



# LITERACY COUNCIL FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

EMPOWERING ADULTS THROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

## Literacy Council of Frederick County Newsletter

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### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Literacy Council's Annual Celebration of Achievement

We are pleased to announce that we have a date for next year's Annual Celebration of Achievement. It will be held Tuesday, May 12,

Issue: 03

December 2014

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER-Laurie Fisher



It is hard to believe that five months have passed since I joined the Literacy Council. Thank you for the chance to share in your mission and witness the work of our tutors, students, Board Members, other volunteers and community members who are helping to change lives today and in the year ahead! The end of the year is a special time to reflect on the true impact the Literacy Council of Frederick County has

on people's lives in our community.

Learning to read or to speak English is the first step in a person's ability to make a living wage to afford food, shelter, clothing and medical care for themselves and their families. Literacy also benefits our entire community with an expanded tax base, a more educated workforce that draws new employers, a better- educated potential pool of employees, and a reduced demand for social, health and emergency services.

**"CHANGE THE WORLD BY CHANGING ONE PERSON'S LIFE. TEACH SOMEONE TO READ."**

This statement on a bookmark in the LCFC office caught my attention as I read a reflection written by one of our students. She described her experience--at first struggling to speak and read English--and then later her personal joy in her success:

*It's a challenge for me but I say every day that "I can do it". I go to my jobs and I take classes. I'm very happy. Why? The people do not speak with me but smile at me. It's a good sign. I love Frederick, I feel my heart explodes with joy ... I can speak, I can change my life ...*

*RM, Literacy Council Student*

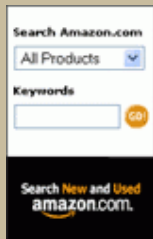
This is what the work you support through the Literacy Council is all about. It takes place one hour at a time, every week, and every month, throughout the year and often for several years. And the numbers speak for themselves. In 2013 alone, tutors donated an estimated 14,000 hours working with their students. Taking into consideration the work of all Literacy Council volunteers the number of donated hours reached

2015 (evening) at the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center. Please mark your calendars, more details will be available in the new year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there is an easy way to help the Literacy Council and do your online shopping at the same time?

Amazon.com has a program to help nonprofits where a portion of your monies will go back to the organization designated. To help LCFC, you need only use this link



to get to the Council's Amazon page when you want to do your online shopping. The rest is automatic and painless! Thanks for supporting LCFC.

### FREE STEM CURIOSITY ACADEMY FOR SOON TO BE KINDERGARTNERS



**Tutors, please share with your students!**

Frederick County Public Libraries is offering a 10-day Curiosity Academy in three locations for children entering Kindergarten in fall of 2015. Applications must be submitted, space is limited.

C. Burr Artz Library:  
January 5-9 and 12-16 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Urbana Regional Library:  
March 16-20 and 23-27,  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library:  
April 20-24 and April 27-  
May 1, 1-3 p.m.

17,602 for 2013 or 440 40-hour work weeks! Since 2011, the number of tutors has increased by 78%, from 69 to 123, and students by 119%, from 116 to 254!

### THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CHANGE MORE LIVES IN 2015!

The Literacy Council transformed the lives of 254 adult Frederick County residents this past year. Demand for services continues to grow, and your support will help us meet our goal of changing the lives of even more students this coming year. To help 300 people learn to read and to speak English, we've set a goal of raising \$15,000. Will you support us with a donation? Your contribution will enable people in our community who are eager to learn English and become an integral part of our community, to have the help they need to succeed. You can make your generous donation easily and safely either at [www.frederickliteracy.org](http://www.frederickliteracy.org) or by mailing a tax-deductible donation directly to the Literacy Council of Frederick County, 110 East Patrick Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. No matter how you give, we are grateful for your generosity and support. If you've already contributed to the Literacy Council in response to our fall newsletter or the Unity Campaign of Frederick County, we sincerely thank you for your gift!!!

Together, we are changing our community by changing one life at a time through literacy. Together, we can end illiteracy in Frederick County.

### 12 DAYS OF UNITY: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE UNITY CAMPAIGN FOR FREDERICK COUNTY!



The Literacy Council participated with 16 other Frederick County nonprofit organizations in the new Unity Campaign from November 19-30. Unity, a collaboration of Frederick 48 and FNP's Season of Hope, mobilized the Frederick County community to raise awareness and much-needed financial

resources to support programs providing basic human needs in the year to come.

