



Hivemind

WRAPPING UP 2021

The clocks have been set back an hour, but in some ways it seems like time has been set back much more than that. As years go, 2021 has been a doozy. We have had to switch gears several times, adjusting to the different conditions imposed by Mother Nature and the pandemic. Our time-honored fundraiser, Scrabble Scramble, once again had to be tabled, this time due to concerns provoked by the Delta Variant. Although we are disappointed not to have been able to roll out our “new & improved” event format with more competitive and exciting game play, we were glad that our host site Trinity Oaks prioritized the wellbeing of residents and guests when making their decision. Have no fear: the all-new Scrabble Scramble will be back and better than ever in 2022! While our fundraising has been dampened, our programs have not. Our youth (see pgs. 2 and 5) and adult (see p. 3) programs are brimming and tutor recruitment is stronger than ever as our community lends a hand to students of all ages who strive to become more literate.

MILESTONES

Completed a workbook level: One of Don Doering’s students.

Increased employment: One of Don Doering’s students.

Increased health literacy: One of Anne Saunders’ students.

Expressed ideas in writing: Toni Teeters’ student.

Engaged in public speaking: One of Jennifer Welch & Betsy Hood’s ESL students surprised and delighted guests at his daughter’s wedding by giving a speech in English.



Passed another section of the GED: Thomas Long’s student, Mary, is on a roll! Three sections down, one to go.



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TAKING YOUNG READERS FROM RELUCTANT TO RABID

While the majority of RCLC’s Youth Literacy program takes place during the school year in Rowan-Salisbury schools through our partnership with Communities in Schools Rowan, we also help some students on a year-round basis.

These are students whose parents have come to us seeking extra help in reading for their children. The students meet with tutors in person at the Rowan Public Library or over Zoom.

RCLC tutors provide the extra time and one-on-one support these students need to master concepts and internalize phonics rules.

These students come to us making statements like, “I don’t read,” and “I don’t like school.” Working with tutors, they learn techniques to understand syllabification, recognize prefixes and suffixes, expand sight word mastery, and much more. Each new skill increases reading fluency and ultimately, comprehension. Reading becomes enjoyable once comprehension improves. The goal is for students to go from reading-averse to reading-receptive and eventually become reading-proficient. As one parent commented, “We can see more improvement in a few



Pleasure reading before dinner: RCLC youth literacy student absorbed in a good book.

weeks than we've ever seen before. Our son grabs a book now when we leave the house or go to a restaurant. We are ridiculously appreciative!"

“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.”

—Napolean Bonaparte

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

Nov 25 & 26	Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 23, 24, 25 & 27	Closed—Christmas Holiday
Dec 31 & Jan 1	Closed—New Year’s Holiday

