



# LiteracyLinks

The Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor  
January 2015

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## PLC's Season of Giving

### Nine organizations receive community grants

Portland Literacy Council proudly announces the award of nine \$500 community grants to support adult literacy in the Portland metro area. Grants will help fund new and existing programs and needs.

This is the third year that Portland Literacy Council has awarded grants; each year we receive more requests, and choosing from among the applications is not easy. Kris Magaurn, PLC President, echoes the sentiments of the Board of Directors: "There is so much good work going on in the literacy programs in the Portland area. We received many great proposals. We only wish we could give more."

PLC is pleased to announce the following organizations have received \$500 grants.

### Street Books

The Portland Literacy Council \$500 community grant will assist Street Books in its efforts to acquire a second bicycle to expand services. The new bike will enable Street Books to travel longer distances in wet weather.

Since 2011, [Street Books](#), the bicycle-powered mobile library, has delivered reading materials to people living out-of-doors within the City of Portland. Street Books makes the gift of reading possible for those who cannot meet ID or proof of address requirements of Multnomah County Library. Librarians not only deliver books, they enjoy discussing literature with their patrons.

Since June 2011, Street Books has loaned to patrons thousands of paperbacks in all genres, from sci-fi to romance to memoir, by authors ranging from James Patterson to Jeanette Walls to Flannery O'Connor and Stephen King.

### Portland Meet Portland

Portland Literacy Council awarded a \$500 grant to Portland Meet Portland to support Citizenship ESL classes and tutoring supplies in the New Columbia neighborhood. Many clients are pre-literate African women who need supplemental one-to-one tutoring. Portland Meet Portland

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offers in-home tutoring for shift and on-call workers who are unable to attend daytime classes.

Portland Meet Portland, is a new non-profit organization. It welcomes and befriends immigrants and refugees, and creates mutually beneficial mentoring opportunities. Their work fosters cross-cultural learning, enhances work skills and builds trust. Word about the efforts of Portland Meet Portland has led to many requests for citizenship instruction.

### Northwest Housing Alternatives

A \$500 community grant to [Northwest Housing Alternatives](#) will help support a weekly ESL class open to 70 adults living at Springwater Commons in outer Southeast Portland. ESL classes are open to all adults at the location.

The grant will help purchase supplies to support ESL classes, which are taught by a volunteer. Northwest Housing Alternatives hopes to expand the ESL classes to additional housing communities. The classes help enhance opportunities for employment, schooling, and self-advocacy.

### Julia West House

Located in downtown Portland, the [Julia West House](#) is one of the few Adult Basic Ed/GED Prep programs available outside the community college system. Portland Literacy Council awarded a \$500 grant to Julia West House so the program can acquire materials and coursework for the ABE program, and for program enhancement.

Julia West House serves a diverse student population. Student accomplishments range from being able to read a newspaper, understanding and completing forms and applications, improving reading and math skills, completing a GED, and enrolling in college.

### Neighborhood House Women's ESL Health classes

Life-changing programs at Neighborhood House include a Parenting Program that offers ESL Health Classes to female immigrants and refugees and their children ranging in age from birth to 5 years. Students are from Africa, the Middle East, and Central America.

Portland Literacy Council has awarded the ESL Health classes a \$500 grant to purchase books for

mothers to take home to their families, and books to use in class. The grant will allow for the purchase of interesting books at an accessible reading level.

### ESOL/GED Program, Sisters of St. Mary

Entering its fourth year, the ESOL/GED program at St. Mary's (Beaverton) serves over 200 students a year. Fifteen Spanish-speaking students are working toward their GED certificate. Portland Literacy Council has awarded a \$500 grant to the program to help support the program.

The St. Mary's ESOL program has improved the lives of many adult immigrants, opening employment opportunities, and benefiting families through parental participation in their children's education.

### St. Anthony ESL Program

Eighty-seven students from 15 countries are registered in the St. Anthony (Tigard) ESL classes. Thirty-five volunteer teachers and an assistant teacher provide instruction. (Three of the teachers are past students.) A professional speech pathologist tutors a pronunciation class. Portland Literacy has awarded a \$500 community grant to the St. Anthony program to help the program to continue to be offered free of charge to students.

### St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church ESL Program

A \$500 community grant will help provide resources, supplies, and activities for adult learners at this Beaverton church. The program includes free childcare for children one to 13 years old. In its eighth year, the St. Bartholomew's program serves students from the local Hispanic community, as well as Korean, Russian, and Iranian students.

### Sunset Presbyterian ESL Program

Up-to-date instruction materials will be funded by a \$500 community grant to the Sunset Presbyterian ESL program. Sunset's 15 volunteer teachers teach six levels of adult classes ranging from basic literacy to more advanced students seeking to fine-tune speaking and writing skills.

Portland Literacy Council proudly supports a variety of literacy programs in the Portland metropolitan area.

## Closing the Gap

Oregon and SW Washington  
Health Literacy Conference 2015

Friday, March 6, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.

The Sentinel Hotel, Portland, Oregon

Join Legacy Health, community partners and nationally renowned experts at the fourth Oregon and SW Washington Health Literacy Conference.

According to the National Patient Safety Council, no other single issue has a greater impact on health status than health literacy. Nearly 9 out of 10 adults have trouble applying everyday health information. People with low health literacy have a difficult time reading, understanding and acting on basic medical instructions and information. Low health literacy is a leading cause of health disparities.

Legacy Health is accredited by the Oregon Medical Association to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians and other health professionals.

Conference fee: \$75 through January 9th, \$90 after.

Register online at

[www.legacyhealth.org/healthliteracyconference](http://www.legacyhealth.org/healthliteracyconference)

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## The Tutor Toolbox will return in 2015.

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### Shop @ AmazonSmile.com & Donate to PLC

Buying at Amazon? Remember that PLC is an eligible charitable organization at [AmazonSmile.com](http://AmazonSmile.com). "AmazonSmile will donate a portion of the sale to Portland Literacy Council. When making your purchase, you can designate Portland Literacy Council as your charity of choice.

"AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service." (source: AmazonSmile.com)

Portland Literacy Council is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations can be made at <http://portlandliteracy.org/donate.html>, or mail to:

Portland Literacy Council

PO Box 2872

Portland, OR 97208-2872

## For Your Calendar

### Tutor Training

Learn more about tutoring on the [Tutors](#) page of the Portland Literacy Council website. Access online registration via the Tutors Page.

### Upcoming workshops

- January 17 & 24  
registration opens December 22  
PCC Southeast Campus  
2305 SE 82nd Ave.
- February 28 & March 7, 2015  
registration opens February 2  
PCC Cascade  
705 N Killingsworth

## Opportunities

### Citizenship Classes

[Registration](#) is now open at Multnomah County Library for Citizenship classes. Pre-registration is required; access registration via the Multnomah County Library website. This class meets on six Sundays.

- Sunday, February 8, 2014, 1 p.m.  
Midland Library  
805 SE 122nd

### Mission: Citizen classes

- Tualatin Public Library starting Monday, January 5, 2015, and running for eight weeks on Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (No class Jan. 19)
- Rockwood Library starting Sunday, January 25, 2015 and running for eight weeks on Sundays from 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Beaverton Library starting February 4, 2015, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and will meet on eight Wednesdays.

### GED Success: Plan of Action

[Registration](#) is also open for MC Library's revamped workshops on how to study for the GED; access registration via MC Library website.

- January 17, 2015, 3 p.m.  
Kenton Library  
8226 N Denver Ave
- February 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Rockwood Library  
17917 SE Stark St