

Gaston Literacy Council, Inc., an accredited affiliate of ProLiteracy America and a funded program of the United Way of Gaston County, is a progressive agency committed to ensuring that all people are able to make decisions about the kinds of lives they will lead and under what circumstances they will lead them.

Definition: Literacy is the ability to clearly read, write, and speak English on a level necessary to develop one's knowledge and potential, compute and solve problems, achieve individual goals, and function in our English-speaking society.

Mission: It is our mission to help people become functionally literate through advocacy initiatives and instructional services.

Vision: It is our vision to promote a thriving productive community that recognizes individuals in need of literacy services, encourages them to come forward, and supports their efforts to gain essential knowledge.

Values: We believe that literacy enriches the quality of life for individuals and our community. To this end, we are committed to: inclusiveness, accessibility, learner-centered instruction, volunteerism, partnership, responsibility, and accountability.



GLC Students Surpass State's Goal for Literacy Level Advancement

Kaye Gribble
Executive Director

Title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, is the federal law that provides funding for Basic Skills programs. The NC State Board of Community Colleges awards sub-grants to literacy providers such as Gaston Literacy Council to assist adults in becoming literate and obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency.

The National Reporting System (NRS) is the national accountability system for adult education. Each state establishes measurable goals for participant outcomes which are quantifiable and include gains on a standardized test score. Students are pre- and post-tested with a standardized instrument to determine whether the students have progressed one or more NRS levels.

I am pleased to report that 70% of our adult students advanced a NRS Literacy Level in Fiscal Year 2006/2007, surpassing the State goal of 36% (LACES, Table 4B). Another 15% actually made significant gains on the CASAS post-test but did not advance a level.

Staff accomplished this by identifying gaps in knowledge and designing classes to develop specific skills, such as understanding fractions and basics of grammar. Now, they're subdividing these classes and creating new classes such as "timed reading" to help students become even more proficient. Students also attend classes designed to help overcome barriers to learning, such as reversals. Lower level students are now paired with volunteers and also attend staff-led classes designed specifically to help them with basic life skills, such as making a grocery list.

Congratulations to all of the hard working, determined, capable students, volunteers and staff who made this report possible.

Farewell from... Board Chair



Richard Rankin
Board Chair

The clients who learn to read and write at Gaston Literacy are an inspiration. Without their courage, determination, and hard work, Gaston Literacy would not have the privilege of being partners in promoting literacy. The caring administrators, staff and volunteers who teach literacy are an inspiration. Without their talent, devotion, and concern, Gaston Literacy could not fulfill its mission to teach people to read and write. Thank you, Gaston Literacy Council, for creating such a successful partnership in literacy. It is a joy to be associated with such a valuable, noble organization. The work of Gaston Literacy is vital to the well being of our community.

If someone offered me a million dollars to go back to the way I was before I could read, I'd turn them down.

Earl Mills, aged 48

Program Highlights

The primary goal for all GLC adult education programs is that students accumulating sufficient hours of instruction will demonstrate improvements in literacy skill levels in reading, writing, and speaking the English language, numeracy, and problem solving as measured by the federally recognized Comprehensive Adult Skills Assessment System (CASAS).

448 adult students were served during 06/07 with 168 achieving sufficient hours for post-testing. 85% made gains on the CASAS post-test and 70% advanced a National Adult Literacy Level.

Staff reviews all post-test answers and groups the questions into categories. Classes and lesson plans are then developed to ensure students receive necessary information and adequate practice to help them build on their strengths and fortify areas of weakness.

Classes offered each week cover a variety of topics, allowing students to choose classes of interest to them and creating a course schedule tailored to their own needs and time availability. Students may attend class for as much as seven hours a day.

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Based on CASAS assessments, students functioning below 4th grade level are classified as Adult Basic Education (ABE). These lower-level students receive a combination of one-on-one tutoring by volunteers and small group instruction led by staff members in Reading Basics, Reading Comprehension, Spelling and Writing, and Math Concepts. 39 students were served during 06/07. 40% advanced from ABE to pre-GED. Four got new jobs and 1 got a promotion.

