

Message from the Executive Director

Most of us start a new year by taking stock of our lives, counting our many blessings, and giving thanks for all we hold dear. But many in our own community are not so fortunate. Skills most of us learned as children — speaking, reading, and writing in English — are only dreams for them.

In Chatham County, 15% of residents 25 and older have not completed high school. Many cannot read a prescription label, fill out a job application, understand road signs, or help their children with homework. Many want to learn, and Chatham Literacy is dedicated to helping them do just that, because when they are successful the whole community benefits.

There are many ways you can help make a difference for our community. ► [page 3](#)



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

GED partnership yields big benefits



Tutor Ruth Nicholson with Michael Yannuzzi (left) and Miguel Murgueitio

Chatham Literacy and Central Carolina Community College have teamed up to give GED students a solid pathway to success.

Students must have at least a 9th grade skill level to take the General Educational Development (GED) test for a high school equivalency credential. The college's GED teachers refer students who need extra assistance to Chatham Literacy tutors for individualized instruction in reading, writing, and math.

“Without the one-on-one tutoring, many of the students could be lost, frustrated, and ultimately leave the program,” said Randy Diller, an instructor at the college's Pittsboro campus.

Instead, he said, many excel — like tutor Ruth Nicholson's “undefeated string” of seven consecutive students who have passed the GED's writing section.

Congratulations to those students, and to the 20 Chatham Literacy students who earned their GED diplomas in the past year.



Tutor Jo Drake and Cheryl Mumby

One student's story

Cheryl Mumby earned her high school equivalency diploma at Central Carolina Community College's Pittsboro campus. She shared these thoughts on her experience.

My GED experience at CCCC was better than my high school experience by far.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would pass all my tests, let alone in the seven months that it took me. I would not have been able to get there without the most wonderful and outstanding teacher that Mr. (Randy) Diller is along with his amazing tutors. Craig (Fairbrother) was instrumental with math to where you wanted to learn, and Jo (Drake) and Miss Ruth (Nicholson) were always there with their words of wisdom and advice.

I would like to thank Mr. Diller, Craig, Jo and Miss Ruth for helping me to believe in myself and achieve my GED.

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“Data has demonstrated that family literacy has a significant impact on student academic performance. We are grateful for a partnership with Chatham County Literacy Council as we work together to impact student academic success through improving literacy rates for parents.”

– Dr. Derrick Jordan,
Superintendent
Chatham County Schools



Humberto Navarro, Lilia Navarro and Maria Webster are three of Chatham County's newest citizens.

New citizens get involved

Chatham Literacy citizenship classes produced 25 new U.S. citizens in the last fiscal year.

Twenty-two of them voted for the first time in the presidential election and two volunteered at election headquarters for a political party. After completing citizenship class, 13 enrolled in English as a Second Language classes to reach for new goals.

The three citizenship classes in Siler City and northern Chatham County served 62 students, who learned about how the government works, American history, and the voting processes.

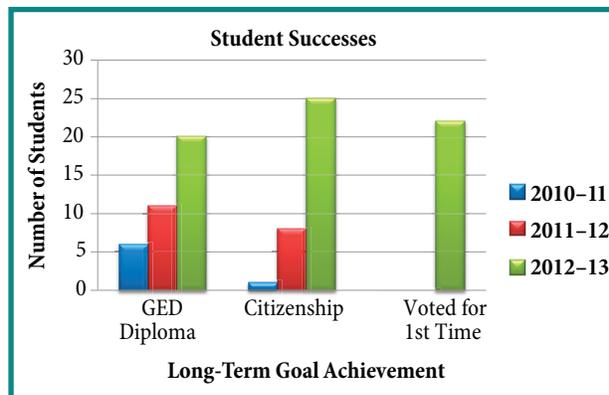
Students who took the classes also reported that they were using the library more and becoming involved at their children's schools and in Hispanic civic groups.

ESL students diverse & thriving

Students from several Latin American countries, Togo, Burma, and China are all part of Chatham Literacy's English as a Second Language program.

Fifty-one adults participated in group and individual ESL sessions in the past year. Nine of them improved their literacy by three grade levels, three moved on to Central Carolina Community College to study for their high school equivalency (GED) certification, and three obtained new jobs.

