



**PROJECT LITERACY**  
of Greater Bergen County, Inc.

**WINTER  
2014**

*Serving Literacy since 1987*

**NEWSLETTER**

Printed by Konica Minolta Business Solutions Color Copies

**Dancers Leap For Literacy**

Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County recently held its Fourth Annual Leap for Literacy event at the Bergen Academies in Hackensack.

Leap for Literacy was created by Board of Trustee member Grace Pichardo. Three talented local dance groups participated in the event. They are: Dance Fusion of Cliffside Park, Dance Theatre of New Jersey, located in Oakland and Allegro Arts Academy, located in East Rutherford.

More than 100 dancers, ranging in age from 7 to 18, performed in a variety of styles of dance including tap, jazz, ballet and flamenco.

The event was a great success. More than 500 people attended despite the cold weather outside. Proceeds from the event went to Project Literacy's general fund as well as our Carmen Pichardo. Scholarship Fund. "With the Leap for Literacy dance concert, the studios get exposure, the dancers get to perform and give back to the community, the audience gets to enjoy a beautiful show, and we in Project Literacy get to continue to enhance awareness about illiteracy and to raise additional funds to help even more people. It's an all-around win-win situation and I love it," said Grace Pichardo.

Inside this Issue:

In 2013 .....	2
Book Donations .....	2
New Board Member.....	2
Tutor Training.....	3
Volunteers Needed.....	3
Tenth Annual Gala .....	3
We Need Your Support.....	4

**Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County would like to thank the following foundations, sponsors, civic groups, corporations and individuals that have supported us in the past twelve months:**

- Inserra Supermarkets
- Cruise Industry Foundation
- United Water
- Lakeland Bank
- Konica Minolta Business Solutions
- Wells Fargo
- PSEG
- Hudson City Savings Bank
- Ada Lil Torres
- Estee Lauder
- Holy Name Medical Center
- Grace Pichardo
- Eastwick College
- Arkay Packaging
- OritaniBank Foundation
- Macy's
- Sharp Electronics
- Bergen Community College
- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Church of the Atonement
- Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors
- Schenck Foundation
- County of Bergen
- Cynthia Forster
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Palisades Educational Foundation
- TD Bank Foundation



## In 2013, Project Literacy,

- Held our 25<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony, where we recognized outstanding accomplishments in the field of adult literacy. Among the honorees were: Provident Bank Foundation, the Woman's Club of Franklin Lakes and Girl Scout Troop 4324, Saddle Brook.
- Held our 10<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising Gala. The event was attended by more than 170 guests and raised more than \$65,000. Honorees were The Estee Lauder Companies and the Korean Medical Program at Holy Name Medical Center.
- Helped more than 200 students with their reading, writing and spoken English skills.
- Received funding from many foundations including: TD Bank, Oritani Bank, United Water, Cruise Industry, Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors, County of Bergen.
- Published the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of our Pathways to Literacy, a guide to Adult Education Programs in the Greater Bergen County area.
- Distributed more than \$4,000 in scholarships for classes at the Ciarco Learning Center, located at Bergen Community College. Recipients qualify for tuition reimbursements via the Carmen Pichardo Scholarship Fund. In 2013, four students were chosen as recipients.
- Held our Annual Leap for Literacy event, which raised money for Project Literacy and the Carmen Pichardo Scholarship fund. Dancers from three local dance companies performed to a crowd of more than 600 people.
- Held four tutor training sessions for basic literacy and ESL tutors. An average of 14 potential tutors attended the five- week program.
- Recognized our tutors at our annual holiday party.
- Noted student successes including: obtaining promotions at their jobs, being accepted into colleges, passing their written drivers' tests and passing their citizenship tests.

## Book Donations

Over the past year, Project Literacy has received more than 10,000 books from a variety of sources. We would like to thank the following donors: Ramapo Readers from Ramapo College, Books and Greetings in Northvale, Dr. Julius Hyman from Teaneck, Barnes and Noble, Hackensack, Peoples Education from Saddle Brook and CavanKerry Press, Fort Lee. In addition, we have many individual donors who drop off a few boxes of books at our office.

The books are used by our tutors and students in our One-to -One Tutoring Program. Books are also distributed to students at the Ciarco Learning Center in Hackensack, where Project Literacy is housed. Many of the students are not able to afford purchases of new books. There is no dollar value on the value of reading a book! Some of the books are also forwarded to other non-profit agencies such as the Holley Center in Hackensack, West Side Infant and Teen Program, located in Englewood and the Bergen Family Center of Englewood.

Project Literacy accepts book donations throughout the year. We ask that you call our office in advance. We can also arrange a pick-up of the books.

## Project Literacy Welcomes New Board Member



Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County is pleased to welcome our newest member of our Board of Trustees.

Lillian K. Whitaker is currently the principal of the Nellie K. Parker elementary school, located in Hackensack. She has been in that position for 10 years. Ms. Whitaker has been honored for her innovative work at the school. She has served in the Hackensack school system since 1976. She also served as an Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, Fifth Grade Teacher, and Music /Drama Teacher.

