MY JOURNEY OF HOPE

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

Literacy Network teaches reading, writing, communication and computer skills to Dane County adults so they can achieve financial security, well-being and deeper engagement with their families and the community.
1 in 7
Dane County Adults Struggles with Low Literacy
THAT’S 55,000 PEOPLE

Literacy Network was founded in 1974 and serves approximately 1,000 low-income adults each year in Dane County, Wisconsin. With a staff of 35 part-time and full-time employees and hundreds of volunteers annually, we help adults achieve their goals through personalized education services and support.

The people we work with improve their skills in English language communications, reading comprehension, and use of information technology. As a result, they advance their careers, help their kids succeed in school, achieve their U.S. citizenships, understand health information, or obtain their high school equivalency diploma or other degrees.

We offer small classes and individual tutoring to personalize the learning experience for everyone we serve. We build strategic partnerships with schools, businesses, libraries and community organizations to serve local needs throughout our community.
MY JOURNEY OF HOPE

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.
BIG DESICION

This is my travel to America. When I was fifteen years old, I always wanted to live in a different country. I wonder about other cultures and other countries, traditional foods. I always wanted to travel to other countries. One day I decided, I applied to lottery in 2015 and every upcoming year and I won in 2018. It was very big luck for me. I don’t remember how lucky I was in my life. I think, this luck was my daughter luck.

First, I should convince my husband and my daughter. I convinced them. Second, I said my husband and our family. We should go to for our daughter’s education. In the end we decided to come to America. Later, We explained to our plan to our family and friends. Then we said goodbye to our family and friends. They didn’t believe us. They thought that we were joking. After a while, we moved to America on August 1, 2019. We came with 9 suitcases leaving our jobs, our families and everything behind. Later, we stayed at a hotel for 2 weeks. Because we were wanting to live on Recent Street, but we couldn’t find any apartment as rent. After, 2 weeks we found the apartment and moved in. We still live in this apartment. By the way, our familiar and friends called everyday us because they wondered us. Everyone was very worried for us. We couldn’t speak English very well. We had left our country and America was so far from Turkey.

Most importantly, we didn’t speak English very well. A while, we used to google translate on our phone. For example, while open our account in the bank and while our buy car. We should learn English. Then we applied to Literacy Network. I am still learning English at Literacy Network. After one year, I decided to go to MATC ‘s ESL class and I examined MATC web page and I applied after, I started next semester at Madison College ESL Class. Nowadays I
am very busy I continue both of them, but I believe one day my English level will improve and me I will reality my dreams. I will go to other countries and I will learn other cultures.

ANA

My paragraph is about the word hope on my language!

I will call it to see the sun rise

So we can hug each other again

and shake hands

That longing to return to our normal life!

Hope in difficult time to know that we are all

alright and that sun shine again,

Hope to see the childrens play in the park again

Without any fear mask, run together without filling like you are short of breath because you are wearing that mask,

Go out to recess, talk about home work!

Meet in the libraries!

And that is the future that is coming soon will not hear more hope for all!

NO MORE DIFFICULT TIME!!!
Hope is often difficult to maintain but it is very necessary, throughout my life I must confess that on many occasions I have lost hope but I always try to recover it because for me hope is the fuel that drives actions that turn in life changes and bring you closer to achieving goals. Beyond the religious, I find hope when I get small victories, when I focus on possibilities and not on obstacles and why not say it, even when people around you motivate you to believe more in yourself and your potential.

A few years ago my hope was shattered, in my country there was no future for me or my family, there were no employment opportunities, wages were absurdly low and the economy very unstable, we also did not enjoy safety or health and education was in a fall, that’s when I lost hope of a prosperous future and I realized that I should take action if I wanted to regain hope for a better future for my family where hard work, effort and constancy were rewarded with stability and prosperity. After explorer our options we decided to emigrate to the United States. Emigrating is like a two-sided coin, on the one hand it gives you a lot of opportunities and benefits to live in a developed country but on the other hand it comes loaded with a lot of overwhelming challenges, it is like being reborn, you must learn to communicate again, adapt to your environment, try to fit into another culture and not talk about challenges at the economic and legal level.

My family and I have overcome many challenges, but we are still working on “projects” that require a little more work and usually come after the “initial adaptation”, these projects focus on professional improvement, entrepreneurship and economic stability, all related to each other.

At this stage of “Project” is where again it becomes difficult to maintain hope because you discover that being recognized as a competent professional, even if you are, costs a lot of work
and requires a lot of constancy, maintaining hope is paramount because otherwise you end up desisting from your goals because you lose faith in yourself and therefore hope.

My hope is currently focused on finding the employment opportunity that allows me to prove that I am a value professional, that I have the potential to be a valuable member in any organization, that I am willing to learn and that I can be a successful professional, for this I work hard every day, I try to prepare myself to the fullest to take the opportunity and not lose it when it arrives, I make room between my work and my family shores to take classes to improve my English, I take courses to prepare my Resume, I learn about ways to find employment, essay for job interviews and practice my computational skills, I have also asked advice to successful people around me and I put all my hope that my effort will be eventually rewarded and my dream of prosperity will be a reality for me and my Family.

LYDIA

My Journey of Hope

We are living unprecedented difficult moments. These are times of great challenges and we need hope and faith to continue our journey.

Having hope, brings me peace and security, that I am not alone, God is with me. I need to know that bad times is not forever so these means that better times will come. I try to focus in all the blessings and not in the difficulties. I have a beautiful family, good friends, live in a democratic country with good medical services. Blessings, are wonderful energies that brings me joy and hope.
What do I do in bad times?

I meet with positive people, practice Tai-Chi, go to the pool to exercise and, learn and do new activities. Right now, I am taking English classes at Litercy Network to improve my skills in English language. I didn’t watch bad news on TV, instead I read a book, watch a comedy or a funny movie. I am focusing on the future and letting go to the past. Also, I trust on myself and always see the light of the darkness. Every day, I make a to-do list and do things one day at a time. I trust in God!

Hope is my fundamental key to continue my journey!

I remember that my mother always said, “let’s see what the future brings”

PATRICIA

MY HOPE. MI ESPERANZA

In this time of pandemic and economic crisis we have all been concerned about our health and work, I’ always had the “Hope” that this would end soon.

The pandemic taught us how vulnerable we are.

A year later the vacation has finally arrived.

I’ trust of the professionals Health and Scientists. My hope was in them.