Thank you to everyone who helped support Unity on behalf of the Literacy Council and our fellow nonprofit organizations. Special thanks are due to Ric Adams who is featured in a LCFC PSA on [Unity's Facebook page](#); Catherine Bly Cox who led the Marketing/Publicity/Community Outreach Committee's efforts to get the word out during the campaign and who represented the LCFC on a special Unity Radio Show on WFMD Free Talk with Tim May and Frank Mitchell; Phuong Huynh and Caroline Gaver who helped distribute posters; Lyuba Sidorova represented the LCFC at the 5K Run for Unity, and tutor Kate Butfer and her student Ana who were interviewed for *The Frederick News-Post's* featured front page story [Literacy Council Tutors spread written, spoken word](#). Diana Halleman helped to keep our LCFC activities at the forefront on our Facebook page throughout the Campaign!

### UNITED WAY PROSPERITY CENTER FINANCIAL LITERACY COALITION ON JANUARY 20

**Tutors, please share with your students!**

LCFC will be actively participating in a special "Prosperity Fair" on January 20 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the Bernard Brown Center to help share information about literacy programs and services. The event is part of the [United Way's Prosperity Center and Financial Literacy Coalition](#) of agencies working to help improve the financial stability of Frederick County's residents who are among the working poor who are struggling

Join Our List



to meet their basic needs. Coalition organizations will be promoting resources for the community, including free tax preparation assistance through [Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Assistance \(VITA\)](#).

## FREDERICK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPO



LCFC participated for the first time at the Chamber's annual business Expo in November. 160 local businesses and nonprofit organizations exhibited and the event was attended by over 1,000 people. Thank you to Denise Dertzbaugh, George Conley and Mimi Teahan.

## LITERACY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR A BOOK CLUB FOR STUDENTS!



The Literacy Council is launching a book club early in 2015 for both Basic and English as a Second Language (ESL) students.

Club members will choose novels from a comprehensive intermediate-level reading list that includes such classics as "Sounder," "Old Yeller," "Johnny Tremain," "Call of the Wild" and "Anne of Green Gables." The books range in length from 52 pages to 500

and feature stories about characters from all over the world.

The details are still being finalized, but organizers are considering starting the club the middle of January. Meetings would be conducted weekly, though participants would have two weeks to finish each book. At each meeting, participants can ask questions about pronunciation and difficult phrases, and discuss what they had read so far. The weekly schedule will be determined by a consensus of club members. The Council is asking Basic and ESL tutors to tell their students about the club to determine their interest in joining. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to [Diana Halleman](#) by January 5, 2015.

Thank you to tutor Jeff Trehwitt for volunteering to lead the new book club!

## LITERACY COUNCIL LAUNCHES BOOK DRIVE WITH CURIOUS

## IGUANA

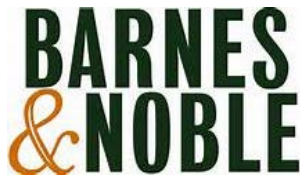


The Literacy Council of Frederick County, in partnership with Curious Iguana, has been collecting books for the children of Head Start Frederick County since November 15 in a month-long effort that ends December 15. (After this day, please drop books off at the Literacy Council's office.) Curious Iguana is an independent bookstore in downtown Frederick at 12 North Market Street.

Residents making donations can visit The Curious Iguana or their neighborhood book stores to buy books for three and four-year-old children that can be dropped off at the Literacy Council, 110 E. Patrick St., or The Curious Iguana. The publications, which will be distributed just before Christmas, can be delivered at either location during regular hours.

The goal of collecting at least 250 books was surpassed by November 25-10 days after the start of the drive! 300 have been collected and more are expected!

## BARNES & NOBLE DONATES CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO LITERACY COUNCIL



The Barnes & Noble bookstore at 5500 Buckeystown Pike in Frederick is collecting children's books for the Literacy Council of Frederick County and Frederick Memorial Hospital through its Annual Holiday Book Drive.

Store customers have been donating books since November 1, and the drive will continue through January 1. Some of the books received by the Literacy Council will be given to Head Start of Frederick County as part of a LCFC book drive being conducted with The Curious Iguana. (See accompanying story).

Last year, Barnes & Noble customers and booksellers nationwide provided more than 1.5 million books to over 2,000 local charitable organizations. "Customers often purchase and donate a personal childhood favorite," said Sarah DiFrancesco, Barnes & Noble's vice president for business development.

