

Message from the Executive Director

The last year was an incredible one for Chatham County Literacy Council in service delivery and in organizational growth. We served 16% more adult learners and engaged 22% more volunteers as tutors than in the year before.

To expand services while maintaining quality programming, Chatham Literacy worked last year with Executive Service Corps on board development and strategic planning. We now operate with a governing board supported by working committees of board and community members.

We also developed an aggressive and targeted three-year strategic plan that will guide our programming into 2017. Its charges include strengthening our free services

within current locations; expanding our services and presence in the Siler City area, where the need is greatest; enhancing tutor training; and increasing community awareness so that individuals, agencies, and businesses recognize Chatham Literacy as a resource and opportunity.

To make this possible, we must increase our budget over the next three years by 45%. I hope that reading this report about our dedicated students and volunteers will inspire you to make a contribution to sustain and expand our successful programs. Your donation, no matter the amount, will help people in Chatham County realize their dreams and build better futures.

We appreciate your support.

—Vicki Newell, Executive Director



The Chatham Literacy staff (from left): Tutor Coordinator Alisha McFadden, Bookkeeper DJ Lynch, Executive Director Vicki Newell, and Student Coordinator Manuel Colorado-Reyes

Literacy benefits everyone



Tutoring team Silvia Rodriguez and Ruth Edgerton

Carolina Meadows is thrilled to be a part of an innovative literacy partnership with the Chatham County Literacy Council. Chatham Literacy trains and supports Carolina Meadows residents as tutors and citizenship teachers for non-native English-speaking staff.

Working together we have been able to advance the education and well-being of our staff while simultaneously providing a worthwhile volunteer opportunity for residents. It has also allowed residents and staff to interact in new and meaningful ways.

As resident tutor Lynn Ogden shared: “Teaching ESL has given me an insight into the strong parental planning and family cooperation of our employees. Also, it has been a pleasure to see their growth in grasping our strange and many times difficult language.”

—Amy Gorely, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach, Carolina Meadows

One student’s story



Christian Davies uses the laptop he earned from Chatham Literacy for achieving his GED goal.

My name is Christian Davies. I’m originally from The Gambia. I enrolled in the GED program at Central Carolina Community College in 2009. It was the greatest investment I have ever made. It was a start in achieving my “American Dream.”

Due to my heavy work schedule and class commitment, it was a very rough start. The teachers encouraged me every step of the way. I was given a personal tutor to help me in the areas I was struggling with. The tutor gave me lessons outside classes and it helped boost my grades and confidence in myself. I finally was able to pass the GED exam. Currently, I’m taking my prerequisites for the Nursing

Program, which I hope to enter in 2015, and I’m working as a nursing assistant.

Lao-Tzu once stated that “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” My first step was getting enrolled in the GED program, and I hope to continue and achieve my dream.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

185 adult learners were served by **77** tutors | **22** earned GED (high school equivalency) diplomas | **16** got jobs
16 became U.S. citizens | **43** improved their literacy by three grade levels | **137** achieved a short-term literacy goal
74 earned a laptop computer for achieving a long-term literacy goal

**2014-15
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“Having tutors has been an amazing opportunity to improve my English and my experience in American culture. Some barriers that I have overcome through this program include driving alone, going to the post office and the library, even shopping alone because I was afraid (before) to not speak English properly.”

—Ruth, ESL and citizenship student

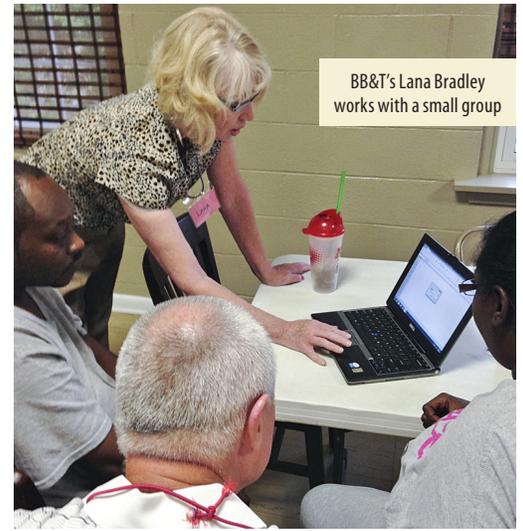
BB&T tackles computer literacy

BB&T in Pittsboro chose Chatham Literacy for its 2014 Lighthouse Project, the bank’s annual effort to make a positive difference in the communities it serves.

BB&T provided \$1,000 for tutoring supplies and its staff volunteered to teach a computer and internet skills workshop for Chatham Literacy’s adult learners. They also generously agreed to include clients from our service partner, Circles Chatham, in a second workshop. Altogether 34 people participated in the classes, which Tiffany Steinbrunner, Lana Bradley, Pamela Kovach, Brandy Everwine, Penny Stallings, and Courtney Thomas made possible.

Tiffany, the branch’s market leader, said the project was a great opportunity for the BB&T staff.

“It was our pleasure to work with an amazing organization and to help others in our community achieve a lifelong goal,” she said.



BB&T's Lana Bradley works with a small group

“My student has become a model to me of exemplary energy, planning, dedication, and passion involved in working toward what would have once been unimaginable goals.”
—Anne Dobson, tutor

New citizens thrive

As a volunteer tutor with Chatham County Literacy Council, I have taught classes or tutored individuals seeking citizenship every week for over five years in Siler City.

These individuals work long days and then sit down to learn U.S. history, to improve their English, and to understand what it means to be an active citizen. I am thrilled to see their active interest in local and national events, excitement about voting, interest in the school board and, for some, a goal of starting a small business.

They represent just the people that we want as citizens – as residents in our counties, as parents of our school children, and as voters in elections.

