



Our Mission: To provide free literacy instruction customized to the needs of adults throughout Washtenaw County, utilizing a trained network of volunteer tutors.



43rd Annual Meeting & Appreciation Day: Celebration of Learning!

June 13, 2013

**Annual Meeting
5:30**

**Celebration of Learning
6:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Washtenaw
Community College
Morris Lawrence Building**

RSVP HERE!

Volunteer

Donate

Are you interested in volunteering with Washtenaw Literacy? Register now to attend one of our upcoming ABC's of Washtenaw Literacy Information Sessions to learn more about us:

Spotlight on a learner - Meet Jerry

Jerry Walls is a 36 year old Basic Literacy learner who daily takes the courageous steps to improve his literacy. He does so in an effort to achieve his personal goals, and to build a solid life full of the benefits literacy skills can bring to his family, including his new baby due in July.

In the past year working with Washtenaw Literacy, Jerry has made great reading progress. He can now sounds out words; is reading his second full book; and is proud to be able to actually read the sentences that he and his tutor make up together. He stays motivated each day because he continues to see the progress he's making and is very excited to work with his tutor, Barb Hayworth.

Jerry is an incredibly personable and funny man who clearly loves his family and that love continues to motivate and drive him daily to achieve his short and long term goals.

In the immediate future, Jerry works hard to improve his reading so he can read books to his children. He is also working hard to find a job and has recently applied for a position.

For the long-term, Jerry really wants to find a great job that will allow him to support his growing family. In five years, he wants to work as an electrician. In addition to using his new-found literacy skills to improve his job skills, he also longs to travel and hopes someday to go to Rome to see the Colosseum. And, for personal reasons, he wants to be able to do research and learn about his family history.

While Jerry does meet with his tutor twice a week, he also makes time to relax and enjoy his time with his family. In his free time, he likes to play basketball and also watch basketball on TV. Plus, now that he's been going to tutoring at the library, he uses his new library card to check out DVDs!

When he thinks back to his childhood and going to school, he wishes he'd stayed more motivated and paid more attention to his teachers. But, what is so important to Jerry now is for his baby to know that he never gave up, that he continued to strive for self-improvement, and he continued to learn every day. And, by his side each step of the way, clearly so proud of Jerry, is his wife – his motivator, as he calls her – she keeps him going.



Allison Correll brings social media savvy to Washtenaw Literacy's marketing



Our newest staff member at Washtenaw Literacy is our Social Media Marketing and Development intern, Allison Correll. Allison is an Ann Arbor native and recently received her bachelors degree from Columbia College Chicago where she majored in photography and minored in management. Through local and international internships, Allison has experience with the development, marketing and execution of art classes for families, art gallery management, and event coordination. While not currently pursuing a career in photography, she is still an active photographer and uses her creative skills to document some of our programs at Washtenaw Literacy.

Allison has been developing and implementing a social media marketing plan for us and has been posting to our accounts. With her help we hope to use social media to reach out to our current and potential audience and make our resources more accessible to everyone. Websites like Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest are great platforms to help inform others about the issue of illiteracy in Washtenaw County.

One way that we are sharing resources is by creating Pinterest boards that highlight free online resources for tutors and learners. A board on Pinterest is a collection of images that link to their sources. This allows us to present the resources in a more visual way. We also have boards that have information on family literacy, literacy in the news and great books to read.

Twitter is an essential part of social networking and we are happy to report that, after some time of only being able to post via our Facebook page, we now have regained full control of our Twitter account. We are using Twitter to connect and share information with people and organizations not only in Washtenaw County but all of the U.S.

We are excited to be connecting with more and more people on a daily basis and hope that you will share in our excitement and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest because, by doing this, you can help

[Monday, June 17th](#)

7-8pm

Dexter Library
3255 Alpine Street
Dexter, MI 48130

[Wednesday, June 19th](#)

10-11am

Ann Arbor District Library -
Traverwood Branch
3333 Traverwood Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

[Thursday, July 11th](#)

7-8pm

Nicola's Books
2913 Jackson Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[Monday, July 22nd](#)

7-8pm

Nicola's Books
2913 Jackson Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

"Washtenaw Literacy is the finest organization in town! Washtenaw Literacy is very well organized, offers so much support to both tutors and learners, including excellent resources, gatherings, "Power Tutoring" (which was fantastic!), and a myriad of other self-help, mentor, and support services.

"This experience has changed my life for the better, and I am grateful and appreciative to be part of your fine organization."

*~ Phyll Perry
Basic Literacy Personal
Tutor*

Upcoming Trainings and Workshops

If you have attended any of our ABC's of Washtenaw Literacy Information Sessions, please consider registering for one or more of our recommended trainings or workshops.

BL Group Tutor Training:

Recommended 3-hour training module for group tutors.