ALL EYES ON ADULT ESL

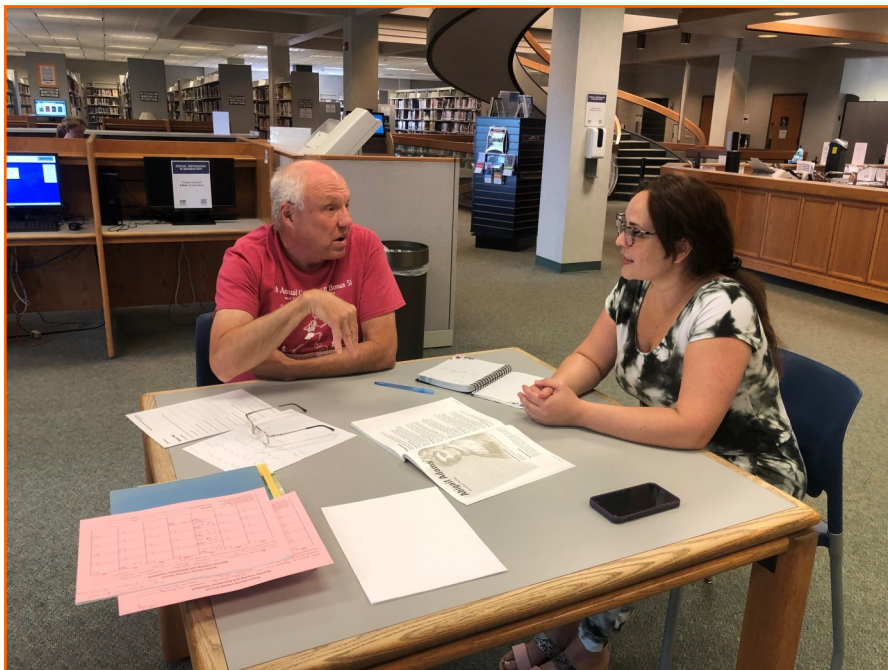
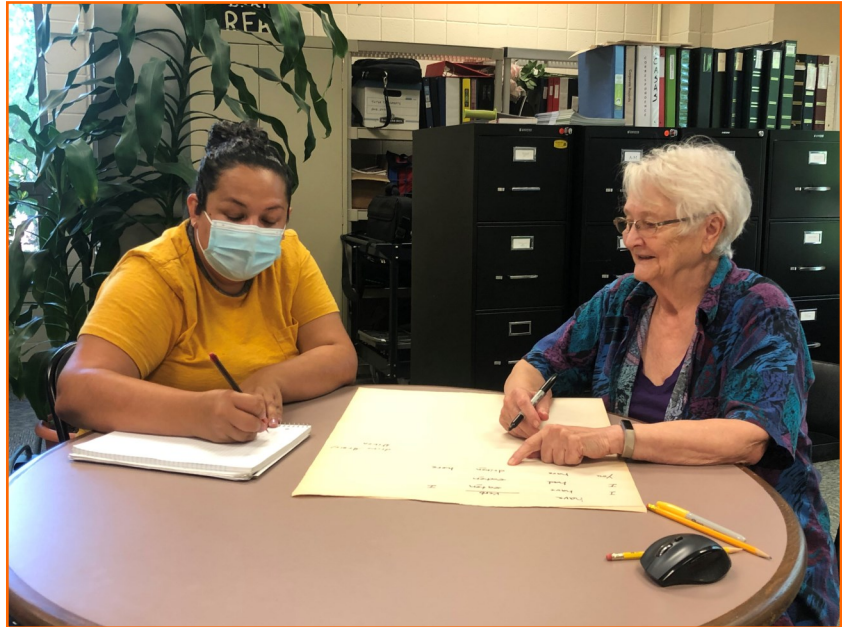
Our adult program is separated into two main categories: Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL). ABE students are native English speakers who need help with reading fundamentals or preparing for high school equivalency exams. ESL students are speakers of other languages who come to RCLC to improve their command of written and spoken English.

Currently 80% of our adult education students are ESL students. These students come from a dozen different countries including Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Albania, Morocco, China, and Liberia.

Many of our ESL students have immediate needs such as passing the NC driver's license exam, as well as long-term needs, such as improving conversation skills and expanding vocabulary in order to become more marketable to employers, or being able to better participate in their children's education.

One of the main challenges we have is finding tutors to work with many of these students at odd hours. Many ESL students work six days a week and only have late evening or weekend availability for tutoring.

Many thanks to our dedicated tutors who go above and beyond to help our ESL students master English.



Above: Tutor and RCLC Board Vice President Nan Lund works on irregular verbs with her student.

Left: Tutor Steve Combs works on a lesson from the American Lives workbook series with his student. The workbooks focus on biographies of famous Americans, including prominent figures such as Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, Mark Twain, Bruce Lee, Sacagawea, and Abraham Lincoln.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH A HEART

Don't forget that using AmazonSmile during your holiday shopping is an easy way to help out your favorite charitable organizations. AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchases made via AmazonSmile to whatever charitable organization you specify.

To designate a non-profit, go to www.Smile.Amazon.com and click "Get Started." After entering your email address to connect with your existing Amazon account, you will be prompted to type in the name of your chosen non-profit organization. To designate RCLC, type in "Rowan County Literacy Council." Your Amazon shopping cart, registries, and other account settings will automatically connect. If you're an Amazon Prime member, those benefits will transfer as well.

