2022

Literacy Network™

LEARNING TOGETHER

A collection of inspirational stories from adult learners reaching their goals with Literacy Network.



Literacy Network™

OUR MISSION

Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.



Since 1974, adult learners at Literacy Network have built their skills for improved opportunities.

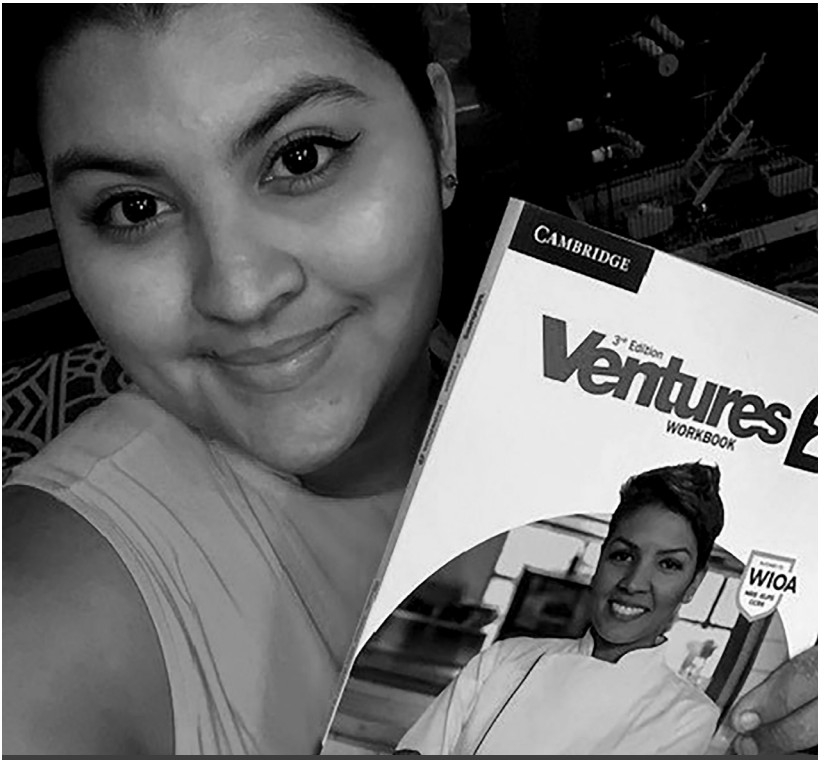
Adult literacy education leads to long-term impacts in the lives of learners and their families. **Benefits of improved literacy include:**

- greater self-esteem and quality of life
- better health
- greater adaptability to a changing world
- improved economic opportunities
- greater gender equity

Adult learners at Literacy Network:

- improve their job situation
- communicate better with their children's schools
- gain their U.S. citizenship
- obtain their high school equivalency diploma
- take the next step to college and other certifications
- learn the basic reading, writing, and English language skills that many of us take for granted

We are proud to support approximately 800 – 1,000 adults annually with the collaboration of more than 30 employees, hundreds of volunteers, and numerous community partners.



LEARNING **TOGETHER**

The following writings from adult learners in Literacy Network programs offer an authentic personal perspective on the importance of literacy in their lives. These stories are unedited as much as possible and reflect the abilities of dozens of learners, all at different places on their journey of literacy education.

I learned more English vocabulary. I am more confident when I speak than I was before. I am writing a little more. When I listen to a song, or to the TV, I understand more. Yesterday I enjoyed singing karaoke with my husband, and could read and understand more of the words, and it was fun.

Now I am more comfortable because I can speak with other people, when I go to the grocery store, when I go to the doctor. When I returned from my recent travel to Mexico, it was much easier to speak with security.

During the pandemic, I have more free time. I have tried to learn more about English. When it first started, I was only able to work two or three days in a week because we had fewer students. Other times, we had to close the day care for a few days because some children were sick with COVID.

In 2022, I hope to learn more English vocabulary, and to speak more fluently. I would like to speak with my neighbor. I would like to speak more with different people and understand more. I would like more confidence when I speak to other people. Now when I speak with other people I get nervous, and I feel shy.

My tutors at the Literacy Network help me learn, and my husband too. I help my co-workers sometimes when they need to speak with the parents or take a call.

What did I learn in 2021?

The last year was really hard for everybody; it was a difficult time for many people, because they lost family.

Honestly, I feel blessed because my family is good and during the pandemic I kept my job.

I have a goal: building cabins to be used for AirBnB in Mexico, but the pandemic changed my timelines and the specifics of the goal; I had to focus on my family and my own health. That was frustrating in the beginning, but I learned that my goal will still be met and I can be done in multiple ways. Another thing that I learned was the importance to my self-care; spend time with my family and friends and take time for my hobbies.

Now, with a new perspective I want to continue learning, I want to learn more English and take some courses to achieve my goal.

During the 2021 my family, friends and my tutor helped me to learn. They gave me advice when I needed. With my friends and family I talked about my goals and my tutor helped me to express them.

At my job I train the new people, I have to teach them about the kitchen, but I believe that all of us learn together. Through teaching you can learn.

HECTOR ABEL MARTINEZ CRUZ

ESL Tutoring



What did you learn in 2021?

in 2021 I learned to understand English more and to understand it more since I did not know much and the literacy network and the teachers have helped me in class with everything

What do you want to learn in 2022?

For this year 2022 I want to improve myself more in the field of English and with it get a better job

Who helps you learn?

Now every Saturday my tutor, Miss Naomi Kowles, helps me learn and every day I practice through the books that have been given to me by the literacy network.

Do you help someone else learn?

I try to help my wife with English whenever possible and I also try to help my daughter w2ith her homework and little by little we are learning together

LILIA

Level 3 English Class

I am learning English and have a better job, better opportunities, to be able to help my children in their school, in their medical appointments and better communication with people. Living in the United States is a requirement, speaking English and detailed writing and reading so not to have help from other people.

Kayaking against the difficult times

During the pandemic, we needed to stay home to protect ourselves but one of the problems was that some people got depressed and anxious because they couldn't do anything.In my case, I had to work and after work I spent most of the time inside and alone.I lived alone so it was hard for me, especially because I had just arrived from Mexico and I missed my family a lot.

