

# ANNUAL REPORT

Blue Ridge Literacy Council

2014/2015

## Literacy Council's Impact

A review of our impact shows how hard our students, tutors, and staff worked during the 2014/2015 fiscal year.

- ⇒ 10,036 Instructional Hours Completed
- ⇒ 185 Students Served One-to-One
- ⇒ 139 Tutors Donated 15,324 Hours
- ⇒ 32 Students Received an Increase in Income
- ⇒ 18 Countries Represented by Students
- ⇒ 14 Students Received a Promotion or Raise
- ⇒ 12 Students Obtained Better Employment

*"Literacy arouses hopes, not only in society as a whole but also in the individual who is striving for fulfilment, happiness and personal benefit by learning.*

*The aim is to transmit knowledge and promote social participation."*  
- UNESCO Institute  
for Education,  
Hamburg, Germany



Citizenship student, Marco Jeronimo, with his wife Ana and their two sons

### Mission:

Blue Ridge Literacy Council is dedicated to transforming lives through improved literacy and English communication skills for adult learners.



Noel Cardenis Solis accepting his Student of the Year award

## Student of the Year

When this year's recipient of the Chris Edwards Student of the Year Award first came to the Literacy Council his scores indicated he was at a 4th grade level in reading. With hard work and focus he has not only brought his reading, writing and social studies skills to a high school graduate level, he has done this while working as a mechanic full time.

Noel Cardenis Solis now has two tutors – Marion Bradford for math/science and Peri David for social studies, science, reading and writing.

Marion shares, *"Noel's background in math has come mostly from his time in school in Mexico and from teachings from his grandfather. Noel is a diligent student and only rarely misses his appointed session, which is at 7 AM on Monday mornings. He likes that time because of his work schedule of about 60 hours a week as an automotive tech in his uncle's garage."*

It is clear that Noel will meet his goal to get his high school equivalency, and we all hope that he will pursue advanced educational training to enhance his career. He is already interested in the programs that are at Blue Ridge Community College. Once he has his GED in hand he will have more options available to explore.

Congratulations Noel.

## Outstanding Tutor Award

The G'Anne Sparks Outstanding Tutor Award was presented to Gerry Lawton, a retired military officer. He has helped students navigate the tedious process of gathering material and filling out federal immigration forms to allow them to legally live, work and drive in this country. These young people were brought to this country by their parents at a very early age.

He shares, *"As a BRLC volunteer tutor I have seen first-hand what the effects of undeveloped literacy skills mean. I can sum it up this way – loss of opportunity and chances for a more fulfilling and productive life. Also lost are the contributions those individuals might have made toward the betterment of society."*



Gerry Lawton, Outstanding Tutor

## Joanna's Story

"When I was 15 years old I dropped out of high school. I didn't like school. I had my first child when I was 16. Then I had a baby to take care of, and I couldn't return to school."

Today, Joanna is a mom of three kids, ages 10, 7, and 4. She works very hard with her tutor, for her children's sake.

"I want to stay [at BRLC] for my kids. When my kids grow up, I want them to want to be like their mom and see that she was something in life."



Research shows that a key indicator in the success of a child is the education level of their mother.

When you support BRLC you make a difference in the lives of families like Joanna's.



Terry Winfield (left) and Diane Jankowski

## Volunteer of the Year

Terry Winfield came to BRLC in the spring of 2014 when she retired from a career in teaching. With a Master's Degree in Special Education, she began tutoring immediately. Soon she was tutoring not just one, but two ESL students, which she continues to do. Terry is also a wonderful office volunteer. She files, organizes the back room, inventories our textbooks, and steps up to do anything else we need. She is a dynamo! Terry volunteered over 400 hours last year and has truly become indispensable at BRLC.

## Hugh Lowery Extra Mile Award

This year's recipient of the Hugh Lowery Extra Mile Award, Diane Jankowski, has been a volunteer at the Literacy Council since September 2005. Diane has been a regular and reliable volunteer working mostly in the office.

Her extra miles were earned helping with our Rock & Roll for Literacy fundraising event. For the second year in a row, Diane solicited silent auction items from Hendersonville and Asheville, collecting over half of our items. This year she also sold, by far, the most tickets and even found a sponsor for the event. Her hours of effort resulted in \$1,900 in funds raised. Diane is a pleasure to work with, and we are grateful for her dedication to BRLC.

# 2014/2015 Income vs Expenses

## Income: \$276,679

- 55% (\$153,365) Grants, Events, Private Support and Investments
- 45% (\$123,314) State & Local Government Support

## Expenses: \$252,220

- 86% (\$216,495) Program Support
- 14% (\$35,725) Management, General Administration and Fundraising

## Current Staff

**Autumn Weil**  
Executive Director

**Cindy Jefferson**  
ESL/Civics  
Coordinator

**Priscilla Yokote**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## Board of Directors (FY 14/15)

Judy Hansen  
President

Rickey Parker  
Vice President

Melinda Whitmire  
Treasurer

Barbara Wilcox  
Secretary

Connie Backlund

Nancy Bulow

Sue Davis

Karla Edwards

Valerie Foote

Sheila Grapes

Sarah Massagee

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