



# Hivemind

## SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN

Although summer can be a time for rest and relaxation, it's also a good time to build literacy skills. This year we have seen a sharp increase in demand for tutoring. To meet this growing need, RCLC added a part-time tutor to our staff (pg. 2). In August, we celebrated our volunteers (pg. 3) and held our Annual Meeting to recap 2022 (pg. 5).

As we look to the fall, we look forward to resuming in-school Youth tutoring, and continuing to work with Communities in Schools (see pg. 4). If you are already volunteering in the schools, Secure Volunteer has a new app to give you easier access to your volunteer card (see pg. 4).

This fall also marks the return of the 20th Annual Scrabble Scramble. This year's event will feature a signature cocktail: the Scrabble Sling! Tickets are available now on our website.

## MILESTONES

**Completed a workbook:** Two of Jenny Hubbard's students, Jean Wurster's student, Taron Lilly's student, Debbie Scott's student, and two of Jennifer Welch's students.

**Entered Employment:** Marty Wood's student.

**Completed Work-Related Training:** Lina Drinkard's student.

**Read a book for pleasure:** Rosalind Hines' student.

**Enrolled in Community College:** One of Ruby Sturcey's students.

**Obtained Driver's License:** One of Jenny Hubbard's students.



*Passed a section of the GED: Jenny Hubbard's student, Latisha Smith, passed her Social Studies GED test and is working hard on the next step!*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Summer Fun .....	1
Milestones.....	1
New Addition.....	2
Tutor Appreciation .....	3
The Buzz.....	4
In Memoriam—Robert Myers ..	4
Youth Volunteers Needed.....	4
Annual Meeting Recap .....	5
By the Numbers .....	6

## RCLC ADDS PART-TIME TUTOR

Over the past year, the Rowan County Literacy Council has seen a sharp uptick in demand for our services. In 2022, 34 students registered for the first time for our adult programs. So far in 2023, 48 students have signed up for our adult programs, which translates to a 41% increase.

It's only August.

With this increase in demand, and an ever-expanding waitlist, RCLC decided to add a part-time tutor to our staff, and luckily, we already had a great candidate on our roster.

A graduate of Duke University, Mathias de Comarmond joined the Literacy Council as a volunteer tutor in 2021. Since then, he has worked diligently with his student to help her earn her GED and increase her English skills.

His hard work and dedication in helping his student succeed earned Mathias one of the "Rookie of the Year" awards for 2021.



*Back to the grind: Tutor Mathias de Comarmond and his student hard at work.*

Mathias' energy and creative lessons make him an excellent addition to the RCLC staff, and we are excited to have him as part of the team. If you spot him in the library, please stop and say hello.

*“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”*

*—Howard Zinn*

### 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

September 2 & 4	Closed—Labor Day
November 10	Closed—Veteran's Day
November 23 & 24	Closed— Thanksgiving

## TUTORS HONORED AT 2023 TUTOR APPRECIATION

During 2022, Rowan County Literacy Council tutors volunteered over 3,015 hours helping fellow Rowan County residents improve their literacy skills. On Monday, August 7, 2023, RCLC volunteers were honored at a celebratory event in Rowan Public Library's Stanback Auditorium to recognize their many achievements.

The Literacy Council presents plaques to tutors who log their first 100 hours and gives brass plates for each additional set of 100 hours worked. The following tutors were given plaques for having notched their first 100 hours: Ethel Bamberg-Revis, Linda Bartlett, Helen Kichefski, and Toni Teeter.

Other veteran tutors were honored for additional hours during 2022, as follows:

- 100 hours: Debbie Chirico, Thomas Long, Anne Saunders, and Ed Tezlaf.
- 200 hours: Don Doering, Susan Parker, Debbie Scott, and Jennifer Welch.

Each year, the Literacy Council recognizes a tutor who has shown exemplary dedication and spirit. For 2022, tutor Lina Drinkard received the "Rookie of the Year" award. Since joining the Literacy Council, Lina has been a dedicated tutor and mentor, inviting new tutors to come and observe her lessons and encouraging more individuals to become tutors.

Anne Saunders was the recipient of the Catherine Bernhardt Safrit Award for Extraordinary Volunteer Service for 2022. Since 2011, Anne has gone above and beyond the call of service. She has worked with both Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language students. Saunders is dedicated and tenacious in helping her students succeed. In her 12 years of service, she has volunteered over 1,500 hours with the Literacy Council.

Thank you to all of our tutors who volunteered in 2022. If you are a current tutor who was unable to make it to the event, please stop by the office to pick up your free RCLC bag!



