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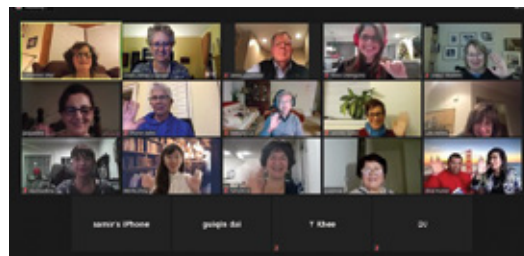
Laurie Fisher
Executive Director



Reflections Literary Magazine *features* Inspirational Student Writing

Adult learners, volunteer tutors, members of the Board of Directors, and the community gathered for a virtual book launch in December to celebrate the publication of our annual literary magazine, *Reflections: Voices of English Learners*.

Six of the 20 student authors whose work appears in this 3rd edition of *Reflections* read from their work and shared their pride in their accomplishments. Co-editor and LCFC writing instructor, Catherine Coundjeris described how, as their English skills improve, she sees the students' work emerging from their minds and hearts.



PICTURED

Students debut their stories in 3rd edition of literary magazine *Reflections*.



Thank you to Spring Ridge Chiropractic for being our Reflections sponsor.

2020 Virtual Celebration of Achievements

Congratulations to our students!

Literacy lifts Lives



WELCOME!!

2020 Celebration of Achievements

How could we recognize our students' accomplishments in 2020 when holding our annual Celebration of Achievements amidst a pandemic seemed impossible?

It turned out not to be impossible after all!

In November we produced a virtual tribute to our students' hard work, broadcast it live on Facebook, and shared via social media and YouTube. Broadcasting the Celebration allowed us to include personal testimonies from students who participate in our tutoring, classes, parent literacy and workplace programs—and made it possible for a wider audience to learn about how the Literacy Council changes people's lives.

8,700

**ADULT LEARNERS
SERVED SINCE 1963**



**Thank you to
FCB Bank, our
Event sponsor.**

PICTURED

New volunteer tutors complete online workshop in January.

Tutor Training Goes Online

Our tutors are a critical resource for adults in our community who are struggling to gain English language proficiency or for native English speakers overcoming barriers to reading—so training new tutors has always been at the core of the Literacy Council's work.

The training team had already begun to create a shorter, more efficient tutor workshop when the pandemic began last year, and they turned to making the new workshop function online. Since October, the workshop team, together with colleagues from Washington County Literacy Council, has conducted training workshops via Zoom. Thanks to their efforts, recruiting and matching newly prepared volunteers with waiting students has been able to continue. Not satisfied with their initial curriculum modules, the team continues to meet regularly to modify and adapt training resources based on participant feedback and observations from the team.



Literacy Council Joins with ProList for New Workplace English Classes

The Literacy Council is excited to announce its latest partner employer, ProList, as part of its Workplace Program.

This program conducts classes at the workplace in a collaborative model that benefits employees and employers alike. ProList's operations in Frederick provide direct marketing services for their clients. ProList reached out to the Literacy Council to provide workplace English classes focusing on everyday life skills for some of their employees. Classes began in May and are offered three times a week during this 12-week session. The Literacy Council's Workplace Program is also supporting workplace English classes for hospitality associates from four Frederick County hotels.



PICTURED

Hospitality associates from Plamondon Hospitality Partners receive recognition after completing their workplace class.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

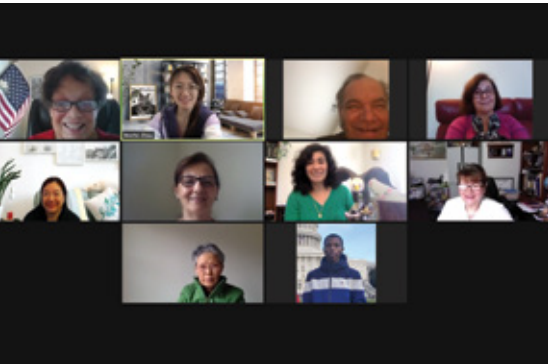
“Celebrating Our Superheroes” was our theme for the month of April, particularly National Volunteer Week (April 18–24).