Carmen Ramirez (left) works with tutor Kathy Bovard.



Board's role changing

Chatham Literacy developed six years ago with the active participation and guidance of an operating board. Now, as a result of the organization's documented success, the Board is transitioning to a governing board with an ambitious vision and implementation plan for increased literacy, educational attainment, and citizenship in Chatham County.

Computers are key

Chatham Literacy's computer incentive program is more popular than ever.

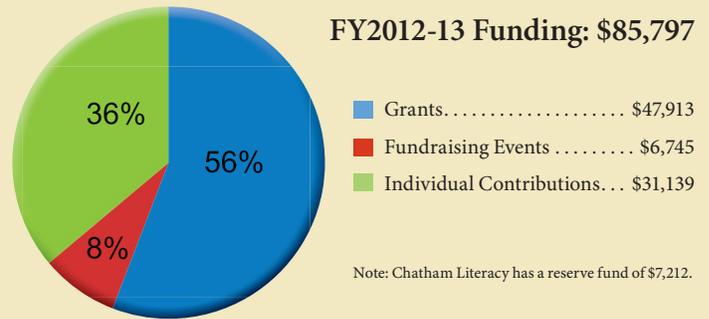
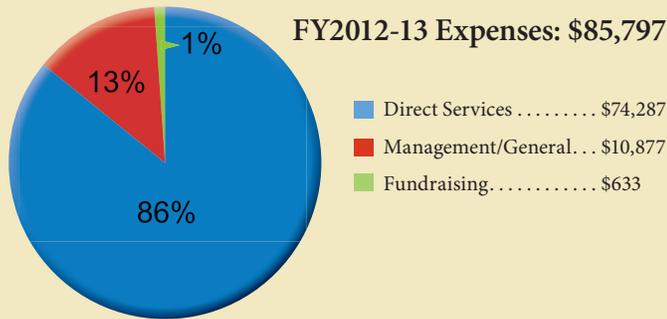
Students who achieve a long-term goal become eligible for a free, refurbished laptop once they complete a basic computer class. The program began as a pilot in mid-2012, and within a year 79 people had achieved a goal and 44 had received laptops.

New computer offerings planned for 2014 include an advanced computer class that focuses on using the internet as well as online computer instruction.

Torre DeVito leads a computer class.



Donations and grants make Chatham Literacy programs possible



Note: Chatham Literacy has a reserve fund of \$7,212.

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS

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- Arthur Carlsen Charitable Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
- Carolina Meadows
- Chatham County
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund
- Herman Goldman Foundation
- Triangle Community Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program
- United Way of Chatham County
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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
- Centro Familiar Cristiano
- Chatham County Public Libraries
- Chatham Hospital
- Chatham County Together
- Circles® Chatham
- Galloway Ridge
- Iglesia Bautista La Roca
- JobLink Career Center
- Nature Trail
- Siler City Presbyterian Church
- Siler City United Methodist Church
- Virginia Cross Elementary School

New Logo

Thanks to Hart Palmer of **Hart Palmer Design** for donating her time and talent to give Chatham County Literacy Council its new look. Check out our new Chatham Literacy logo on the front cover!

Recognitions

Chatham Literacy programs have earned local and national accolades during the past year.

Lunch and Learn programming — which enables employees to get literacy training in their workplace and tutors to volunteer in their home or work environments — was featured at the National Conference on Adult Literacy in Washington, D.C. It also resulted in our Lunch and Learn partner, Carolina Meadows, winning a social responsibility award from Leading Age North Carolina.

The Laptop Incentive Program was recognized by United Way of the Greater Triangle at its annual meeting.

Message, *from front page*

One of the quickest and easiest ways to help is through a tax-deductible donation to the Chatham County Literacy Council. As you read through this annual report, you will find information about our programs, our people, and our successes. Your contribution can make a real difference in real time.

You can become a tutor, and we can teach you how. There are few experiences in life that give such a sense of accomplishment.

You can volunteer. There is so much need in Chatham County — and the more volunteers we have, the more adult learners we can serve.

In addition to tutors, volunteers are needed to share their creativity and their expertise in nonprofit experience, fundraising, grant writing, and marketing.

