

Literacy *lifts* Lives

Summer 2023 Issue

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Lifting Lives Through Literacy for Sixty Years

The Literacy Council of Frederick County celebrates its 60th anniversary this year! Since its founding in 1963, volunteer tutors have instructed over 9,250 adults in reading, writing, speaking English, and everyday life skills.

Literacy Lifts Lives is the vision that guides the organization's dynamic mission statement: *To provide Frederick County adults with pathways to essential literacy skills.* Success for the adults and families we serve rests on a collective community approach.

Originally founded as a ministry for seasonal laborers who couldn't read, the Literacy Council has become a community-wide resource. First held in homes and local churches, the Council moved into the C. Burr Artz Library in 1982, where it currently resides today. As Frederick County has grown, the Literacy Council's programs have evolved to include individual and small group tutoring, a variety of community classes, such as parent literacy, and workplace English classes for local hospitality and manufacturing employees.



Welcome to Our Newest Workplace Employer: Bimbo Bakeries USA

Manufacturing employees at Bimbo Bakeries USA in Frederick meet weekly for workplace English classes. As the largest commercial baking company in the U.S., Bimbo Bakeries USA provides these classes as part of the company's commitment to "caring for our people" and "nourishing a better world."

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A CRITICAL & TRUSTED LOCAL NONPROFIT.



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Literacy Council Joins 2023 Spur Local Class of Critical Nonprofits

134 nonprofits throughout the Greater Washington Metropolitan region were recently selected following a rigorous review process, recognizing the critical impact and collective strength they provide as a movement for social good. The Literacy Council was first selected as "one of the best" local nonprofits in 2019 by the *Catalogue for Philanthropy*, now *Spur Local*!



Grant Awarded to Expand Workplace Programs in Tourism and Hospitality Sector

The Literacy Council has been awarded a multi-year grant through the Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Tourism to expand workplace English classes.

The program teaches job-related English language skills to employees from hospitality and tourism businesses. This goal is based on the vision that a more English-fluent and literate staff results in lasting benefits for the businesses, employees, the Frederick County community, and the overall economic well-being of our region.

"This is a great partnership between the tourism community, Maryland Commerce, and our federal partners at the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration," said Maryland Commerce Secretary Kevin A. Anderson. "We are pleased to award this grant and look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition." The funding is from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program, which used American Rescue Plan funding.



Teaching the Community Through Local Partnerships

Thanks to community agency partnerships, we can offer more in-person and online classes for Frederick County students.

English conversation classes are taught at the Brunswick Branch Library and Walkersville Branch Library, and Parent Literacy classes are available at two Judy Center Elementary Schools. We are also launching a new after-school English conversation opportunity at a local high school for students from the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership.



Celebration of Achievements Event Spotlights Learners, Volunteers & Community

The annual Celebration of Achievements event was held on November 3rd at the Delaplaine Arts Center to honor milestone achievements from Literacy Council adult learners.

Students who received achievement certificates were showered with applause, and students also read from their Reflections stories. Two students were also recognized for earning their U.S. citizenship.

Becky Servey, the General Manager for Plamondon Hospitality Partners' Courtyard Marriott Hotel, shared the progress of hospitality associates participating in workplace classes and recognized Vanessa, one of their employees who has excelled and advanced her career.

The Literacy Council presented its *Business & Industry Partners in Literacy Awards* to the Postern Agency for their work providing the Literacy Council with nonprofit marketing and to the Tourism Council of Frederick County/Visit Frederick for its support of the Workplace Literacy Program.



Achievements in Tutoring

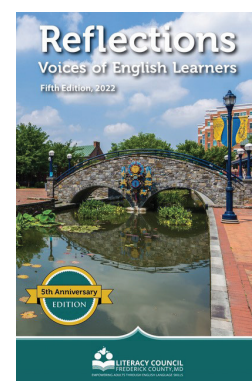
Our tutoring program provides targeted instruction through one-to-one and small group settings, and our volunteer tutors work diligently with our adult students to help them meet their literacy goals.

Recent notable achievements include students obtaining their driver's licenses, passing their GED exams, taking classes at Frederick Community College to further their education, getting new jobs, and being able to communicate with their child's teachers. These achievements demonstrate how literacy can lift lives.



Reflections Literary Magazine Publishes 5th Edition

Student authors, tutors, board members, and families of the Literacy Council met in person for an evening to celebrate the fifth edition of the literary magazine, **Reflections: Voices of English Learners**.





Literacy *lifts* Lives

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Scrabble Mania for Literacy at Steinhardt Brewing Company

On May 3rd, players teamed up with Game Master Chris Sparks from Surelocked In Escape Games. 18 teams competed in a fast-paced word play game that was "Scrabble with a twist!" Congratulations to our winning teams!

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