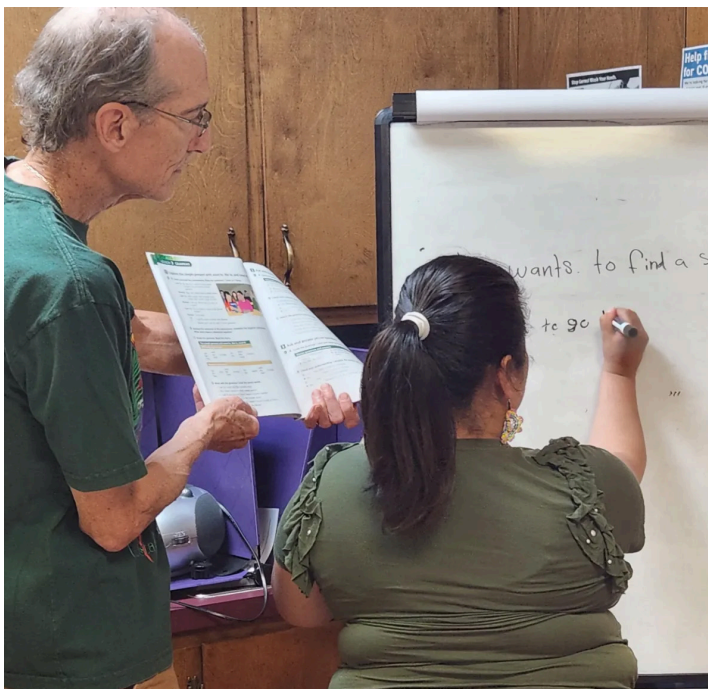


2022-23 Chatham Literacy Community Impact Report



Enhancing, Expanding, Evolving

A Letter from Vicki Newell, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

By any measure, 2023 was an outstanding year for Chatham Literacy. We enhanced our offerings for our learners and formed new partnerships in the community. We expanded our programs to a more diverse group of learners and extended our geographical reach into rural parts of the county that are traditionally underserved. And we continued to evolve our organization, finding new ways to utilize the skills of our volunteers, and offering potential new services to our existing learners to meet their changing needs.

In short, it was a great year. Let's take a quick look at a few of the accomplishments.

Enhancing

Our long-time partner, Carolina Meadows, offers us classroom space on its campus and financial support and we, in return, make volunteer opportunities available to the residents to tutor Carolina Meadows' employees. This year, I am proud to announce that we enhanced this service model by partnering with Governors Club and Galloway Ridge. Together, they will provide us with new sources of tutors and learners and more locations to offer classes.

We also enhanced our program offerings. We piloted a Financial Literacy program that teaches adults about budgeting basics, such as: creating a budget, saving while spending, and tackling credit score ratings. We developed a Spanish Language class that we will pilot in 2024 to help Spanish-speaking adults learn how to read and write in Spanish, building a literacy foundation from where they can more easily transition into our ESOL or other programs where basic language skills are so critical.

Expanding

We also expanded our ability to serve adults.

- We instructed 151 adult learners in 2023, an increase of 45% over the prior year.

- We recorded 4,030 total instructional hours, an increase of 36%.
- We were thankful to have 54 tutors who worked with learners this year, an increase of 32%.

In addition, we began offering programs in Moncure in 2023, our first reach into a rural part of our county that is underserved. As we learn lessons from our work in Moncure, we plan to expand to other rural areas of our county next year.

And we began to offer a very special program for adults with learning disabilities, through a partnership with Chatham Trades. Please read the article in this report for more details!

Evolving

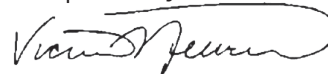
We continued to evolve our organization in 2023. We made a major effort this year to capture more data to both evaluate our programs and the progress our learners make as they graduate from our programs. Our mission is to help learners become more successful and so we are working hard to measure impact.

