



Hivemind

TAKING FLIGHT

Our job as tutors is to help our students achieve their goals. Sometimes the student’s goal is broad—to feel more comfortable reading or to improve comprehension; other times the goal is very specific—to get a driver’s license, pass the GED, or become a citizen. We are happy to report that several students have recently achieved major milestones with the help of the Rowan County Literacy Council. Sometimes when students achieve their primary goal, it means they no longer need to come to classes. It’s never easy to let our students go, but when they leave us to **take flight**, it’s always a beautiful sight to behold.

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: One of Jennifer Welch’s students, one of Ray Costello’s students, one of Dan Durett’s students, one of Vance Meek’s students, two of Don Doering’s students, Doug McKenzie’s student, Catherine Soderberg’s student, Rita Sims’ student.

Became a U.S. Citizen: See pages 2-3!

Voted in an election: Vance Meek’s student

Entered employment: One of Don Doering’s students

Passed a portion of the GED: Carolyn Brown’s student

Passed full GED: Laurel Harry, Liesa Montag-Siegel and Joel Scott’s ESL student, Juana Garcia Cruz recently passed the fourth and final section of the GED. Juana has been working steadily to achieve this goal for the past few years. It is a notable achievement for anyone to pass the rigorous high-school equivalency exam; passing in a second language is even more noteworthy. Juana has been laser-focused on her goal, attending twice-weekly sessions at RCLC and also faithfully attending RCCC’s program for diploma-seekers. Juana wishes to own a business one day,...we wish her the best!



Ta da! Brand new high-school graduate Juana Garcia Cruz (center) with tutors Laurel Harry (left) and Liesa Montag-Siegel (right).



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OH SAY CAN YOU SEE... RCLC'S FOUR NEWEST CITIZENS!

Can you name the authors of the Federalist Papers? Do you know how many amendments there are in total to the U.S. Constitution? Many U.S. citizens would struggle to answer these questions along with the other 98 other civics and history questions that form part of the USCIS Naturalization Test. To become a citizen, applicants must master these 100 questions and also read, write and converse in English. Not an easy task!

The Rowan County Literacy Council has recently helped four hard-working students pass the Naturalization test. **Mei Xue “Macy” Dong** of China, **Ounheuan “Johnny” Phakasoum** of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, **Faby Amezquita** of Mexico, and **Eunice Gladey** of Liberia have all passed the interview and exam since Thanksgiving. Macy and Johnny are business owner-operators and Faby works in the nursing field while simultaneously attending Rowan Cabarrus Community College. Eunice is employed at Freshhouse and Catawba College. All four put in long hours after work learning the history of the United States, and mastering devilishly tricky words like “Eisenhower,” “Star-Spangled,” and the dreaded “Mississippi.”

Tutors Don Doering, Joel Scott, Liesa Montag-Siegel, Laurel Harry, and Char Molrine worked diligently to prepare the students on every detail and cheered them on as they found success. “Getting the call from a student who is laughing and crying because they just passed their exam is a great feeling. It’s an honor to

Continued on next page.



Faby Amezquita (above) and Ounhueane Phakasoum (below) and took the oath of citizenship in January 2019.



CITIZENSHIP... CONTINUED

share that joy and be part of something so meaningful.”

Please join us in congratulating four of Rowan County’s newest U.S. citizens and wishing them the best as they join the great big melting pot that is the United States of America.

**Gentle reader, In the unlikely (cough, cough) event that you need a Civics refresher, answers to the questions above are as follows:*

The Federalist Papers were written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, who wrote under the pen name “Publius.”

There are 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Tutors Liesa Montag-Siegel and Joel Scott accompany student Mei Xue “Macy” Dong (center) to her Oath Ceremony. Not pictured: Eunice Gladey whose oath ceremony will be in held soon. Stay tuned!



*“The land flourished because it was fed from so many sources—because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and peoples.”
~ Lyndon B. Johnson*

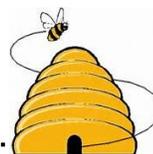
LIBRARY HOURS

Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
HQ	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 - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed
East	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 8:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Closed
South	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 - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

April 19 & 20	Library Closed, Good Friday Holiday
May 25 & 27	Library Closed, Memorial Day Holiday

The Buzz



WELCOME TO THE HIVE!