Thanks to the vaccine we will be able to return to normal vary soon, for bee free without limitations again.
DORIAN KIM  Essentials Tutoring, Level 3 English Class

Now we live in the difficult time. If we can’t change accept it. Take care of yourself. Surround with family or friend and talk to they. Kindness give hope to others.

For the future, I hope that we all be health because health more important than anything.

Hope in 2021 we can work through every thing.

MINNI CHURCHILL KESARIAN  Level 3 English Class

I pray to god and used to read bible verse during my difficult times. I always believed that god would give enough strength to overcome the situation if we trust him. I always trust in god that helps me in getting through all the difficult time and provide hope for me. I went through a difficult time couple of times in my personal life and during the time I never left my hope and prayed more to god. Slowly god gave me strength to come back to my normal life.

I still believe there will happy and sad times in everyone’s life but hanging there and trusting god will help us getting this better.

MARIA  Level 4 English Class

I hope one day to study Biology and earn my diploma in this field. But for that, I first need to earn my HESD and improve in my English. I want to advance more in my academic life, but I think it
is not going to be easy. I need to expand my vocabulary, learn more Biology jargon, and talk with Literacy Network to make a schedule for classes. I hope to achieve my goal and show my children that I can continue my education and earn a degree.

**SULEMA CHAVEZ**  
Level 3 English Class

Last year was very difficult around the world, because of the COVID-19 pandemic many lives were lost, people have sequel from the virus, some people lost their jobs, schools closed and the children are stressed. People are hopeless.

I get hope because my family is healthy and we have jobs, home and food. For difficult times we are a united family, we watch movies together, exercise, eat healthy and if it’s necessary to go out, we wear a mask.

I also find hope by volunteering once a month giving breakfast to the homeless, and knowing that you can help at least one person comforts our hearts.

“There is a light at the end of the tunnel” The future is very hopeful, because the most vulnerable people already have the vaccine and we will probably all receive it soon.

Also encourages and inspires me to move forward because immigration laws are changing and in the future hopefully not too far away they can help us.

There are many reasons to feel full of hope.
The COVID-19 pandemic made things very difficult for our family. When it started we decided to figure out the way to be all together in the same place because our country is not very safe. Then, my wife and I left our country (Mali) to join our daughter who is studying in Madison (USA). We also decided to bring our son to the soccer academy in Barcelona (Spain).

Before going abroad we applied for immigration in Canada and they accepted our case because of our professional skills. I have a master’s degree and I was a teacher in business school. I teach economics and international commerce. We moved from Mali and we are in process and still waiting for the last step and the reopening of the border before moving to Winnipeg (Canada), our new residence.

For those reasons we all came to Madison to join our daughter and help her to continue her studies and support one another before Covid situation went better. We decided to improve our English before going to Winnipeg because it’s very important for us in the future. We hope it will help us in our future job because the place we are going to leave in a few months is a bilingual area (French and English).
About difficult times

In difficult times I try remember when I am in the good times, and I see to the back and think how I success my problems in the past, works like a guide for try to solve my today’s problems, the hope is the last thing that you can miss. In difficult times you need be focus on the solution and no in the problem, every problem is a challenge, and every problem that you sucess, helps you to complete your personal development, the problems in the difficult times helps to gain experience for the future. Also I believe in good and the god’s plan I don’t believe in any religion in específico, but I really feel God exist, and him plans never fail. For example in the past when I have difficult times ever time I have the head up, and never miss the hope under no circumstance. I think if you do good without looking at whom, you be bless and the life will be grateful with you. When you help someone you feel good because for you the other people can solve a problem. For the future I expect we are most aware and gratefull with the little things of our life, because sometimes we forget be grateful for all little big things, like hug with a special person, a deep breath, watch the beauty of the nature, all the things that make us feel alive.
In difficult or not difficult times, I always find hope by working hard at something and helping others. For example, I acquire new words and phrases when I attend English class and do the homework. This thing increases my self-confidence and gives me hope for good future opportunities. Also, I would thank teacher Mary because I would not have broken the barrier of fear of talking to Americans quickly without her. She always asks us to talk about the problems and obstacles that we face when talking with the Americans and finding solutions to them in the class. I also find hope by helping others. I always believe that when I extend a helping hand to someone, there will come a day when I am in a difficult situation or a time and need someone to extend a helping hand to me. I have many hopes and wishes for the future. I hope we can get rid of this epidemic and get everything back as it was before. I hope we get the vaccine as soon as possible. I hope after finishing the ESL classes, I will be able to complete my education at the university. I hope my little brother’s health will get better. I hope to get a better job,...etc. In conclusion, Hope is the fuel that illuminates our life, without which we would not be alive, or at least we would not have reached the current scientific development.

“I hope after finishing the ESL classes,
I will be able to complete my education at the university.”
My Hope

My hope is every day we get up and live everyday like it is the last day of our lives.

Since March 15, 2020, our lives changed. For some people, it was hard, for others it was OK. How we take care of each other, was very hard for me to accept and digest. Everyone in family was scared to contract the virus because the information from the news and social media was very dramatic everywhere around the world. You can’t go anywhere or any place you are not safe. In this hard time, you just think how you are going to survive with your family. When I was a laid off from my job this time was devastating, how to pay the rent, food, and the other utilities. Luckily my husband kept his job and supported our family financially, but the issue is still there. My next question was what could happen if someone got the virus, got sick and even died? We never thought we would be dead one day, because we are always planning what are we going to do tomorrow, next week, month, even years, but this time was very different and difficult. We had to take special precautions and decisions that we have never taken before. Measures to the point we had to call our life insurance to ask what to do if someone of the family died. It was very hard and sad time for everyone. Everyone in my family discussed when we would have medication or a vaccine for Covid-19.

The only thing we can do is wear a mask, it is the only way don’t spread the virus and keep our family, co-workers and the community safe. Many people don’t like to wear the masks, but we learned something new -- to be more tolerant, be more humane and have faith in something you really believe. I am so happy when they announce we will have vaccine soon. My hope is now everyone will have access to the Covid-19 vaccine around the world.
CLAUDELL BOYD

You never need to find hope. Hope never dies or hides. Life itself is hope. As long as you are alive, there is still hope. So what do I hope for in the future? I really would like to see mankind stop hating and fighting. People need to see what we all have in common. There is no finding hope in difficult times. We must always do what we know is right and good. I have been in some difficult situations. I would not like to add to my difficulties, so my way of finding hope in difficult times is not making foolish decisions. A couple foolish decisions during the pandemic would be going to a sport event or big party. There is no such thing as finding hope in difficult times like I said. Hope lives inside of you. If you feel like you have to find hope, you should just keep on going until it finds you.