We also know that our volunteers and tutors are highly educated and very smart. We are finding new ways to engage and involve them in problem solving, making them an integral part of the Chatham Literacy team.

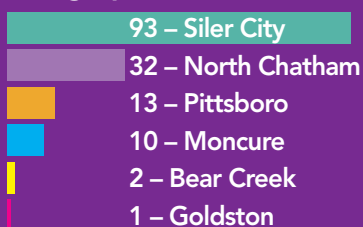
Teamwork

This letter would not be complete without me thanking each of you for your teamwork and involvement in the Chatham Literacy family. Whether you are a volunteer or tutor, or a donor who has generously given to us, we thank you! Every accomplishment you read in this report is a direct result of you adopting us as part of your family!

Respectfully,



Geographic Distribution



The Year in Numbers (July 2022 – June 2023)

151
Adults
Served

80%
Achieved a
literacy goal

54
Tutors

Program Enrollment



Earning the American Dream

There are many people who have dreamed about becoming American citizens for years. That is the case for Petra Fernandez, who emigrated to the United States from Mexico 23 years ago.

She moved to North Carolina initially because she had family members here. Her first job was working for McDonald's in Sanford. She worked long hours while raising four children as a divorced single parent.

After years of hard work and promotions, Petra has earned the position of store manager for McDonald's in Pittsboro. She manages 35-40 employees among her many responsibilities.

All along, Petra had dreamed of one day becoming a U.S. citizen. When she finally qualified to apply for citizenship, she was very excited.

But Petra knew she needed help to prepare for the rigorous citizenship test. That's where Chatham Literacy came in. We have a strong citizenship tutoring program that has helped 140 people become U.S. citizens over the past 14 years.

"I had two different tutors work with me during the year or so I was preparing to take the test," Petra said. "They really helped me study U.S. history and government and were so patient in answering my questions. Chatham Literacy also helped me with the paperwork and was so supportive."

Petra received her U.S. citizenship in May 2023. "I feel so free now," Petra added. "It is amazing how safe and secure I now feel. And my children are so proud of me."



Chatham Literacy Receives Award

Chatham Literacy was recognized as Small Employer of the Year for outstanding work in 2022 by N.C. Rehabilitation Association. Chatham Literacy was selected for this award out of 200 small business employers across the state.

Kimberly Hernandez faces the challenges of cerebral palsy. She was placed with Chatham Literacy so that we would provide training and exposure to a real work setting, preparing Kimberly for competitive employment. Chatham Literacy employed Kimberly, enabling her to grow in confidence and to open doors of opportunity. Kimberly is now enrolled at UNC-G where she is also employed as a Resident Assistant.

Helping an Entrepreneur Succeed

Yeraldyn Martinez is an impressive young entrepreneur! At the age of 22, Yera decided on an important life goal: to become a successful small business owner. Within a year, Yera and her friend and business partner Iliana Escalante opened the doors to Carolina Cravings, now a thriving retail bakery in downtown Pittsboro.

As a high school graduate with no business management experience or knowledge, Yera immediately began educating herself by taking courses online and at the community college, plus seeking advice from many local small business owners. She also enrolled in a free Chatham Literacy course, "Money Smart" which she credits for being a major factor in her success as an entrepreneur.

"That first year, we were paying bills and keeping afloat but we had no idea where our money was going – or how to plan for the future. I learned so much that helped me with my personal finances as well as the business," Yera explained. Learning how to identify "needs" vs. "wants" was an eye opener for Yera, resulting in better planning and budgeting. She established various accounts, including savings, and now works closely with a personal banker.

Yera would like to grow and expand the business, and she is carefully setting goals and managing finances to achieve them. She hopes to add a small van and another part-time worker within the next year, enabling Carolina Cravings to take its products into the surrounding communities.

When asked of what she is most proud, Yera quickly replied, "My journey – spirit, discipline, taking chances, passion and commitment – and the people I get to meet. It is a huge blessing to open our business doors every day."



