

Message from the Executive Director

We are proud of the many successes we achieved this past year.

At the end of the fiscal year, we had 71 tutors serving our many students. Our tutors are the lifeline of our organization. It is these dedicated men and women who give their time to serve the needs of our students week after week. We are so proud of their efforts and their accomplishments.

To ensure that we follow best practice, we modified and enhanced our tutor training this past year. The free training includes an orientation session, shadowing, 10 hours of interactive training over three days, and the opportunity for tutors to meet their students.

We are pleased to report that we served 178 students this past year, making a difference for them as well as their families.

We now have an office in Siler City as the result of a partnership with Chatham Trades. We plan to expand our services in Siler City, where we have identified so many needs. Mid-year we welcomed Terri Buchanan as our Volunteer Coordinator and Loyda Estrada as our Student Coordinator. We appreciate the excellent work and service of Alisha McFadden and Manuel Colorado-Reyes, who left our organization last year.

Our success was made possible by the generosity of the many businesses, organizations, foundations and individuals who continue to support us.

In this report, you will be able to read about our major



The Chatham Literacy staff (clockwise from top left): Student Coordinator Loyda Estrada, Bookkeeper D.J. Lynch, Executive Director Vicki Newell, Volunteer Coordinator Terri Buchanan

program areas. We hope you will take a few minutes to better understand our programs and our many accomplishments.

We look forward to even more achievements in the year ahead. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely, Vicki Newell, Executive Director

English classes helping students to achieve their dreams

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Literacy's English as a Second Language classes.

"I study English because it is important to me to help my children with their homework and to speak the language of my new country," said Maria Pineda, a mother of two who moved here from Honduras in 2005. "In the past three years I have gotten my GED, and my sons and I have become U.S. citizens."

Alicia Romo, originally from Mexico, has lived in Siler City for 20 years. She and her husband have three sons, the oldest of whom is now in the Marine Corps. Alicia earned her high school equivalency certificate in 2013 and started a housekeeping business with a friend in 2014.

"We started with two customers. After working hard, we have 13 homes now," she said.

"English class has built my confidence in myself. I used to be too shy to speak English, but now I am much braver," Alicia said. "My goal

Opportunities for two Siler City women have expanded dramatically since they began taking Chatham



Alicia Romo and Maria Pineda

is to speak correctly and easily with my current customers – and the new ones I hope to get."

Alicia and Maria both are giving back to Chatham Literacy by sharing their stories and successes in grant and public awareness presentations. And both remain focused on improving their fluency through bi-weekly classes with longtime tutor Eunice Collins.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

178

adult learners were served

37

improved their literacy by three grade levels

151

(85%)

achieved a personal/short-term goal

10

became U.S. citizens

8

initiated the citizenship process

7

got a job or promotion

5

enrolled in a training program

71

tutors worked with students

2,700

volunteer hours were logged

Former Chatham Literacy student excelling in college

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

Illness forced Katerina Sinha to drop out of high school, but it couldn't keep her down. She earned her high school equivalency certificate in January 2015, won a Central Carolina Community College Foundation scholarship, and is now attending CCCC.

Katerina contracted the Epstein-Barr virus in ninth grade and was so far behind by her junior year that she decided to take time off to recover.

"After putting off finishing for years," she said, she enrolled in CCCC's high school equivalency program but needed some help to catch up.

Instructor Randy Diller, who is a member of Chatham Literacy's Board of Directors, and Chatham Literacy tutors Jo Drake, Ruth Nicholson and Craig Fairbrother helped her succeed.

"They all took a personal interest in the learning needs of each of us. This attitude gave the classroom a sense of encouragement, which helped us focus on improving rather than on what we were lacking," she said.

Katerina's goal is to study cognitive psychology and become a college professor so that she can spend her life "in an atmosphere that exists for the purpose of gaining and spreading knowledge."



Katerina Sinha receives her high school equivalency diploma.

It's never too late to learn the basics

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Chatham Literacy's Adult Basic Education program offers a safe and confidential learning environment for adults who lack the most fundamental reading and writing skills.