MARTIN SILVA

Hope    This last year was very difficult for many people they lost their jobs and it was hard for everybody in different ways. I hope this year is much better for everyone and hope everybody has a job. And also that the school will be open and we can take English class in person. I hope we will be back to a normal life like it was before.
Hope: Life-changing Fuel

Hope it is not a constant, but it is very necessary. Throughout my life I have lost hope several times, but I always try to recover it because for me hope is the fuel that drives actions that turn in life changes and bring you closer to achieving goals. Beyond the religious, I find hope when I get small victories, when I focus on possibilities and not on obstacles and why not say it, even when people around you motivate you to believe more in yourself and your potential.

A few years ago, my hope was shattered. In my country there was no future, there were no employment opportunities, and the economy was very unstable. That is when I lost hope of a prosperous future for me and my family and I realized that I should act if I wanted to regain hope for a better future. After exploring our options, we decided to emigrate to the United States. Emigrating is like a two-sided coin; on the one side it gives you a lot of opportunities and benefits to live in a developed country but on the other side it comes loaded with a lot of overwhelming challenges. It is like being reborn, you must learn to communicate again, adapt to your environment, try to fit into another culture and not talk about challenges at the economic and professional level.

My family and I have overcome many challenges, but we are still facing others that require more work and takes longer. I’m focusing on professional improvement, entrepreneurship and economic stability. Here’s where again it becomes difficult to maintain hope because you discover that being recognized as a competent professional cost a lot of work and constancy. Maintaining hope is paramount because otherwise you end up desisting from your goals because you lose faith in yourself.
My hope is currently focused on finding an employment opportunity that allows me to prove that my potential to be recognized as a valuable professional that’s willing to learn and that can be successful for the benefit of the organization and for individual improvement. For this I work hard every day, I try to prepare myself to the fullest to take the opportunity when it arrives. I make room between my work and my personal responsibilities to take classes to improve my English. I take courses to prepare my Resume, I learn about ways to find employment, essay for job interviews and practice my computational skills. I have also asked advice from successful people around me.

I put all my hope that my effort will be eventually rewarded, and my dream of prosperity will be a reality for me and my Family.

JULIA RAMOS

A very difficult time for me was the loss of my daughter, Monserrat. I found hope in my family, my daughters, and my husband. I found hope in God. I found hope in good people who spoke with me and gave me good advice. As well as all the daily activities that I do in my life.

I have high hopes in my life for the future. Especially my husband and daughters. My hope with my husband is to always be with him supporting us to give the best to our daughters. My husband hopes that my daughters have a profession in the future and he gives them the best advice.

In the future I hope to learn English 100 percent to get a better job and have good communication with all people. I want to be a bilingual person like my daughters, who are my greatest example to follow.
This year has not been easy for me since my life was completely changed by this covi-19 pandemic. Hope has been my only ally at this time since it helped me to get ahead. But it has not been easy to get used to the changes that I have had. I could not be 100% with my family and my work since due to the circumstances my work would not be the same and I would have to have my children at home. For example, one of the challenges that we have is my husband and I must become teachers in the things that we do not understand. It has been difficult since my husband and I have a different education than the one they are teaching my children. Certain methods that my children’s teachers use is not what my teacher used. My husband and I are thankful for the teachers because they encouraged us to give what we can help my children and the teachers will help us in what they can so my children can learn in the best way.

My husband and I are thankful God had given us the strength and hope to continue despite these obstacles.

I hope the pandemic ends soon and my family continues with our regular life because I am excited to have family moments with all my friends again. But this pandemic also helped me to be closer to my family. I would never forget these nice moments with them.

“My husband and I are thankful God had given us the strength and hope to continue despite these obstacles.”
My name is Talina, I moved to Madison many years ago. In my country Mexico I studied my Bachelor Degree in Preschool. When I arrived here my first thought was how I can work with children, because it is my passion. In Mexico we work differently, so I started to learn the rules and regulations of the state. Second, I took some classes at MATC, but when I tried to study English was difficult for me, and I never tried again until now. I had the opportunity to start a job at Head Start and it was a wonderful experience. I did too many jobs in the agency. At the beginning I was working in the kitchen, after that at FSC program, later they gave me the opportunity to work with kids (infant and toddler), later I took a position, TA in one classroom. At the same time I took many classes, because my goal was to be a Lead Teacher in the agency. I took a position at Assistant Site Director. I love it, but now I applied for another position because finally I did, I have my license, and now I’m working from home. I’m also taking English class because it’s my other goal to learn, write, talk, and speak at 100%. And my dream is to open my Daycare. I have a lot of experience and I love to work with kids, I hope someday I will do that.

“I’m also taking English class because it’s my other goal to learn, write, talk, and speak at 100%.”
My name is Juan. I moved to the US from Puerto Rico year and half back. In Puerto Rico I had many goals but no way to reach them. 

I didn’t have the opportunities to be economically stable, run my own business well and have at retirement age financial security. This was due to the lack of cash flow due to problems on the Island such as hurricanes, government corruption, earthquakes and fiscal problems in the government too.

I graduated from Business Administration with specialization in Marketing at Inter American University in San German Puerto Rico. I worked as an Outside Sales Representative for different companies in the past. I just started my own business one year ago. I like to teach and share by offering a product or service to help people to achieve their goals.

So I moved to the US in addition to having married my current wife from Madison, to be economically stable and to make good money for my business in PR that is the wholesale distribution both on the island and for the US market and help people (merchants) to reach their goals.

When I arrived in the United States one of the things I did immediately was take classes in English so that I could strengthen myself in the language and enter my professional area, whether it be selling, teaching or something related to my profession. I improved remarkably to the point that I currently work as a Bilingual Special Education Teacher Assistant and in other departments at Madison Metropolitan School District and Madison School Community Recreation. I am very happy with the opportunities here in Madison Wisconsin. My goal for the next few days to come, is to continue investing in my business of distribution in Puerto Rico and the United States market to strengthen it, which in part has been achieved. I am very grateful to Jehovah God, my wife and
specially to Literacy Network and the Hispanic Center and its staff
to help me achieve in part my dreams.