If you are already involved with Chatham Literacy, thank you! We appreciate your continued support and hope you will reach out to friends and neighbors you believe would enjoy lending a hand. Tell them why you are involved, and what little effort it takes to make a big, big difference.

If you aren't involved yet, we hope you will join us! With your help, illiteracy one day will be a thing of the past in Chatham County.

Vicki Newell, Executive Director

Make a difference: Be a tutor

Volunteers on the instructor and student sides of a tutor team agree: Tutoring is a great way to learn and to make life more fulfilling. Here, student Adela Diaz and tutor Jacquie Katz share their perspectives.

ADELA: My tutoring started casually at my grandson's soccer game when my daughter heard about the program.

I got more confident using my English using this program because practice is one-on-one, and we just talked and talked.

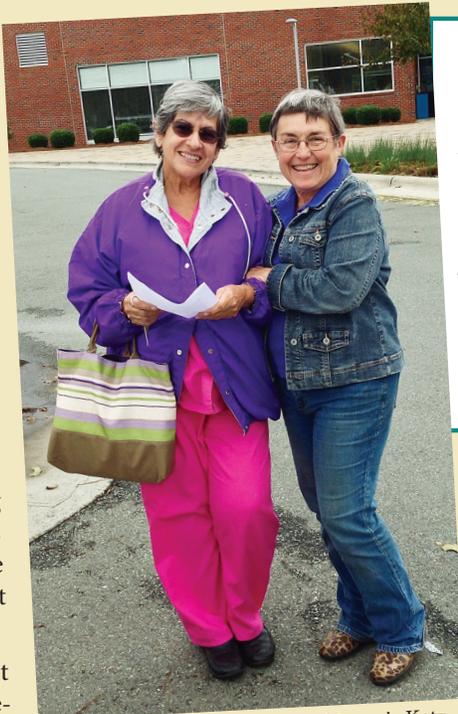
Last August I took a test that showed my improvement over the last year and I received a computer.

I cannot believe this is a reality. This computer is helping me with information for the goats, for my family and for my job search. I have more opportunity to express myself. Thank you!

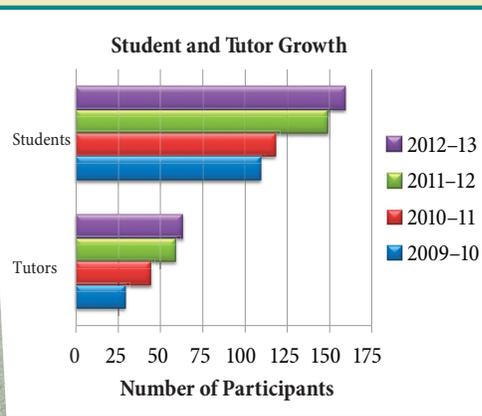
JACQUIE: Chatham County Literacy Council has provided a most supportive and satisfying volunteer opportunity. Tutor Training was a great overview of what to expect, how to prepare for each session and how to relate to students.

Adela and I have been meeting in the beautiful Pittsboro library for a year, one-and-a-half hours on two afternoons each week.

Adela works hard on her own time too. She has made great progress



Tutor teammates Adela Diaz and Jacquie Katz



because she works so determinedly. Every student has different goals and a different level of learning. Tutors must adjust to that, but it is also important to just communicate and understand. We do drills and exercises, but we also talk a lot, putting vocabulary and grammar into use.

We developed a rapport and have become good friends, visiting each other's homes and sharing stories. We also volunteer together for school functions. Adela has made her way to being a part of our community, working in English at the job she landed this fall and negotiating her way through the daily life of Chatham County. It has been a great joy to watch her life bloom and expand with her grasp of English.

Thank you to the Chatham County Literacy Council for enriching our lives by promoting literacy.

Tutors don't need teaching experience or foreign-language skills. Chatham Literacy provides training at no cost. Interested? Contact Alisha McFadden at Alisha@chathamliteracy.org or 919-742-0578.

Don't forget

The Spring for Literacy luncheon will be back in 2014, this time at Galloway Ridge!

We hope you'll join us. Watch your email for details.

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 _____

Address _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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Chatham County Literacy Council
P.O. Box 1696,
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Or donate online at
www.chathamliteracy.org

We appreciate your support.



Community Partner