



CHATHAM LITERACY

TEN YEARS OF ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE

2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

From the Executive Director

Wow! It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed. This year has been an extra special one. We have been celebrating Chatham Literacy's 10th Anniversary, and will continue to celebrate through the end of the year.

According to the Workforce Investment Act (Public Law 113-128, 113th Congress, 2014), "The term 'literacy' means an individual's ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems, at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual,

and in society." Chatham Literacy's focus on tutoring services helps bring this definition to life.

I am proud to share our numbers from last fiscal year, and a few of the many success stories we have to tell. These stories would not be possible without the generosity of the many businesses, organizations, foundations, and individuals who continue to support our efforts. Please enjoy the read!

Sincerely,
Vicki Newell, Executive Director



Meet Chatham Literacy's current Board of Directors and Staff (from left to right): Doug Emmons, Larry Hicks, Linda Nalty, Vicki Newell (Executive Director), Leslie Ocampo (Student Coordinator), Mary Harris, DJ Lynch (Bookkeeper), Norma Bryant, Susan Morton, Tim White, B Demers, Susan Newell. Not pictured: Board members Joan Lipsitz and Mechelle Thompson



TRADITIONAL LITERACY

Chatham Literacy provides free one-on-one tutoring services to help adults improve their basic education in reading, writing, and math. We also offer tutoring services to adults preparing for a high school equivalency diploma, a vocational program, and/or advancement in the workplace.



CIVICS & LANGUAGE LITERACY

Many of our adult learners are from Central and South America. Others are from Europe, Asia, and Africa. Tutoring is available to these adults who want to learn to read, write, speak, and comprehend English. For those with the goal of becoming U.S. citizens, Chatham Literacy provides a unique Citizenship and Civics Education class that helps prepare individuals for the naturalization test and interview.



LIFE SKILLS LITERACY

Life skills prepare adults for the expectations and norms in today's society and workplace. Chatham Literacy offers individualized tutoring and workshops within the community as need dictates. Workforce Soft Skills and Computer Literacy are among the subject matter provided, as well as Financial Literacy in fiscal year 2018-19. Life skills tutoring is of shorter duration and completion results in a certificate. Life skills tutoring is offered as a stand alone learning opportunity or is integrated into existing tutoring to supplement the curriculum.

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.



Christian D. uses the laptop he received from Chatham Literacy for earning his high school equivalency diploma.

Chatham Literacy Is 10 Years Old! A Look Back...

Before the Chatham Literacy of today, there was another Chatham Literacy. In the late 1980s, community members around Siler City created the first Chatham Literacy organization, officially incorporated as a 501 (C) (3) in October of 1988. Susan Jabbusch, John Bergmann, Joy Bergmann, and Ruth Andrew were the original four Directors. The purpose of the organization was to provide free reading and writing instruction, and to provide tutoring services at local schools. The approach was one of "friends helping neighbors."

By December 2006, there was a second similar effort beginning to evolve. While

serving as a poll worker, Bonnie Bechard, noticed a large number of folks who struggled to read the ballot. With assistance and encouragement from the community, an interest group was created. In 2008, Chatham Literacy transitioned to the organization we know today. 2018 marks the ten year anniversary of Chatham Literacy under its current mission. If you are interested in knowing more about our ten year journey and the success stories along the way, please check out the Anniversary page on our website.

...And A Look Forward

As we wrap up our tenth year, Chatham Literacy is positioning itself for the next ten. This past year, the Board spent time developing its next three-year strategic plan that will take us into 2021. With the help of the Chatham Chamber Leadership Class of 2018, we created an Ambassador Program to share Chatham Literacy's services and programs with both the community and potential

tutors. We continue to diversify our board, our community outreach, and our services. Both the Volunteer Coordinator and the Student Coordinator became full-time positions to better focus on our mission. There is still much to do.