Several new tutors have come on board in recent months. Evelyn Uddin-Khan is a recent transplant to Salisbury from Long Island, NY where she was a college professor. She is working with both adult and elementary students. Diane Labovitz is a retired RN who is working with an ABE student. Linda Bartlett is a retired middle school teacher who is working with an ESL student. Tammy Fisher is recently retired from a career in the chemical and medical fields who is working with an ESL student. Whitney Peckman is a local artist and community leader

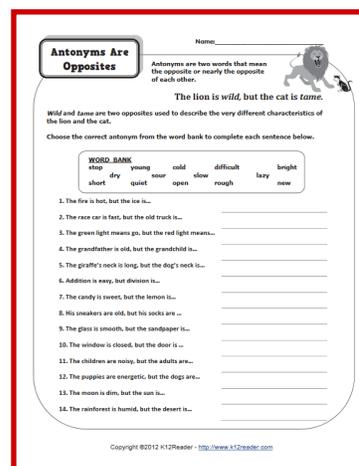
who is volunteering with 3rd graders at the Essie Mae Kiser Foxx School in East Spencer. Lastly, Gary Connor rejoins the Literacy Council after having retired from a career in adult education. Gary is working with a group of three beginner ESL students when he is not out playing golf. Please welcome them all to the hive!



New tutors: (top row) Evelyn Uddin-Khan, (second row, left to right) Linda Bartlett, Diane Labovitz, Gary Connor, and Tammy Fisher

NEW RESOURCES

If you are looking for worksheets to flesh out your lesson plans, the website k12reader.com has many excellent options for different level readers. The worksheets are categorized under Spelling, Reading Skills, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Composition. Under each of these headings, there are sub-categories that drill down into specialized skills such as Main Idea, Context Clues, Synonyms, Homophones, etc. All of the resources are searchable by topic or grade level, making it easy to find materials for any level student. These worksheets are great for both ABE and ESL students, and also make great “quick” homework assignments. Take a look! If you are interested in using any of the worksheets on the site, we can print them in the office for you.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM HUMBLE BRAG

Sometimes we've just got to hand it to...us! Our tutors have been working with elementary students at three local public schools since the beginning of the school year. Tutors work with students who were identified through testing as being below grade-level in one or more literacy metrics. The tutors have been plugging away week by week, building up student strength, interest, and confidence.



And now the results are starting to come in.

At one of our Elementary Literacy sites, **every single child in our program** went from reading below grade level to being proficient, as shown by their middle-of-year test scores. Students tutored by volunteers from other programs did not attain the same level of success. Our tutors

have also reported huge turn-arounds in attitude and excitement about reading. Students who started off disinterested, now see themselves as readers and are asking for books on specific topics and looking forward to their sessions.

In January we asked to expand to a fourth elementary school, and several more tutors quickly took up the gauntlet.

Let's give a round of applause to our amazing elementary school

volunteers Lisa Shores, Deb Chirico, Gary Rash, Dan Durett, Debbie Scott, Kathy Vestal, Ed Tezlaf, Liz Harry, Nan Lund, Whitney Peckman, Evelyn Uddin-Khan, Irene Stewart, Helen Peacock, Linda Bartlett, and KC Scott. Their dedication, creativity, and enthusiasm are making a measurable difference in students' lives.

PERSISTENCE: MAKING LEARNING A PRIORITY

Maria Carapia works full-time at a physically demanding job but still finds time to attend all of her ESL classes with veteran tutor Jennifer Welch. Maria and her daughter Adriana attend class together; both are motivated by a desire to improve their English and study for their upcoming citizenship interviews. Studiousness seems to run in



All in the family: Maria Carapia is one of three family members who attend classes at RCLC.

the family; Maria's other daughter Faby is also an RCLC student whose hard work has recently paid off (see page 2). Maria was the Attendance winner for October, and Heriberto Salazar was the winner for November. Heriberto has been working with tutor Don Doering for several months and is making great strides. Heriberto works two jobs but seldom misses a class. Good work Maria, Jennifer, Heriberto, and Don!

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2017 Board of Directors:

Melody Moxley-President

Helen Peacock-Vice-President

Vance Meek-Treasurer

Carolyn Myers

Don Doering

Nan Lund

Scott Maddox

Gary Rash

Wen Ye

Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative

Staff:

KC Scott-Executive Director

Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

4x

A student who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade is **four times less likely to graduate by age 19** than a child who does read proficiently by that time.

—Source: Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation , by sociology professor Donald J. Hernandez

12%

Only 12% of adults have the health literacy skills required to manage and prevent disease. People with low literacy are also more likely to make emergency room visits (many of them unnecessary), have more hospital stays, and have higher mortality rates, and are less likely to be compliant with treatment plans.

—Source: National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)

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Number of students currently on RCLC's waiting list.

We have whittled down the waiting list from fourteen to six! A big thank you to our newest tutors for taking on one or more students and getting students off the list and into the classroom.

Rowan County Literacy Council

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EACH ONE TEACH ONE

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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