GEDI  

“Hope” is a positive word, it makes people feel better. I’m trying
to stay in a good mood all the time. Mostly I have good thoughts,
trying to see the best in other people. Everyone has his own story.

My hope is to become a better person everyday, to do more,
to bring more happiness for other people. Giving is such a big
pleasure.

I’m glad to have Cassie as my English teacher. She is nice and
helpful. I can describe her as a big heart person. I hope to keep
learning with her further.

Another hope is or better would be to say wish is to successfully
run my cupcakes business. Knowing good English it is very
important to me. It opens a lot of doors in the world.

A message to people for whom English language is a second
language - don’t be afraid to speak! Nobody will judge you by how
you are speaking! So speak, learn and you’ll get better every time
;)

“Knowing good English it is very important to
me. It opens a lot of doors in the world.”
This year, the pandemic of Covid-19 made all things difficult in the world. Then millions of people passed away. Most people lost their jobs.

I’m affected by this situation because my whole family (me, my husband and our 2 kids) has plans to move to Canada, as we have been accepted into the economic immigration program who select the candidates skills. We are in the last step. With the Covid-19 everything is shut down and we don’t know when we will receive our visas of permanent residence. This plane is the family dream, to live together in the safe area with many opportunities for all of us.

It is very difficult to not know these issues, but we stay optimistic, with the time we hope to see our dream come true. May god help us to realize our grand finale to move definitely in Canada.
My name is Charles. I would like to share my life story with anyone that would like to read it.

What stopped me from getting my high school diploma was me - I dropped out of school. I wanted to hang out with the so-called cool kids, but also through them I was introduced to drugs too. When I lived in Chicago, I was mostly doing drugs and getting meaningless jobs to support my habit. I was on drugs for almost 40 years. I didn’t get myself together until I had my first child in 1992, and I had to take care of Imani by myself. Her mother left us when Imani was still in the hospital. Imani had been born at 1 lb. 9 oz. Taking care of her made me grow up and be a man for the first time.

It wasn’t until I started having grandkids that I wanted to get my GED. I wanted to show my grandkids that you can learn, you can try to ask for help. I just wanted to do something that I think is cool - to go back to school and try to get what I should have gotten a long time ago. I want to continue my education after I get my GED, even at my age. I just wanted to show my grandkids that you’re not too old. I want to try to go into computers, not just learning. I didn’t find out until the 5.09 program how strong of a person I am. With all of the drug use and roaming the streets of Chicago, I didn’t think I fit in everywhere. I didn’t think I had the brain for it. As time went on, you guys showed me that I was a little intelligent and didn’t know it, and I had wasted so much time. Some of the teachers there are really great. This diploma is for my teachers and my grandkids. My biggest personal goal is to continue my education and try to help somebody else that was once in my place.
Finding help and hope in these difficult times has been a great challenge for everyone. The situation of covid-19 has brought big changes and personal situations that have impacted all of us in our lives.

For me personally, my family and I, the economic situation was a big challenge since all year my husband only worked a few hours, since in one of the two restaurants where he works he closed completely. Despite the economic difficulties we had time as a family, we dedicated time to our children and I took the opportunity to continue educating myself. From everything bad there is always something good. Take advantage and make the decision to continue studying, take several courses, one in Finance, another in How to start my own business in the Latino Chamber of Commerce, and get the license from Servsafe in the Latin Academy. I hope for my future? Now I want to continue improving my level of English, thanks to the help and tutoring of Literacy Network, take new classes at Madison College, since my dream is to start my own restaurant. Education is the basis of success, it is never late to continue learning, Thank you very much Literacy Network.

“Education is the basis of success, it is never late to continue learning, Thank you very much Literacy Network”
ANONYMOUS

The pandemic helped me focus more on my goals to reach my dream of working in the accounting here in the United States and analyze how to reach them. In the company where I work I had several years without leaving a position in the accounting department even. I always asked in the human resources department for a position in the accounting department, when they published the position in accounting I didn’t think about it and I immediately applied I attended two interviews, then they gave me a job offer which I accepted, when I was told that I had been selected for this position in accounting I cried with emotion.

The bad thing about the pandemic is that all process have slowed down, and I couldn’t meet my sister for christmas I know this situation we are living through all the persons. I hope life returns to normal that this pandemic end soon, to be able to travel, meet my sister.

DEYANIRA

In Venezuela hope is esperanza. In my country there were many difficult situations. That is one reason we moved here. Another is that my son could get a better education, play baseball and a better future. Another son in nursing. The Removal of the president and his government was a very hard time.

So I have seen difficult times before, and have made changes in my life to make things better. There are some ways that I keep hoping things will get better.

I keep hope alive by thinking about things my parents taught me. By hope in God. By working for my family. By having confidence that I can learn English better.
In my head I have many questions:

What is coming? What values are we going to bear? I have many doubts about this “crystal youth”. My hope is that they will be strengthened in body and spirit always with family help, that families remain united, with principles, apart from vices and bad habits; Let that be the rule and not the exception.

Another thing would be that there are no wars in the name of peace, that there are no deaths or assassinations in the name of democracy and that there are no punishments in the name of God.

My family? A beautiful and short family due to the circumstances of life, here only three: My husband (Francisco), my Son (Yan) and I. Living every moment and taking advantage of every moment ... Work, yes. a lot of work, but it will be worth it when my eldest son (Eric), is back with us, who was removed arbitrarily without any probationary justification, but with the hope of having him again with us and that he can realize his dreams with baseball and his studies ... Forward we go with the favor of God ... We leave everything for a better future and we will obtain that with courage and perseverance ...

The Pandemic in my family, does it affect us?

Of course, yes, in every sense of the word, it leads us to be more alone, outside the social sphere of humanity, but at the same time more united as a family ... It strengthens us to be able to support each other more. This must end soon, in the name of God and of all those people who study and look for a way to heal us and avoid infecting us ... For these is no lost that Hope....

Conclusion

Esperanza is a hope and I hope that next year I can meet my tutor face to face, speak more English. I will keep working on confidence to keep hope alive.
and with impeccable health, without it we are nobody ...no.

Thank you Literacy for giving us this opportunity to express ourselves and reach out to other people.

Deya.

**MARTIN SILVA**

Hope This last year was very difficult for many people they lost their jobs and it was hard for everybody in different ways. I hope this year is much better for everyone and hope everybody has a job. And also that the school will be open and we can take English class in person. I hope we will be back to a normal life like it was before.

