



Literacy  
Network.

# I'm Ready

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

SPIRAL BINDING AREA

2023



## OUR MISSION

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



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

Adult literacy education leads to long-term impacts in the lives of students 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

**Adults at Literacy Network:**

- find meaningful, family-sustaining jobs
- communicate better with their children's schools
- gain their U.S. citizenship
- obtain their high school equivalency diplomas
- take the next step to college and other certifications
- learn the basic reading, writing, and English language skills that support them in all areas of life

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



## *I'm Ready!*

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

## **I'm ready!**

Sometimes when we are ready to try something new, there are many things that could affect us, but I think the worst is the fear of failure, because that could paralyze us from trying and we could give up even before having even tried.



What made me feel ready to come to Literacy Network was my need to be able to communicate with others and understand the community in which I live. I also received encouragement from teachers and friends to come to Literacy Network. The facilities and options that Literacy Network offers in addition to my need and encouragement from teachers and friends, are what made me feel ready to start on this journey of learning the English language.

In 2023, I am ready to go after my dream of being a translator. Coming to Literacy Network has been a stepping stone on my way to fulfill that dream. Now I feel more confident and I feel that I can undertake new things. I feel that I can continue studying to achieve my dream and thus help others as well because being in a country with a different language is already challenging. I would like to help those who have problems communicating because of the language barrier and contribute a little to improve their lives.

Great things are coming for me and with God's help I am ready to take on the challenges and move on.

*"Now I feel more confident and I feel that I can undertake new things."*

## MIGUEL

*Community Literacy*

Hi everyone

My name is Miguel

My path has been long to get where I am, and I'm still working on it. My dream started when I was young in my country. The opportunities were very low for some people, Also the money was the other reason I decided to go to the United State of America, ignoring the obstacles the language was the hardest for me, But when I saw this country and the people that are very kind that's what I liked.

I started learning the language I fell in Love. that's why I'm still studying at school.

I hope one day I can write more and understand to others better and speak much more Also I want to say thanks to the People who help us teaching English. and special to my teacher Patzy...

*"I started learning the language I fell in Love."*

## ALICIA

*Level 2 English Class*



My name is Alicia, I'm from Colombia, I come to Madison two years ago. I feel the need to learn the English language for different reasons, one of them was to communicate with my grandson. In this year I aspire to have more fluency when speaking as well as getting to know other places in the U.S.

**After working at the childcare field for about 6 years I took the decision of opening my own..!!**

Having any kind of business makes you stay in communications with a lot of people, for this area will be with parents. So communicating with them is very important, especially because we are talking about the first year of a child. I take learning very seriously with young kids and to have good communication with the parents is a really good way to have successful kids.

Now this days emails are one of the most important ways to communicate, that's why learning a professional English will help me and my business to grow. This is one of the main reasons I decided to take this class. Learning how to write, and speak a professional English is one of my goals for this year.

And like most of the people that are taking this class we all want a better job with a better pay.!

**MOHAMAD**

I'm Mohamad.

I'm Syrian I came to US from Jordan from two months ago.

I have no job so I am free now. And I feel it's good time to improve my English.

It help me to communicate with others and get better job.

I hope to find a suitable job to support my family and develop myself





When we decide came here don't have idea to difficult is work in other country, culture, bab people and to many things more...but our inmigrant community working hard wont the opportunity of grow together with the general community nothing was free, now we need to decide what rod take, Education is the exit, don't

waitting more, not only it's work hard you know?

The opportunities in the community come with the good people help with the education write and learn together.

Now I'am ready to keep going to learn and connecte with the oppportunity give the community. Thank you literacy network for the help us to Keep going together.

When we learn more speak English, we have more opportunities to growing, our community fight day with day for one more future bettel.

I feel ready to learn more words English because in my new Job the 90% speak English only.

I'm ready to listen and understand more word's and contraction to English because it's very important to understand the contraction in the sentence.

My goal is to lear how to write better and English.

I was refert from a teacher to Leeternework.



## **My history**

My name is Giovanna. I am from Colombia. I arrived in Madison in December 2022. I felt ready to join Literacy Network even before I arrived in this city. Learning English has been my dream since I was in high school, Although I started a course in Colombia, I didn't get the expected results. I always saw English as the magic key that opens many doors. It helps others, solves important problems, and helps people communicate with each other. In 2023 I am ready to improve my fluency, grammar, and listening skills. I want to prove to myself that I can do it and be an example to others. I feel grateful to Literacy Network for giving me the tools to achieve my goals in English.

## **JUAN DAVID TRIGUEROS LASSO**

### **I'm Ready**

My name is Juan David, I'm from Colombia. I moved to Madison in 2020 with my wife.

I started my English class at Literacy Network in felt 2022. I Googled an academy to study and is recommended by people. So I was encouereged and here I'm.