Our online tribute featured video interviews with some of our dedicated volunteers, along with a message of thanks from Board President Jim Grissom and heart-warming stories from students. Compassion, perseverance, and generosity of spirit best describes what Literacy Council volunteers bring to their work. Whether it’s tutoring, teaching classes, helping with our programs, serving on the board or on committees, maintaining computers, keeping track of finances, writing grants, or helping with community outreach, and more, thank you! We simply could not meet our community’s needs without you!



12,808+
HOURS SERVED IN FY20
BY 152 VOLUNTEERS

335
ADULT LEARNERS
SERVED IN FY20



PICTURED

Adult learners attend weekly classes to learn about their community through local speakers.

Civics Class Explores Frederick County Through Speaker Series

Marianne Dacey is the force behind the Literacy Council’s Civics Class, which she initiated and has taught since 2018.

Pre-pandemic, this 10-week class would begin and end in the Literacy Council’s classroom, but the bulk of each class period was spent on field trips.

Marianne described the classes: We had opportunities to learn and visit various locations throughout the Frederick community so that the students could apply their learning, use their English language skills, and actually see our community services, government activities, and all kinds of artistic opportunities in action. Students have enjoyed asking questions, learning more information, and also sharing their experiences in their own countries.

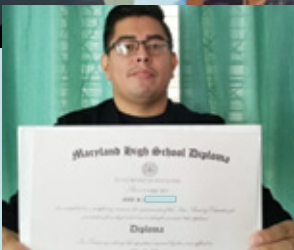
Instead of field trips, guest speakers were invited to join the class each week, representing (among others) Frederick County Public Libraries, Frederick County Detention Center, Salvation Army, Asian American Center of Frederick, and L’Arche. County Council Member Phil Dacey spoke about how bills can become law in county government, and County Council Member Jessica Fitzwater spoke about the new Commission on Immigrant Affairs.

\$377,728
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

Learner and Volunteer Spotlights Share Heart-Warming Stories

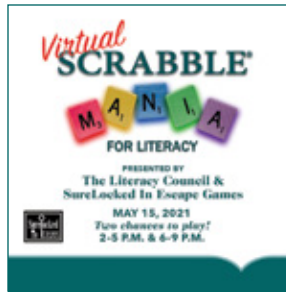
Thanks to a capacity-building grant from the Ausherman Family Foundation, the Literacy Council is partnering with Postern, a Frederick-based marketing agency, to raise awareness about how Literacy Lifts Lives.

We are letting the community know how they can help through volunteering, supporting initiatives like our Parent Literacy Program, and providing much-needed financial support. One of our new outreach endeavors is our monthly e-newsletter featuring Learner and Volunteer Spotlights! You'll be able to learn more about the day-to-day work of our student-tutor pairs and hear about their challenges and triumphs in new interviews on YouTube.



PICTURED

Tutor John Bruton (right) and his student, Joey, (left, center) persevered through the pandemic meeting remotely, and earned his GED.



Scrabble Mania for Literacy

Scrabble Mania for Literacy on May 15 was a remarkable collaboration with Surelocked In Escape Games.

Together, we brought our own version of Scrabble to a new virtual platform. Fourteen teams competed with each other and enjoyed afternoon and evening competitive tournaments. Prizes were awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams at each competition, and Surelocked In donated great door prizes—Escape Room experiences! Thank you to our generous sponsors and auction contributors! Over 80 items featured in our auction will help raise funds to support our programs this coming year.

WE THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & OUR AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS



Holiday Book Drive

The Literacy Council's 14th Annual Holiday Book Drive resulted in donations of over 3,000 new and used children's books for elementary school-aged children.

Providing appealing age-appropriate books to children fosters literacy at a young age and helps to break the cycle of low literacy in families. The books are being given to parents of children supported through the organization's tutoring and class instruction services.

The Literacy Council works directly with the Judy Center and Butterfly Ridge, Lincoln, Hillcrest and Waverley Elementary schools. Following the holidays, volunteers with the Literacy Council's Parent Literacy Program continue distributing books for children at Family Literacy events, food and diaper distributions as well as to other local organizations. A new initiative this year is "Books for Your Birthday" where a bundle of books are given to children of adult learners for their birthday.



PICTURED

Children's books and a backpack are distributed from the Literacy Council's office to parents served by the organization's tutoring and class instruction programs.

