

Literacy Chicago News

Chicago's Oldest Literacy Organization Stays Young

Message from Our Executive Director



What an amazing start to 2019. But before we talk about 2019, let's celebrate our successes of 2018. Last year Literacy Chicago celebrated 50

years of supporting Chicagoland adults in assisting them with their educational, literacy and career aspirations. Focusing on program expansion in 2018 we have been able to deliver on our core values of reaching communities in Chicago that are in the most need and have been able to achieve greater self-sufficiency through language and literacy instruction.

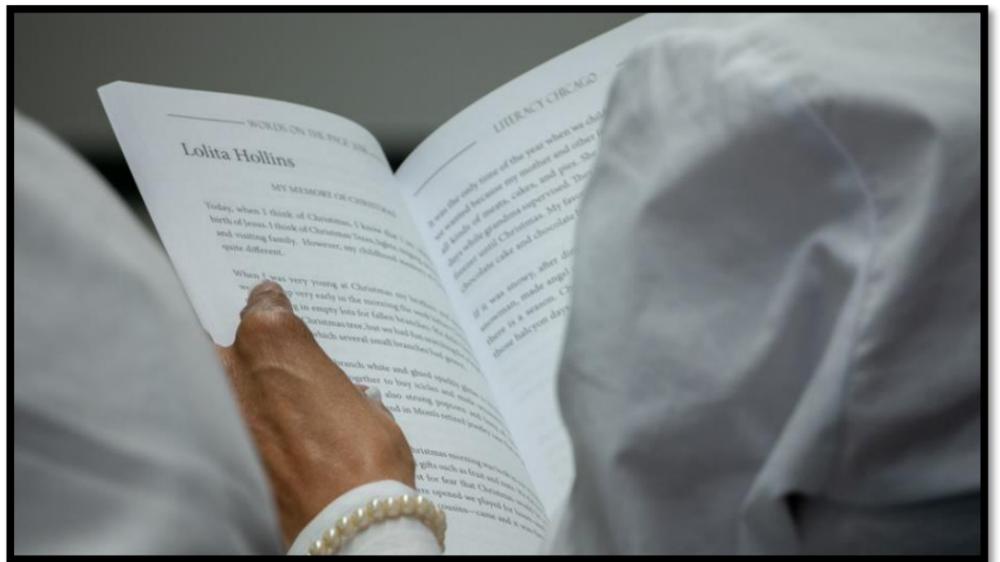
I am excited to say that we have delivered on our promises. Our team worked tirelessly throughout 2018 to enhance processes, develop strategies and ensure the growth of our organization through excellence in planning and increasing our focus on our mission. We served over 400 students in 2018, and 2019 looks like it will be a year of considerable growth with new program initiatives and partnerships being developed throughout the city.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, donors, support from the community, but especially to the dedication and efforts from our volunteers. As we move forward in 2019 we all aspire to build better communities and to provide opportunities and support to our Chicago residences.

Thank you for changing people's lives and making a difference. Whether it is financially or through other means, please know your support is making a difference in the lives of others.

Wishing you all the best in 2019,

Richard Dominguez
Executive Director



Highlights from 2018

Celebrated 50 years of serving Chicago's adult education community

- Literacy Chicago's gala was held at the historic Glassner house in October. The wine flowed, guests visited the museum, listened to volunteers and students tell their stories and snacked on delicious gourmet nibbles.

New and improved educational offers

- **Received NTEN Fellowship** sponsored by Google and Capital One to develop new **Digital Literacy Programs**. Successfully implemented 3 digital programs this year serving the North / South and West sides of Chicago. Classes were held at Literacy Chicago offices, with partners: at the Vietnamese Association of Illinois, and in residences belonging to the Chicago Housing Authority.
- **Drop-in ESL Conversation class** was started at the Harold Washington Library.
- **ESL classes** were offered in public schools: to parents dropping off their children.
- Served over **400 students** this past fiscal year.
- 71% of our **GED students** earned their GED or passed portions of the 5-part exam.

Happenings

- **Literacy Chicago's website** underwent a complete revision including videos of students and volunteers.
- **Expanded partnerships to include a new bridge program** to provide career pathways into carpentry and construction fields. 25 students received their Department of Labor (DOL) card, and have transitioned into the workforce.
- Participation in the **Chicago Literacy Alliance** "Battle of the Letters" fundraising event at Chicago's famous theater: The Laugh Factory.
- **Words on the Page**, 26th edition published with students' writings about **Childhood Memories**.

Citizenship

- Developed and implemented new Citizenship preparation courses. 100% of students who received a formal interview passed and were sworn in as US Citizens.
- Literacy Chicago citizenship student Rogelio Arce was awarded the Student Spotlight Award from Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White.

Volunteers

- 163 **volunteers** tutored, taught and aided our students.
- **AmeriCorps service members** Literacy Chicago has had two AmeriCorps service members offer their services and their talents.

HEADS UP!**Keep Up to Date on LC Events!**
February 7th
Outreach in Chicago's 35th Ward

Literacy Chicago has been invited to present their ESL and Digital Literacy program, at the "Reading with Alderman Rosa" event. Please join us for an evening promoting bilingual literacy at the new Independence Branch Library, 4024 N. Elston Ave., from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

February 9th & 16th
or
March 9th & 16th
Volunteer Tutor Training

This fun-filled class takes place on two consecutive Saturdays from 9 to 3 and both days of training are required. [Find registration info here.](#)


March 23rd
On the Road to Literacy Conference

Our own program manager Joanne Telsers-Frere will be presenting an ESL workshop called "How to Make Your Classroom Feel Like a Happy Family." Sponsored by LVI (Literacy Volunteers of Illinois) and the UIC Center for Literacy, the event is open to the public. [Registration details here.](#)

April 2nd and 3rd
Registration for Spring Classes

The last day of class for the current session will be March 27th. Registration for spring classes will be held the following week. For further information, [please visit our website here.](#)

**CITIZENSHIP CORNER****Take this quiz and win!****Five Questions**

To become a US Citizen, you must be able to answer 100 questions about American history, government and integrated civics. Can you find the correct answers to these five questions?