As principal, she promotes open communication with colleagues and students as well as providing educators with mentoring on the development and implementation of curriculum.

Among her honors are: Hackensack Public Schools Distinguished Service Award, Coalition of 100 Black Women Community Award and the "King Lucci" Memorial & Scholarship Award.

Ms. Whitaker has a B.A. in Music Education from Lincoln University and a Masters in Educational Leadership from New Jersey City University. Ms. Whitaker resides in Hackensack, is married and has two children.

## Tutor training expands

Our next tutor training is scheduled for February. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, you must attend a training program. For the first time, we have two options. You can attend the traditional five- week training program starting February 26, or our newly- formed two -week condensed training starting February 28th.

## Volunteers needed!

This year, for the first time in four years, the Barclays Golf Tournament will be played at the Ridgewood Country Club, located in Paramus, NJ. The top 125 golfers in the world, including Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Rory McIroy are expected to play.

The Barclays has always been charity- minded. Non-profit agencies are invited to work the concession stands at the various sites around the golf course. Non-profit agencies are compensated with a donation based on the number of volunteers and the amount of hours that are worked. Duties include volunteering as a cook, cashier or “runner.”

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday August 19, and Wednesday August 20, for the practice rounds. The tournament runs from August 21 to August 24.

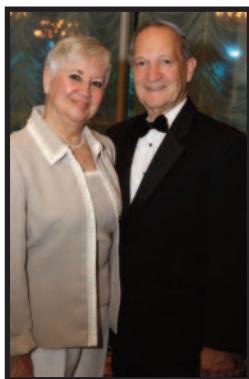
Project Literacy needs volunteers on all of these dates. You can volunteer for a minimum of three hours and up to eight hours.

Volunteers, once they are finished with their shift, are allowed to stay and watch the golfers.

If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please email Scott Reddin at [sreddin@project-literacy.org](mailto:sreddin@project-literacy.org).

### ***10th ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA AT THE VIEW ON THE HUDSON***

The Estee Lauder Companies and the Korean Medical Program at Holy Name Medical Center were the honorees. The event raised more than \$65,000 and was attended by over 170 people.



Joyce and Benedict Focarino  
(President, Board of Trustees)



Laszlo and Yadira Moharita from Estee Lauder, Dean Walter Hecht and Gala Chair, Marina Mlloja



Kyung Hee Choi, accepting award for Korean Medical Program



Anthony Brewington,  
Student Speaker

# 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.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

**Benedict A. Focarino**, *President*

*Passaic Leather*

**Larry Eisen**, *Vice President*

*FIP Graphics*

**Emmy Bledsoe**, *Secretary*

*Co-Founder, Project Literacy*

**Marina Mlloja**, *Treasurer*

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Ree Adler, Esq.**

**Karen V. Beckford-Bennett, Ed.D.**

*The Lovell J. Honiss School, Dumont*

**Cynthia Forster**  
*Record / Herald News*

**Dean Walter Hecht**

*WCH7 Consulting*

*Founding President, Project Literacy*

**Thomas R. McVeigh**

*Konica Minolta*

*Business Solutions, USA, Inc.*

**Laszlo Moharita**  
*The Estée Lauder Companies, Inc.*

**Warren T. Oates, Jr.**

*Retired Corporate Secretary*

**Joseph Pandolfi, Esq.**

*Pandolfi Communications*

**Harry K. Panjwani, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Medical Research & Consultation*

**Grace Pichardo**

*Hackensack University Medical Center*

**Marilyn Rosica**

*Rosica Communications*

**Arlene Sahraie**

*BCCLS*

**Sandy Sroka**

*Ciarco Learning Center*

**Ada Lil Torres, Esq.**

**Lewis C. "Kip" Weldon**  
*RMR Wealth Management, LLC*

**Lillian Whitaker**

*Nellie K. Parker School, Hackensack*

### We need your support!

At Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County we are celebrating our 27<sup>th</sup> year. We started in 1987, and have greatly expanded our size and scope over the last quarter of a century. We have helped thousands upon thousands of adults to learn how to read, write and speak English. We know that when we help the individual, we are also helping their families and society as a whole. We are very proud of the work we do at Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County.

We are also proud of the fact that we receive funding from many corporations and foundations, as well as money raised from events such as our annual Gala, Leap for Literacy and Authors for Literacy series. But it is you, the individual, that keeps our agency going. We depend on the kindness of our donors.

We are very aware that there are many wonderful charities that do good work and ask for donations. However, we hope that you will think of us and make a donation to Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. You can either send a contribution to the address below or via PayPal through our website. We ask that you also consider making a donation in honor of a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, or that you remember us in your will.

355 Main Street • Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

201-489-7066 • Fax: 201-968-9732 e-mail: read@project-literacy.org • www.project-literacy.org