Then my friend Sally told me that she was bored and that maybe we should find something to do outside that would keep us busy. Close to my place, there was a small lake and we thought that getting a kayak would be a great idea.She loves riding bikes but because I'm not as good as her, we couldn't do that together.The idea about getting a kayak was perfect because I had never done that before and she hadn't done it in a long time.

As you may know, Wisconsin has several places for kayaking whether you are a beginner or an expert, so that was a good reason to start with this activity.

The way I learned was basically following my friend's instructions and trying in a small lake. Paddling in a small lake wasn't really hard and that helped me a lot and gave me more trust in myself. After a couple of days of practice, we went to the Pine River. That was a little bit difficult because there were branches and big rocks. However, Sally never gave up and she tried to encourage me. She always told me ""you just need more practice"".

Finally, after three months and a lot of practice, we went to Northern Wisconsin and we kayaked in small and big lakes and also we kayaked in the Brule River. In this river I had to deal with rapids. It wasn't easy but I did a good job.

Even though the pandemic is almost over, I want to continue kayaking next summer. This summer I would like to try bigger rapids but for that I need to practice more because that would be more difficult. I am also still learning and hopefully this summer with my friend's help I will become better.

Learning how to kayak was something really important in my life because that helped me with my anxiety and put me in contact with nature.



Brule River. We went to the Brule River during the summer of 2020. There were a lot of big trees around the river, most of them pines. The weather was warm with a big sun most of the time. The water was warm and the wind was refreshing. The blue in the sky was the perfect combination with the pretty big white clouds.

How to learn to love vegetables

Last year was my first year in the United States. It was a year with a lot of emotions and feelings. Leaving my life and family in Argentina it wasn't easy, but I truly believe it was the right decision. While I was waiting for my work permit to be complete, I challenged myself to learn something new. Something that helps and keeps me busy, at least in the spring and summer time. That new thing was gardening. My aunt in law is part of a community garden in Portage, WI, and she invited me to be part also. So I said to myself, "Why not?" and there I was - a person who doesn't eat many vegetables. I saw the opportunity to spend my time learning about something new, like how to prepare the soil to have a better harvest, or the best time of the day to water the plants.

The first thing we did was prepare the soil. With the help of my uncle in law, we used a machine to move all the soil and remove the weeds, and we put some fresh new compost all over the lot. One important thing was water enough to make sure the soil was moist. The community garden is located just a few minutes walking from home, so we usually walked there every day or even took a bike ride and brought the dog with us. I usually preferred to go early in the morning, because at that time the sun wasn't strong and the mosquitos weren't out yet.

I was surprised that the very first plant that started growing it was the strawberries. I didn't know that the strawberry plant survives all winter underground and when it is time it is ready again for the season. The strawberries were so far the best strawberries I tried here, so delicious!. They had a nice brilliant red color and the flavor was really sweet. The lot we had had decent space, so we could plant different vegetables and flowers. We planted red, yellow, sweet and green onions, also some green beans, peas, spinach,

tomatoes, crookneck squash, rhubarb, cucumber, peppers, basil, watermelons and a special seed from Argentina called zapallito verde. The zapallitos verdes were my babies. I was really happy to have something that reminded me of Argentina here. They are very similar to zucchini, but instead of long they are round.

I had a good time last summer learning about the garden and loving the vegetables even though I don't like to eat them so much. Without a doubt gardening was a good thing to learn and I am looking forward to doing it again. I love being outside and enjoying the sun and the wind in my face when I am in the garden.

FRANDINE ANTOINE *Level 4 English Class, Transitions ESL Class*

HOW I USE MY TIME WISELY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Free time is important for people who work all day. They can take a break and go back to work again. During the pandemic almost everyone had to change their routine for everything. There are many options to consider. You can do something with your time or you can lose your time.

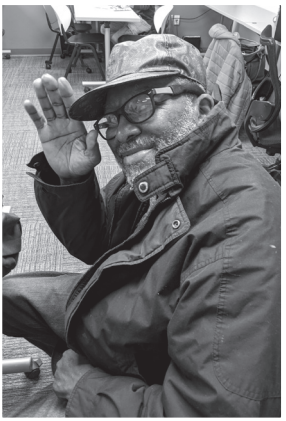
Before the pandemic, everyone lived their lives freely. They had more time outside. The children could play outside. People could organize a huge party at home or anywhere. People get to their activities in different ways (work, school, market, and etc.). There are some who could come home in the afternoon, during the day or at night to meet the rest of the family. During the pandemic for me specifically, I stayed home with my family because there were many recommendations for staying safe and healthy, even if we

were afraid, we stayed strong. Some people worked at home, lived alone, met people only on Zoom meetings, it was a big problem. When I stayed home, I could have too much noise with the kids, I could be lazy and lose my time, leaving my work and doing something else.

I learned how to keep busy doing work on my computer and doing research using the internet. I have more time with my family and we stay together, learn, and get to know each other better. The most important thing I learned was how to balance my work and my health. Right now I am learning English, I want to improve my vocabulary because I would like to speak better English.

CLAUDELL BOYD

Essentials Tutoring



I learned a lot about myself. I learned a lot about covid and I learned a lot about how society can be so different to different people. Even though people's lives are in danger, I still think that different people see things different even if it's the same thing and the same situation. I learned that me being indoors and staying away from people because I don't want to get the sickness did not bother me mentally when a lot of people got mental things that they went through by just being in a house. They were like "I got to go outside" but I enjoy being by myself because I like myself. If you get to the point where you have to be by yourself, you start to learn things about yourself, not things other people have told

you about yourself, but you learn things about yourself and what you can depend on or put your belief or faith in. I learned that I'm a person that believes that there is a supreme being and I'm not in control of this world or what other people think or say, and I put my trust in my faith and a power greater than me. So for that reason, despite what I know or don't know, I still survived all these years cuz I believe in God and I believe that He will take care of me and He has. Now I don't know what the relationship between other people and God is, but I know in my heart that I survived not because of the things I knew or how strong I was or how tough I was, but because I found out there's a power greater than me. At 68 years old, I've seen viruses and sicknesses come and go so that's why I say covid is no different from other sicknesses that has came and gone and people just have to place their trust in God to get through it.

SEMHAR

Essentials Tutoring

What did you learn in 2021?



