

## I blinked...

And here I am nine years later, as proud as ever to be a part of Chatham Literacy. Last year was a big year of capacity building for us. We are now fully staffed with a team of five, we launched a very successful Financial Literacy pilot program and we conducted and completed a Chatham County Literacy Needs Assessment. And, we did all of this while providing quality tutoring services with the help of our volunteer tutors.

This annual report includes stories of our achievements over the past year - achievements made possible by our wonderful adult



DJ Lynch, Bookkeeper; Leslie Ocampo, Student Coordinator; Vicki Newell, Executive Director; Travis Patterson, Volunteer Coordinator; Kayla McCline, Administrative Assistant

learners, volunteers, tutors, supporters and you. I thank you for everything you have done, and everything you will do to assist Chatham Literacy and the community.

Enjoy reading about some of our successes - the successes of our adult learners and the ultimate success of our community.

Vicki Newell, Executive Director

## Our Mission

*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.*

## Our Vision

*Chatham County will be a community where everyone is literate.*

## Our Values

Community Diversity Excellence Focus on Students Sustainability Our Colleagues



### 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.



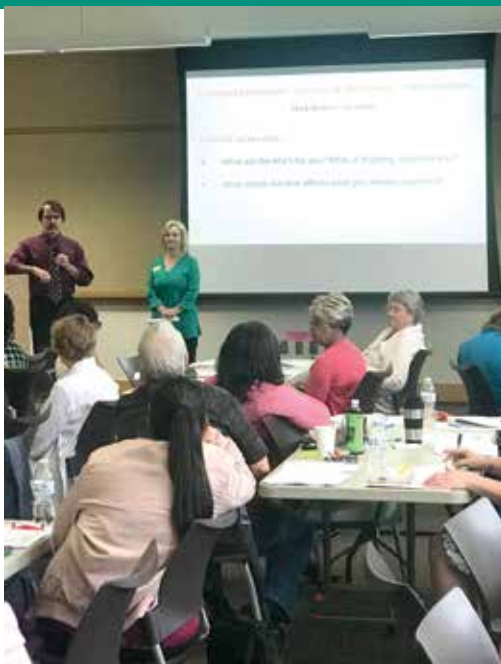
### CIVICS & LANGUAGE LITERACY

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



### 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, Computer Literacy and Financial Literacy are among the subject matter provided. Life skills tutoring is of shorter duration and completion results in a certificate.



## Knowing the Need Chatham County Literacy Needs Assessment

Chatham Literacy spearheaded this ambitious effort to learn the current literacy needs of Chatham County adults. This comprehensive study included interviews with more than 300 individuals, plus surveys of Chatham County agencies, organizations, schools and businesses. The multi-tiered statistical analysis has provided an overabundance of data outcomes. Chatham Literacy and other organizations throughout Chatham are anticipated to use this data in their service planning efforts over the next several years.

Two major needs stand out - English and financial literacy. Difficulty in communicating

and a lack of financial literacy are two of the greatest barriers to success for our community. There are also many traditional literacy unmet needs, especially among males and younger adults. Chatham County organizations need a structured referral process to ensure people can access available literacy services. To this end, Chatham Literacy hosted its first of several community meetings to share the findings and begin working with partners in addressing identified gaps.

**I feel literacy is the key for success and not everyone has equal access to it.**

– Anonymous Tutor

**The students from Chatham Literacy are humble, proud of their contribution to the U.S. and wonderful contributors to our society. Suryah personifies all these qualities.**

– Joanne Caye, Tutor

**Financial literacy participants successfully learned about budgeting, saving money on tight budgets, financial planning and even improving their credit score!**

– Mary Harris, Class Facilitator

## Finding Her Voice, and Sharing It

Suryah A. was born in Yemen, and lives in Siler City with her husband, Abdo, and six children. Suryah and her family own their own business, a small gas station and convenience store in town. Ever since she arrived, Suryah wanted to become a U.S. citizen. "I want to have a voice...I want to vote. I want to make a difference and be a part of my community."