During 2006/2007, GLC piloted a new visual strategies program for 25 to 30 of the most difficult to serve individuals, the majority of whom function at or below the 2nd grade level and cannot build fluency because of visual perception and reversals. GLC's Director of Education and one Education Coordinator attended the Irlen Diagnostic Screening training where they learned to diagnose the condition and to use tools such as colored overlays and tactics described in "Reading by the Colors" to surmount this obstacle. GLC also uses Davie's techniques as outlined in "The Gift of Dyslexia" for students with common reversal and perception problems.



Pre-GED

Students functioning above the 4th grade level attend small group instruction in the five modules of the GED led by staff. Our increased use of technology and hands-on activities in the classrooms improved our retention rate as well as student outcomes. 156 students were served in pre-GED this year. Pre-GED grew by 37% last year. Seven passed 3 GED practice tests and were referred to the college for the exam. Two achieved the GED. 64% of those in the job market got a new job.

Classes in "Test Taking" were developed for our pre-GED students to supplement their core curriculum classes and give them extra practice searching for specific information in multiple layouts.

Reading Soul Mates (RSM)

RSM is an enhanced mentoring program that matches at-risk students with supportive role models who tutor, set expectations, and provide motivation and guidance. The ultimate goal of Reading Soul Mates is independent reading while taking the child from his or her present level to a more advanced one. Children develop a positive attitude and self-confidence about reading by using guided, leveled text that is easy enough to read but which offers challenges and opportunities for problem solving. Reading Soul Mates is critical to our children because the State Department of Education has mandated third grade is a gateway at which students reading below grade level will be retained.

91 students were served at 11 schools in 06/07. 98% demonstrated gains on the school-administered DRA test, with 48% achieving grade level, and 23% exceeding. Students gained an average of 9.5 points. (Note: Results exclude special needs 1st graders served at one school for whom the program was not designed.)



More than 677 second grade students have been served in the RSM program since 1999 with an average of 97% demonstrating gains, 58% achieving grade level reading, and 22% exceeding.



Program Highlights Cont.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

serves students, whose first language is not English, in small group settings. Instruction is led by volunteers and staff who teach conversational English, health literacy, and citizenship. The main objective is to improve English communication skills while imparting basic survival information and expanding their understanding of our community and the United States. Through ESL, students acquire knowledge, information, and skills to be better family members and employees, active partners in the education of their children, and contributing members of society. 253 ESL students were served with 96 achieving sufficient hours of instruction for post-testing. Based on CASAS post-tests, 76% advanced a National Adult Literacy

Level, surpassing the State goal of 34% set by the NC Community College System. Our focus on improving results among the Intermediate Level students resulted in 78% advancing a level, compared to 43% last year. 72 students achieved a documented goal such as getting a driver's license, getting a better job or promotion, or understanding a conference with their child's teacher. The Civics component expanded to include information about North Carolina's regional attractions and historical sites. The intent is to help students plan trips and to facilitate an ongoing dialogue about our State's history and culture. Maps, bus schedules, and ferry fares provide familiarization with our transportation system.

Courses on United States history up to 1865 allows students to relate to topics such as immigration, slavery and civil rights, and provide opportunities for discussion about individual experiences and native countries. The curriculum

offers practice in listening, reading, and pronunciation as students take turns reading passages that



expose them to a wide variety of vocabulary, idioms, and cultural topics. Citizenship flash cards are used during each class to afford students a better understanding of the process of citizenship while learning citizenship facts and practicing their English.



On August 8, 2006, Gaston Literacy Council, Inc. was re-accredited by ProLiteracy America, the US Programs Division of ProLiteracy Worldwide. Peter Waite, Executive Director of ProLiteracy America said, "Gaston Literacy has demonstrated that their program meets the highest national standards for volunteer literacy programs and that their services to the community are effective. We applaud the many volunteers, staff, and students who have devoted their time and effort to achieve this goal."

Gaston Literacy first received national accreditation in 2002. ProLiteracy America Accreditation acknowledges literacy organizations that are distinguished by superior professional leadership, effective programs, committed governing boards, and outstanding volunteer support.

Affiliates complete a rigorous process of self-evaluation, program improvement, documentation of compliance with the standards, and ongoing evaluation. The process culminates with a site review by a nationally trained accreditation reviewer. A national review panel makes the final determination of accreditation.