In 2021, I learned a lot. I didn't think covid would stay this long. The more covid stayed and spread all over and took many people's lives I start thinking. First I was thinking how family, friends, and community are very important in our daily life. I realize being visiting family, gathering with the community, or any event was therapy to me. Second, I learn not to be selfish. Think or understand what other people are passing. Start helping with anything I could. Finally, I learned to work hard and make money. This was good

because during the pandemic a lot of people lost their jobs. Also, it allowed me and my family to help others.

What do you want to learn in 2022?

In 2022 I want to focus on myself and at the same time I want to be careful about covid. In 2022 I want to see progress in literacy class. Being able to read and write. It is very important in my dilley life. It will help me to understand many things in future work. I want to start a job.Working out of my home can make me gain wisdom and a lot of experience from different people. When I work at the same time I want to help other people. So my goal in 2022 will be to find a job, get a lot of experience and help the community. It will be good for me and my family. So far Literacy has helped me improve english.

Who helps you learn? Do you help someone else learn?

Yes, I do help my children to be kind, smart, obey adelt and the most important thing to Feer God. Respect anyone at the school playground.

ANONYMOUS

ESL Tutoring

In 2021 I learned a lot on a personal and academic level. I believe last two years has been instructive for all, not only due the Pandemic of Covid-19 but also because all the positive and/or negative effects on our mental health and environment, life will never be the same for anyone for sure. Personally, the English classes has helped me to build confidence, but the same time been aware that there's still a lot to learn and good things are coming for sure, faith is the engine of everything.

For 2022, I would like to earn confidence in the laborer field. I feel confident speaking English while interacting with the community

but not when trying to pursuit a professional career even when I'm able to communicate myself effectible during an interview, but I feel I'm not been able to use the right works or maybe the way I speak can result awkward or not professional for my interviewer. I would like to practice those skills.

Obviously, my tutors have been an incredible support for my improvements. I have been trying to support and encourage some friends to improve their English Skills, sometimes they have not enough confidence or discipline to achieve their goals. I tried to share with them what works for me in terms of learning and also, I had let them know they need to be patient because learning another language is a long process and they need to be kind with themselves and do not give up.

GLORIA

Level 2 English Class

In 2021 I learned that learning English with children at home can be very difficult, but if you put a lot of effort it will get better. In 2022 I want to learn on how to speak and pronounce right English. The person who helps me learn is my daughter and my teacher.



My goal this year is to speak and write more English so I can ready books with my kids, also because in my cleaning company I need to speak English and Spanish. Me learning English will help me help my husband.

VERONICA

ESL Tutoring

What I learned in 2021

In 2021, I learned new vocabulary and I have gotten more comfortable having a conversation with someone. I did writing, listening, and speaking practice. I want to learn to understand how to read messages, like emails. I want to learn more vocabulary and make conversations. Now, Literacy Network helps me a lot with my English and I am proud of that. Also I want to help my daughter and my husband learn English and understand all the rules of English. I want to be an interpreter and help people.

"I want to be an interpreter and help people."

ANONYMOUS

ESL Tutoring

In 2021 I learned how to write sentences to ask questions to other people. I learned how to speak and write new sentences because I need better communication with my coworkers, doctor, and neighbors .

The tutor helped me learn more about the words I don't know like so and such. These words help describe nouns. "The car is so nice" is one example of how to use it in the sentence.

In 2021 I also learned how to find jobs online .

I wanted to find specific jobs close to my house because it is easier then to go to the place where I want to apply.

My older Son and tutor helped me find jobs on google .

I applied for the job I have now on the internet .

I taught my friend how to find the job in the internet and she worked with me for a couple months .

In 2022 I want to learn how to read and understand emails from my children's teachers. I hope I will learn more with practice and reading my workbook. Reading is my favorite way to learn because it helps me to speak better and practice pronunciation.

DENA

Level 3 English Class

March 2022

In 2021 I learned how to live in couple. I was too much time alone and really, I didn't plan to start a family but I already have a baby and a husband here so I love them and I tried to do my best for overcome obstacles in our first two years together. Also, I learned to be strong in front to the difficulties during the pandemic, I lost some family due covid, I had my baby in this country far away to my family and friends and I had to change of job couple times, moved to different towns and I had to start over everything again. Now for example I'm trying to do the things better and keep positive.

In 2022 I want to learn to be strong and smart in front of the troubles. I would like to learn more English and get a better position in my job and I want to grow with my family inside of this new community.

I learned from my mom and my sisters. They gave me several advices and help me a lot when I was having problems. And finally, I would like to help my daughter how she can grow strong and happy. I want to be her support and give her tools for the future.

HAYET

Level 1 English Class, Level 2 English Class

In 2021, I decided to improve my language. I took an English class for the first time on Zoom, and I learned new words, expanded my vocabulary, and learned some grammar rules.

NATHALIE GONZALEZ

ESL Tutoring, Transitions ESL Class

Times were challenging in the last two years and we had to adapt. I learned that we all need each other and that technology played an important role since it allowed us to communicate with everyone and to work at home. I also learned that mental health is really important to deal with all situations. I learned to discover myself more and to understand people even more. In my home culture of Venezuela it is very important to help in the community. In Venezuela I volunteered at the hospital accompanying children with cancer, and here in the US I volunteer at a foundation in the food pantry. Now I am part of a volunteer group there, which fills me a lot and is very gratifying. At my company I work in the accounting department. I love to work with numbers. At first I was very nervous to use my English but I studied hard to improve and I spent an hour after work every day studying English through Rosetta Stone. My tutor and my family helped me a lot. At work I became more comfortable with my English and used much more English in my work group. I want to learn much more and hope to study and one day pass the exams to become a CPA.

"I want to learn much more and hope to study and one day pass the exams to become a CPA."

My New Start

Most of my life I have been vegetarian, but I have had some health issues. Since I came to the USA I have not had major health problems, but I remember that I wanted to lose weight but I couldn't. Then, when the pandemic came, one friend of mine invited me to participate in a health group online by Zoom .I learned there that when our body is very acidic, because of the amount of toxins, it stores water to prevent us from dying of acidosis. That is why we don't lose weight easily and we are sick most of the time. But when we start to eat healthy food, drink plenty of water, do exercise, breathe fresh air correctly, take sun, rest enough, be temperate, and trust in God, we can improve in an amazing way our health, we can improve our immune system and our bodies can be alkalized and we can avoid illness.



