



Hivemind

2020: CTRL + ALT + DELETE

As years go, 2020 has been a lemon, a stink-bomb, and a colossal bummer. Most of us would love to hit Ctrl+Alt+Del and start all over, returning to that carefree time before bumping elbows became a standard greeting. But like it or not, we are stuck with a few more weeks of 2020. As year end approaches, the Literacy Council continues to adapt to change and prepare for new challenges. The Library reopened in October and once again tutors and students were able to come in to pick up materials, meet for tutoring sessions or just say a long-overdue hello. Most tutors are still meeting over Zoom, and plan to continue doing so for the foreseeable future. We have all heard about the profound disruptions that COVID-19 has provoked in the field of education. These disruptions led to the creation of a new Youth Program partnership with North Rowan High School. Our tutors responded in heroic fashion to a call for help students complete required coursework to keep them on track toward graduation (more on p. 5). 2020 has also seen the loss of several key figures in the RCLC universe (see p. 3-4). For all the hardship, we are happy to report our hive is still sound and humming. We look forward to 2021 with optimism.

MILESTONES

Completed workbook level: Doug McKenzie's student, one of Char Molrine's students.

Got a Promotion: Don Doering's former student.

Enrolled in Online Course: Jenny Hubbard's student.

Voted for the first time: Char Molrine's former student, Liesa Montag Siegel's former student, Joel Scott's former student.

Filed for Naturalization: Joel Scott's student



RCLC's bookish friend "Wordsworth" was on display at the North Carolina Transportation Museum's Scarecrow Stroll during the month of October.



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NEW TUTORS GALORE

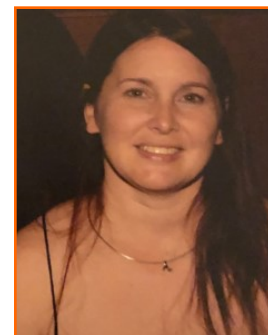
The COVID-19 pandemic has provoked a great deal of stress and worry, but it has also provoked a great deal of compassion and altruism. In no way has this been more evident than in the numbers of new volunteers who have decided to extend a hand to others during a time of crisis.

We added new tutors in our Adult Literacy Program as well as in our Youth Literacy program. In the adult program, new volunteers Madeline Wagoner, Kimberly Barrera-Gutierrez, Amber Haas, Terri Carnes, and Richard Paschall have come on board. Kimberly and Madeline are college students at Pfeiffer University and NC State, respectively. Amber works for Rowan County government by day and tutors her student in the evening. Terri grew up in Latin America and is putting her Spanish language abilities to use tutoring a beginning ESL student. Richard is helping a student master math concepts in preparation for taking the GED.

We also have six new tutors who have pitched in to lend a hand with the North Rowan High School “Cavs After Hours” program: Bob Sadler, DeAnna Turner, Carter Woolly, Rhodes Woolly, David Roof, and David Hord. These new tutors, along with many other veteran tutors, are working to help NRHS students complete missing coursework and stay on track for graduation (see p. 5 for more details).



New tutors (clockwise from top) Kimberly Barrera-Gutierrez, Madeline Wagoner, Amber Haas, and Carter Woolly.



“I have lived a thousand lives and I’ve loved a thousand loves. I’ve walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time. Because I read.”

—George R.R. Martin

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 - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Closed

UPCOMING RPL HOLIDAYS/CLOSURES

Dec 15	Closed—Staff Development Day
Dec 24-28	Closed—Christmas Holiday
Jan 1	Closed—New Year’s Day
Jan 18	Closed—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

IN MEMORIAM: FORMER BOARD MEMBER CLYDE HARRISS

With great sadness, we share the news of the passing of our long-time tutor, trainer, and board member, Clyde Harriss, on November 14, 2020. Mr. Harriss joined the Literacy Council in 1990, and volunteered thousands of hours during his 19 years of service. He started as a tutor and over the years he worked with many ESL and ABE students, who appreciated his unfailing support and kindness. Next he became a certified ProLiteracy Tutor-Trainer, responsible for conducting periodic tutor training workshops and attending literacy conferences. Mr. Harriss later served as a board member, sharing his business acumen and leadership skills. In recognition of his extensive service, he was awarded the Catherine Bernhardt Safrit Award for Extraordinary Volunteer Service in 2001. After “retiring” from active tutoring, he continued to help out with RCLC’s community events and fundraisers, never missing a Scrabble Scramble, where he cheerfully greeted players and sold raffle tickets. Clyde Harriss was everything we could have asked for in a volunteer and more.



Clyde Harriss pictured at various Literacy Council functions, including the 2001 Tutor Appreciation event where he won the Safrit Award (bottom left).



TUTOR NOMINATED FOR AWARD



Tutor Susan Parker was nominated for the **Volunteer of the Year** in the Volunteer Center of the Triad’s recent **Heart of the Community Awards** ceremony.

The Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes local stalwarts who have stepped up to help those in need in their communities. This year, the pandemic has added additional challenges and complexities to many volunteer efforts.

Parker was nominated for her pro-active approach during the early weeks and months of the pandemic. When the library shut down and she could no longer meet with her three ESL students in person, she went about finding ways to keep tutoring. She procured loaner laptops from RCLC for her students, helped them get online, delivered study materials, and worked out kinks so that her students continued seamlessly with their instruction.

Congratulations Susan!