Through private one-on-one tutoring, these students – who typically join us at a fourth-grade level or less – are able to achieve important

personal goals, such as reading to their grandchildren or advancing on the job.

For one student, the initial focus was simply to read and write. "Motivation drove the three of us — the pupil, the reading instructor, and me, the writing instructor," said tutor Ruth Nicholson.

"After a few weeks he was able to read his work orders and street signs, and he felt accomplished,"

she said. "Now he is able to independently write a paragraph and is feeling very successful, as are his instructors!"

In just nine months, our student had improved his literacy by three grade levels and earned a free laptop computer for his achievement. And, said Ruth, the prospect of earning a high school equivalency diploma "is fast becoming one of his once-unbelievable goals!"

Galloway Ridge at Ferrington

PROFILE: KEY PARTNER

Chatham Literacy is very fortunate to have a long-term partnership with Galloway Ridge at Ferrington.

"Part of our mission has always been to add value and enrich the lives and well-being of those in the greater community," said Kathy Turner, Galloway's Director of Human Resources. "The Chatham County Literacy Council helps us to accomplish this goal."

A number of Galloway Ridge residents have become tutors, instructing students in the community's conference rooms and other facilities.

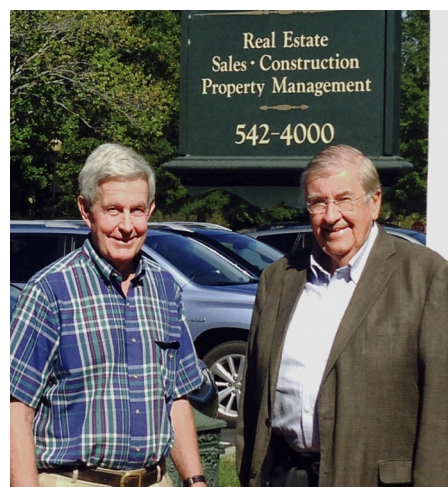
The students are Galloway Ridge employees who attend classes before or after work.

"Our employees' expanding communication skills have made it much easier for them to understand their work duties and responsibilities and to perform those duties," Kathy said. "But we are also pleased that these increased abilities to read, write and speak have empowered these employees to improve the lives of themselves and their families."

Last year 17 employees were tutored by 15 volunteers, nine of whom were Galloway Ridge residents.



Galloway Ridge employee Leandro Vivas-Salgado and tutor John Sullivan



R. B. Fitch, Fitch Creations Inc.

PROFILE: KEY DONOR

R.B. Fitch, a native of Chapel Hill and a graduate of UNC, began Fitch Creations Inc. in 1960. He bought farmland in Chatham County in 1974 and began developing Ferrington Village with his unique vision. The original farmhouse and outbuildings now hold the shops and restaurants of the Village Center, and more than 1,200 families call Ferrington Village home.

R.B. has been a trustee of the North Carolina

R.B. Fitch (right) and Bruce Birch, president of the Chatham Literacy Board of Directors

Nature Conservancy and is past chairman of the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation. In addition, he has been a long-time generous supporter of literacy causes.

"If you can't read and write effectively, you are handicapped for life," R.B. said.

"Years ago, you could probably get by if you weren't literate. But today we are too technologically advanced," he said. "I support the Chatham County Literacy Council because there is a real need here that must be served, and I know they make a difference."

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

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Nationally acclaimed author, Jill McCorkle, reads from her book, "Life After Life", at the 2015 Spring for Literacy luncheon.

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Students seek active roles in the community

CITIZENSHIP

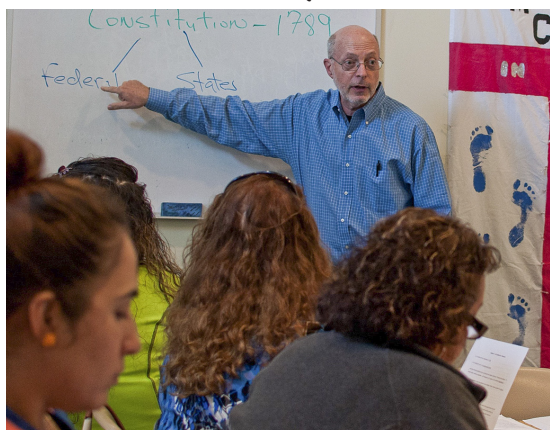
Assimilation.
Acceptance. Par-
ticipation. Voice.