For them, citizenship is profoundly meaningful. One new citizen told me he no longer passes historical markers on his way to work — he stops to read them because “they are my history now.”

—Joanne Caye, retired professor, UNC School of Social Work



Joanne Caye and new citizen Maria Pavon



Some Student Task Force members -- (from left) Carolina Lopez, Ruth Catillo, Madai Ventura, and Loyda Mendez -- discuss goals for the coming year.

Students share ideas

Students have a stronger voice than ever in Chatham Literacy’s program development and outreach efforts.

A newly formed Student Task Force has identified four areas to focus on in the coming year: helping to improve adult literacy levels in Chatham County, raising awareness that literacy leads to better jobs, encouraging people to

prepare now for opportunities that are coming to Chatham County, and becoming Chatham Literacy ambassadors in the community.

The task force's input and participation will help ensure that Chatham Literacy programming adapts to the needs of our growing, changing community.

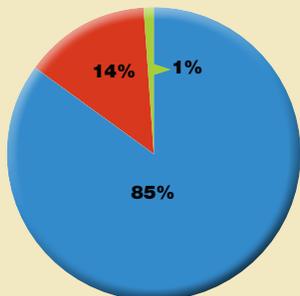
LITERACY MATTERS In the last fiscal year, 87 adult learners – or 47% of Chatham Literacy’s students – were studying English as a Second Language. Tutoring was mostly one-on-one and in groups of three to five students. Most ESL tutoring occurred in and around Siler City and in North Chatham at Nature Trail, Galloway Ridge, and Carolina Meadows. Students say the ESL training has helped them be more equipped on the job and better able to get involved in their community.

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

Donations and grants make Chatham Literacy programs possible

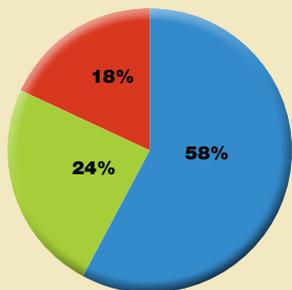
FY2013-14 EXPENSES: \$96,816

- Direct Services \$82,979
- Management/General . . . \$13,057
- Fundraising \$780



FY2013-14 FUNDING: \$96,816

- Grants \$55,921
- Fundraising Events \$17,467
- Individual Contributions . . \$23,428



Note: Chatham Literacy has a reserve fund of \$13,544.

GRANTORS

- Alice and Lance Buhl Fund
- Arthur Carlsen Charitable Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
- Ed and Mary Hayes Holmes Fund
- Carolina Meadows
- Chatham County
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund
- Herman Goldman Foundation
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- United Way of Chatham County
- Women of Fearington

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- Chapel in the Pines
- City Tap
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- Karen Casey Fused Glass
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- Tarantini Italian Restaurant

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- Marjorie Zychowski

PARTNERSHIPS

Our deepest thanks to these partners for providing space, referrals, and collaborations that enable Chatham Literacy to serve students across the county:

- Carolina Meadows
- Cateland Apartments
- Central Carolina Community College-Pittsboro
- Central Carolina Community College-Siler City
- Chatham Child Development Center
- Chatham Community Library
- Chatham Hospital
- Chatham Trades
- Child Care Networks
- Communities in Schools of Chatham County
- Circles Chatham
- Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services
- First United Methodist Church-Siler City
- Galloway Ridge at Fearington
- JobLink Career Center
- Jordan Matthews High School
- Nature Trail
- N.C. National Guard Amory-Siler City
- Wren Memorial Library

Thanks to Wayne and Pam Herndon for taking 20 Chatham Literacy supporters out on their boat for a Jordan Lake cruise and raising \$2,000 for tutoring services.



Book club builds confidence

The Chatham Literacy Book Club is a comfortable way for students to practice and reinforce what they learn in tutoring.

One club member says participation made it possible for her to read and understand a book in English for the first time.

The club was launched in late 2013 with a grant from the Women of Fearrington. Nine adult learners and six tutors participated during the first year. At each meeting, members review and rate the book they began at their previous meeting, volunteers read the first chapter of a new book aloud, and then the group has a discussion.

Completed books are made available to tutors who want to integrate them into their weekly lesson plans.



Book club members read "Something Noble" by William Kowalski.

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Be a Friend of Chatham Literacy

Chatham Literacy operates solely on donations and grants. Donations are tax-deductible and may be made:

By mail: Chatham Literacy, P.O. Box 1696, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Online: www.chathamliteracy.org

Through online banking
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Outreach is a key to success

Community events provide great opportunities for Chatham Literacy to raise awareness, to connect with potential students and volunteers, and to have some fun.

Throughout the year, our staff and volunteers participate in a wide variety of gatherings across Chatham County, like those shown here.

If your community or organization is having an event, we'd like to be there with you. We can set up an information table, provide a helping hand, or show our Pirates for Literacy colors!



Robert Morris and Chatham Literacy Executive Director Vicki Newell at the Pittsboro Christmas Parade.

Student Coordinator Manuel Colorado-Reyes at the Day of the Book in Siler City.



The 2014 Spring for Literacy Luncheon featuring author Krista Bremer was a huge success, raising more than \$15,500 for Chatham Literacy programming. Plans are in the works for the 2015 luncheon. Please watch your email or visit www.chathamliteracy.org for details.

“MY STUDENT HAS TAUGHT ME AT LEAST AS MUCH AS I’VE TAUGHT HER. SHE’S BROADENED MY WORLD.” — PATTY POE, TUTOR

“ANYONE SPEAKING TWO LANGUAGES HAS TWICE AS MANY OPPORTUNITIES!” — CECELIA, ESL STUDENT