Chatham Literacy Receives Certification

Chatham Literacy was named a certified Service Enterprise this year, joining only 650 other organizations across the United States to receive this special recognition.

This national certification is for nonprofits that have proven their excellence in the fundamental and strategic use of volunteers and their skills to address community needs. Service Enterprises are rated among the top 11% of nonprofits in the country in volunteer engagement and organizational performance.

Helping Adults with Disabilities

Chatham Trades, a Siler City-based nonprofit, provides vocational and educational training for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Each week, Chatham Literacy tutors teach an enormously popular in-house class for 14 of these adults. The tutors practice reading, writing and comprehension by reading special news stories with the learners, helping them understand key words, and engaging them in conversation.

This unique partnership resulted from a long-term friendship between Chatham Trades Executive Director Shawn Poe and Chatham Literacy's Executive Director Vicki Newell. Shawn asked Vicki one day if it would be possible for Chatham Literacy to offer a special class for her organization.

Volunteer tutors Linda and Dennis Nalty quickly developed the program and in November 2022 began teaching. They were uniquely qualified to tackle this task: Linda and Dennis are the legal guardians of Dennis' brother, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities as well.

Linda and Dennis have big hearts. "The thing that makes me most happy is how much the students love to come to class," Linda explained. "Many of our students have really progressed since we started, both in literacy skills and social skills."

Shawn Poe has noticed the difference as well. "The students have really grown through this classroom experience. For example, the simple process of being in a class and raising your hand to speak is a new experience. And Linda and Dennis use maps to show where the news takes place and discuss these states and countries. Many of their students have never been outside of this area and this is a very special way for them to explore the world virtually. Those in the class love Linda and Dennis!"

The collaboration between Chatham Trades and Chatham Literacy is a perfect example of how two nonprofits can help each other achieve their individual missions and goals through partnership.



Thanks to Our Non-Tutor Volunteers

Beth Anderson	Terry McMillan
Maureen Avakian	Noemi Mora
Scott Cabe	Dennis Nalty
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Larry Hicks	Miriam Pollard
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Selena Lopez	

Teaching English to Make a Difference

Teaching English to adults from other countries is one of the primary goals of Chatham Literacy. In 2023, we had 78 active adult learners in our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Key to this effort is the strong relationship between our volunteer tutors and learners.

Vicky Klementowicz is a great example of a tutor who has empathy for her learners. Born in Australia, she lived in a number of countries across Europe, experiencing language and cultural barriers. "My desire to tutor comes from a shared experience," she explained. "I understand very well the challenge for those coming from other countries."

Vicky is currently working with Joanna Balderas. Originally from Mexico, Joanna came to the U.S. in pursuit of the "American Dream," a better life with more opportunities for her and her children. She strongly wants to learn English.

"I live here now," she said. "I need to be able to communicate with my own children better and help them with material and homework that their teachers send home. I want to be able to help my children with their writing as well. And learning English is helping me at work."

Vicky believes that Joanna is making great progress. Joanna is a hard worker and really wants to learn. "I think our relationship is so strong because I understand where Joanna is coming from." There is a mutual respect.



Take Action: Donate Today!

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

- 📖 Make a financial gift, online or by mail.
- 📖 Become a sustainer with regular monthly donations through your credit or debit card.
- 📖 Make a charitable stock donation. This could allow you to avoid taxes on gains while also helping out Chatham Literacy.
- 📖 Make a donation to meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRAs/401ks.
- 📖 Include Chatham Literacy in your planned giving.
- 📖 Shop online through iGive.com.
- 📖 Donate your time as a tutor! We offer both in-person and distance learning.
- 📖 Become engaged as a Board Director or committee member.

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Lee Smith

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.

Contact us!

919-742-0574
admin@chathamliteracy.org
Office: 1002 West 3rd Street, Siler City
Mail: P.O. Box 1696, Pittsboro, NC 27312
www.chathamliteracy.org