Those are the primary goals of students taking Chatham Literacy's citizenship classes.

In the last fiscal year, 10 of our students became U.S. citizens, joining 50 others who achieved that goal in recent years. Another eight students started the naturalization application process last year, and we anticipate many more will join them in anticipation of voting in the 2016 presidential election.

In addition to taking weekly classes that prepare them for the citizenship test, students also are learning the importance of being informed voters and the variety of ways they can effectively engage in their communities.

"As a result of the class, they feel empowered," said Executive Director Vicki Newell. "They know they have a voice and a right to use that voice. It's life-changing."



Tutor Dan Freehling teaches a citizenship class.

Be a Friend of Chatham Literacy

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Chatham Literacy is expanding its free adult literacy programming and helping more and more adult learners each year. Here are some ways that you can help. All donations are tax-deductible.

- **MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FINANCIAL GIFT** by mail to Chatham Literacy, P.O. Box 1696, Pittsboro, NC 27312; online at www.chathamliteracy.org or through planned giving
- **DONATE SUPPLIES:** Provide pens, pencils, notebooks, calculators, dictionaries and other educational supplies for students.
- **DONATE SPACE:** Share safe classroom space in your business, church or agency.
- **SHOP FOR OUR CAUSE!** Shop online through AmazonSmile.com and/or iGive.com and they will donate a percentage of the price of your eligible purchases to the Chatham County Literacy Council – at no extra cost to you!

Valued partners help raise literacy awareness

We appreciate these businesses and organizations for helping promote literacy in Chatham County. By collaborating, providing meeting space, making referrals and hosting promotional events, they make it possible for us to serve students across the county.

- Al's Diner
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Bean & Barrel
- Bella Donna Italian Restaurant
- Boys and Girls Club of Western Chatham
- Bynum Front Porch
- Carolina Meadows
- Central Carolina Community College-Pittsboro
- Central Carolina Community College-Siler City
- Chapel in the Pines
- Chatham Business Services LLC
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- Chatham Community Library
- Chatham Economic Development Corporation
- Chatham Education Foundation
- Chatham Habitat for Humanity
- Chatham Hospital
- Chatham Reads Collaborative
- Chatham Trades
- Child Care Networks
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Circles Chatham
- City Tap
- Communities in Schools of Chatham County
- ExxonMobile Foundation
- Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services
- First United Methodist Church, Siler City
- Galloway Ridge at Fearington
- Governors Club – Toast of Governors Club
- Hart Palmer Design
- Wayne and Pam Herndon
- JobLink Career Center
- Jordan Matthews High School
- Lynn Hayes Properties
- McIntyre's Books
- Nature Trail
- N.C. National Guard Armory, Siler City
- Pittsboro Roadhouse and General Store
- Southern Landscape and Design
- The Hispanic Liaison
- Wren Memorial Library

"One day I want to know enough English to learn keyboarding and stop working at (a fast food restaurant). And next year I want to read a story in English to my son's class!"

—Maribel, ESL student

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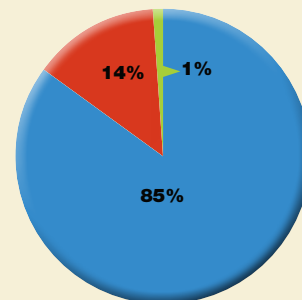
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FY2014-15 EXPENSES

\$95,991

Direct Services \$81,372
Management/General \$13,483
Fundraising \$1,136



Chatham County Literacy Council

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(in the Chatham Trades building)

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P.O. Box 1696, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Mission statement

Chatham Literacy helps adults, living or working in Chatham County, N.C., acquire the literacy and educational skills they need to function successfully in society.



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