In 2023, I'm ready learn to speak English because I'm not asharmed or afraid to speak.

!Thanks for you time Literacy Network!



Hello! My name is Yurii. I'm from Kharkiv Ukraine. I'm came to the USA with my civil wife Kate in October 2022. We met a lot of interesting people here and someone tell us about ESL classes of Literacy Network. We need to boost our English level, so it was easiest decision.

2021 coronavirus, 2022 Russia started war in Ukraine. I think in 2023 all Ukrainians ready to almost everything like nuclear war or alien invasion. But we hope that nothing bad happens that's why we are studying English.



## **My Literacy Story**

I arrived in the U.S. about seven years ago. I really wanted to study English, but before I didn't have any chance to practice English. I only talked with neighbors or some strangers. One day, my friend told my husband about the English class he took. Then he recommended it to me and gave me the phone number.

At home, I was thinking about the Literacy Network for one. Finally, I found my goal. This is my happy goal! I mean, now I am very happy with my English goal.

My first goal is after one year I will speak English fluently, without mistakes.

My second goal is that I will understand emails and write simple emails.

My name is Marleny, I am from Bogotá Colombia.

I traveled to the United States six times over a period of several years but on February 7, 2022 I went to Madison as an American resident.

From the first moment of arriving in the United States as a resident, I was ready to start learning English and some friends told me about the Literacy Network and I liked this a lot because it has very good advantages for people who come to the United States, such as having the opportunity to study online and this is a great help for people who don't have a car and don't know the city, it's free and that's very good for people who are starting a new life in the United States.

I also like that the teachers only speak to us in English which helps us to listen to the language and become familiar with it.

Is wonderful the people I have spoken to at the Literacy Network office are friendly and always willing to help.

In 2023 I have the goal of working now that I feel less embarrassed and a little less afraid to speak and this is because of what I have learned in English courses. Thank you so much!

I am ready to keep going in my English class. Do thing I could not do it because I do not feel so healthy, my body stops me from focusing in many ways in my life, but now I am ready to keep working on my archives, do things that are helping me like: reading, practice and do some homework. I Am ready to find another job because I feel more confident and I know I can do it.



hello there!

I'm from Russia. I would like to improve my level of English and joined Literacy Network. Because moving to another country is always difficult. Thanks to the teacher and students, I quickly got used to and began to understand English speech. It's great! I am very happy to be a student at the Literacy Network. These courses help me a lot.

In 2023, I hope to speak English very well, get comfortable in a new country for me and start making my dreams come true! Big things start with small steps!

**RICARDO ESTRADA RODRÍGUEZ***Community English Class*

I'm ready.

Now I'm ready... to feel me like a regular person in USA.

Now I'm ready... to go outside and made new friends and share who I am exactly just like I want to be.

Now I'm ready... to get my chance to follow my dreams and ask for help to make it come true.

Now I'm ready... to walk by the city and not looks like a foreign anymore.

Now I'm ready... to be ready for my new life.

As a 50-year-old student and being Latina, being able to fulfill my dream of being an Architect has become a goal that I will surely reach very soon. At first I was a bit scared because of the language barriers that have always been present. Literacy Network was one of the first places that made me feel at home. That's where I started my English class and was tutored by a fantastic teacher named Greg. Perhaps at first I was afraid that I would not be an outstanding student when I decided to apply to Madison College for an associate's degree in architecture. But eventually I was able to finish my architecture degree with a Service Award and a 3.7 GPA. Honestly, that prompted me to pursue a degree, (BS) in architecture at UWM. In 2020, after graduating from Madison College, I was accepted to the University and that gave me more confidence in myself for continue. Currently, although I don't speak the language yet, I am looking to complete my last credits (20). During this process it has been difficult to remove economic barriers. Especially in the last two years, global diseases have become present. Even though I have a full-time job, college costs, my father passed away from COVID, I support my 80-year-old mother with kidney failure, I commute from Madison to Milwaukee, and my own personal expenses. I recently sick with three viruses simultaneously that its affect us today. These barriers have been a tremendous obstacle during my career. Therefore, a scholarship would help me a lot to mitigate that stress and would have a great impact in order to finish my degree successfully. In 2023 I want to impact the spaces to make them better every day. Today I am part of a team that designs hospitals, tomorrow with my ideas and my projects I want to impact the lives of people in my community. Continue carrying my culture through my designs and my Mexican folk dances. Although my greatest desire is to be an example for many women, single mothers who suffer despair at some point in our lives. I want to show you that we can still fulfill dreams that at some point were unfinished.

## Am I Capable of More?

I am sure, if you have a dream, you have thought about this question. Why do some make their dreams come true, and others don't? What prevents us from moving on? I believe it's self-doubt, and I will share my ideas on how to overcome it.

