

# CHATHAM COUNTY Literacy Council

**2011-12  
ANNUAL REPORT**

## Message from the Executive Director



Executive Director Vicki Newell (right), with Bookkeeper DJ Lynch, Student Coordinator Manuel Colorado-Reyes and Tutor Coordinator Alisha McFadden

**T**his is a time of growth and opportunities for the Chatham County Literacy Council. We served 21% more adult learners and engaged 29% more volunteers as tutors in 2011-12 than in the year before. We look forward to expanding our services in the year ahead.

Throughout 2011-12, Chatham Literacy offered one-on-one tutor-student matches at convenient sites around the county and group classes at eight locations: Carolina Meadows, Galloway Ridge, North Chatham Elementary School, the Pittsboro and Siler City campuses of Central Carolina Community College, and Iglesia Bautista La Roca, Cateland Apartments and First United Methodist Church in Siler City.

Our programming consisted of two year-round citizenship classes, year-round participation in GED classes at the community college and five English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, plus individual instruction in basic literacy, ESL and citizenship.

In partnership with Carolina Meadows, we developed and piloted a Lunch & Learn program to recruit employees for tutoring services. The program was a great success, and we intend to build on it with other communities and businesses in the county.

We now have two people accredited as tutor trainers by ProLiteracy, a national organization that supports, promotes and advocates for adult literacy. We trained 41 new tutors in the past year.

Creating awareness of our services, our agency and the state of literacy in Chatham County also has been a priority. We participated in several community events, including Day of the Book in Siler City, a health fair in Moncure, annual street fairs in Goldston and Pittsboro, and job/career fairs organized through the community college.

We also raised our profile by securing office space at the JobLink Center on Central Carolina Community College's Pittsboro campus. Drop by and see us any Monday or Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The 2012 Spring for Literacy Luncheon raised a record \$16,100. Nearly 180 people attended the event, which featured author Jay Tunney, the son of heavyweight boxing champion Gene Tunney. We will take the next year off from Spring for Literacy, so be on the lookout for other ways to be involved!

Because Chatham Literacy is funded solely through grants and donations, I hope that reading 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 break the cycle of poverty by ensuring that adult learners have access to the reading, writing and speaking instruction they need to qualify for better jobs and to build better futures.

We appreciate your support.

*Vicki Newell, Executive Director*

## Lunch & Learns enrich Carolina Meadows' employees and residents

Residents and employees at Carolina Meadows have proven that lunch and literacy go hand in hand.

They were part of a pilot Lunch & Learn project that introduced employees with limited English skills to Chatham Literacy's programming, trained residents to be adult tutors, then connected employees and residents into on-site tutoring partnerships. The four-session pilot led to 13 employee-resident matches.

Now Carolina Meadows is building on that success by providing funding, space and food for a new Lunch & Learn series as well as a two-part tutor training for residents. It also is advancing the shared project by making it possible for employees to attend one hour of tutoring as part of their paid work week.

Each Lunch & Learn session lasts 30 minutes and provides information on a subject of specific interest to participants, such as understanding their child's report card, managing money, voting or communicating with a doctor.

Chatham Literacy plans to expand the Lunch & Learn program to other communities and businesses across the county. For information on how you can partner with us, contact Vicki Newell at 919-542-6424.



Tutor Nancy Jacobs leads a Lunch & Learn session on highway safety.



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## Why Literacy Matters

**"The English classes have made me feel confident and safe."**

— Xochitl S.

.....

**"I work at car wash. I dry cars. I wash tires. It is cold. We study money and credit cards in my English class. My boss make me cashier. I am inside. I am warm. I make more money."**

— Urbi R.

# Laptop program boosts students' success

Adult learners have more incentive than ever to achieve their goals.

Now, in addition to satisfaction and improved skills, success will earn them laptop computers of their own.

The pilot project, which runs through next June, is funded by grants from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Chatham County and the Triangle Community Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program.

Chatham Literacy is able to buy refurbished laptops for just \$80 each from the United Way's

Teaming for Technology program.

Each student will receive a laptop loaded with Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint for accomplishing two things:

- Achieving one long-range goal, such as attending 90% of all scheduled tutoring sessions for at least nine months, achieving a one-level increase in English or literacy competency, or obtaining a GED diploma, citizenship, job promotion or driver's license, and
- Completing basic computer training.

Chatham Literacy's goal is to continue the pilot project as an ongoing program.

## Literacy is a family priority for the Ocampos

Telesforo Ocampo didn't speak a word of English and had never been to school when he signed up for citizenship classes two years ago. Since then he has become a U.S. citizen, voted and started reaching for a third goal: his commercial driver's license.

Telesforo's path to success hasn't been easy – he learned the day after receiving his citizenship that the chicken feed plant where he worked was closing. But he maintained a positive attitude and continued to take ESL classes in Siler City. Now he's confident he can pass the test and get a job as a commercial truck driver.

Telesforo's wife and sister, Maria and Santana, also have taken ESL classes and become citizens. His 21-year-old daughter Nancy was matched with a tutor and has achieved one of her dreams: getting a driver's license. Now that she can drive to school, she is attending community college classes.

Being part of Chatham Literacy's ESL program also made Telesforo and Maria better able to help their daughter Leslie with her college applications. They proudly report that she's now attending UNC-Greensboro.

