasbord: Catering for the event was provided by Kelly Hammill.



Winner, Winner: Nicky Black and RCLC board members Kaisha Brown and Vincia Benjamin Miller won the top prize!



Board member Vincia Benjamin Miller, tutor Deb Chirico, and Executive Director Laurel Harry.



Guests Meredith and Andy Abramson.



Tutor Lina Drinkard enjoying the event with her husband Steve.



Tutor Susan Carey showing off her bourbon prize.



This year's event featured a bourbon pull with guaranteed prizes.



Giddy up! Almost race time!



The Minnows featuring Parker Cox, Jonathan Wallace, and Charles Whaley provided live music.



Communities in Schools Director James Davis and Corressa Davis matching in red.

Thanks again to our event sponsors:

GOLD

Missie & Greg Alcorn

SILVER

David Post
Lillian Gascoigne
Duke Energy
Wallace Realty

BRONZE

Novant Health * F&M Bank
Catawba College * Ting Hao Chinese Restaurant * Beth Christian * Leah & Shawn Campion * Lexsa & Bryan Abramowski * Allison & Mark Doby * Donald P. Doering * Laurel & Kevin Harry * Dr. Nan Lund * Ellen & Scott Maddox * Susan & Edward Norvell * Daniel Wallace



Kevin Harry and volunteers Greg Shields and Ethan Chirico manning the tasting bar.

The Buzz

TAX FREE DONATIONS FROM YOUR IRA

Did you know that if you are at least 70.5 years old, you can donate up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year? If you have an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), you can set up a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) as an easy way to give to charity before the end of the year. And, if you are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution for the year.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization. Contact your IRA trustee to learn more.

NATIONAL BOOK FUND MATERIALS

The Rowan County Literacy Council has received a **2024 National Book Fund** grant which provides materials for our adult literacy and basic education programs. These materials, which are specifically designed for adult learners, enable us to provide a broad selection of materials for our diverse student needs.

The donated materials include high quality leveled workbooks and teacher's guides, picture dictionaries, GED study materials, short novels created with new readers in mind, and a variety of materials designed to help English Language Learners manage the ins and outs of learning a new language.



The National Book Fund from New Readers Press provides quality print materials to literacy and basic education programs.

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’.”

—Robin Williams

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 25–27

Closed—Memorial Day Weekend

July 4

Closed—Independence Day

TUTORS HONORED AT COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS LUNCHEON

The Communities in Schools (CIS) All in for Kids Awards was held on Wednesday, April 24 at St. Johns Lutheran Church. The luncheon was held to recognize CIS volunteers in Rowan-Salisbury Schools, several of whom are also volunteers with the Literacy Council.

The following volunteers were named Volunteer of the Year for their school:

- **Ethel Bamberg-Revis** was named the volunteer of the year for North Rowan Elementary School. Ethel has been a volunteer at NRES for several years and is also a dedicated tutor in our Adult Basic Education program.
- **Amy Goodnight** was named the volunteer of the year for North Rowan Middle School. Amy also volunteers at Isenberg Elementary School in the Gator Reading Club. Amy is frequently one of the top volunteers for Communities in Schools.
- **Celia Jarret** was named the Isenberg Elementary School volunteer of the year. Celia has volunteered with the Gator Reading Club since 2021. This year, Celia worked with two Gator Reading Club students.

This past year, CIS volunteers put in over 3,000 total volunteer hours. These volunteers include tutors, lunch buddies, field trip chaperones, and more.

A huge thank you to all of our youth volunteers this year! This year has been full of ups and downs and we are so grateful to all of our volunteers for rolling with the changes and promoting student success.

If you would like more information about volunteering in schools next year, please contact our office!



Gator Reading Club volunteers leading Isenberg Elementary students in a classroom activity.

READWORKS ONLINE READING TOPICS

Looking for a wider range of reading materials for your students? Then check out ReadWorks!

You'll find a treasure trove of reading material and corresponding comprehension activities. Although the website is geared to K-12 students, it has many readings that you can use with adult literacy students.

Many passages also include an audio of the passage that can be adjusted to different reading speeds.

You can search their collections by reading level, topic, or by type of text.

You can use ReadWorks' resources online and even assign readings and activities to individual students, or you can print your chosen resources as paper copies.

ReadWorks is free to use, but you must make an account. You can learn more about ReadWorks on their website: [readworks.org](https://www.readworks.org).

ReadWorks.org

ReadWorks offers free online reading passages at different reading levels.

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2024 Board of Directors:

- Allison Doby-President
- Daniel Wallace-Vice-President
- Macon Stewart-Secretary
- Carol Lewis-Treasurer
- Scott Maddox
- Davian Ellison
- Ana Avila Araniba
- Alissa Redmond
- Vincia Benjamin Miller
- Kaisha Brown
- Karen Puckett
- Teresa Ochoa Cofer

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.

50

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!

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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- Mailing Address Line 5