Unity Campaign, 12 Days of Literacy

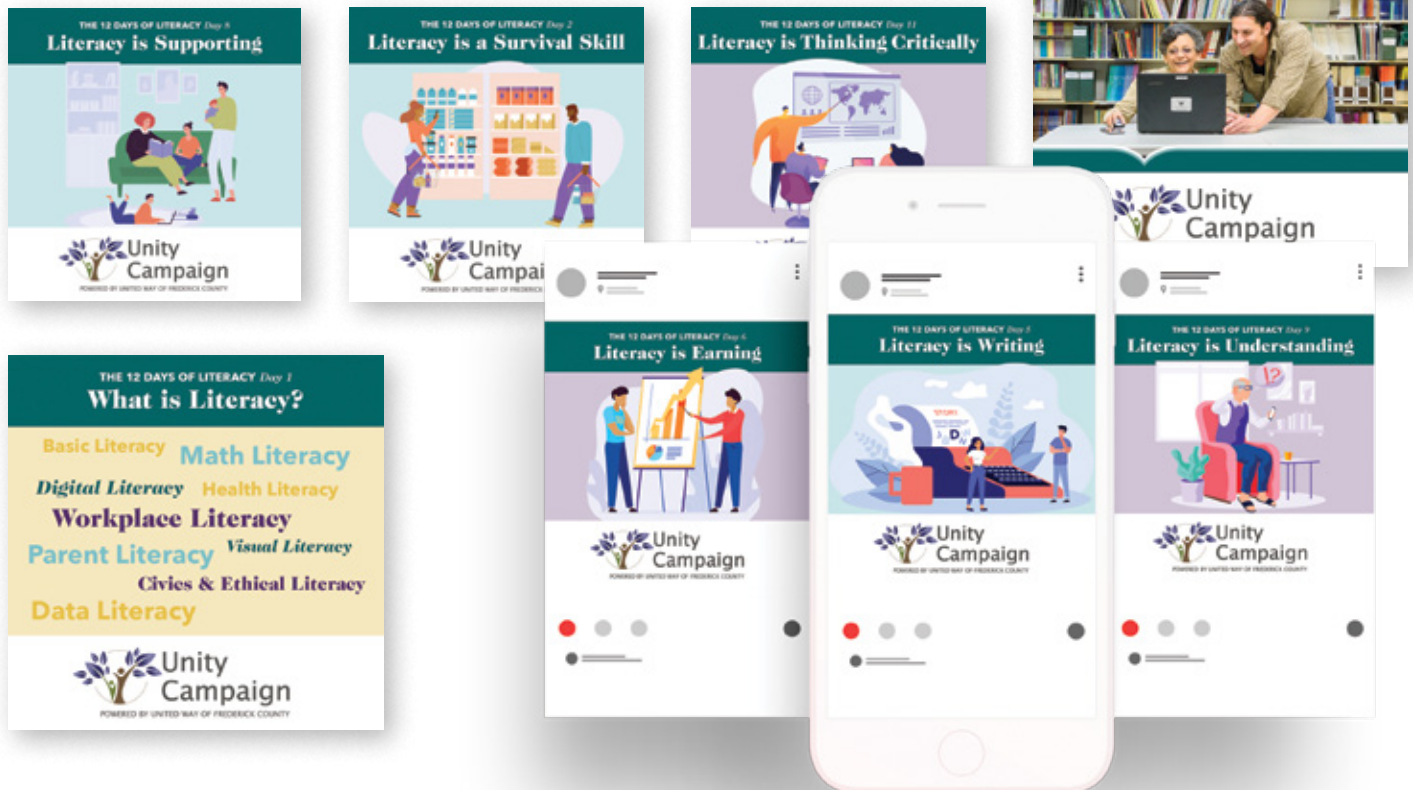
The Unity Campaign, held in March, helped to raise critical funds for essential services in Frederick County by providing an efficient and community-wide platform for the Frederick County nonprofit community.

We've participated since the Campaign's inception six years ago.

This year, we used the Campaign as an opportunity to raise awareness about literacy as a fundamental survival skill during the "12 Days of Literacy."

PICTURED

Captivating graphic images tell a powerful story about how Literacy Lifts Lives and is the key to meeting your family's essential needs.



FCB Bank, A Division of ACNB Bank Window Display

During the month of March, Literacy Lifts Lives and the Unity Campaign were the focus of the Literacy Council's display in the FCB Bank window.

PICTURED

Many thanks to FCB Bank for making the window available to the nonprofit community.



Literacy *lifts* Lives

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