[Monday, June 24th](#)

1-4pm

NEW Center

Core Tutor Training:

Our premier 15-hour interactive training program

[June 24th, 27th, July 1st](#)

9am-4pm

Washtenaw Intermediate School District

"I believe in the program. I have experienced that the program can be successful. This is a lot for everybody, to develop the program and get people involved and get volunteers.

spread the word about illiteracy in Washtenaw County and learn about our most up to date news. To see a great example of how we can use all social media avenues to share important literacy information and news, take a look at this [social media infographic](#) we've pinned on Pinterest!

Meet a tutor - Barbara Hayworth

Q. There are so many wonderful agencies to volunteer with locally, what made you decide to volunteer with Washtenaw Literacy?

A. After retirement, I contemplated what sort of volunteer work I would do. I had always thought I would work in a neo-natal unit of a hospital. When my son was just 3 wks old he needed emergency surgery. We were living in Germany, so no relatives to help out, and over an hour from the hospital, and a 17-month-old at home. When I would finally get to the hospital, in a near-panic, (no cell phones back then, nor much telephone access) I would feel so relieved and grateful to see a volunteer holding and rocking my baby. But I had also heard about Washtenaw Literacy, and thought that with my background and work experience as a speech-language therapist, that would be the best use of my skills. I also was well aware of the high rate of illiteracy in this country, and the staggering percentage of inmates in our prisons that are functionally illiterate. Obviously there is a connection. So I signed up for the training course, and was very impressed: the trainers, the material, the amount of concise to-the-point "how-to's" was right on. That was 3 years ago. I've enjoyed every minute I have been involved with my learners.

Q. What has surprised you the most about your volunteer experience with Washtenaw Literacy?

A. As I said, I was aware of the consequences of being a non-reader, but I'm not sure I understood the extent to which illiteracy sets up roadblocks at every turn in life.

Q. What is your favorite tutoring moment so far?

A. Because of my experience working with special needs children, I can evaluate where the learner is, and determine short-term goals that are realistically achievable in a reasonable amount of time. When the learner "gets it" and we achieve a specific goal, it never ceases to thrill me.

Q. What has been the most challenging part of volunteering?

A. An adult who has not learned to read usually has many challenges and many needs in order to make his way through life. It is hard for me to maintain a role of tutor only.

Q. What do you carry around in your tutor kit?

A. In my Tutor Tote: Box filled with markers and pens and pencils and paper clips, etc. I use colored markers a lot to differentiate different parts of what we are working on. I also use a broad bold pen to send home "homework" so that focusing isn't so tiring on the eyes; a calendar (so much learning in that little pocket calendar!); letter tiles are a wonderful way to open other channels of learning---right now my learner is getting the concept of making a 3-word sentence that I dictate to him, with the needed tiles in front of him, but in no order; some short poems; the book we are working on, which I have also copied so that I can underline or mark up the page to help him read it at home; a few appropriate worksheets which get on line; index cards which can be used to make instant flash cards to take home; and Post-its---don't know how I ever taught without them! I stick them in all sorts of places, and fun to use for sequencing, ad inf.

Q. What were your favorite subjects in school?

A. I think one's favorite subjects in school are the subjects that their favorite teacher is teaching! So I enjoyed history (had several wonderful history teachers) and of course I liked English because that was my strong suit. I also loved choir. We had a superb choir director---I think he had half the school in one choir or another. Again, it's the teacher that counts!

Q. What would you tell someone who asked what it's like to work with adults struggling with illiteracy?

A. I would tell anyone who wants to help adults learn to read should sign up with Washtenaw Literacy because the training session is fantastic. It teaches you what you need to know in a concise, well-organized and obviously well-thought-out manner. You are ready to go after the training sessions.

Q. What's your favorite memory of reading?

A. I remember being in the Blue Jays, and getting very impatient waiting for my turn to read to the teacher! Yes, we actually read Dick, Jane and Spot. :)

Q. Tell us one fun factoid about yourself.

A. I lived in Germany and Italy for about 15 years teaching "army brats" in Department of Defense Schools. But they are most definitely not brats!

Q. If you could design a perfect day, what would it include?

A. A perfect day would include a long, lovely somewhat rigorous walk, lots of good food and good company, enjoying a good book, and because I am a bit too goal-oriented, it would have to include checking off a few items on my to-do list!

I really appreciate it."

~ Donna Hicks
Basic Literacy learner

Annual Board Meeting & Appreciation Event: Celebration of Learning!

Join us for our **Annual Board Meeting and Appreciation Event: A Celebration of Learning** on Thursday, June 13th at [Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building](#). The Board Meeting will be open to the public from 5:30 - 6:00 PM.

From 6:00 - 8:30 PM we will share food, swap tutor / learner stories, make new friends, and honor our 2013 Learner Award Recipients. All tutors, learners, and their family are invited to this celebration of learning.

Please RSVP for the Board meeting and/or the Appreciation Event: Celebration of Learning by emailing us at info@washtenawliteracy.org. We hope to see you all on June 13th!

Washtenaw Literacy 5577 Whittaker Rd, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 • (734) 879-1320 • info@washtenawliteracy.org • [Link to our website](#)

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Washtenaw Literacy
5577 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
US

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