Note that AmazonSmile specifies "eligible" purchases because not every item on the site qualifies for donations. Most items are eligible, but some items, such as recurring subscribe-and-save purchases, are not.

Thanks and happy holidays!

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You shop. Amazon gives.

The Buzz

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GRANT

The Rowan County Literacy Council has received a generous grant from the **First United Church of Christ**. The grant is designated in support of both our Adult and Youth Programs. We are grateful for the support of First United Church of Christ as we work to improve literacy in Rowan County. Funds from 1stUCC will help us purchase high-quality materials specifically designed for adult learners as well as high-interest books and materials for students in our youth programs. We are honored to have been chosen as a 2021 grant recipient.



Tutor Linda Bartlett works with a youth literacy student at the Rowan Public Library.

STEWART TO SERVE AS BOARD OFFICER

Current Rowan County Literacy Council board member Macon Stewart will become an officer of the board, effective December 1, 2021. Stewart will take on the role of RCLC Secretary for the coming two-year term. She has been with the board since early 2020 and brings with her a wealth of experience as an advocate for youth. Stewart has a master's degree in social work and serves as the Deputy Director for Multi-System Operations for the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. She also serves as part of the Justice Consortium for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Locally, she is a member of the Salisbury NAACP and formerly served as Co-Chair for the Rowan County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Please join us in welcoming her to her new role!



RCLC Board Secretary Macon Stewart.

PUTTING THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD

In today's competitive labor market, it is essential for job seekers to highlight their skills effectively on a well-composed résumé.

Toward that end, Dominique Bates, Associate Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Rowan – Salisbury Schools, set up a workshop in conjunction with NCWorks to teach North Rowan High School students how to create compelling résumés.

Mr. Bates sent up the bat signal to the community to request volunteers to work with students one-on-one to draft starter résumés or CVs (curricula vitae). Due to the Literacy Council's ongoing partnership with both NCWorks and NRHS, we naturally jumped at the change to participate. NCWorks dispatched a mobile career center unit equipped with numerous workstations to the NRHS parking lot to provide a venue for the clinic.

Using a standard résumé template, the volunteers helped students write their objective statements, fill in education and work histories, and then punch up their CV drafts by highlighting other aspects of their life experience, including sports, hobbies, awards, language skills, family projects, and church and volunteer activities.

Some students who lacked work history due to their age thought they had nothing to put on a résumé. The volunteers brain-

stormed with students about their life experiences to draw out elements that could be used to create a better picture of each applicant.

The students were interested in a variety of careers, from construction, to the arts, from military or government service, to work in the medical field.

The well-attended workshop helped students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades create starter résumés that they can use and as they enter the workforce. Better yet, the students left with an understanding that a résumé is a living document, that should be updated frequently and tailored to each position for which they apply. The future looks bright for these ambitious students!



Jam-packed: Not an empty seat in sight in the NCWorks mobile career center unit.



Dream Team: (From left) Organizer Dominique Bates, RCLC director Laurel Harry, and community volunteers Theo Allen and Kendra Dalton.

RCLC WHO'S WHO

2021 Board of Directors:

Don Doering-President
Nan Lund-Vice-President
Macon Stewart-Secretary
KC Scott-Treasurer
Wen Ye
Scott Maddox
Davian Ellison
Kelly Freeze-RCCC Rep
Allison Doby
Bonnie Harrell

Staff:

Laurel Harry-Executive Director
Betsy Hood-Youth Programs
Miguel Bustos-Adult Programs

BY THE NUMBERS...

80%

The percentage of student's in RCLC's adult education program who are **learning English as a Second Language (ESL)**.

4.5%

The percentage of **unemployed individuals in Rowan County**. This is higher than the state average of 4.3% but lower than the national average of 5.2%.

—Centralina WDB Regional Labor market Overview
(Aug 2021 data)

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Room 6 is available again. The small study room on the first floor of library headquarters is once again available as a tutoring space. To use the room, tutors may sign out the key from the circulation desk downstairs.

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STAMP
HERE

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