

# LEARN

# Alive!

**Libraries Empower All to Read Now**  
Adult Literacy Program  
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April/May 08

## DID YOU KNOW?

- *L.E.A.R.N. has an email distribution list for tutors. If you would like to be added, please contact us, and we will be happy to add you.*
- *Monthly Tutor Reports are very important to our success. Without the information collected on those forms, L.E.A.R.N. would not receive the funding it needs to continue servicing the County. Please remember to turn in one for your learner.*
- *This year, L.E.A.R.N. will host its First Annual Volunteer Tutor Appreciation Picnic Celebration. Check your mail for details.*

## L.E.A.R.N. AND LAUBACH CARE!

L.E.A.R.N. and the Laubach Literacy Council of San Diego County have recently been awarded the 2008 Acts of Caring Award for their partnership in teaching English as a Second Language (E.S.L.) to adult immigrants and non-English speakers in the County Library branches. They were selected out of 18 programs by the National Association of Counties (NACo) for this award, which recognizes the top county volunteer programs in the country. The San Diego County Library is one of only two libraries in the country to be selected for an award.

This partnership between L.E.A.R.N. and Laubach, which started approximately a year ago, now serves more than 70 students at 8 branches. Volunteer tutors are recruited and trained to teach English as a Second Language in one-on-one and small group situations. Learners are recruited, assessed, and paired with a tutor at any one of the County's 33 library branches.

The program has been progressively growing, due in large part to Charles M. Ross who volunteers as the Co-Director of the East County Laubach Literacy

Centers. Charles has been working tirelessly since the beginning of the partnership to ensure E.S.L. services are brought to the places that need it the most. With the help of Arlene Atkinson, volunteer Co-Director as well, Charles is able to stay on top of his many tasks which include recruitment of tutors and learners, assessments, networking at the different libraries, and planning E.S.L. tutor trainings. Our heartfelt thanks go to Laubach's volunteers for helping to make this award possible.

## THANKFUL LEARNER



My name is Mary Avila. I am so happy for finding help. When I came to the library and asked for a tutor for my girls, someone in the office told me that they only had tutors for adults. That's when I put my name on the list. A week or two later Nancy Jones called and left a message. I got so happy when she called. We have been working two days a week and it has been a blessing from day one until now. It has been so helpful for me. She teaches me in a way that I can understand. I feel better and more prepared for my regular classes. Having a tutor has been such a blessing especially someone like Nancy Jones – a very patient teacher. May God bless her heart for the time she makes for me.

**Current Learner – Mary Avila**



*Mary Avila and Nancy B. Jones*

*“Be Inspired! The job of building and developing literacy skills improves with duration and determination. Don't give up!” I hope this article gives you more motivation and dedication. Remember, you are a life long learner, and your technique will develop with time. Adult learners and teenagers overcome reading and writing difficulties through literacy programs that touch the soul of all. It's just the process of developing efficient learning styles. I pray this thought touches the soul of the reader and helps them overcome literacy difficulties and develop effective learning abilities.*

**Former Learner-- Curtis Luster, Sr.**

## HEART WARMING HELP



Erica Abbey

I am starting my fourth month working with L.E.A.R.N, and I feel like I have “learned” so much already. Many of our Adult Learners come by our office if they need help with anything. One learner in particular seemed to stop by on a more regular basis. He was in dire need to obtain his driver’s license. However, this learner needed to take the test orally because he would not be able to read the written test. He had unsuccessfully tried to pass the test over many years.

He needed all the driver’s test questions and answers orally recorded for him so he could prepare for the test. After a few attempts, I was able to record a polished copy of the driver’s test questions and answers. It was challenging to have to speak so slowly and to have to say so much information, but I was glad

that he was able to use it to study for his test. It was a unique task to complete, but I was happy to do it.

A few weeks later, he joyfully proclaimed to me that he passed the written component of the driver’s test and that he now has his driving permit. He just needed to complete the road test to obtain his driver’s license. I was so happy and so proud. He still would like to learn how to read, but at least, he is accomplishing one goal at a time. I was glad to help him accomplish this specific goal.

**AmeriCorps Member – Erica Abbey**

## MY EXPERIENCE AS A TUTOR

The first day for me began with a good deal of trepidation. What made me think I could figure out what to do or say? Why did I sign up in the first place? To my relief, Adolfo was a very likeable man, eager to learn and grateful that I would spend time with him. While he could speak English, he could only write in Spanish, which limited his employment advancement. He was responsible for “closing” at the Fish Market in Del Mar. If he needed to communicate a problem to the manager who opened in the morning, instead of leaving a message, he would have to get up early to phone them. He could write a few words regarding food items, but might misspell them and have to explain what he meant.

We started out by having him write out theoretical messages to his managers, such as “the plumbing is backed up in the women’s restroom.” I would correct the spelling or grammar. Those corrections would make up the homework for him to practice between sessions. To my horror, I later realized I had misspelled “plumbing,” leaving out the ‘b’. From then on, I would look up the correct spelling in the dictionary, point to the word, and have Adolfo discover

his mistake on his own.

As we talked about his life and his writing needs, I discovered what an interesting person he is. At work, his earnest desire is to keep all customers happy, always alert to their needs in the restaurant as well as at his market station, solving problems with the utmost courteousness, never blaming, always uplifting -- the ideal worker. As a family



Marilyn Rummerfield and Adolfo Salazar

man, he has a daughter about to graduate from San Jose State University, a 12 year old at the stage of ‘knowing everything’, and an older son who he helped to buy a fixer-upper house. He also has a savings!!!

It did not take long for Adolfo to be

able to write what he needs to at work and make out a check. For additional homework, he did exercises from materials provided by L.E.A.R.N. We also went over parts of speech, spelling rules, and important words to know. Believe me; I have had to do some digging to inform myself in these areas.

Currently when he writes, he must translate from Spanish to English, so it is an arduous task. At this point, Adolfo needs to write, write, write. He has had such an interesting life; he was thinking he could write a book. Bingo! This is his task now, to write his life story.

This has been a wonderful learning experience for me. I would recommend it highly.

**Current Tutor – Marilyn Rummerfield**

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tutor Trainings**
  - Encinitas (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part separate)  
April 22 and 23 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
  - El Cajon (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part separate)  
May 7 and 8 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
  - Vista (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part together)  
May 17 (10:00am-4:00pm)
  - Vista (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part separate)  
June 2 and 4 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
  - El Cajon (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part together)  
June 14 (10:00am-4:00pm)
- **Learner/Tutor Time**
  - El Cajon  
April 29 (6:00pm-7:30pm)  
May 28 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
  - Vista  
May 1 (6:00pm-7:30pm)  
June 3 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
- **ESL Café**
  - Vista  
April 23 (10:30am-12:00pm)  
May 7 and 21 (10:30am-12:00pm)  
June 11 and 25 (10:30am-12:00pm)
  - El Cajon  
May 2 and 16 (10:30am-12:00pm)  
June 6 and 20 (10:30am-12:00pm)
- **Race for Literacy**
  - May 3 - Kids Magic Mile
  - May 4 - 8K Race