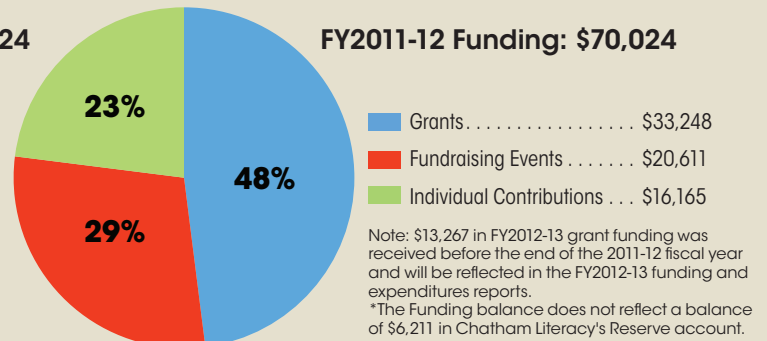
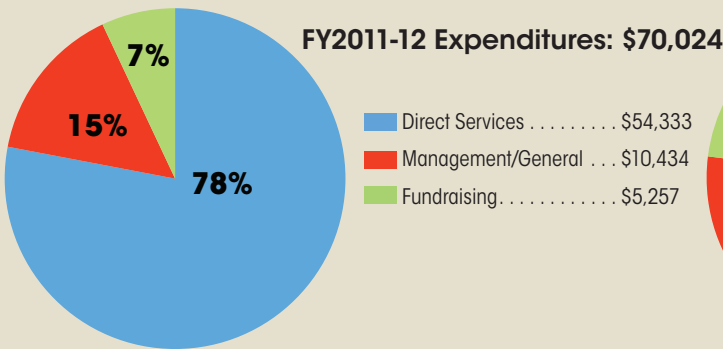


**NEW VOTERS:** Telesforo Ocampo (center, in hat), Humberto Navarro and Nancy Ocampo were part of a group of 12 Chatham Literacy students who went to their polling place together to cast their first votes. They were all students in Bonnie Bechard's citizenship class in Siler City.



Board member and tutor Gloria Wilkins shares information about Chatham Literacy with families participating in the Day of the Book in Siler City.

# Donations and grants make Chatham Literacy programs possible



## THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

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- Arthur Carlsen Charitable Foundation of Triangle Community Foundation
- Bennett Family Foundation
- Carolina Meadows
- Chatham County
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Dollar General Literacy Fund
- Herman Goldman Foundation
- ProLiteracy National Book Fund
- Triangle Community Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program
- United Way of Chatham County
- Wish You Well Foundation
- Women of Fearington

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- Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church
- Flyleaf Books
- Duke Center for Living at Fearington
- Deep Dish Theater
- Governors Club
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- Jean Josephus Hair Design
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## Make a difference: Be a tutor

**T**utoring is life-changing not only for the adult learners who strive to improve their skills but also for the volunteers who partner with them. Eunice Collins, who lives in North Chatham and tutors five English as a Second Language students in Siler City, puts it this way:

*"The women in my group are all married, with children who speak fluent English and attend schools in Siler City. They want to learn English not only to enhance their opportunities to work, but to maintain ties with their children."*

*"From time to time, a child will come to class with her/his mother and I get an insight into a world where she, my student, is the center of a life which she only partially comprehends. Humbly, I realize how much difference a two-hour English class could make in their lives. ..."*

*"Teachers like us, teachers of parents, are like rocks skimming across the water creating ripples of ability and comprehension that make a real difference."*

Tutors don't need to have teaching experience or Spanish-language skills. Chatham Literacy provides the training. Want to learn more? Contact Alisha McFadden: [Alisha@chathamliteracy.org](mailto:Alisha@chathamliteracy.org) or 919.742.0578.

### 2011-12 by the numbers

**149** adult learners served

**59** tutor volunteers

**1,495** tutoring hours

**1,582** non-tutor volunteer hours

**8** new citizens

**2** high school (GED) graduates

**1** new driver

**68** students with improved test scores

**98** students who reached a short-term goal, such as improved reading, writing, English or money skills

**46** students who improved their literacy level by three grade levels or achieved a long-term goal, such as voting or getting a GED.

**82** students who completed at least one year of tutoring



Chatham Literacy conducted four tutor training workshops in 2011-12, preparing 41 new volunteers to be tutors.

The class shown here was taught at Carolina Meadows by Lee Laidlaw, the Literacy Council's 2011-12 Volunteer of the Year.

Chatham Literacy now requires all tutors to receive this specialized training before being matched with adult learners.

**"Since I have been tutoring, I am able to talk with the residents (at work) and with my boss. When I go to the doctor I can talk in English. I talk with the children's teacher in English."**

— Cleo G.

## Be a Friend of Chatham Literacy

Your contribution will help break the cycle of poverty by giving adults in Chatham County access to the reading, writing, basic math and English-language skills they need to qualify for better jobs and to move ahead in life.

**YES**, I'd like to support adult literacy programming in Chatham County with: *(please check all that apply)*

☐ My tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I am enclosing/will send my company's matching gift form.

☐ I would like to make my donation in \_\_\_\_\_ honor of / \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify (name & address) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My time and talents as a volunteer. Please send me information on how I can help.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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