



PROJECT LITERACY

of Greater Bergen County, Inc.

FALL 2012

Serving Literacy since 1987

NEWSLETTER

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Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County recently hosted its 24th annual awards ceremony.

The event is dedicated to recognizing those individuals, service organizations, businesses and corporations that have supported the cause of literacy. Guest speaker was Jon Leibowitz, Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. Among the award winners were: Biomet of Fair Lawn; Macy's; Books and Greetings of Northvale; National Council of Jewish Women; Teaneck Rotary Club; and Girl Scout Troop 498 of Hasbrouck Heights. The event was held at Hackensack University Medical Center. The hospital presented a cake to Project Literacy in honor of their 25th year of service.

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Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County would like to thank the following companies, agencies and individuals for their ongoing financial support:



Girl Scout Troop 498



Biomet



Shirley Bulger, Volunteer of the Year



FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz



Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi



Celebrating 25 Years!

- Karla Cino
- County of Bergen
- Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors
- The Estée Lauder Companies
- Grace Pichardo
- Konica Minolta Business Solutions
- LePapillon, Ltd.
- Lillian P. Schenck Foundation
- Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey
- Macy's
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Oritani Bank Foundation
- PSE&G
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- TD Bank
- United Water
- Verizon



Save The Date

Project Literacy's
9th Annual Gala

Save The Date

Project Literacy Of Greater Bergen County Presents
Ninth Annual Gala

Friday, October 12, 2012

The Stony Hill Inn 231 Polity Road, Hackensack, New Jersey

Celebrating 25 Years

Honoring Robert Iacullo - Chairman, United Water

To Purchase Tickets or For Sponsorship Information

Please Email Streddin@Project-Literacy.Org
Or Call 201-489-7066

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF ADULT LITERACY SINCE 1987

Save the Date!

A Dance Extravaganza



To Benefit Project Literacy
and

The Carmen Pichardo Scholarship Program

January 26, 2013

**Bergen County Academies
Hackensack, New Jersey**

**Young dancers come together to help
raise money and eradicate illiteracy!**

Did you know?

- The number one determining factor of a child's health is the literacy level of the mother.
- Three out of every four of those on welfare and 68% of those who are arrested are illiterate.
- 21 million adult Americans cannot read
- 46% of all adults cannot understand the directions on the label of their prescription medicine.
- \$2 billion each year is spent on students who must repeat a grade due to reading problems.
- 50% of the chronically unemployed are not functionally literate.
- One out of every ten drivers on the road cannot read road signs.
- 40% of Americans have never read an entire book.
- 48% of high school graduates applying for a job are not literate enough for the job they are seeking.

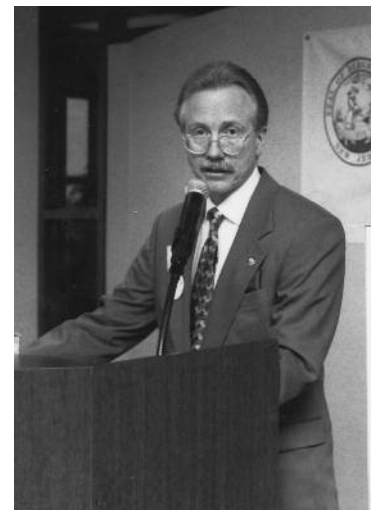
Source: Proliteracy, The Literacy Company

Who are they?

Project Literacy is now celebrating its **25th year**.

We are proud of the fact that we have helped thousands of adults learn how to read and write. In addition, we have referred thousands more to other ESL and adult literacy programs through our Pathways to Literacy brochure. We have established an annual scholarship program. We have increased the amount of tutors to over 120. All of this is due to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.

We have shown pictures of two well known community leaders, pictured from an awards event in the 1990's. The first person to identify these two will win two tickets to an event at Bergen PAC, located in Englewood. Respond by emailing read@project-literacy.org



Student's Story

(The following words were spoken at the June 2012 Awards Ceremony.)

My name is Nourhan Albitar. I came to this country from Syria when I was 13 years old. I started going blind at age 10, and when I came to the U.S. I did not know how to speak English. I learned to speak English by listening, but I don't really know how I learned. I never went to school in this country. I was going to the library in my town for some lessons where I learned the names of the letters, and I knew how to spell my first and last name and the letters from A to Z, but nothing else. My mom was taking ESL classes at the Ciarco Learning Center. I would go with her every day and wait outside and help her with books. I made a few friends and one day I asked someone if they thought I could take English classes even though I was blind.

I met Paulette Silva, Kathy O'Hara and Jill Wright at Project Literacy. They were very nice and helped me a lot. When I started my lessons with Paulette we worked on phonics and I learned how words sound and what letters to use to write them. Then I learned bigger words. Paulette would try to see me every day, but I needed to learn too much.

Paulette introduced me to Sylvia and Carlos who were other ESL students and also volunteer tutors with Project Literacy. Paulette and they helped me learn math. Paulette made numbers with clay so I could feel them with my hands. She made addition signs, division symbols, parenthesis, and many other math things. She put magnets on the numbers and got a magnetic board the size of a notebook. With this board, Carlos helped me a lot with fractions, decimals and division. At the same time, I was learning a lot about reading comprehension with Paulette, and a lot of typing and spelling with Veronica.

Paulette has also taught me how to use many computer programs like JAWS, Skype, email, and Microsoft Word.

It has been eight months since I started school. I knew nothing. Now, I am in a GED class. I understand English much better. I am learning a lot of vocabulary every day, and I am learning more math every day too. I am learning much more grammar and how to write better essays. I can use my computer, Yahoo chat, Skype, Google Translate, and some other programs. Everyone can see how much progress I have made.

My tutor Paulette has helped me a lot in school. Most of the things I learned, I learned from her. She has not only helped me with my school work, she has helped me with my life.

My plans after getting my GED are to go to college and major in psychology.

New Board of Trustees Member

Project Literacy is pleased to welcome a new trustee, Arlene Sahraie. Arlene brings a wealth of experience in the area of literacy. She is currently the Library Services Director for BCCLS, the Bergen County Cooperative Library System; previously she was the Director of the Fairview Free Public Library for 28 years and was named the *New York Times* Librarian of the Year in 2002. She is the past Chair of the New Jersey Library Association Scholarship Committee, and past President of the Board of Directors of BCCLS. Arlene also has an M.S. in Library and Information Science and has extensive experience in teaching English as a Second Language to groups of adult learners.

Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County

Mission Statement

Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established to increase the level of public consciousness on the issues of adult literacy and to serve as a catalyst for literacy initiatives.

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We Need Your Support!

Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County depends on the kindness of supporters like you. Please consider making a donation to support our initiatives including our One-to-One tutoring program, which continues to grow each year. Presently we have more than 120 tutors helping more than 130 students who come from different backgrounds and economic situations. We accept checks and credit cards. Please contact our office if paying by credit card, or send a check to the address listed below.

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