First, Suryah began to learn English through the Central Carolina Community College ESOL program. Then she went after her citizenship; completing all the prerequisites and preparing with the help of Chatham

Literacy, she was able to pass her citizenship exam. With Suryah's citizenship, everyone in the family is now a citizen.

But this is just the beginning of her journey. Suryah wants to become more fluent in English and become an ESOL tutor with Chatham Literacy. "I want to take what I learned and become a tutor with Chatham Literacy, so I can help others achieve their dreams and goals the same way I was helped. I want to give back to others, to Chatham Literacy and to my community!"







## The Value of Financial Literacy

This year, Chatham Literacy, in collaboration with Capital Bank's Operation Hope Program, piloted a multi-session financial literacy course. Unique in this endeavor was the use of distance learning, hosting the class at the Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro, and broadcasting to various churches within the county. Julia P. was a participant at the Liberty Chapel Church in Moncure. Julia writes, "Financial Literacy is as easy as opening your back door! The classes were very informative, educational

and very user-friendly. Thanks to the support of Chatham Literacy, I completed the course and have a great looking business plan!"

Gabriella R. had a similar experience. "Since the first Financial Literacy class, my credit score has really, really improved. I'm talking about going from in the 600s to high 700s! I am really grateful for that, and would highly recommend this opportunity to others."



## Everybody Learns Something!

Chatham Literacy brings together adult learners and tutors - and they all gain from the experience. Jo Drake is an example. "Tutoring ABE students (Adult Basic Education) has been a great experience for me. Adults automatically assume that other adults know how to read. Working with students who are trying to learn to read, or fill gaps in their educational background, is as much a challenge and learning experience for the tutor as for the student. There are many resources to use, but there is also the limitation

of time - adults have busy lives and finding personal time to study is often difficult."

"Tutors and adult learners alike must muster patience and flexibility. I like to think of the whole process as climbing a mountain. We take one step at a time. There may be different paths, and we may have to backtrack sometimes; it may not be easy, but there is joy in the journey. Literacy unlocks many doors. The tutor's reward is watching those doors open."



## ESOL Adult Learner: Esther

All ESOL adult learners are special in their own way, and to their tutors. Esther C. however, has raised the bar for adult learners. After two years in the program Esther progressed through all the basic ESOL materials and is now reading classic American literature with her tutor. That progression led to earning her own personal laptop computer which she uses for more study and practice of English. She now represents Chatham Literacy at outreach events by speaking to the public and to organizations about the program.

Esther has worked as a waitress for many years and talks about how she used to just smile and nod at her customers, and recognize the words from the menu so she could

take their orders. Now she enjoys being able to have actual conversations with them. Now, if a customer asks her a question, she no longer has to find a coworker to interpret.

When asked her thoughts on her ESOL learning progress, Esther said "I can do a lot more things, I have better communication with my doctor, can make my own appointments and am more confident in conversations." When her tutor, Mark Zeringue was asked what he gets out of tutoring, he had this to say: "the joy of working with someone who is so dedicated to learning English, and who works so hard at it."

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**188**

adult learners served  
(85% were women)

**160**

achieved a  
short-term goal

**62**

achieved a  
long-term goal

**58**

improved their  
conversation skills

**37**

improved their literacy  
by one grade level

**26**

obtained a job or  
received a promotion

**14**

became U.S. citizens

**2**

enrolled in higher  
learning

**114**

volunteer tutors

**5,200**

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 gains while also helping out Chatham Literacy.
- + Are you currently taking **required minimum distributions (RMD)** 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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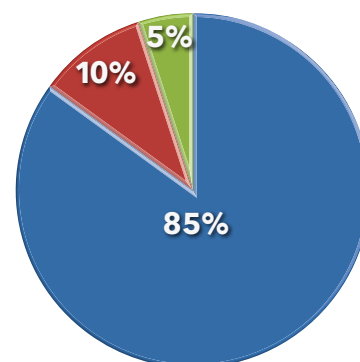
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## Appropriation of Funds