Meet the Author



On April 17, 2007, Gaston Literacy Council held its first annual "Meet the Author" book signing event at the Gaston Country Club. The 174 guests were treated to a delicious lunch while being entertained by the fabulously witty Sheri Lynch, Co-Host of 107.9 Bob and Sheri in the Morning.

Sheri advised the audience, "Life can be tragic, hard and senseless, and it's tough to go through it alone, which is why I suggest you bring a book...When you learn to read, you're never lonely, you're never separate."

The author of Hello My Name Is Mommy and Be Happy or I'll Scream!, Sheri is the winner of the Gracie Allen Award and the Marconi Award, and has been voted Creative Loafing's Best Local Radio Personality for over a decade.

The benefit netted more than \$11,881 to support Gaston Literacy Council's educational programs. Major sponsors included Summit Eye Associates, David Belk Cannon Foundation, Julie Shovelin, The Gaston Gazette, and Carolinas Plastic Surgery.

Contributors

Read!Read!Read Club (\$1 - \$49)

Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Jr.
Anonymous
Barger, May C.
Booth, Janice H.
Campbell, LaRae Brittain
Carson, Vernon F. & Jo Carole
Case, Thomas L. & Mary Ann
Charzewski, David L. & Clare M.
CinqMars, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J.
Davis, Leslie G. & Ann R.
Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C.
Ferguson, Bernice R.
Frye, Jacob L. & Jenifer B.
Hauser, David L. & Nancy S.
Hobbs, Walter N. & Judith L.
Hoover, Diane R.
Horky, Karen Thames
Jenkins, Mack B. & Susan O.
Joles, Mr. and Mrs. Bill
Kimsey, Carroll D. and Janis A.
Matheson, Ernest M. or Lois A.
McCloskey, Joseph W. & Patricia R.
McLain, Rebecca L.
Moose, Mr. and Mrs. John E.
Neeley, Olivia A.
Slaughter, Nell
Smirz, Mark V. & Reine M.
Smith, Robert T. & Jodie A.
Spach, Frederick P. & Leigh H.
Stewart, Carol M.
Sumner, Mary D.
Taormina, Dr. Velma V.
Trosper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Jr.
Tumlinson, Jennifer L.
Wells, Margaret
White, Betty
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Skill Builders (\$50 - \$99)

Adcock, Heather K.
Albright, S. D.
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Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Buckner, Donald A. & Patricia B.
Chapman, Dr. Emory & Mary
Craig, Julie M. H.

Current, Elizabeth O.
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Elliot Pishko Morgan, PA
Four Seasons Garden Club
Goodrich, Joel D. Jr
Harris, D. Russell & LeeAnn H.
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Heili, Michael J. & Margaret M.
Henderson, Robert F. & Rene W.
Jarman, Jr., Dr. William H.
Jarratt, Mikell & Elaine
Jurs, Sara E.
McArver, Roger E. & Ginger
Mikszan, Daniel F. & Shelley
Ness, Laurie
Norcross, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick C.
Page, Mr. and Mrs. John C.
Peers, Johan Newcombe
Rencher, Mandy Aycock
Rowe, R. Leonard & Virginia Penegar
Sutton, Benette T.
Taylor, Thomas G. & Eileen M.
Tindol, Ms. Natalie M. and Mr. John Davis
Wright, Marsha K.
Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Roger

Literacy Advocates (\$100 - \$249)

Abernathy, Dr. and Mrs. William B. Jr.
Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel M. IV
Burris, Martha
Carpenter, Debra F.
Chicago Title Insurance Company
Davis, Marianna Rhyne
de la Vega, Raul S. & Joanne K.
Ford, James R. & Barbara L.
Fulghum, S. & A.
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Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Walter H.
Griffith, John D. & Jennifer D.
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Houck, Mr & Mrs F. B.
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Smith, Mary
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Tarlton, Kristina B.
Thompson, Mark A. & Susan T.
Ulrich, Gladys N.
Valedon, Dr. and Mrs. Francisco A.
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Weiss, Juli S.
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 Summit Eye Associates

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 Henry, Mr. and Mrs. George F. III
 Kimbrell, Duke
 Petty, Mr. and Mrs. Larry K.
Post-Secondary Scholarship Designation
 Cannon Foundation, David Belk