There is an acronym to remember these things easily, that is: NEW STAR

Nutrition
Exercise
Water
Sunlight
Temperance
Air
Rest
Trust in God

I started practicing these things and I lost the weight I couldn't lose before. Not only that, before I had pain in my knees, and sometimes I couldn't lift my arms up because I had some pain, and I didn't know why that happened. Now my whole health is very good.

I learned the importance of being healthy because with COVID I saw the most vulnerable people were people who already had health issues, so their immune systems were weak and it was difficult to defend them from COVID. Something that I also learned, and that has made a big change in my life, is that when you have emotional issues or you are under stress, it does not matter if, for example, you eat healthy, or do many of the things I listed before. The stress and emotional issues make your body very acidic, and that can lead you to get sick .It is so important that you can trust in God and bring him all your sorrows and concerns, because that way you can skip a lot of worries trying to resolve many things that you can't resolve by yourself. Another thing that I learned is that taking care of your health is a compromise. Taking care of your mind and body doesn't cost too much financially, but many people don't want to assume the responsibility that is necessary; because that requires a lot of discipline and sacrifice. For example, it is easier and tasty to eat a delicious and juicy hamburger than a salad of fresh vegetables, even though we have a lot of colors, textures, tastes, and smells in fresh vegetables and fruits, most of the time our palate is too used to fast foods that we don't take pleasure in healthy and simple food. For most people it is preferable to drink coffee or sodas than plain water, it is easier to sit and watch TV than to take a walk or do a workout. Nowadays, we sacrifice our sleep by spending time on our phones or computers or doing things that we think are most important to us, all this at the expense of our health.

Last year, when we were able to meet in person again, I had the opportunity to serve as a volunteer in the Lifeline Wellness Institute in Knoxville, Illinois. There I was able to help many people in their journeys towards a healthier lifestyle. Something that I want to learn in the future, and in fact it is in my plans, is about massage therapy, that way I could help more people. After all these learnings, I am so happy to know that keeping my body healthy is something I can do, and if I can do it, you can also do it. So, you decide!

I learned many things during 2021, but I am most proud of how my English has improved. My pronunciation, vocabulary, and self-correction got better last year. For example, pronunciation, now that I talk to my supervisor more. She understands me. That makes me happy because in our last meeting. I can speak with my coworkers and they understand me. I can speak more comfortable. I am proud of myself because I participated in the meeting and I didn't need people to repeat themselves.

What I really want to learn this new year is more about Biology and Ecology. I want to learn about the language, vocabulary, and concepts used in Biology and Ecology. I need to learn how to study for school. Also, in 2022, I want to improve my conversational English and written English.

The Literacy Network helps me learn more English, get a better job, or go back to school.

My tutor, Elizabeth, is nice to me and helps explain the English rules and verbs.

I will be proud of myself because I can understand more English.

I help my granddaughter with her pronunciation in Spanish, specifically the Spanish r.

I help my coworker by teaching her to use the scrub machine and replace the squeegee and pads. She was happy, because she likes to learn new stuff.

"I can speak with my coworkers and they understand me."

EBTISSAM

Community English Class, Essentials Tutoring



Last year, I learned about many things. I started reading, writing and understanding better. Another thing I learned is to use my computer and add to my English vocabulary. I am lucky to have met a tutor from the Literacy Network to help and support me in learning English. Also, she helped me practice reading, writing and conversation. I always want to learn English, because every day is a chance to learn it. This year, I would like to be able to write an essay and have a conversation. It is necessary for me to improve communication with my friends and family members who only speak English and also when I go to the doctor I want to explain how I'm feeling. In one year, I would like to work. When things get tough, I will remind myself that I want to continue to learn. Learning English helped me increase my self-confidence, so when I read an article and discuss it with the teacher and talk about many things, this gives me psychological comfort and happiness. I teach my grand-daugther the Arabic language and at the same time we have fun together, I always encourage myself and make a schedule so that I can continue to educate myself as well.

"I am lucky to have met a tutor from the Literacy Network to help and support me in learning English."

In 2021, I learned how to be on the present. Some of my friends and family members experienced difficulties, stress but also new beginnings. It was a difficult year, but somehow, we managed to get out of it and grow.

When it comes to me, I learned a lot of new things. In school, I learned more vocabulary, new tenses, new ways to express different emotions. I felt more comfortable anytime I was walking in a store, doctor's office, and work.

In 2022, I want to learn more vocabulary and how to be more fluent when speaking English, so I can be a better supporter for my friends here. Also, being better in English will help me get a better job.

I learn by practicing speaking and listening with other people. It also helps me when I watch English movies and listen to the English music.

I help others learn by being ready to practice communication.

I feel grateful for the opportunity Literacy Network gives us. I feel so grateful for being able to take classes in Literacy Network during those last difficult years for everyone. I also feel grateful for every teacher in Literacy network for having patience when teaching us.

"I feel so grateful for being able to take classes in Literacy Network during those last difficult years for everyone."

YOUA

Level 2 English Class



My name is youa in 2021 i learned how to writed and read english with my teacher mrs maria. In 2022 i want to contiue to learn english with my teacher mrs Ilana .My teacher mrs maria and mrs ilana helps me learn.I don't help no bady because i don't know english mush.

TINO

Community English Class, ESL Tutoring, Level 3 English Class

Last year I learned how to manage and coordinate two shift, morning shift and second shift. I learned more about different projects and learned more about management. In my workplace I got more responsibilities. I take care of 36 employees . I doing paperwork. Learn more too about how to document training and hiring people too. Now I start in 2021 to documentation about form W2 different documentation training and hiring new people. I need to get practice and get more comfortable and is hard challenge but this is good experience.

MOMOU BAMBARA

Level 2 English Class

In 2021 I learned vocabulary, homonyms, adjectives, grammar, reading and pronunciation of words. In 2022 Give us often a subject to comment on or with questionnaires as a homework, more reading. Teacher Ilana, my family, my friends helps me to learn. Yes I help my daughter and a colleague at work. Thank you!

