



Portland LITERACY Council COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT JANUARY 2019 – JUNE 2020

See how supporting adult literacy makes an impact in your community.

FLASH BACK

Equity through Literacy 2019

Portland Literacy Council's 2019 annual conference, "Equity through Literacy," attracted over 130 tutors, educators, and literacy advocates.

Held at Reed College, the conference renews volunteer commitments to serve adult learners, boosting morale, and refreshing and reviving their commitment to teach others.

PLC cancelled the 2020 conference due to COVID-19 concerns.

FLASH FORWARD

Adult literacy and English language learning must continue, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Adults without basic literacy skills, especially immigrants and people of color are among the most affected by this crisis.

PLC will deliver new and effective training to adult learners and community literacy programs throughout our community.

You can help make an impact in our community. Please donate now.

THANK YOU 2019 & 2020 SUPPORTERS

Supporters help make our programs successful. We thank them for generous donations between January 2019 and June 2020.

FOUNDATIONS & NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Olive Bridge Foundation; Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary U.S.-Ontario Province; Wish You Well Foundation; Intercambio Uniting Communities; Pacific Northwest Federal Credit Union; Onpoint Community Credit Union; Reed College

A+SUPPORTERS

Donors who support PLC with cumulative donations of \$100 or more.

Linda Bonder, Gale Czerski, Barb & Kurt Ferre, Nancy Galster, Erika Giles, Nancy Hashimoto, Lynn Edwards, Marie Hermanson, Melinda Jackson, Patricia Leonard, Arlene Matusow, Peggy Murphy,

Kathy Murray, Susan Murray, Virginia Nelson, Margaret & David Rikert, Laura Schlafly, Jo Senters, Marcus Smith, Cheryl Thoen, Arnold Vinnard, James Walseth, Laurie Whittemore, Barb Wayson, Barbara Williams

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DONORS, 2019

Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, Alberta Seierstad – Independent Chef, Caffè Umbria, Coterie Salon, David Rikert (Forest Park Craft), Groundwork Coffee Co., Higgins Restaurant, Kari Asher, LMT Kelsall Chiropractic, Kimo Sunshine Pope (Stylist, Esthetician, Nails), Lené Johnson (Esthetician, Nails), Magaurn Video Media, Redtail Golf Center



Portland LITERACY Council

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**Reach a child
in need —
Teach an
adult to read.**

Portland Literacy Council supports and promotes adult literacy in order to foster a thriving and equitable community.

ONWARD & ONLINE

Letter from the President

Low literacy skills hamper reading, comprehending, and using information for up to 40 percent of adult Oregonians, over 1.5 million people. In 2020, parents have had to help their kids with online school -- imagine how difficult that must be for parents struggling with their own literacy.

In September 2019, over 100 Portland Metro area community programs offered onsite literacy instruction. By March 2020, COVID-19 stay-at-home orders eliminated onsite instruction, and programs closed. The demand for English language and literacy instruction continues.

To meet this unprecedented challenge, Portland Literacy Council in 2020 quickly developed training in video tutoring and creating online lesson plans. Within three months, over 100 volunteers attended the workshops, funded by a grant from the Wish You Well Foundation.

Volunteer literacy tutors make a difference to the hard-working adults in community literacy programs. We rely on volunteers, contributions, and grants for every aspect of our mission. Please consider supporting PLC's efforts to bring literacy to our community.

I hope you enjoy reading about our activities. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please email us at info@portlandliteracy.org.

Peggy L. Murphy

Peggy L. Murphy
Board President, Tutor, & Donor

"Adult literacy can change everything."

(ProLiteracy)

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2019 – JUNE 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy L. Murphy, President
Delpha Thomas, Vice President
Kris Magaurn, Secretary
Cheryl Thoen, Treasurer
Linda Rountree
Barbara Williams

Portland Literacy Council, established 1993, is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization.



PLC Board of Directors;
Kris Magaurn, Linda Rountree, Peggy Murphy,
Barbara Williams, Cheryl Thoen, Delpha Thomas

TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

GED® tutors help improve GED testing success.



Colleen Latimer

Colleen Latimer, an Adult Education instructor, developed PLC's training workshops including "Divide and Conquer: GED Math," and "Adult Education and GED Tutor Training."

STEPPING UP & STEPPING OUT 2019 & 2020

PLC's training programs rate highly among community programs and volunteer literacy tutors.

Workshop registrations often fill quickly, some within hours.

Community Needs Surveys

In 2019 community literacy programs reported high satisfaction for availability and quality of tutors. They wish to serve more clients with very low literacy levels and for training in socio-economic and cultural sensitivity.

Tutor Training Needs Surveys

Post-workshop surveys requested pronunciation, grammar, role playing, classroom organization, lesson planning, awareness of cultural issues, and tutoring pre-literate learners.

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT

"Nothing compares to the direct, positive impact of bringing literacy into someone's life."

- Barbara Cason, Volunteer Literacy Tutor

Love of language and her belief that literacy is essential to fully become part of society led Barbara Cason to volunteer literacy tutoring.

In 2017, Barbara began tutoring at PCC Sylvania as an ESOL conversation class leader and in-class teaching assistant.

She attended PLC's Zoom Basics/ Online Tutoring workshops in 2020, and transitioned to one-to-one conversation practice in half-hour video sessions.



Barbara Cason

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

ESOL Class for Head Start Parents, Clarendon School, North Portland.

Learning English is more than grammar and pronunciation. Socializing, mutual engagement, and support promote learning and help build confidence among learners.

Instructor Madison Gustofson and several outstanding tutors and volunteers worked with small groups of pre-literate and higher English level learners two days a week. Linda Rountree, PLC Board of Directors, supervises the program.



Madison Gustofson,
Lisandra Mesa Falcon,
& Laura

A \$2,400 grant from the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary U.S.- Ontario Province helped fund the program.

TRAINING UPGRADES

PLC extended its tutor training workshops to Clackamas County in 2019. The new GED component broadened the scope of adult tutoring in the Portland metro area.

Social distancing in 2020 created a tremendous demand for tutors to use Zoom. The sudden switch to online learning challenged the status quo of literacy programs.

"Our program really relies on Portland Literacy for the excellent training you provide,"

- Lisa Regimbal, Adult Literacy Services Coordinator, Multnomah County Library

WHAT'S YOUR IMPACT?

Your donations to PLC support Basic Tutor Training, Awesome Tutor Workshops, Equity through Literacy (our annual conference), and our GED scholarship program.

TUTOR TRAINING JANUARY 2019 THROUGH JUNE 2020

6 Basic Tutor Training workshops served **132** prospective volunteer tutors, who received a cumulative total of **1,456** hours of training.

11 Awesome Tutor workshops served **358** established volunteer literacy tutors, who received **814** hours of training.

EQUITY THROUGH LITERACY, ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2019 Conference
99 attendees

15 workshops in **3** time slots

300+ hours of training

2020 conference cancelled



GED SCHOLARSHIPS 2019 THROUGH 2020

34 individuals assisted

8 GEDs earned

\$2,200 in vouchers awarded

"The Zoom class was 'just in time' training . . . 2 days later I had to use many of the technical skills I had just learned."

- Awesome Tutor Workshop attendee