**MOMODAU JALLOW**

**Hope In God**

I find hope in difficult times by believing in God.

God said in his book,” After difficulties easy times will follow.”

Some people had a good life when they were young, when they get old they end up with difficulties. Others had difficult times when they were young and they would end up with a good life.

My difficult times were about education. Studying was hard for me because I had no help. Thanks to the Literacy Network and
their tutors for making it easier for me. They helped me earn my HSED. Without them I would not have been able to obtain that certificate last year.

An example of hope for me is hoping that this year will be better than last year because of the pandemic. I am hoping in the future that people will be able to party together, attend weddings and name ceremonies again which are very important to me. I will be very happy to be able to visit my cousins and friends again.

I have hope through prayers and quiet time with myself.

The one example is when I had an opportunity to come to America. I had friend and family members who were not happy with my success. The only thing that had me going was prayers and self time with myself. I have relaxed, because not everyone will always be happy for your success. Also learn how to keep important things to myself.

My hope for the future is getting done with School, have a better Job and an amazing family.

“My hope for the future is getting done with School, have a better Job and an amazing family.”
My mom died when I was 16 years old, junior year of high school June 21, 2005. She had type 2 diabetes and passed away with a mild heart attack. I was so scared—I didn’t want anyone to tell me that she had died but I had a feeling and then my older brother told me. I stormed out. I felt angry and sad. Then I saw my Aunt. I lived with my Aunt, my mom’s sister. My younger brother stayed with me in Chicago and then my older brother moved to Madison.

Sometimes it was very tough to get up and go to school. I had to go home and see my aunt, not my mom, while my classmates could go home to their moms. I had to be strong for myself. I missed her so much. Each day I watched the TV show “Touched by an Angel.” It was about a guardian angel that came back to help people. I felt my mom’s spirit was with me sometimes. I still feel that. I have 2 nieces that are named after my mom.

What do you hope for the future?

I hope to rent a dance school some day. I hope that I can have 2 little boys and that they can be part of my dance school. I hope to travel by airplane. I have never done this but I’d like to try.

I would like to go to Ohio or Oklahoma to visit a dance studio because they have the best dance schools and I’d like to judge. I hope things go back to normal from covid. I want my life back!—Be able to come to class in person, have my normal life, see my family and friends, especially the little ones. We can celebrate my mom with a t-shirt with her photo on it.

Next summer I hope to go to Disney world with my family.

I will go on a plane and sleep. So do not wake me!
The year 2020 was hard for me. I lost my job and had Covid. 2021 did not have a good start because I was still unemployed. However, I had the strength and perseverance to continue my studies and I am achieving this semester to graduate in the Accounting program at MATC. I am a part time student but for the school I am not because it is my last 5 credits. I lost the student benefits because I am not a student with 6 credits but that does not matter since I am focused on achieving my associate degree in May 2021.

My budget has been affected since last year but I receive encouragement from my family and the community. Receiving a scholarship from you will be an encouragement in this last stage of my studies.

I am optimistic for the future, I just got a new job. It is a temporary position but by specifying my accounting studies, this will be the fulcrum for a great leap.

"I am optimistic for the future, I just got a new job."
MARTIN TORRES

One of the things I hope is that my children can go to university and one of the ways to motivate them is to see the example in their parents, so I hope to continue with English classes and also prepare to obtain the GED and continue teaching my children that by being constant and making an effort we can achieve all our goals. Thank you literacy Network and all members that support us, of making our goals and helping us.

YERNNY MARIA PEREZ

In my difficult times I find hope when I surround myself with my children, they always see the sunny side of every situation. My children are very important to me and spending time with them makes me feel optimistic. I’m showing my children all the amazing things we have in life.

My family lives in the Dominican Republic. Here in WI, I only have my children and my mother. I believe that staying close to my family by using facetime or group meetings on Sundays will inspire hope during difficult times. No matter how bad it sounds, COVID-19 has brought my family closer together and creates appreciation of the little things in life such as health, food on the table and family.

Finding hope during difficult times shows my children that people can go through hard times and it makes them stronger. It is character and patience building as they learn how to count to 13 when they feel anxious. Remember sometimes it looks like there is no end, but there will always be hope at the end of the tunnel.
MUNTADHER

Level 3 English Class

I try to understand the cause of the problem or the situation.

I accept that my feelings could be down, and then I start to think about solutions and as hard as it could seem to me as a gift too. I learned and I’m still learning and one of the very grateful things to me is (enjoy the journey not just the result) and that made a huge difference in my way of looking for life.

I want to be a better version of myself, to develop myself more, having wealth and connections.

SOLANYI

Level 2 English Class

Adapting to new circumstances and looking for new opportunities to advance in the face of adversity. Hope can only be cultivated if you hold on to your faith and ask God for great strength. Every day God gives us one more opportunity to live and gives us a world of possibilities that we must take advantage of.

He built the future today with short-term goals that lead me to meet those great goals. I also think that we must be more focused on the present and enjoy what I have in the moment, since the future is uncertain and depends on the proposed goals, the future only knows God.
There is hope in difficult times when you know what you have.

When you have a difficult time ask yourself if this is happening to me or to everyone else. Praying to God is one of fast answers. I recommend everyone to pray and trust him. When you start to trust in God, you will see change fast in your situation.

It’s always better to know what you have. Maybe the solution is in your hand. Pray about it. Believing in yourself can make you move on. Immediately don’t lose your hope. There is always a way.

In difficult times you can find an answer and write how to solve that kind of situation. Don’t depend on money. Money can’t solve your happiness.

So there is always a solution to any kind of difficulty when you have hope within you. After night there is always a day.

What is hope? Hope in my first language is waiting, waiting for something better even in difficult situations. Hope is a word that gives me the strength to keep going; but where or in whom can I find hope?

When I have been through difficult times, and that has happened many times in my life, I can find hope in someone who is almighty and trustworthy, who is God. God gives me the assurance of a better world and better times even in difficult circumstances like COVID. He speaks to me through his word, the Holy Bible. There I can find the promises that help me stay strong in hope in the midst of a chaotic world.
Most importantly, this hope is real to me because I have had a personal experience with the source of this hope.

I could put my hope in family, friends, work, possessions, etc. which are good things but these things are temporary and changing. The only one who never changes and remains forever, is God. He is my only hope and I hope he is yours too.

My hope transcends this world because I hope for a better world, a real world that Jesus is preparing for me and not only for me, but for all those who believe in him.