MARIA

Level 2 English Class



Hi my name is Maria. In 2021, I started English classes. I learned a lot, now I can communicate much better. Teacher Ilana is very good teaching, she's to kind, every class we have a very good time. Now when I am going to the store sometimes I can help people I do in my work too and that makes me feel really good.

My goal in the year is to learn more English. I am trying to look for GED classes, and I am doing something else like learn how to be more relax. I think that going to help me have a better time with my family even myself. Thank you teacher Ilana.

MIRNA GAMON

Level 2 English Class

What did you Learn in 2021?

I learned to change things in my life one of them is to have time for me and take English classes,, yes I did it!! also I have learned a little English grammar in new words..

What do you want to learn in 2022?

I would like to learn how to speak more English because it's very important for live in this country

Who helps you learn?

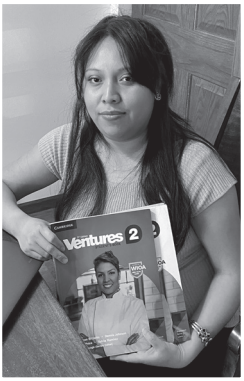
My teacher help me in classes but I watch videos too

Do you help someone else learn?

Yes what I have learned, I teach it to my sister Because I like To share what I learn.

ERIKA AGUILAR RAMIREZ

Level 2 English Class



In 2021 I learned more different words for my English language. I also passed level 1 in my English class. For 2022 my goal is to finish my English class and keep on studying. I want to understand and speak my English better. Now my new teacher Ilana she helps me to improve my English and Literacy Network for the materials they provide us. Sometimes to my children I help when they have questions about some small words.

GERARDO MORALES

Level 2 English Class



This is a new cycle. It seems that everything begins with the new normal. We are ready to continue practicing, trying and learning the English language.

WHO IS HELPING YOU TO LEARN.

All the people who work at Literacy Network, both To the teachers, collaborators and all the people who make this possible, thank you very much!!

YOU HELP OTHER PEOPLE TO LEARN.

Participating in class, solving questions is how we all learn in a practical and efficient way.

JEANETT

Level 2 English Class

In 2021, I learned not to be afraid to speak English, I learned to handle internet platforms. I want to learn more English in 2022. My daughter, Duolingo, my different teachers that I have had help me learn. Some people who asked me how to say certain words in Spanish.

ANA ELIZABETH CELI URUENA

Level 2 English Class

I WANT LEARN IN 2022.

All topics are welcome to learn, including those in the text.

I would like to continue learning about the different tenses of verbs, comparing them. Learn more regular and irregular verbs.

Sentences construction. Similar pronunciation of different words.

Three weeks ago I was assigned a tutor for Saturdays. But I thing I interrupt a few weeks to go to place whitout internet in about a month and half .

For now I am not helping anyone to learn. I am traveling for a few months.

Thank you for your attention. You are an excellent teacher and very happy.

Sincerely,

Ana Elizabeth Celi.



THAYA

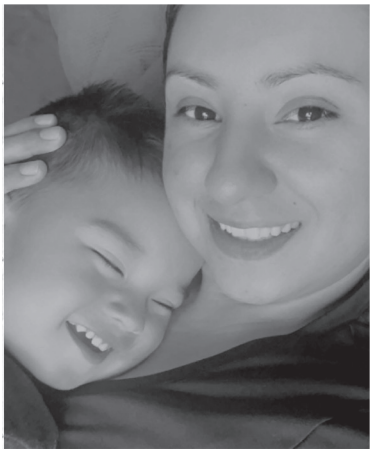
Level 2 English Class

I was retired in Dec 2020 to take care of my health .i love to take care of my grand child .I learned yoga in 2021.Yoga helps to be in the present moment joyfully, not thinking of the past or future. I learned how to use zoom. I try to sing louder. I did home gardening with my husband shared the vegetables with my family, friends and neighbours. Daily I walk with my grandchild in the morning to the park. In the evening I walk with my friends and sometimes alone.

In 2022 I want to learn English language fluently& computer skills and sewing. Teacher Ilana helps me to learn English. I am very blessed to be in her class. I help my grand child to learn to . I help some yoga practice with my friends .Now I am searching for computer class and sewing, Knitting. I want to enjoy my retired life happy.



"Teacher Ilana helps me to learn English. I am very blessed to be in her class."





“What did you learn in 2021?

I spoke with the clients of my work and sometimes I use the Duolingo app.

What do you want to learn in 2022?

Everything, I would like to learn more verbs, grammar and be able to speak more fluently. I am also studying for childcare.

Who helps you learn?

Teacher Ilana, English class, my classmates, the homework Ilana gave me and also my other class that I take at MADISON COLLEGE and the my English lab.

Do you help someone else learn?

Sometimes I help my son with his homework and also I help my classmates when they don’t understand something and I did understand.

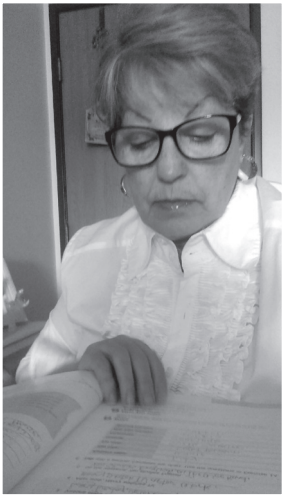
HECTOR

ESL Tutoring

well I have been living in madison for 2 years and I have my wife and daughter and I work all week and we have a lot of expenses I try to learn english to be able to have a better job and I am looking for the help of a scholarship to be able to move forward and have a better job future

SOLANGE MOSEGUE

Level 2 English Class



In the past year,I was studying English I learned several techniques for understanding and comprehension.

For this new cycle I hope to be able to practice, speaks and understand more when they speak to me, I also hope to be able to maintain a small dialogue in English.

Our teacher Ilana is excellent and helps us. Very grateful to Literacy Network, community, for the opportunity to learn, know end help to others.

Completing about the year 2021 , was my first experience in using Zoom, yes it was made laughing but I had to ask my daughter for help ,But a computer that had the appropriate tecnología, 2021 was an apprentice year.