STUDENTS BECOME TUTORS

Two of our high-level ESL students are ready to undergo a transformation. Ana Avila and Nieves Oronoz are preparing to share what they've learned with others by becoming tutors.

Nieves has worked with tutors Rusty Shuping, Joel Scott, Winnie Mikkelson, and Laurel Harry.

Ana has been working with tutor Don Doering. Both are going to work with low-beginning ESL students on the basics of English. They are completing their online tutor training and will soon be ready to hit the ground running. Volunteering to help beginning ESL students is a wonderful way for our "graduating" ESL students to stay involved with the Literacy Council and give something back to the community. We will keep you posted on their progress. Congratulations to Ana and Nieves as they start the next stage of their English-language journey!

The Buzz

PANDEMIC PRECAUTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Although the Rowan Public Library has resumed a normal operating schedule, things are not quite back to normal. The small study rooms (Rooms 1 and 2) are not available for use. In addition, many study tables have been designated for use by one person only. Room 4 (just outside the RCLC office) is available and may be reserved by calling the Reference Desk on 704-216-8243.

Tutors are encouraged to use Zoom or other remote meeting methods. Students may still come to the office to register and take assessment tests.

Tutors and students may also stop by to pick up materials. In addition, if tutors need help identifying online content for virtual sessions, please contact staff and we will be happy to assist.

Keeping track of student and tutor time remains vitally important. Please submit your monthly tutoring hours by the 5th of each month via the website (rcliteracy.org) or by using the Rowan County Literacy Council smartphone app. You may also email your hours to info@rcliteracy.org, or drop off pink timesheets at the office.

IN MEMORIAM: TUTOR RAY COSTELLO

We are saddened to report the passing of tutor Ray Costello on November 5, 2020. Ray had been in declining health for the past several months, but retained his characteristic sense of humor and good nature throughout his illness.

Ray joined the Literacy Council in 2016 and quickly became one of our most dedicated tutors. He normally worked with two students at a time, and met

with them each twice a week, racking up many hours along the way. He worked mainly with English-speaking Adult Basic Education (ABE) students, but his last student was an ESL student, which was a new tutoring experience for him. He found that he thoroughly enjoyed working with his ESL student and the two forged a wonderful connection.



Ray Costello (right) works on sight words with a student.

Ray faithfully attended RCLC training and social events, saying "anything for a free lunch!" and was always interested in finding new techniques to help his students. He became a friend and mentor to many of his students, and was genuinely invested in their success. We are grateful for his service and commitment to literacy.

CAVALIERS AFTER HOURS (CAH) PROGRAM UNDERWAY

A few weeks ago, our partners at Communities in Schools (CIS) looped us in on a request from North Rowan High School. The school was looking for tutors to work with students during a special program called “Cavs After Hours.”

Assistant Principal Rebecca Rolfsmeyer explained that due to the challenges presented by the pandemic and the difficulties some students have with remote learning, that many NRHS students had fallen behind in one or more classes.

School administrators had prepared packets for each student which contained assignments that were pending. They knew exactly what needed to be done but needed manpower to help students get through the material. That’s where we came in.

We sent up the bat signal to our existing pool of tutors and also sent an appeal into the community for new tutors. The response was immediate and overwhelming. We had almost 20 tutors sign up to help, including six new tutors (see p. 2 for details). We worked with CIS to on-board the new volunteers and then jumped right in.

Tutors are working in two formats: in-person on campus

and remotely over Zoom. The subject matter varies from Romeo and Juliet to balancing algebraic equations...and everything in between. Civics, US History, English, Design, Math, Spanish, Physical Science, and Physics are just some of the classes our tutors have tackled with the students.

The tutor pool includes many subject matter experts including retired educators Jenny Hubbard, Char Molrine and Thomas Long, as well as many others with advanced degrees in English, History, Chemistry, and other relevant subjects. Long also happens to be a proud NRHS class of ‘83 alumnus who said he “wanted to help the next generation of North students enjoy school and be successful, especially since this year has been so challenging due to COVID.”

Principal Meredith Williams said, “The Literacy Council have been a huge boost for our students who were struggling with the lack of structure of remote learning. The support of the tutors has helped many of our students gain critical credits towards graduation as well as a more positive outlook on their remote learning experience.”

The program will continue next semester and will be expanded so that tutors may also meet with students during regular school hours. Go Cavs!



RCLC WHO'S WHO

2020 Board of Directors:

Don Doering-President
Melody Moxley-Vice-President
Maggie Blackwell-Secretary
Vance Meek-Treasurer
Helen Peacock
Nan Lund
Gary Rash
Wen Ye
Scott Maddox
Davian Ellison
Kelly Freeze-RCCC Representative
Macon Stewart

Administration:

KC Scott-Executive Director
Laurel Harry-Program Coordinator

BY THE NUMBERS...

24M

Calling the pandemic a “global education emergency,” Henrietta Fore, executive director of the United Nations Children’s Fund, predicts that worldwide “at least 24 million children are projected to drop out of school due to Covid-19.”

—Press call hosted by the World Health Organization and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

11

Number of new tutors certified. Each one, teach one! Visit www.rcliteracy.org or call 704-216-8266 for more information on getting started.

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Number of students currently on RCLC’s waiting list. An influx of new tutors has helped us shrink the waiting list, but we’d love to see a big “0” in this category soon.

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Mailing Address Line 5