

LEARN

Alive!

Libraries Empower All to Read Now
Adult Literacy Program
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Dec 2009/ Jan 2010

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE

My name is Esteban Ramirez, and I have been taking a Wilson Reading System class for the last 11 months. I am 29 years old, and I have dyslexia. When I went to school, I didn't want to read and write because the kids would make fun of me. So instead I became the big bad man at school, but it didn't help me because all it did was make me feel bad about myself. I was feeling dumb that I was not like all the rest of the kids in my class so I missed a lot of school, and then I just stopped going.

Now I am 29 years old, and I want to make a difference in my life today by improving my reading and writing so I started to take a class with Hector with the Vista Library's Adult Literacy Program. This is one of the best things that I have done for myself because I did not like to read before. But now because of Hector teaching me how to sound out words

and break them up, I can spell and not be afraid to do this and I have more confidence.



Esteban Ramirez

I started the reading program in February on level 2 of the Wilson Reading System and now I am on level 7, and the whole time it has made me like to read and understand what I am reading by learning about open syllables and closed syllables, base words and suffixes. All this I didn't know how to break down but today I can do it. All this I didn't learn in school but with Hector's help I started to learn about long vowels and short vowels, which was all new to me. And all I can do now is grow from here in my reading and writing. I think joining this program has been one of the best decisions I've made in my life.

Current Learner—Esteban Ramirez

For more information on the Wilson Reading System or the methods Hector uses, please email him at hector.ortega@sdcounty.ca.gov.

“Life’s most urgent question is: what are you doing for others?”

- Martin Luther King Junior

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY

Looking back over the past year, I am very proud of all that I was able to accomplish at LEARN. It has been an amazing experience, and I have benefited from it in so many ways; the relationships and memories I have made will last a lifetime.

Of all the projects I have worked on, the events I have planned, and the lessons I have taught, the thing that I am most proud of is helping four learners pass their Citizenship test. I feel so privileged to have been able to help these people learn about American government and the democratic process; this is an accomplishment that I know made a difference in their lives and mine.

To the LEARN staff, you are a wonderful group of people. I have had the best time working and laughing with all of you. This program is successful because of you and will continue to grow because of all of the hard work you each do. Thank you for the opportunity to spend a year with you.

To the Vista Library staff, I truly enjoyed working with all of you. I will miss all the warm smiles and thoughtful gestures. Thank you for including me as part of the team, and I am sure that I will see you around the community.

I am going to miss everyone, and it is with difficulty that I say goodbye to all of my friends, co-workers, tutors, and learners. It has been a pleasure working for LEARN, I have enjoyed this year so much and what a difference you have all made in my life.

Laura Burlew—AmeriCorps Member



From left, AmeriCorps Alums
Nene Ogbechie, Lilitiana Cilia, and
Laura Burlew

For article submissions, please contact Jason Romano at
jason.romano@sdcounty.ca.gov or (760) 643-5144

HOLIDAY PARTY

On Saturday, December 12th, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, the LEARN Program hosted its first Holiday Potluck Party at the El Cajon Library. The intent of the party was to complement the Annual Picnic in showing appreciation for all the support LEARN has received. It was a fun and festive way for the staff, LEARN and Laubach tutors and learners, and their loved ones to enjoy some food, fun, and games.



LEARN and Laubach enjoying the Holiday Party

There were a total of thirty attendees who took part in everything from snowflake arts and crafts to Super Scrabble matches. To add some additional excitement, everyone was asked to bring their favorite dish and write its recipe on a card to share. The LEARN staff will be compiling all of these recipes to make a LEARN cookbook! The cookbook should be available on our website, www.sdcl.org/learn, at the beginning of February.

All tutors and learners received the 2009 *Read for the Record* featured book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and a travel calculator as giveaways from the LEARN staff. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat with new and old members of the LEARN and Laubach family. The entire LEARN staff would like to thank all those who attended and contributed towards making this a memorable event during this special holiday season.



Desiree Garcia

Raquel Sojourner— AmeriCorps Member

LEARN EXPANDS CLASSES

COMPUTER BASICS

LEARN has added a new class to its repertoire this past October; Desiree Garcia has designed and taught a computer class at the Encinitas and Vista Branch Libraries. It was designed as an 11 week series of classes that teaches the basics of computers. The class is called Computer Basics because only the fundamentals are taught: *what a computer is and navigating around it, using the mouse and keyboard, creating a document in Microsoft Word, navigating the internet, and setting up and sending an email.*

The first series of classes in both Encinitas and Vista has already ended; however, the new series will begin in January for both Encinitas and Vista. The Encinitas class begins January 4th and will be held every Monday from 2-4 pm and the Vista class begins January 5th and runs every Tuesday from 12-2pm. The class is on a first-come, first-served basis with seats

reserved for returning students. The space is limited to the number of computers, so be sure to arrive early if you would like to attend.

Desiree Garcia— AmeriCorps Member

CONVERSATION CAFÉ

In October, the LEARN program began facilitating an English conversation group at the Bonita-Sunnyside Branch. The class started with a small but consistent group of 2 people and has since grown to a steady group of 5. The group practices English conversation skills through language games and activities, discussions of current events as well as issues that are pertinent to everyone present.

The Bonita-Sunnyside English Conversation Café is just one new course that is being offered by LEARN. Literacy has recently been expanding its English Conversation Café program throughout the county. Previously

only serving El Cajon and Vista, LEARN now offers English conversation in 4S, Bonita, El Cajon, Lincoln Acres, Poway, Solana Beach, and Vista. Starting in January, LEARN will also begin facilitating classes at the Casa de Oro branch location.

Nick Crosby— AmeriCorps Member

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

The LEARN Staff would like to thank the following people for their help in making our program a success!

Lisa Beckman— HQ
Candy Bonner— Portero
Laura Burlew— Vista
El Cajon Staff
LucyGrace Garceau and
the RBV chapter of the DAR
Darren Witt— HQ

January

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 HOLIDAY No Classes	2
3	4 Citizenship Class Vista 6:00p-7:30p 4S Ranch 6:30p-7:45p Spring Valley 10:30a-11:30a Computer Class Encinitas 2p-4p Conversation Café Casa de Oro 10a-11a El Cajon 11:30a-12:30p Poway 12p-1p ESL Classes El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Spring Valley 6p-8p	5 Computer Class Vista 12p-2p Conversation Cafe 4S Ranch 8:30a-9:30a ESL Class Encinitas 9:30a-11:30a Lemon Grove 10:30a-12:30p Vista 5p-8p Spring Valley 6p-8p	6 Conversation Café Lincoln Acres 9:30a-10:30a Solana Beach 10a-11a Vista 10:30a-11:30a ESL Class El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a	7 Citizenship Class San Marcos 5p-7p Conversation Café Rancho San Diego 10a-12p ESL Classes El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a Encinitas 9:30a-11:30a Vista 5p-8p	8 Conversation Café El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a Bonita 10a-11a ESL Class El Cajon 9:30a-11:30a	9	
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February

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