



Hivemind

A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING

Although 2023 has started on a rainy and cold start, we are very excited about what this new year will bring. Students at North Rowan High School have started a new semester, and tutors are needed for struggling students (pg. 2). We are incredibly grateful for an influx of new volunteers as well; there have been TEN new additions to the team since last issue and they have hit the ground running (pg. 3). Looking for a new way to incorporate current events into your lessons? Then check out *News For You*, which offers news articles designed for adult literacy students (pg. 4). 2023 also brings in changes to our Board of Directors (pg. 5). As the weather warms up and spring comes to town, be on the lookout for information about our upcoming Kentucky Derby fundraiser on Saturday, May 6. Details coming soon.



MILESTONES

Applied for Citizenship: One of Melissa Graham's students.

Completed a workbook: One of Don Doering's students and one of Jennifer Hubbard's students.

Entered Employment: John Cave's student.

Finished a book: One of Laurel Harry's students, Debbie Scott's student and one of Samantha Jones' students.

Graduated High School: One of Laurel Harry's students.

Increased Writing Skills: Ethel Bamberg-Revis' student.



Earned certification: Former RCLC employee **Miguel Bustos** earned his EMT certification this past January. Miguel left RCLC this past November and we wish him the best in all his endeavors!

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CAVS AFTER HOURS RETURNS

Cavs After Hours, the afterschool tutoring program at North Rowan High School, has kicked into gear for the Spring semester.

Tutors are needed to work with students in the following core subjects: American History, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, English, Civics, Math, and World History.

Tutoring primarily takes place during Cavs After Hours, which runs Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 4:00pm until 5:30pm.

Tutoring may also take place during the school day, depending on a student’s availability and need.

If you have an hour or two per week to help a struggling student and keep them on track for graduation, please contact our office. All volunteers will need to be a certified volunteer through Communities in Schools.



Students at North Rowan High School are ready to take on the semester!

“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”

—Angela Davis

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

April 7 & 8

Closed—Good Friday

May 29

Closed—Memorial Day

AND THEY'RE OFF! NEW TUTORS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

We are so excited to welcome TEN new tutors to RCLC's ranks!

John Cave is a retired physician who joined RCLC in November. John was first introduced to RCLC through the Spanglish Conversations Class at Rufty-Holmes, and now he is working with his own English as a Second Language student.

Angely Castro is a Rowan County native who joined RCLC in November. Angely is currently working with an ESL student.

Melissa Smith works in healthcare administration. Having recently completed her Bachelor's degree, Melissa remembers clearly what it is like to be a student. Melissa is now working with a GED student.

Matt Barr joined RCLC in December. He is a recently retired local businessman and started this month working with a student at North Rowan High School.

Taron Lilly is a native of Rowan County who has returned home after finishing her undergraduate degree. In college, Taron volunteered with Glen Haven, an organization that provided tutoring and mentoring to the families and children of recently arrived immigrants. Taron will be using this experience to work with a student at North Rowan High School.



*Getting Started: New tutor **Ethan Chirico** and his student working on vocabulary.*

Lina Drinkard is a local activist with a background in teaching and education. Lina began working with her ESL student this past January and has launched herself into this role, inviting other new tutors to come and observe her classes.



*All smiles: New tutor **Lina Drinkard** meets with her student.*

Ethan Chirico is a firefighter for the City of Salisbury who joined RCLC in January. He is currently working with an ESL student.

Jean Wurster also joined RCLC in January. Jean is a former teacher and librarian, and is the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Salisbury Symphony. Jean has a passion for music, which she shares with her ESL student.

Carli Ashcraft is a recent arrival to Rowan County from Charlotte. Carli comes to RCLC with prior experience tutoring kids with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and as an English tutor to children in Spain.

Elizabeth "Marty" Woods is a retired physical therapist who is venturing into teaching English. She will be working with an ESL student.

A huge thank you to our new volunteers for joining the team.