New Year plus New life equals New me



As 2021 was passing by, my brain and my whole body were truly starting to understand what the last year of my life (2020) meant to me because everything in it wasn't what I had planned. To begin my explanation I want to say that I was finishing High School in my birth country, Colombia, and my graduation was scheduled for the middle of 2021. At that time it wasn't possible to come back to my school and have in-person classes, so we had to continue virtually. That last sentence made me think that maybe I was never going to have a graduation, and that my friends, my classmates, and I were about to end the ''year of our lives'' using a screen that caused us damage in our eyes and a chair responsible for the pain in our bottoms.

Just a few weeks passed and our teacher told us to decide who was going to be the ''Representante del Colegio'' or the Student Representative, because we were like the Seniors of the school. What's funny about this is that I never thought my classmates had me in mind as someone to vote for when I was at such a depressing point of my life, but they did, and all of my 36 school fellows raised their hand and said my name. You should be wondering, ''Why is she telling me all this stuff?'' Well, because of that position assigned to me I finally realized that this situation was something to learn from and I am about to tell you what every single thing taught me.

One thing I am the most proud of is that I learned how to be a better leader and also, that led me to become a better person. Of course I didn't learn all this by myself and I would like to take a space in this essay and thank my teacher Karina, who was there with me at every time telling me to correct my mistakes in the exact moment I made them, to be a little bit hard with my classmates when something happened, and definitely to include every idea they say no matter what it was.

Additionally, the responsibility of becoming a leader of a group of people virtually comes with the need of learning how to communicate my emotions online without sounding disrespectful or demanding. It may be boring but, since I understood that, I always have in mind what Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, writer of Don Quixote, said "That we are capable of feeling, we are capable of saying." Having that in mind, I can say that even though humans can be a little bit impulsive when talking, we should always be allowed to say what we dislike or what we are so happy for, and just thinking twice about what is about to come out of my mouth can be enough to avoid hurting the feelings of someone else.

The best thing about being the Representative of my last year of school is that I can apply this in every circumstance of my life and I can tell you that by becoming a better person you will always have your heart full of happiness because you will know when you are doing the things well.

To end this story, I have to say that this year 2022 just started and with it a lot of surprises and changes came, one of them was my mom and I moving to the United States. I think that I still have to learn so much more about this amazing country, but now helping my mother to understand this new and foreign language is one of the things that are on my mind constantly. I also am on my way to learning how to drive and get my drivers license which I know it's kind of difficult but I am not giving up.

MANUEL

Level 2 English Class

In 2021 was a very difficult year, but I did my best for learned to socialize more by phone and social-media. In my English classes I learned a lot of things, for example some vocabulary and grammar rules. I tried to learned to be more patient and keep things fluid… honestly I'm still working on it!!!

One of my principal goals is continue learning English (reading, grammar, listening, and I'm open to learn new things every minute of my life. I want to keep learning thing about cars. Usually my brothers and my dad help to learn English. Every day they speaking with me in English and correct my pronunciation. Sometimes I help some friends with tips or grammar that I learned in my English class.

DINA

Level 2 English Class

1-What do you want to learn in 2021?

In 2021 l learned more vocabulary ,another tense for the verbs .

2-What do you want to learn in 2022?

In 2022 l want to learn more words ,to be more fluent in speaking and learn other tense .

3-Who helps you learn?

I try to learn by myself , but sometimes l use the dictionary .I watch movies and listen to music in English .

4-Do you help someone else learn?

I try to practice speaking English with other Albanian people here.

PAMELA

Level 2 English Class



I learned that I had to dare to speak English to lose my fear and shame, knowing that I did not speak English well. I learned more vocabulary and grammar rules. I learned to understand better other people. In 2022 I want to learn to communicate better in English. I understand the language but when I have to speak I get nervous and it's because I still don't have the grammatical order in my brain. Literacy Network and now Duolingo help me to learn. I help others on rare occasions to correct a misspelled word.

ALEJANDRA

Level 2 English Class

I learned to use zoom to see the English classes. With the zoom classes I can see them from anywhere, or according to my study schedule, I learned new vocabulary, I learned from my classmates from other countries to listen and learn English. I thank Professor Ilana, she seeks the best methods for us to learn and understand, the commitment, the dedication for us to learn, there is always a smile in class, I have learned vocabulary to put it into practice in my work and in different places that I go . Thank you Literacy Network and Professor Ilana

ANONYMOUS

Level 2 English Class

In 2021 my English is improving ,I manage to communicate better at work, to make hospital appointments for my children, to often participate in my daughter's class meetings. I'm no longer complexed in speak English.

I'm going to enroll in CNA class and I hope to pass my exam. I will practice reading and writing more.

Teacher Ilana support me alot in practicing English, my job and my family too.

I help my daughter and one of my colleagues at work to learn English.

Thanks to LITERACY NETWORK SCHOOL.

ORLANDO ROJAS CEDANO

Level 2 English Class

I learned that I need English. I want to learn English and systems. Classes with the Teacher Ilana at Literacy Network help me learn. I help my colleagues in the factory.

"I help my colleagues in the factory."



What did you learn in 2021?

Reviewing 2021 ,English has became my primary language. I am practicing how to speak English with my husband every single day. I learned how to speak more spoken English and improved my English pronunciation .

¿ What do you want to learn in 2022?

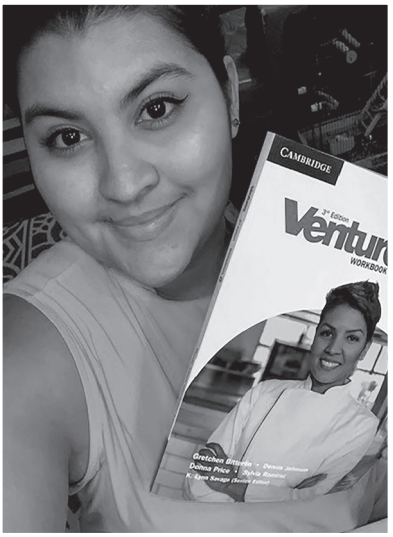
I would like to improve my written English by learning more English grammar, hopefully my ski of English writing will takes to the next level in 2022.

Who helps you learn?

My English teacher helps me learning English.

Do you help someone else learn?

Yes ,my class mates and I are always helping each other during the class .



"I am practicing how to speak English with my husband every single day."

In 2021 in the English classes, I learned a new words, as introduce myself and describe myself and other people too.