I could tell you the joy and peace I have experienced with this hope, but it would be better if you could experience it yourself.

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**ANONYMOUS**

In difficult times I have always had faith, I believe that things will be fine. I find myself with the people who support me.

When I first came to the United States, I was scared. I took English classes at Literacy Network before looking for a job. But I had faith in myself and the support of my family and everything went well for the job.

Fort the future my goal is to learn English go to Madison University, take classes to become a nurse and take care of people. And hope my children will go to University also.

“When I first came to the United States, I was scared. I took English classes at Literacy Network before looking for a job.”
My name is Rosa. I’m from Mexico. I was born in a small town. My family had a farm. We didn’t always have money to buy clothes or shoes or school supplies. Life was difficult. I moved to the United States in August 2005 because my husband and I hoped for a better life. We wanted our children to have more opportunities to study.

Life was difficult in the United States also. I remember when my husband and I first came here to build a life and family. I was 20 years old and pregnant. I finished high school in my country without knowing English. So, I couldn’t communicate well with the people. I couldn’t find a good job. I didn’t know how to drive. I missed my parents and brothers. But when I saw my children grow up and be happy, I felt hopeful. I signed up for English class in the Literacy Network. The class met 1-2 times a week. The teachers were wonderful. They gave me puzzles, games, and exercises to help me with my vocabulary. My family encouraged me to work hard to learn English. When my English got better I could find a better job. My children motivate me to study English because they say I have to learn. When I can understand English I feel so good with myself to see the progress.

My hope for the future is to work with children. About ten years ago, I took classes for the Early Childhood Education Infant and Toddler Certificate. I didn’t have enough money to finish. Then I got pregnant with my last child. Now I want to return to study. I work at a fast food restaurant and earn only a little money. It’s important to have a better job to help my family. When I am a student, I motivate my children to be better students also. I hoped for a better life in the United States but it was difficult. Sometimes immigrants don’t have the same opportunities as the people born here. I am hopeful I can get a better life for myself and my family if I have this opportunity to get the Altrusa Scholarship.
How can I find help in difficult times?

This past year has been very difficult time around the world. For the pandemic, but in that year I learned something from our community, how can help each other. Schools and many other places in our community helped us with food for our tables, cloth face masks, and hats and much more. Our community provided information of places for help, example, the school where I study called me a couple times to see how I was doing or if I needed help. Our community did and continue to do a great job. Our education continue, Teachers continue helping us with our classes and with information about what is happening around the world with the Pandemic. The Televisión and Radio also give important information, Health Cares helps us by phone with mental health care. No body is alone, we just have to look for information for help and will find someone or somewhere who can help us.

Thank you, to all neighbors health workers, Teacher, and to our entire community for their wonderful support.

Sincerely... Elma

I was 24 years old when I was thinking about going to The United States. I was sure I wanted to go to Wisconsin, where my family was. Better future and better life.

I wanted to go to the United States because it’s safer for them rather then in Mexico. In the United States we can walk any time all day and part of the night safely. You don’t have to worry as
much at night as in Mexico. There is less chance of some one killing you for fun. There is also less chance of getting kidnapped when they walk to school.

Another reason it’s more beautiful land, in America there are more green areas then Mexico, in Mexico there is mostly smoke everywhere. In America there are clean Lakes, in Mexico the lakes are far away and dirty. Also in Mexico a lot of places are overcrowded because of drugs addicts. In America the tap water is safe to drink, in Mexico are tap water is unhealthy to drink.

The jobs in The United States are better than the ones in Mexico. In Mexico, you get pay one and a half USD an hour. The schedules are really long and far away. They give the workers bad working conditions. You mostly work all day and have no time to spend at home with family. These are the reasons why I wanted to move to the United States for a better future.

TIM CHUNG

Four Vaccines for HOPE

We are struggling with difficulties and fears we have never experienced before.

Spring is coming, but our “spring of heart” is coming more slowly than any other years. However, I believe that we will be able to overcome these if we face HOPE as we will not see a shadow when we stand toward the Sun.

We have three most effective vaccines to fight Coronavirus - Pfizer, Moderna and J & J. I have two vaccines for the body that support HOPE - stretching (working out), running (walking). I have
two vaccines for the heart that hold HOPE - lifelong goals, self-affirmations. Do you have vaccines (hope) to defeat Corona blues? What kinds of vaccines are they?

I think, “The body is a vessel that holds the mind, and the vessel must be straight to contain the mind completely.” I use a desk with an adjustable height when reading textbooks. At this point, I do stretching such as side-to-side, leg lunges to the side with the (stretching) band. I also do 10 push-ups or squats for each mistake when I practice English. Stretching (working out) is a great pick-me-up to start the day. I prefer running that can feel runner’s high rather than walking. Runner’s high gives me positive energy to help make the day go. I advise my children that running will solve most of life’s problems. What are your vaccines (activities) for physical health?

I have a ten sentence self-affirmation stored on my cell phone. I read my self-affirmations slowly twice before I get out of bed in the morning. (ex: I have a positive attitude. •••••• I am taking care of myself spiritually and physically.) I will replace it with a new self-affirmation when needed. I believe that words, thoughts, new ideas, and perspectives can change our lives. I prefer lifelong goals that go through my life, such as completing 100 marathons and walking more than 26.22 miles in all 52 national parks than short-term goals. I believe that lifelong goals help me sustain my life even when difficulties come. What are your vaccines (ideas) for mental health?

Hope and effort are the same group. However, hope only announces that an opportunity has come, and it is my effort to open the door and bring in HOPE. I love these sentences: ‘A person who is full of hope is hope in himself. A person who finds the way is a new way himself.’
Hope is waiting something to happen. Hope come together with faith is the strength we need to face challenges and obstacles of life. Last year, I had a discouraging medical diagnosis. It was necessary to do a biopsy to rule out cancer. In the middle of the process, it invited me fear but faith and hope gave me trust in that everything will work out well. During that difficult time, I put my faith in hope and God. Then, thanks to him everything went well. Listening to music helps me increase faith and hope. In the pandemic, my hope is everyone have vaccine and return everything to the normal and I can see friends and family.

In Spanish, the word for Hope is Esperanza. La Esperanza means a lot to me because I try to feel very good and pass that on to my family and other people. Although these are difficult moments I try to be positive we know that this will take time to return to our daily lives but with a lot of faith and hope we will get ahead.