To find out how to participate in the Frederick store's book drive, contact Business Development Manager Angela LaPadula, 301-698-0121.

## LCFC TUTOR TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM



Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about becoming a Literacy Council volunteer tutor? If so, you are invited to participate in a literacy tutor training pilot program that will combine several hours of on-line learning with two 3-hour in-person training sessions. The first step is to attend our no-obligation orientation session, to be held on January 7, 2015,

from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. at our downtown Frederick office.

Following this brief orientation session, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the subsequent on-line and in-person training segments. The in-person sessions will also be held at the LCFC office, on Wednesdays, January 21 & 28 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The on-line



portion of the training is to be completed between the orientation and the first in-person session. Instructions will be given at the orientation.

All are welcome to attend the orientation session, but participation in the January training will be limited to ten applicants. Please note that completion of the orientation, on-line and in-person training segments is required for tutor certification.

Please consider helping LCFC meet the continuing need for literacy training in Frederick County by becoming part of this pilot program.

You'll be joining an elite group of dedicated volunteer tutors.

To register for the orientation, go to [www.frederickliteracy.org](http://www.frederickliteracy.org), or call 301-600-2066 for further information.

## ENDOW MARYLAND: NEW MARYLAND TAX INCENTIVE FOR 2015



Help build the Literacy Council's endowment fund while taking advantage of a new tax incentive in 2015! Visit The Community Foundation of Frederick County's website to learn how a \$1,000 donation can be made at a net cost to you of only \$430.

Funding for the incentive is limited, so eligibility is on a first come, first served basis. The Community Foundation is accepting Endow Maryland Intent Forms for next year now. The Literacy Council's Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund is an eligible fund for this tax break. While the Council is always in need of current funding, if you are interested in also ensuring needed funds in the future, you can do so by contributing to this fund.



The Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund was established in 2002 in memory of our beloved and dedicated long-time volunteer in order to build a fund to provide long-term sustainability for the Council. Betty began with the Council when she volunteered as a tutor in 1967, and continued until her death in 2000. During this time, she held many positions including president and tutor trainer, but her largest contribution was as the tutor/student coordinator, serving as virtually a full-time volunteer for over 25 years. In her dedication to literacy, she

represented the heart and soul of the Council and inspired many new volunteers and students. The board established the fund in her name to help her legacy live on.

## LITERACY COUNCIL OFFICE MANAGER RECEIVES WERTHEIMER FELLOW AWARD



The Community Foundation has awarded the *Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award* to Diana R. Halleman, the Literacy Council of Frederick County's Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. The award includes \$25,000 to establish, or add to, a permanent fund for a nonprofit or charitable endeavor of her choice. Mrs. Halleman has chosen to establish The Halleman Family Fund to support Frederick revitalization projects, including beautification efforts, building facade improvements, community projects and

special community events. "My passion right now is revitalizing the west end of the city," she said.

Mrs. Halleman's volunteer work in Frederick has supported the arts, women, children and civic causes. Her community involvement began in 2004 with Celebrate Frederick Inc. where she was a board member and chaired events such as Pangaea and the Festival of Lights.

She also has served as volunteer chair for In the Street and Frederick's Fourth, and is active with the Frederick County Commission for Women. She currently serves as secretary of the board for Families Plus! and Safe Kids Frederick County and as chair of the City of Frederick's Personnel Board. Additionally, she has been a volunteer mediator for Community Mediation Center (CALM) and served two terms on the board of the Woman to Woman Mentoring Program at Frederick Community College.

The Wertheimer Fellow awards are named for the late Janis Miller Wertheimer, a prominent Frederick County businesswoman and prolific volunteer. Wertheimer Fellows are recognized for actual volunteer work, not financial contributions to worthy causes.

Mrs. Halleman said her volunteer efforts have helped her as much as they have other people. "I can't tell you how much my life has improved," she said. "You interact with so many different kinds of people."

A Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism Award was also given in 2012 to Literacy Council President Caroline Gaver.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The LCFC has been very fortunate to receive the following grants:

- **Ausherman Family Foundation Capacity Building Grant:** To support the services of a nonprofit fundraising professional to work with the Board of Directors, Development Committee and Executive Director to develop and implement a long term fundraising plan.
- **Delaplaine Foundation, Inc. Funding for Growth:** To help fund expanded programs.

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We welcome submissions from our volunteers and students. Please [email](#) them to us.

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