In 2022 I am learning new thing as present continuous and simple present. Now I am learning verbs in past.

This year my goal is learn to write and speak better and learn new words.

Before taking English Classes I did not dare to receive calls on the phone because I did not understand nothing now I do. still not a 100 % but is way better.

I practice English with my husband and my kiddos also when go shopping.

Before help me Duolingo and videos the YouTube now I prefer hear the book audios and use dictionary.com.

"Before taking English Classes I did not dare to receive calls on the phone because I did not understand nothing now I do."

JOHAIRA

Level 2 English Class

My name is Johaira. Student of Literacy Network I have been part of the school for a year. I am happy satisfied with the teaching they prove and learned to recognize and identify some words very useful and what I want to learn in this year 2022 learn to pronounce the sound correctly and be able to form a conversation. Who helped me learn the Teacher Ilana and my children by repeating the words and the application of Duolingo. To the people I would help be my coworkers and other people who really need it if recommend that they study and be part of Literacy Network.

"To the people I would help be my coworkers and other people who really need it if recommend that they study and be part of Literacy Network."

FELICITAS

Level 2 English Class

Did I learn in this year 2021? make appointments at the clinic, appointment for my car, and personal appointments. To learn English I watch movies, I listen to music in English, I read a little book in English, a tutor helps me. I want to learn 2022? Vocabulary form the correct verbs in English, pronounce correctly, write, make verbs past, present, future, it is very difficult for me to make a complete verb in English. maybe I understand sentences but I feel like I don't say them well to mekes verb. I hope to learn one day. thanks for your support.

Since 2020 my work life has had ups and downs. Despite being a part-time student in the accounting program for the last 6 years, and I am getting closer to my goal, some plans are not concreted immediately. End of 2020 I got sick of covid and lost my job because I am not being fluent in the English language.

However, in 2021 I found a place as Literacy Network whos' they supported me to improve my language, which is so important to strengthen the communication skills that every job position needs.

Improving the language doesn't happen instantly, but Literacy Network gave me the confidence to believe that my skills would improve in the short term.

In 2021 I finally concluded the two-year Accounting program and made the decision to continue with the 4-year program. It is a bigger challenge, but what I learned that year, 2021, is knowing that we can achieve our goals if we set our minds to it.

With that confidence and optimism, I face new job opportunities, even though they are temporary, I know that it is up to me to continue on this path. I'm still studying Accounting and I'm still taking English classes.

At times I would like to work more hours but there is a middle ground: trade-off, to continue with my study plans, that is why it is useful to obtain a scholarship to continue with my plans and achieve my goals.

"Improving the language doesn't happen instantly, but Literacy Network gave me the confidence to believe that my skills would improve in the short term."

My journey in learning English started 8 years ago when my family and I immigrated to The United States. Back then I knew almost no English. Through these past years, I have had a lot of responsibilities as a mother and a wife, and I have always cared for my family and their needs more than myself; especially these past two years with the challenges of the global pandemic.

Ever since our immigration, I never had the opportunity to focus on learning English properly. My daughter and husband knew more English, but they were too busy with their own work and couldn't help me a lot. In addition, we don't have anyone else in this country, so I had to solve this on my own. I took some classes and even went back to college, but the classes and the limited time that I had did not work together, so I did not progress as much as I wanted to. Yet, school and taking classes have always been my escape to feeling young again, so I never gave up and looked for opportunities to learn as much as I could during the time that I had.

In 2021, my family and I moved to Wisconsin from California for my daughter's Ph.D. program. I have been very excited for her and have supported her while looking for English learning opportunities to improve myself. It's a new place, so I have been motivated by the feeling of a fresh start. That is how I came across the Literacy Program and have been fortunate to learn English from these wonderful people. I had taken other classes prior to finding this program, for instance the Wesley School, but they were too expensive, so I couldn't afford to continue.

We are at a new place and my husband and I still need to find jobs which worries me a lot. With my daughter busy at school, I have more free time now to work on my English; however, just like these past 8 years, I can't afford to spend too much money on my personal growth; especially right now. Yet, I need to improve my

English to be able to progress and find good jobs that can support my family. That is why I am really glad to be working with the Literacy Program without worrying about the financial burden of my classes.

For the year 2022, I plan to continue with my English classes even stronger than before. English is essential in my life, and I will keep myself motivated despite my age and carry on. After improving my communication skills in English and graduating, I would like to continue to help others in my community, including Iranian people who could not speak English and are interested in learning. I hope to use my experiences to help others go through an easier process in learning English.

"After improving my communication skills in English and graduating, I would like to continue to help others in my community, including Iranian people who could not speak English and are interested in learning."



I have to use English in my work with my coworkers and to customers because I am working as a host in a restaurant. It is an American food restaurant, the mayority people are English speaker, and also with Ursula's friend. Ursula is my Venezuelan best friend and she invited me to EEUU and I am living with her and of course she introduced me with her friends and neighbors, people want to know about me, like where are you from? What I did in my country? What my plan here?

At the work, I have to comunicate with the costumer about to give welcome to the restaurant, ask to how many people for a party or table, and also to attend their order by phone. I have to comunicate with the servers about dividing the tables for they.

I want to speak, I want to learn to read perfectly, clarify English. I need to improve my English, my skill to comunicate with other, to learn about their culture, be a part of my community, make friends, to share my feelings, my ideas; understand and the same way understand me.To me all conversations had have important in English. Try to understand and speak clear, without mistakes, using correctly grammar, is really important to me. My work have been a great opportunity, but sometimes I feel worried to make a mistake with the costumers or my coworkers. For that reason all conversation in English is important to me.

SUAD

Level 2 English Class

I learn the basics English and driving a car. I want to speak English fluently in 2022 and I can easily talk to the community. I learn from my teacher and youtube. also I would like to help if there is any opportunity to help.



CAROLINA FIGUEROA

Community English Class

I have recently used English in my home with my children, and with the mother of a baby that I take care of. The most important conversation I have had recently was an interview I had with my son's teacher. It's hard for me to speak more technically and I don't know if they understand me. In 2022 and beyond I would like to speak English more fluently before returning to my country, I want to have interviews at school and at doctor without a translator and when I arrive in my country I want to study a Master's or postgraduate in English, here I have not been able to do it because my level is under.