Never have to lose hope because always to arrive some good after hard times. My hope for the future is that we return to our lives as before.

We grow as a family, my daughter studies what she likes and support her in everything what we can to see her dreams come true and just like her parents watch her grow and to study what she is most passionate about. Sometimes we talk about her future that she wants and she tells me that she wants to study at university she wants to become someone important in the life.
My Journey - There is Still Hope

My name is Leticia Rodriguez Perez. I form Mexico Puebla. When I was 7 years old, my mother decide to move to USA. 7 years later she decided to bring me to USA with the hope of a better future for me. When I got here she wanted me to go to school but I never like school. I felt like school was a waste time because of my immigration status, I did not have the right to attend and develop my studies after high school for a future career. I was angry and everyday I hoped to get sent back home, but as time pass, my hope slowly diminished.

Not much time passed when I met my husband and started a family at a very young age. We have 4 beautiful children and because we had started a family I decided to help my husband by working at a restaurant for many years. It was the only job that I aspire to get for not having a better education. Now I stared understanding my mother, I wanted to go back to school but was a afraid I wouldn’t make it and of disappointing my family.

New hope was coming over me and my future. It was the opportunity to became a Dreamer through the DACA program. When I heard of this opportunity I knew that it was time to take the challenge and be brave. In 2017, I took the decision to go back to school but I was scared to being away from home for so long.
Later, that fear I had became into strengths and hope to keep going with my journey. Often times I wanted to give up but, I would think of the sacrifice and time I had already gave. I decided to be committed to finishing school. In 2018 I graduated and got my high school diploma at Madison Technical College. I was very proud of myself and I discovered that I actually enjoyed school.

The following year, American family insurance hired me as a Dream Curator. This position has given me the opportunity to help others to discover their Dreams and inspire people like me.

During the pandemic until now it has been very hard for me and I am very sure it has been like that for other women. We had to become a mother, teacher, plus work all at the same time. The biggest challenge during this time was balancing my life. I had to stop school that made me very sad, but I found hope when I heard that Literacy Network has a very flexible schedules. This was an opportunity for me to find the balance of my future and prepare myself for professional degree classes. The most important thing for me is to improve my English skills and find confidence to do better at work. As well as to help different communities by giving them hope to continue pursuing their dreams for a better future.

“I had to stop school that made me very sad, but I found hope when I heard that Literacy Network has a very flexible schedules.”
My name is Maria. I have lived in this country for 19 years. I immigrated from my country El Salvador.

When I arrived here in the U.S. I didn’t know any words in English. It was very hard for me to understand anyone that only spoke English. I have gone through very embarrassing situations when someone got impatient and got very upset. I remember one time when my daughter went to the University, I had to help her move in. I had an encounter with my daughter’s roommate’s mother. She tried to start a conversation with me but could not understand what she was trying to tell me. She was rude and walked away when she noticed I can not speak English. Because of that experience, among others, I motivated myself to make the decision to learn to speak, write and understand English.

Even though it was challenging, I have met people to help me, in my English journey now, I have the chance to go further; thanks to my tutors and teachers of Literacy Network. I want to say a word of appreciation to them for taking the time and interest to help me improve my English skills.

How do you find hope in difficult times?

in relatives and friends, I find hope in difficult times

Can you write about an example?

there are many places in this country such as literacy Network that offer help and at difficult times like last year, many people were offered a lot of help.
What do you for the future?

as for the pandemic, I hope that people will remember everything that has happened and keep looking after each other and we can enjoy the things we did before and I hope I can learn more English, I can have a job where I can earn more money.

**MIGUEL ANGEL**

Hi my name is Miguel Angel I came from mexico 17 years ago with alot of dreams in my head The first thing I wanted was have a job but there was alot of problems first thing was that I didn’t speak english The second was find a job also all that was very complicated because I was from other country that is complete different I was feeling like I was a strange because I didnt know all this but one day I was sad for all this was to much for me but after that I decided one day i’ll not going to give up finally I did my dreams but im still working on it thats my hope !!! thanks

**PILAR GUZMAN**

Finding Hope in Difficult Times

There is a saying: “Hope is the last thing you lose”. At some point in time, everyone will encounter difficulty. Some more than others and this year is no exception. It has been difficult for many all around the world. People have suffered social injustices, poverty and millions have died due to the pandemic. Many people have suddenly lost a loved one, income, relationships, food, housing
and freedom; just to mention a few and it is sad. However, through all these difficulties, it has been important for me to find hope by telling myself that no matter how difficult things are today, I know that nothing lasts forever and that there will be always a tomorrow, a new day, with new opportunities for things to get better. I believe that while I am alive, with the blessing of God, I should always look forward to my hopes even while struggling in difficult times. It is easier said than done but believe me, I have been there and perhaps I am still facing difficulty but I know that life is so short, we live only once and there is nothing to lose so why should I lose my hopes? There is always a light at the end of the tunnel, so why should I quit now? I can get out of that tunnel and be part of history, make a difference, contribute for a better world and work on my dreams and goals with willingness and dedication, one day at a time.

I am originally from Peru, Spanish is my native language. From a very young age, I always wanted to speak different languages and that is how my love for learning English as a second language started. I have always enjoyed learning and helping other people with communication issues. I remember teaching my nannies how to read and write when I was about seven years old and I remember the happiness in their faces when they learned; the same way I feel when I learn something new. To give an example of how I find hope, I can tell you that my dream job is to become a Certified Healthcare Interpreter, which is a profession that I have always admired because interpreters help people to communicate better by using their abilities and their knowledge of two languages and that is what I like to do too. Unfortunately, I have not been able to achieve it due to economic and family reasons since I have children with special needs and things at home are tough most of the time. In addition, I have difficulty with my English pronunciation so it has been a barrier to accomplish that goal. However, I have not lost hope that I can overcome my difficulties. For that reason, I contacted Literacy Network and enrolled in English classes because
I have the hope that with the support of my tutors Emma and Amy, plus working hard, I am going to be able to fulfill my hopes.

Even though writing essays is not my passion, I decided to apply for the scholarship with the hope that it will help me to set off the costs of my education and continue with my studies at Madison College. I hope, in a near future, to be able to become a Health Care Interpreter, helping others while enjoying the profession. If I do not get the scholarship, I will still remember that while we have hope and Literacy Network, there is always a chance for a better tomorrow. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Literacy Network for changing people’s lives and making hopes possible. For helping my family and me in our education which is the best treasure we can ever get in this life.