Memorials**Sara P. Holcomb**

Adams, Mr. R. W. & Mrs. Kaye S.
 Garrison, Mr. and Mrs. A.F., Jr.
 Sedgefield Neighbors
 Howard, Troy M & Dorothy A.
 Matthews Belk Retirees
 Riggs, Ann J.
 Waters, Katie

Redbird Thomas

Adams, Robert L., Jr & Mary W.
 Blair, W. Luther
 Bohanan, A. W. & Carolyn W.
 Calvert, Nancy C.
 Davis, Reginald E & Jan L Proctor
 Dunnagan, Harold M. & Suzanne V.
 Faris, Paul S & Vicky P
 Hodges, Rick & Vicki
 Jacobs, Joe S & Gaylia M.
 Lipscomb, Gordon L. & Harriette M.
 Long, John K
 Matthews, B. Frank
 Miller, Dr. George R.
 Moser, Catherine P.
 Quinn, Maureen
 Ragan, Dan
 Rose, Arthur M & Myra S.

Smith, Zachary T.
 Warren, Roy P. & Edith C.
 Waters, Katie
 Watson, Thomas C., III
 West Ave. Presbyterian Church
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 Wood, Dean C.

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Choquet, Mrs. Norma M.

Ethel Dietrich

Dent, Lisa J. & Barratt

Anna Williams

Fanning, Anna Vaughn

Ted Kennedy

Hoyle, David W

Mary Anne Patrick

Keith, Mr. & Mrs. W. H.

Walton Avery

Sherwood Elementary School
 Ward, Ann & Theron

In Kind Contributions

Craig, Edwina
 Crisp, Susan
 First United Methodist Church
The Gaston Gazette
 Leslie, John
 Link, Kelly
 Office Furniture Resource

Honoraria**Mr. and Mrs. Plato Pearson**

Adams, Robert L., Jr & Mary W.

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Wells, Edith K.

Dr. and Mrs. R.E. Rankin, Sr.

Financial Statement

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Beginning Balance	\$20,333.00
Receipts	<u>336,440.00</u>
Subtotal	356,773.00
Disbursements	<u>-327,393.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$29,380.00
Liabilities	0
Assets	
Checking	\$29,180.00
Savings	0.00
Cash on Hand	<u>200.00</u>
Total Assets	\$29,380.00

Endowment Account

Beginning Balance - Cost	\$843,227.00
Deposit - Contributions	26,000.00
Withdrawals	-37,500.00
Net Earnings	<u>109,642.00</u>
Ending Market Balance	\$941,369.00
Designated Scholarship Fund	\$10,002.00

Grant Awards

United Way of Gaston County \$126,017

Funds were awarded to provide general support in the following areas:

Adult Services \$73,844

- * Volunteer training in the core competencies and best practices within the field of adult literacy, in compliance with all conditions established by ProLiteracy America.
- * Basic literacy services for functionally illiterate adults
- * To develop strategies to help learners overcome certain visual and auditory impairments to learning.
- * English as Second Language testing and classes in conversational English, Health Literacy, Civics, and Citizenship and Test of English as a Second Language.

Youth Services \$52,173

- * To support our second grade tutoring program, Reading Soul Mates.
- * To help support the institution of a Teen Tutoring program for high school drop-outs or potential drop-outs and immigrants who are ineligible for community college services due to public funding prohibitions and/or local enrollment policies.

NC Community College System \$96,000

* Adult Basic Education \$50,000

Funds were awarded to provide basic literacy services in reading, writing, and speaking the English language, numeracy, and problem solving for adults without a high school diploma and immigrants whose first language is not English.

* English Language/Civics \$46,000

Funds were awarded for expanding ESL instruction and integrating Civics and Health Survival curriculum into the conversational English lesson plans. The primary objective is to improve English communication skills while imparting basic survival information and helping students expand their understanding of our community and the United States.

Gaston County Commissioners \$9,000

Funds were awarded to support the following programs:

- * Adult Basic Education focusing on reading & math skills for individuals with the lowest literacy levels.
- * Pre-GED classes in the 5 modules of the GED in preparation for transitioning to the community college.
- * English as a Second Language which develops conversation, reading, and writing skills for non-English speaking adults.
- * Reading Soul Mates which pairs 2nd graders reading below grade level with reading tutors.
- * Tutor training for youth and adults who tutor in all program areas.

