Celebrating 40 Years of Improving Lives Through Education!

A lot has changed in the world since 1977 when the average cost of a home was $49,300, the average income for Americans was $15,000 per year and the Apple II computer went on sale for a base price of $1298.

And so it was fitting that on International Literacy Day, September 8, 1977, The Allentown Area Lutheran Parish donated a small space at 34 South 10th street to teach English to adults on a one-on-one basis. The group of residents were concerned with those being left behind due to illiteracy. In 1978, the tutors (all volunteers) decided to form an organization initially known as The Allentown Literacy Council. Dr. Linda McCrossan, the Council's first executive director served in that position for 29 years, retiring in 2006. In 1984 the Literacy Council established itself as an independent, not-for-profit agency and has gone on to provide free, community-based literacy instruction to more than 26,000 adults from almost every country in the world.

A name change, here and there, an update to the mission statement, and two physical moves later, The Literacy Center is now considered to be one of the finest literacy service providers in Pennsylvania, continually placing in the Top 5 across the Commonwealth. We are extremely proud how far the agency has come from very humble beginnings. Despite our student and instructional accomplishments, we have many more students who need our services and much more to accomplish.

To honor the occasion of the 40th anniversary, The Literacy Center will host a Celebration Luncheon on Thursday, April 27, 2017 in partnership with Penn State Lehigh Valley. Yasmine Mustafa, a highly recognized tech entrepreneur and community leader from Philadelphia will serve as keynote speaker for the afternoon’s festivities. Her presentation: “The Birth Lottery Does Not Define You”, is a reflection on how circumstances in your life, seemingly out of your control, do not define the person you ultimately become. From a Kuwaiti bomb shelter at age eight to the founding of ROAR FOR GOOD, Yasmine’s 22-year journey to American citizenship is a compelling story about perseverance and determination. Her story sheds a personal light on an experience you will never forget. Please join us in celebrating the opportunities to improve lives through literacy services.

40th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon
Thursday, April 27, 11:30-1:00
Penn State Lehigh Valley
2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley

RSVP by April 20
$75/pp or $350 for a table of five
cbauder@TheLiteracyCenter-LV.org
A Tribute to Founding Member, W. Warren Armstrong

It is with a heavy heart that The Literacy Center recognizes the passing of one of the agency’s founding members and lifelong supporters, W. Warren Armstrong.

In 1977 Warren Armstrong and a few hardy souls thought a more literate community would benefit the City of Allentown and indeed, the entire Lehigh Valley. He assembled a group of like-minded individuals who began securing funding, a donated space, and used furniture, all which evolved into real classrooms.

Mr. Armstrong’s passion for community was evident in the multitude of boards he served, the variety of institutions he assisted as a public relations executive, and the numerous contributions he made to area non-profit organizations. His never-ending commitment to improve Allentown and his dedication to his beloved Penn State University will never be forgotten. His numerous contributions and involvement extended far beyond the establishment of this organization in 1977. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Lin and three sons, Michael, Jack and Andy and their entire family. He will be deeply missed; however, his legacy of service and dedication lives on.

Announcing A New Logo!

In recognition of the 40th Anniversary, The Literacy Center's Advancement Committee deemed it the appropriate time to update the Center's logo in order to reflect our educational and technological progress. The Center's dedicated computer lab and updated classroom technology have greatly increased student participation and outcomes. It has further advanced the ability to utilize a variety of instructional methods that significantly improve the learning process.

Keeping pace with the ever-changing world of technology is our pledge to every student. Our new logo reflects our relevance to the education community, a vital attitude, and focus on our future.

THANK YOU to Geoff Gutgold, owner of GGA Global Advertising Agency for his assistance and expertise in guiding the process of establishing a brand new Literacy Center logo!
Success Stories

We are proud to announce three Literacy Center students who have now become U.S. citizens—Maria, Veronica, and Rossana.

Maria (left), from Mexico, obtained her citizenship, and has attended Advanced ESL classes. Veronica (center) is from Mexico. She studied for the citizenship test while attending Advanced ESL/Civics class and The Center’s Citizenship Preparation Study Group. Rossana (right), who hails from El Salvador, has been taking classes at TLC since 2014. She started her studies at the Beginner ESL level working hard to progress to Advanced ESL studies.

*Congratulations* to our dedicated students and new U.S. citizens!

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Graduation 2017 - *Save the Date!*

Whether earning a Pennsylvania high school equivalency diploma, increasing proficiency in the English language, or passing the Naturalization exam, it takes dedication and hard work to achieve academic successes in adulthood. Every adult graduate deserves praise and admiration for their commitment and a job well-done!

Celebrating our 40th annual student graduation, please join us on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017. at 6:30 PM**. The ceremony will be held in the auditorium of the Education Building of Christ Lutheran Church located at 13th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown.

We invite you to celebrate this important milestone in the lives of our students and hope to see you there!

*Photo from the 2016 Literacy Center graduation.*
How Your Donations Can Help

$25  purchases a student textbook
$50  supplies instructional materials for computer and health literacy
$75  provides materials for 30 student assessments
$250 supports classroom instruction materials
$500 gives one student 180 hours of instruction

The Literati Society

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.” - Benjamin Franklin

The Literati Society is a donor group designed to support the agency’s mission and goals through an annual monetary gift. These unrestricted operation dollars are annual individual philanthropic commitments intended to provide a strong vibrant future by strengthening and supporting the organization. Giving amounts are designated through an initial pledge form. No goods or services can be exchanged for membership.

Payment may be made immediately, through a personal check, credit or debit card, or designated select payment options (quarterly, monthly installments). However, full payment of pledge must be made before June 15th of any calendar year.

MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP

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<thead>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
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The Literacy Center Board of Directors