**SANNI**

*Essentials Tutorings*

**My Hope**

I am the believe women I put my hope in the god and keep praying for my life my family and friends

My hope for the feature everything can go well let’s good healthy and we can have a opportunity to find new job and I hope one day I can fun better job and make my dream true I can be able to go my country and to visite family and friends and help my family friends and the poor people lake homeless
My journey of hope and faith

One year ago, at least for me, it was impossible to think all my life would change 180 degrees. I had perfect work in a high-level management with responsibilities across Central America. I was based Guatemala and I went each weekend to Antigua, Guatemala, or another beautiful small city. I was working in my profession (Security) with a great salary and the worst worry for me was where I will run my next Major Marathon, perhaps New York or London.

But suddenly, one day I could not go to my office, I couldn’t travel, if I wanted to see my partner or my friends I needed to use a face mask or avoid sharing time with them. Indeed, I canceled my trip to see my family in Colombia. I could not run free for the streets, basically, all changed in the wrong way in my life.

And when I thought it was not impossible to be with more problems, after 3 months working remotely and trying to live the “new life” my company cancelled my position as Regional Manager.

At that moment I thought, all my world fell down. I have many responsibilities, my Son (I am divorced and pay an important child support), I help my Mom and family in Colombia, I have debts and coming back to Colombia it was not possible at that moment.
What I will do now I asked myself.

Someday in my life I decided do not have children was a type of life I decided, but as life every day shows us the last word is not to write. One night 7 years ago in a meeting in Colombia I shared one night with a friend and one more and some days later, she got pregnant. That event changed all my life. Not speaking about being a father, I speak about, I did not understand for what reason this happened. I remembered my Mother said to me, someday, you will know why. Of this relationship I have my Son and my permanent resident in the United States (my Son’s mother is from there) and we took the decision to get married to change my status of my Visa thinking I do not have problems in the future if I want to visit my Son.

The only option I had with the pandemic situation (no job) was to come to live in the United States and tried to begin again. Many feelings, stress, worries, uncertainty, I was afraid.

The journey and challenge began some months ago and my idea was to work and live in Florida where my Son is living with his Mother but after sending at least 30 job applications in Florida from Management position to Driver or an entry level in a warehouse, nobody responded or called me. One day I sent an application for a Driver in Minneapolis and they were the only ones who responded to me, in my situation, with not a lot of saving money in the bank, I answered, I got it, I will go to Minneapolis to work.

The next day I told my Family in Colombia and my Ex-wife my decision to go to Minneapolis and some people said it was not a good idea, but other people (my Family) said, “go ahead” we are with you wherever you go, we believe in you.

Two days later, I put my 3 bags, my running shoes, my bike in the car and I began this journey and drove around 2000 miles across 6 states from Florida to Wisconsin. Honestly, I had in my mind many doubts, fears but deeply, trusting in myself.
This trip has been one of the most beautiful experiences in my life, the landscapes, the sky, the rivers, the sun, all these moments will keep with me every day.

On the second day of my journey, I received a call from my oldest brother in Colombia and said perhaps I should call a friend who is living in Madison, WI 30 years ago, anyway, this city was located on my route. I had never heard about this city and state, but when I spoke with her, she proposed to me why not stop in Madison for some days. She works in an Outsourcing Human Resources Company and offered me to get a job for 2 weeks (she would help me with this) and I thought, why not.

I arrived in Madison after 2 and a half days driving, tired, but I felt something special when I stopped my car in the hotel, and I could smell the air and felt the trees around me.

Without speaking with my brother’s friend face to face and without trying the job option here, I decided, Madison and Wisconsin, will be my home from now.

In this new life since the pandemic began, I lost many materials things, but in this journey, I have learned the most important things in my life are to have the opportunity to wake up every day, healthy, with my family in the same way, with a job, with food in my table, and the most important, now, I am a better person, as Son, as Brother, as Father, as an employee. For many people, the last year has been the worst, buy for me could sound strange, has been a great year because now I am a better person in all ways.

Two weeks ago, I completed 6 months of this journey and challenge. I have a job, not in a Management position but is a good job, and I am studying for improve my English and I am studying to get my Security Certifications too (here in United States is a must to get this to have the opportunity as a Security Manager)

I am living in Verona in a peaceful place, close to the trees, I am
running every day, and I wake up every morning, with happiness, grateful, living an honest life and I am sure, the best days will come, my hope is unbreakable more than ever.

AMADA ALMONTE

So how I find hope in difficult times is when I have my family together and they can help me out on what I need and they can stay by my side. I think that this is makes me feel better and also makes me feel that whatever happens I can do so many things by the help of myself and my family. I really find this helpful in difficult times.
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
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 create a resume, learn English to have a parent-teacher conference, or understand 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 strengthen computer skills for employment, hone study and reading skills for further education, or work 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.)

“Connecting the adult learners with tutors leads to positive outcomes beyond just the students’ success stories. It builds strong community and reminds us to look out for one another - something that is now more important than ever.”

– Megan, volunteer tutor and Literacy Network board member
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

“My tutor experience has been phenomenal. I went into it to help learners with the language barriers they were having and to help them work through those barriers; and to share with my community and people that didn’t have the ability to learn as I did. I found that there was a benefit to me to get to meet and know these students as we were able to share life experiences that changed my view on their lives and challenges.”

– Janet, volunteer tutor and Literacy Network board member

“This is good work; this is important work. I hope you will join me in supporting the Literacy Network’s mission of spreading literacy, language, education, and citizenship.”

– Matthew, volunteer tutor
**DONATE**

Your support helps adult learners access new jobs, more hours, and promotions. They can communicate better with their children’s schools, gain U.S. citizenship, or obtain a high school degree. They can take the next step to college and other certifications. They have better health, self-esteem and quality of life. Adult learners have greater adaptability to a changing world.

“...because investments in adult literacy help people fulfill their dreams and benefit families in ways that last for generations.”

– Jen, monthly donor and Literacy Network board member

“We strongly believe that obtaining a good education is the key to a successful fulfilling life. This can only be achieved by the ability to read and understand the written word and communicate with others. All should be offered this basic human right. We are so happy to participate!”

– Pat and Susan, monthly donors

Donate Online: www.litnetwork.org/donate or

Send Check to: Literacy Network
701 Dane Street, Madison, WI 53713
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.
HELP CHANGE LIVES THROUGH LITERACY EDUCATION!

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