In the upcoming year, we will conduct a comprehensive literacy needs assessment to ensure our services are correctly aligned

with the needs of the county. We wish to strengthen and expand the diversity of our targeted client base. We also wish to enhance how we work with local agencies to most efficiently and effectively serve Chatham County residents.

We invite you to remain with us as we begin the first chapter of our next 10 years!



**Literacy, the backbone of democracy,
strengthens our community.**

– Diana Hales, Chatham County Commissioner



From Student to Teacher

A PATH TO BECOMING A TUTOR

As both a student and a tutor, Abilio A. has been on both sides of Chatham Literacy learning. Abilio, who works in construction, came to the United States from Guatemala. He lives in Chatham County with his entire family, including four children. At first, it was Abilio's sister who became involved with Chatham Literacy. Abilio then joined in on the classes.

In May 2017, Abilio became a U.S. Citizen and decided to return the favor, becoming a tutor himself. "I was inspired by our tutors

and their dedication to their students. I also noticed that a lot of people needed help, not just for their citizenship, but for basic Spanish and English language skills."

"Along with Nancy Jacobs, Mike Mannhardt, and Mary Jean Robertson, I've tutored about 15 people. Six of my students have become citizens. I tutor in Spanish for those who can't speak or write in English." So, does



Abilio A.

it make a difference? "I see that people need assistance in making it in this country. We feel isolated and all we do is work. It is fulfilling to actually learn something, and to meet others who are going through the same thing you are. The difference for me is that I've discovered a love for teaching."

Stepping Stones to Success

Eden D. was 12 years old when she and her family first moved to Pittsboro from Ohio. In need of a more focused approach to learning, Eden began home schooling in her junior year. She then enrolled in the Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) high school diploma program to complete the four core classes (math and English) required for graduation.

Eden's CCCC instructor recommended that she receive personalized instruction from Chatham Literacy, in addition to class

time at CCCC. Working with Chatham Literacy tutors Lee Wilson and Doug Guy, Eden excelled and completed the classes, earning her diploma. Now, Eden plans to enroll in the Certified Nursing Assistant program at CCCC, eventually pursuing a degree in occupational therapy.



Lee Wilson, Eden D., and Doug Guy



"I want to work as a nurse while getting my degree, to build on my experience while studying. My tutors were really good for me. The times they could meet me were always perfect, either in class, or in the library. They planned around my schedule, and the tutoring was free. I am telling other students about this wonderful program."

**Literacy is Empowerment!
We want nothing less for all our citizens.**

– Amy Gorely, Director of Community Relations at Carolina Meadows

Continuing a Medical Career



Ruth C.

Ruth C. moved to the United States from El Salvador in 2013 to be with her husband, Manny, who was already living and working in Siler City. Ruth was in the area for only a few months before connecting with Chatham Literacy, reaching out for help with her English skills. Achievement in this area was particularly important, as Ruth had been practicing in the medical field in El Salvador, and wanted to continue that interest in the United States.

Through the tutoring program, Ruth quickly learned to use her newly acquired English skills to more easily engage in the community. At the same time, Ruth enrolled in Chatham Literacy's Citizenship and Civic Education class. She became a U.S. citizen

in 2015. From there, she enrolled in the Basic English class at CCCC, while also obtaining certifications as an EKG technician and medical translator. Ruth added classes in anatomy, physiology, and chemistry. In addition to classes, she obtained a part time job as an EKG technician. Her primary focus, however, was nursing.

In 2018, Ruth was accepted into the CCCC School of Nursing program. "Right now I'm very busy with my studies. I hope to obtain an accreditation as a Registered Nurse. I really appreciate all the help I have received through Chatham Literacy."

In addition to her CCCC studies, Ruth continues to tutor with Chatham Literacy.

Literacy is a vital life skill that allows a person to contribute to the society in which they live.

– Mark Reif, Human Resources Employee and Community Relations Manager at Mountaire Farms of North Carolina

Navigating Life

Currently, Life Skills Literacy is comprised of Soft Skills learning (communication, professionalism, teamwork, and problem-solving) and basic computer skills (computer usage,

word processing, and navigating the internet).