**Starting Strong:** Tutor Lina Drinkard was named Rookie of the Year.



**Dedicated service:** Tutor Anne Saunders was the 2022 recipient of the Catherine Safrit Award.



**New additions:** Tutors Ed Tezlaf and Don Doering check out their new plates.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The 2023-2024 school year is underway and we are in need of volunteers to help build literacy in our schools.

Volunteers are needed at all Communities in Schools supported RSS sites including Isenberg Elementary, Hanford Dole Elementary, Overton Elementary, Hurley Elementary, North Rowan Elementary, North Rowan Middle, North Rowan High, and Southeast Middle.

Volunteers are particularly needed at Southeast Middle School, which is beginning a literacy program this year. Additionally, SE and NRMS are taking on additional students from Knox Middle.

Volunteers will need to undergo a one hour safety training and background check through Communities in Schools.

If you have one hour a week to help a child with reading, please contact our office. We'd love to help you get started!



*Southeast Middle School  
(1570 Peeler Road) is new to  
CIS and in need of volunteers!*

# The Buzz

## SECURE VOLUNTEER APP

Attention Youth volunteers! Secure Volunteer, the background check system used by Communities in Schools, now has an app. This app allows you to easily access and display your Secure Volunteer card for Rowan-Salisbury Schools. You can find the app on the Apple App Store or Google Play by searching "Secure Volunteer."

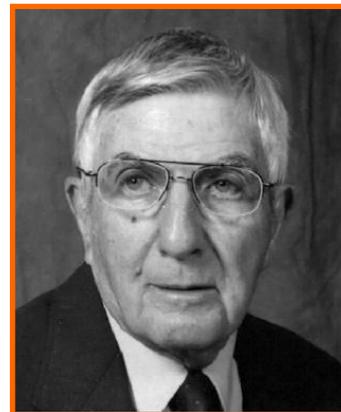


## IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT MYERS

Longtime friend of literacy, Reverend Robert Myers, passed away in July. Robert is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mrs. Carolyn Myers, who served as an RCLC Board member, tutor, and tutor trainer from 1985 until 2018.

While Robert is most known for his volunteer work at the NC Transportation Museum and Trinity Oaks, he was also a regular volunteer for RCLC events. Robert logged in over 120 volunteer hours, and volunteered at every Scrabble Scramble fundraiser from its beginning in 2003 until 2016. Robert also participated in other RCLC events, often providing an opening invocation for the Tutor Appreciation dinner and other meetings.

We are thankful to Robert for his years of service in the community, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his friends and family.



## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This year's annual meeting was held in conjunction with our Tutor Appreciation luncheon.

During 2022, the Rowan County Literacy Council served 16 Adult Basic Education students, 63 adult English as a Second Language students, and 84 Youth Literacy students.

When students enroll in our adult programs, they take a test using the CASAS testing system. After 50 hours of instruction, they are reassessed. In 2022, our adult students increased an average of 4.8 points and 66% of re-assessed adult students increased their abilities by 1 or more grade levels.

2022 also saw the addition of the Spanglish Conversations class at Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center. Spanglish gives adults interested in learning English or Spanish the opportunity to engage in conversations with native speakers.

In the 2021-2022 school year, 86% of elementary students in our Youth program gained 2 or more reading levels, with the average gain being 4.5 reading levels.

Additionally, through a generous Youth Literacy materials grant from the Dollar General Foundation, we were able to provide 50 students with bookcases and vouchers to build their home libraries.

Overall, our dedicated tutors volunteered over 3,015 hours during 2022, equivalent to \$95,893 of in-kind support. Our work would not be possible without the ongoing support of our tutors, donors, funders, and community partners. Thank you for helping make 2022 a success.



Executive Director **Laurel Harry** presents the 2022 Year in Review.

## ONLINE LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH NC LIVE

Are you looking for more practice for your ESL student, or trying to learn a new language yourself? Then check out Transparent Language Online through NC Live.

Transparent Language Online offers language learning anytime, anywhere with a customizable learning path. Over 110 languages are available including English, Spanish, Icelandic, Arabic, and Cherokee.

Transparent Language Online can be accessed through a computer, tablet, or on their app for Apple and Android phones.

There is no cost to use the program; all you need is a library card. To sign up, head to [www.nclive.org/transparentlanguage](http://www.nclive.org/transparentlanguage). You will need your library card number and PIN to make an account.



*Transparent Language Online offers language learning anytime for over 110 languages!*

**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...**

**13.1%**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **13.1% of Rowan County residents** over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma.

**3015**

RCLC tutors volunteered over **3,015 hours** in 2022., equivalent to **\$95,893** of in-kind support.

**9.2%**

**9.2% of Rowan County residents** speak a language other than English at home.

**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

- Mailing Address Line 1
- Mailing Address Line 2
- Mailing Address Line 3
- Mailing Address Line 4
- Mailing Address Line 5