Even with these new volunteers, our waitlist is at an all time high. If you or someone you know has 90 minutes a week to change a life, give our office a call today!

**NEWS FOR YOU:
EASY TO READ NEWS
STORIES**

Looking for a way to incorporate news stories into your lessons?

New Readers Press offers *News For You*, a weekly, online news platform designed for adult literacy students.

News For You articles are written in a more accessible way for adults learning how to read or building their English skills. Most articles are about current events or topics, but there are also human interest stories about the arts and sports.

New articles are added each week with teacher's guides, activities, and puzzles.

News articles are a great way to incorporate your student's life and interests into your lessons. If you would like more information on how to access or use this online resource, please contact our office.



News For You offers news stories written for adult literacy students.

The Buzz

IN MEMORIAM: DOROTHY "DOT" HURLEY

Previous Tutor and Board Member Dorothy "Dot" Hurley passed away in November. Dot was a staunch supporter of RCLC, and the second ever winner of the Catherine Safrit award in 1996. A lifelong educator, Mrs. Hurley taught in public schools for 32 years and continued her passion for education by volunteering with the Literacy Council. Dot joined the Literacy Council as a tutor in 1991. By 1994, she was serving as a tutor trainer and board member.



Dot was an advocate for literacy in the community and wrote News for Adult New Readers in the *Salisbury Post*. In her 25 years of service, Dot logged around 2,602 tutoring hours and countless other volunteer hours.

We appreciate her support over the years and extend our condolences to her friends and family.



UNITED WAY

This December, the Rowan County Literacy Council was named a Community Investment Partner for the United Way of Rowan County. Under the new Community Impact Model, we will receive funding from the United Way for the next two years. We are very excited and grateful for this opportunity and community support.



Rowan County

BOARD MEMBERS CYCLE OFF

The Rowan County Literacy Council would like to welcome Carol Lewis, Daniel Wallace, and Alyssa Redmond to our board of directors.

Carol Lewis is the office manager and customer relationship manager for the Rowan Chamber of Commerce. She has experience working with the city of Salisbury and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. She has a master of business administration and a bachelor of science in management degree from National-Louis University in Chicago. Carol will serve as the new RCLC board treasurer. We are grateful for the experience she will bring in this role.

Daniel Wallace is an attorney at Wallace and Graham. He earned his undergraduate degree from NC State University and his juris doctorate from the Charlotte School of Law. We are excited to have his expertise in this role.

Alissa Redmond is the owner of South Main Book Company. She previously served in the U.S. Department of State and the City of New Orleans' Mayor's Office for Health and Policy. Alissa is a strong force in the community and we are excited to have her passion and energy in our corner.

Leaving the RCLC board are **KC Scott, Al Heggins, and Kelly Freeze**. We thank them for their dedication to RCLC, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.



*New RCLC board members from top to bottom: **Carol Lewis, Daniel Wallace, and Alissa Redmond***

A NEW PASSION IGNITES

When working with a student, one of the most rewarding things is witnessing that “lightbulb” moment.

While the vast majority of RCLC Youth Literacy program takes place in Rowan-Salisbury Schools through our partnership with Communities in Schools, some tutors meet with Youth students over Zoom or in-person at the library.

Recently, one of these Youth Literacy students has made enormous strides in her reading levels; jumping the equivalent of 8 reading levels in just three months.

“I could see “it” as it was happening,” said tutor Jennifer Welch.

Not only has this student made academic strides, but she is learning to enjoy reading.

This was confirmed during tutoring one day, when the student looked at Jennifer and said, “You know, I really love reading.”



Building literacy can create life-long change.

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...

83

There are currently **83 active pairs** across Adult and Youth programs.

23%

23% of adults in Rowan County lack basic literacy skills. –*NCES Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)*

28

There are 28 students on the waiting list. If you would like to volunteer with us for 2023, please give our office a call.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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