In the upcoming year, we will introduce a Financial Literacy program that will include five sessions presented at CCCC in Pittsboro.

Through distance learning, the presentation will be streamed live to churches in Moncure, Silk Hope, and Siler City. Onsite facilitators will guide the conversation and answer questions.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

195

adult learners served

123

achieved a short-term goal

68

achieved a long-term goal

26

improved their literacy by three grades

17

obtained a job or received a promotion

13

became U.S. citizens

3

enrolled in higher learning

109

volunteer tutors

6,900

hours of tutor volunteer time

Take Action: Donate!

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, Chatham Literacy is transforming lives through literacy. There are many ways you can continue to help.

- + Make a financial **gift**, online or by mail.
- + Do you have highly appreciated **stock**? We are now accepting charitable stock donations! This could allow you to avoid taxes on the gains while also helping out Chatham Literacy.
- + Are you currently taking **required minimum distributions** from your IRAs/401ks? Consider making a qualified charitable distribution to Chatham Literacy! This could be a more tax efficient way to donate!
- + **Become a sustainer** with regular monthly donations through your credit or debit card.
- + **Shop for literacy** online through AmazonSmile.com or iGive.com.
- + Donate **space** for tutoring sessions, training, and workshops.

Contact Us!

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Mailing address

Chatham Literacy

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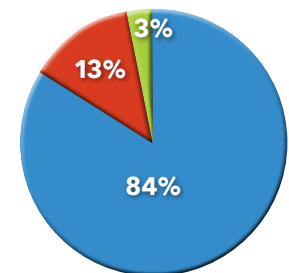
www.chathamliteracy.org

Appropriation of Funds

Fiscal Year 2017-18

\$180,406

- Direct Services \$151,945
- Management/General \$24,104
- Fundraising \$4,357



Partners put community spotlight on literacy

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

580 Craft Beer
 Aggie Technologies
 Al's Diner
 Amazon Smile Foundation
 Bella Donna Italian Restaurant
 Brownie Lu's
 Carolina Meadows
 Carrboro-Chapel Hill Sunrise Rotary Club
 Central Carolina Community College - Pittsboro
 Central Carolina Community College - Siler City
 Chapel in the Pines
 Chatham Business Services
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 Chatham Chamber of Commerce Leadership Chatham Program
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 Chatham Education Foundation
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 Chatham Homes Realty
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 Koonce, Wooten, & Haywood
 Lacey Springs Designs
 Learning Trail
 Liquidambar Gallery and Gifts

McIntyre's Books
 Mobipaid
 Nature Trail
 NCWorks Career Center - Chatham County
 New Karma for Old Threads
 Pelican SnoBalls
 Pittsboro Animal Hospital
 Pittsboro Roadhouse & General Store
 Pittsboro United Methodist Church
 Salvation Army
 Siler City Country Club
 Siler City Rotary Club
 State Farm in Siler City
 The Hispanic Liaison
 The Real Housewives of Chatham County
 The Triangle Jazz Orchestra
 Triangle South Workforce Development Board
 Trittech Computer Solutions
 Vino! Wine Shop
 West Chatham Food Pantry
 Western Chatham Senior Center
 Wren Memorial Library



Author Clyde Edgerton plays the mandolin as he entertains the crowd with a story at the Spring 2018 Literacy Luncheon.



Emcee D. G. Martin and Dr. John Dykers chat at the Spring 2018 Literacy Luncheon



Author Cecelia Budd Grimes keeps the crowd laughing at the Fall 2017 Literacy Luncheon.

THANKS TO OUR GRANTORS AND SPONSORS: JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

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Literacy Swings, Fall 2017
Featuring Triangle Jazz Orchestra

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Spring for Literacy, Spring 2018
Featuring Clyde Edgerton and D.G. Martin

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Dancers at the Fall 2017 Literacy Swings event



Team Floyd at the Spring 2018 Play Scrabble for Literacy event



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* = 3+ years giving