Glenn Foundation \$7,000

Funds were awarded to help support a new program which provides tutoring in basic reading, writing and math, GED preparation, and English as Second Language instruction for 15 to 18 year-old drop-outs and students at risk of dropping out.

Community Foundation of Gaston County–Run for the Money Match (\$6,400)

Funds were awarded to help support a new program which provides tutoring in basic reading, writing and math, GED preparation, and English as Second Language instruction for 15 to 18 year-old drop-outs and students at risk of dropping out.

US Airways Education Foundation \$3,000

Funds were granted for the purchase of curriculum and materials for the ABE and pre-GED program which were provided free-of-charge to our students and tutors.

Gaston County Commission on the Family \$2,500

Support was provided for Reading Soul Mates, which trains and matches volunteer reading buddies with second graders at risk of failing third grade due to below grade reading skills.

Sumner Professional Education Grant (\$985)

The award funded certification training to enable our Basic Education Coordinator to determine the presence and severity of a visual perceptual problem called Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome (SSS) using the Irlen method, and to employ tactics and tools to minimize distortions caused by SSS.

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Sir Richard Steele

Literacy—Aspiring Students and Devoted Teachers...

*Words cannot adequately convey our gratitude to our volunteers.
\$33,242 Savings to the Agency*

Adult Basic Education Volunteers

Bell, Teresa McDaniel, Rita	Miller, Robin Parks, Mariann	Perry, Kathy Ruttenbur, Mary	Savage, Edith Slaughter, Nell	Stafford, Alvin Watson, Donna
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Pre-GED Volunteers

Clay, Debbie	Loschmann, Hope	Robinson, Lander	Thymius, Constantine	Thymius, Barbara
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English as Second Language Volunteers

Bittner, Laura Frazier, Tom	Jones, Clyde Matthews, Judy	Robinson, Sarah Slaughter, Nell	Stevens, Melanie Wright, Marsha	Watson, Donna
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Reading Soul Mates Volunteers

Brookside Elementary

Jarvis Yates, Debbie
Smith, Tracey
Flint Groves
Sunday School Class Tutors
Bidby, Shirley
Bivens, Irene
Calvert, Lyndia
Cline, Horace
Cline, Lauren
Cline, Muriel
Fraley, Vivian
Hayes, Rachel
McGinnis, Barbara
Salmon, Nancy
Wooten, Lena

Catawba Heights Elementary

Allison, Roger
Frame, Lisa
Gallagher, Cherie
Henson, Michelle
Holt, Linda
Woodman, Stuart

Chapel Grove Elementary

Lynn, Cookie

Lingerfeldt Elementary

McKenzie, Pamela
Kaul, Anne

Lowell Elementary

Martin, Donna
Ashbrook High School Tutors
Anderson, Joann
Black, Michael
Blount, Angelica
Christopher, Christina
Hovis, Elly
Jefferies, Solita
Kulick, Jade
Luttrell, Corey
Simpson, Anthony
Wallace, Alex

McAdenville Elementary

Gehle, Annette
Marr, Gail
Cozart, Bill

New Hope Elementary

Bissette, Daphne
Caldwell, Kristi
Carden, Samantha
Cox, Shirley
Fox, Jessica
Isom, Abigail
Isom, Rachel
Jordan, Erica
McCurry, Jammie
Myer, Danielle
Phillips, Tiffany
Smith, Heather
Webster, James

North Belmont Elementary

Bradley, Michael
Herndl, Elizabeth
Taylor, Martha

Rhynne Elementary

Bean, Kerry
Forbes, Loretta

St. Michael's Catholic School

Wylie, Olivia
Carson, Ally
Ruden, Tonilee
Watts, Hannah

Children receiving one-on-one tutoring set up by community groups have shown greater progress than children without support.

Howard Lee, N.C. School Board Chairman, 2006

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*The Gaston Literacy
Council, Inc., a private
non-profit organization,
exists to help people
become functionally
literate through advocacy
initiatives and
instructional services.*



116 South Marietta Street
Gastonia, NC 28052
704/868-4815
literacy@gastonliteracy.org
www.gastonliteracy.org

Accredited Affiliate

ProLiteracy America

Affiliations

United Way of Gaston County
NC Literacy Association

Awards

NC Center for Nonprofits
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