"...I would like to speak English more fluently before returning to my country, I want to have interviews at school and at doctor without a translator..."



In 2021 I learned a lot of vocabulary.

and I hope in 2022 to continue learning much more and increase my pronunciation.

It helped me listening to songs and videos in English



Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.



LITERACY NETWORK PROGRAMS

CITIZENSHIP

English classes for legal permanent residents living in Dane County. Classes cover the U.S. civics and language skills necessary to pass the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services naturalization interview and test. Students seek citizenship for many reasons, including to enhance their work opportunities, receive federal benefits such as financial aid for college, and become more involved in civic life.

COMMUNITY ENGLISH

Classes teach English as a second language to parents and family members. Students learn reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to help them support their child's education. Personal goals include practicing for parent-teacher conferences, helping children learn at home, and navigating community resources as heads of household.

COMMUNITY LITERACY ESL TUTORING

Program is an English as a second language (ESL) tutoring program in which students meet weekly with their own tutor and have a range of goals. Personalized lessons allow students to work with their tutor on skills like creating a resume, learning English to have a parent-teacher conference, or understanding directions at work. Students learn at their own pace and practice skills they can use right away in the community and at work.

ESSENTIALS TUTORING

Program focus is on essential skills for computers and literacy for employment. Students are usually native English speakers, who want to build their reading, writing, and computer skills.

They work one-on-one with a tutor toward a variety of goals, such as strengthening computer skills for employment, honing study and reading skills for further education, or working toward independence and self-sufficiency.

GED/HSED TUTORING

This is a one-on-one approach where tutors meet each student's specific needs for earning their GED or HSED (high school equivalency diploma). Tutors are also trained and placed in Madison College's GED/HSED Program. Students seek their high school credential for many reasons, including preparing for higher education, improving their career outlook, and proving to themselves and others that they can achieve this.

GROUP ESL

Group English as a second language (ESL) classes serve adults with a wide range of English skills, from those with no familiarity at all to those whose command of English can be applied to everyday situations. Taught in a group setting to reach students of all language backgrounds, classes are meant for real-world application. They center on language and skills needed for involvement in the community and at work. (Group ESL classes are also offered for newly arrived and resettled refugees.)

"We have both volunteered as tutors in the past and have continued to be impressed with the various programs Literacy Network offers, its partnerships with other agencies, its respect for all people and its integrity as an organization."

– Joan and Tod, volunteer tutors and donors

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are essential to our work. Help improve lives through literacy by becoming a volunteer tutor.
Learn more: www.litnetwork.org/volunteer



"You don't have to be extraordinary in any way to make a difference."

– Max, volunteer tutor and monthly donor



"I have been volunteering with the Literacy Network since 2013 so I have seen firsthand the changes learners have made. It is one of the most rewarding things that I have done. I'm currently working with citizenship students and find it heartwarming watching their improvement and excitement when they pass their interviews. Literacy Network does a wonderful job with changing lives and I'm proud to be a member."

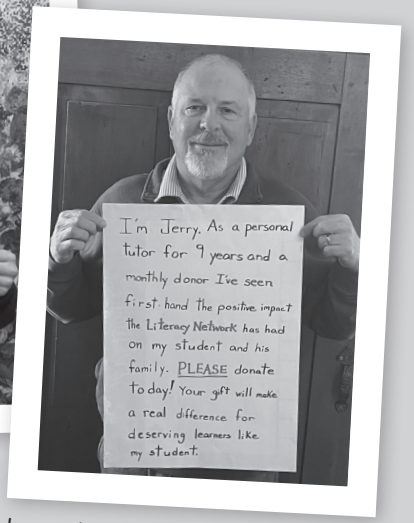
– Jean, volunteer tutor and monthly donor

DONATE

Your support helps adult learners obtain new jobs and promotions, better communicate with their children's schools, and gain U.S. citizenship. They earn high school equivalency diplomas and take the next steps to college and other certifications. Because of you, adults improve their skills with free literacy education and have greater adaptability to a changing world.



Stephanie, monthly donor

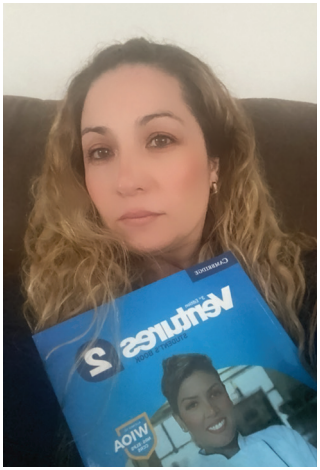


Jerry, volunteer tutor and monthly donor

Donate Online: **www.litnetwork.org/donate** or
Send Check to: **Literacy Network**
701 Dane Street, Madison, WI 53713

Consider monthly giving or planned giving!

WHAT SETS LITERACY NETWORK APART



Individual support. Adult learners with basic skills need individualized support and individual lessons delivered one-on-one by volunteer tutors.

Personal education plans. Each learner has an individual plan that follows them throughout their time at Literacy Network.

Flexible curriculum. Individual support for learners means ensuring that our team collaborates to give adult learners what they need.

High-level support for success. Staff coordinate interviews with each new adult learner, identify their goals, skill level, and plan for success.

Regular follow-up. Staff follow up regularly with calls to learners to ensure they are committed to coming to our programs.

High retention. Because of the supports provided, Literacy Network retains 85% of learners and tutors each semester.

Commitment to strong partnerships. Program locations are around Dane County in schools, libraries, community centers, and workplaces.

Building relationships. Our learners, tutors, interns, and staff form strong bonds, creating cross-cultural connections, a sense of community, and better understanding of diverse life situations.

Efficiency. We efficiently use resources and leverage approximately 20,000 hours of volunteer time valued at over $500,000 annually. *(Note: volunteer hours based on pre-pandemic year averages.)*

Literacy Network™

Improving Lives Through Literacy

HELP CHANGE LIVES THROUGH LITERACY EDUCATION!

CONTACT US

701 Dane Street
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 244-3911
info@litnetwork.org

VOLUNTEER. DONATE.

LEARN MORE AT

www.litnetwork.org

GreatNonprofits 2021 Top-Rated Nonprofit

GuideStar Platinum Transparency 2021

United Way of Dane County

Madison Community Foundation