Those who get all the answers correct will be entered into a raffle and one lucky winner will get a special Literacy Chicago gift!

Submit your answer by February 28, 2019 to info@literacychicago.org

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. Name the three branches of the government.
3. Name the two longest rivers in the United States.
4. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
5. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?


Brittani Smith
Vibrant Volunteer
of the Month


Brittani and her student Tim enjoying their time together!

Literacy Chicago's dynamic volunteer program allows each student to have a private tutor! If you would like to volunteer as a tutor or help out in other ways, [please click here.](#)

Brittani has always been inspired to volunteer by her parents and grandparents who instilled the importance of giving back to the community. Her education and training have afforded her the opportunity to develop a strong command of the English language and work one-on-one with adults to help them become stronger writers. She chose Literacy Chicago to continue using these skills and work specifically with ABE students.

While Brittani has many highlights as a tutor here at LC, she considers one especially notable. She worked with a student to help him complete an 8-week writing project. He created a biography about his best friend that he was able to present with a great sense of pride and accomplishment. "This was the most rewarding thing for me, to be able to help him cultivate his writing and get to this point."

Her work outside of being a volunteer tutor keeps her quite busy. Employed by a Los Angeles-based company, she works remotely here in Chicago as a casting director for movies and TV shows. Her immediate future plans include getting her startup going. She is opening a school to provide local actors with resources and training.

★ **Star Student Spotlight** ★

H.C WARFIELD

H.C Warfield, (yes his name is H.C!) first came to Literacy Chicago just over 4 years ago at the age of 65. He had decided it was time to improve his reading. H.C had looked all over Chicago before finding Literacy Chicago. Every other place that he went to told him that his test scores were too low and they couldn't help him.

He was determined to learn to read and his great-great-grandfather's words of advice rang in his ears, "Don't give up!" In fact, he received many words of advice from this insightful man. One thing he remembers is that his great-great-grandfather said "if you go to school and don't learn, you should always have a trade. Something you THINK you can do. Keep doing it, and don't give up."

H.C followed this advice and became a glazier. He worked for a man who eventually gave him the company, bought him his first pieces of glass and told him, "now it's up to you!" H.C became owner of the company and even though he couldn't read he had the management skills to make a success of his venture. At another time in his life he had a landscaping company, and again was successful.

His friends wondered how a man who couldn't read could run a company! Well H.C is resourceful. He had a friend write out numbers for him so he could write checks-and pay his employees. And he used many other creative tactics to get by. He has invented several different objects and he even has several patents pending on right now! Sorry, can't tell you what they are yet!

However, it was a thorn in his side that he couldn't read and this is what finally led him to Literacy Chicago. He loves coming here and is enjoying being able to read poetry, about people, history, and events. He is currently working on a short story and is contemplating writing his memoirs.

In addition, H.C enrolled in Literacy Chicago's new digital literacy class "Ace the Computer" and has already started surfing the net and discovering new and interesting things. H.C sure does know how to keep busy. He is taking painting classes, swims every day and is actively engaged in his church group by helping young people in the community.

In the words of his great-great grandfather, "it's better to say "there he goes" than "there he lays" because you can always come back and try to improve on another day!"



*H.C Warfield
A man who never gives up!*

Did You Know?

The Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is also the State Librarian. The State Library's Literacy Office assists adult literacy programs throughout the state in numerous ways.

Snapshot of Adult Literacy in Illinois

1 | *Impact of Program Awards Through the Secretary of State Illinois State Library Literacy Office*

\$4,717,205 to 96 literacy projects in Illinois for Fiscal Year 2019

Service locations available to program participants increased by 15% over those utilized in Fiscal Year 2018

2 | *Fiscal Year 2018 Program Learner / Volunteer Statistics*

- ❖ 11,035 adult learners served
- ❖ 62% of adult learners were studying English as a Second Language (ESL)
- ❖ 5,355 volunteer tutors provided services to adult learners

3 | *Fiscal Year 2018 Adult Literacy Public Library Partnership Results*

50 adult literacy programs assisted 2,329 adult learners in obtaining library cards

377 libraries provided tutoring space for literacy volunteers to work with adult learners

Information from the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State / Illinois Literacy Winter 2019 Newsletter

"When I am king, they shall not have bread and shelter only, but also teachings out of books; for a full belly is little worth where the mind is starved."

The Prince and The Pauper by Mark Twain

PICTURE GALLERY 2018

New Digital Classes



Citizenship Classes



One on One Tutoring



Words on the Page



Words on the Page



Battle of the Letter



Battle of the Letters



ESL Classes



Adult Literacy Classes



Adult Literacy Classes



Volunteer Training



Volunteer Training



50th Anniversary Gala



50th Anniversary Gala



50th Anniversary Gala



Donate

Help support Literacy Chicago's efforts!
By shopping with Amazon Smile who will donate 0.5% of your purchase amount to us:



or on our website



Literacy Chicago

641 W. Lake Street Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60661
312-870-1100
www.literacychicago.org