Fiscal Year 2018-19

**\$201,773**

- Direct Services \$171,535
- Management/General \$19,665
- Fundraising \$10,573



## 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.

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Becoming One Community Center  
Blue Dot Coffee  
Carolina Meadows  
Carrboro-Chapel Hill Sunrise Rotary Club  
Central Carolina Community College -  
Pittsboro  
Central Carolina Community College -  
Siler City  
Central Piedmont Community Action  
Chapel in the Pines  
Chatham Business Services, Inc.  
Chatham Chamber of Commerce  
Chatham Chamber of Commerce  
Leadership Chatham Program  
Chatham Community Library  
Chatham County Partnership  
for Children  
Chatham Education Foundation  
Chatham Habitat for Humanity

Chatham Hospital  
Chatham Reads  
Chatham YMCA  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Clapp's Car Wash  
Clapp's Laundromat  
Communities in Schools  
of Chatham County  
CORA  
EDSI Solutions  
First United Methodist Church  
Galloway Ridge at Fearrington  
Gazing Cat Productions  
Governors Club  
Greek Kouzina  
Hispanic Liaison  
Lacey Springs Design  
Learning Trail  
Liberty Tax

McIntyre's Books  
Nature Trail  
NCWorks Career Center -  
Chatham County  
Pittsboro Roadhouse  
Pittsboro United Methodist Church  
Rotary Club of Siler City  
Salvation Army  
Siler City Country Club  
The Hispanic Liaison  
Triangle South Workforce  
Development Board  
Tritech Computer Solutions  
Two Hawks  
UNC School of Nursing  
Uplift Chatham  
Walmart  
West Chatham Food Pantry  
Western Chatham Senior Center  
Wren Memorial Library





Fall for Literacy authors Karen Pullen, Nora Esthimer and Ruth Moose



Fall for Literacy Luncheon attendees in costume



Author Frances Mayes at the Spring for Literacy Luncheon

## THANKS TO OUR GRANTORS AND SPONSORS: JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019

### GRANTORS

Carolina Meadows  
Central Electric MEMBER Care Trust Inc.  
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Sunrise Rotary Club  
Chatham County  
Chatham Reads  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Galloway Ridge at Fearington  
Oak Foundation  
PNC Foundation  
Rotary Club of Siler City  
SunTrust Foundation  
The Clabough Foundation  
Town of Siler City  
Triangle Community Foundation's  
Capacity Building Partnerships  
Program for Community Development

United Way of Chatham County  
Women of Fearington  
Wren Foundation



### SPONSORS

**Fall for Literacy, Fall 2018**  
**Featuring Nora Esthimer, Ruth Moose and Karen Pullen**

**Gold Sponsor:**  
Brookwood Farms, Inc.  
Mountaire Farms, Inc.

**Bronze Sponsors:**  
Gazing Cat Productions  
Pittsboro Roadhouse  
Siler City Country Club

**Literacy Swings, Fall 2018**  
**Featuring Triangle Jazz Orchestra**

**Silver Sponsors:**  
Michael and Caroline Hornblow  
Pittsboro Roadhouse

**Bronze Sponsors:**  
501 Pharmacy  
Gazing Cat Productions  
McKim & Creed  
Queen Bee Rentals

**Spring for Literacy, Spring 2019**  
**Featuring Frances Mayes**

**Platinum Sponsor:**  
Godsey & Gibb Wealth Management  
Wren Foundation

**Gold Sponsor:**  
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Galloway Ridge at Fearington

### Silver Sponsors:

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Leadership Chatham  
Governors Club  
N.C. Travel Service

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Sarah Carr  
Chatham EDC  
Chatham News + Record  
Gazing Cat Productions  
Pittsboro Roadhouse  
Reynolds & Associates Physical Therapy  
Tick Warriors

### Media Sponsor:

Chatham Magazine



Literacy Swings rocked!



Literacy Swings attendees in costume



Full house at the Spring for Literacy Luncheon

### THANKS TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED ON A CHATHAM LITERACY COMMITTEE:

Beth Anderson, Scott Cabe, Carole Chrvala, Wanda Constantino,  
Cyndi Harris, Bonnie Helms, Nancy Jacobs, Heather Johnson,  
Chris Kehrer, Jo Maeder, Pam Naugle, Ed Neely, Skip Pohl,  
Paul Stiller, Liza Terll, Karen Vaca, Anne Wrigley

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