I'm from Russia. When I was young, I dreamed of working with computers. In my time, computers had small monochrome displays and strained your eyes. My vision was already bad, so I left this idea. I never imagined the rapid improvement of computers, along with the widespread availability of laser vision correction. I studied economics, earned my master's degree, began my accounting career, worked hard, and created my own accounting business. It wouldn't be true to say that I didn't like my job. I was fascinated with the world of numbers! Meanwhile, a lot of young accountants started their careers in my office, my fire was extinguished little by little. I felt that I was missing something significant, something that was more important and interesting, the IT industry. My once exciting business turned into a monotonous routine. Although I didn't see any new goals in my field, I was not able to drop accounting. Learning again at forty seemed impossible; I lacked self-confidence, and I was completely burned out.

When I moved to the United States at 42 years old, I was forced to start from scratch. I realized that it would be a good chance to implement my old dream. I began to improve my English, but self-doubt stopped me again and again. As a result, I wasted a lot of time on insignificant things such as doom-scrolling on social networks or aimless conversations. I ignored my dreams for so long, that they began to seem impossible. Later, I understood that self-doubt was the reason for my lack of initiative. What helps me to overcome it?

First of all, we need to visualize our dreams and our goals. How can I imagine my way as clearly as possible? I began to determine different ways to realize my potential, analyzed my strengths and weaknesses, and created my roadmap. For example, my strengths are working with numbers, passion for analytics, experience with databases, and attention to detail. My weaknesses are not good enough English, lack of communication skills, and undeveloped creativity. So, when I chose data analysis as a new career, the direction of development became clearer.

Secondly, a goal that's too big decreases our confidence. I spent a lot of time to understand it. The problem was solved easily – just break down your task into smaller easier tasks. To do this I earned a certificate in web development and got practice in soft skills in YWCA, and took courses in programming languages in Codecademy and FreeCodeCamp. Now I improve my communication skills in Literacy Network.

Moreover, your goals and achievements have to be measurable. Don't plan "to improve English", but plan "to reach C1 level by the end of the semester". For example, I earned a couple of certificates in web development and got experience in two job interviews. This year I am going to get a certificate in data analysis, make two or three projects, earn money for taking a course in MATC, update my LinkedIn profile, then create a new resume and search for an internship. By solving each small measurable task, your confidence will grow.

Finally, don't forget small everyday joys. It is necessary to spend a good time with loved ones, who support you. Walk and travel, spend time on your hobbies, and reward yourself for your achievements! This way you can avoid getting burned out.

That's all I can advise: visualize, plan, measure, and enjoy what you have right now!

Because I think it's important to learn the language to be in this country and to be able to understand and communicate with other people, to be able to help my daughter with school and the doctor and to have better opportunities.

I want to keep learning and overcome my fear of talking to other people.



## **I AM READY**

“Who are you?” “Why did you come here?” You can ask me more questions, and I can answer all these questions and more, but first of all I want to share my life. My story started in August 2019 when I came to the US with my family. Then my life in Madison began. I tried to learn many things like many immigrants here. When I came here, I

did not know English, much about American culture, and the many rules here, for example, the traffic rules and the government rules. At this point, I made my first contact with the Literacy Network.

I remember the first day I started learning English at the Literacy Network. I could speak a few basic sentences. Today, this situation is so much different. I'm not perfect, but I can write and talk better. I know that language skills I need to practice and exercise in order to become better. Today, I feel ready to continue my story in English. This piece of writing is good practice for me and my English skills.



I don't know how long or how much I can write, but when I finish writing about my life, I want to publish it for everyone. I hope this will be interesting for others to read. It includes many different emotional times. For instance, Covid-19 started six months after we came here. During this period, Covid 19 was an incredible time all over the world. All people used masks, social distancing, and many people lived by individual rules. Luckily, now we are able to go back to our regular lives and we learned to be safer.

In short, I am very excited to continue my life here, and the big support for me has been the Literacy Network and its teachers. I am grateful to all of them. It makes me happy to be a part of this family. Thank you, Literacy Network family. I am ready for challenges and successes.

## **KELLY MACIAS**

*Level 3 English Class*

### **I'm Ready**

My name is Kelly Macias, I'm 52 years old and I came from Venezuela . I'm widow, I have two kids, a 32 year old daughter and a 22 years old son. They are all my world.

When I was a little girl i really wanted to be a veterinarian because i love pets, actually i have three cats.

My father didn't want the idea studying to become a vet because he was a enterprise owner for this reason I studied Administration. It's still sad to me but I worked all my life in the sales area mostly in the pharmaceutical industry then I was happy studying anatomy, pharmaceutical terminology. It was awesome comprehend how is the human body functions. The last



company I was working for was Pfizer. During my work experience i had the opportunity to train sales force and i realized i like to teach. My son is autistic and i acquired a lot of patience to help him learn.

I have living in this country since almost seven years ago. The situation in my country it was so sad when my family and me took the decision to leave our country, we didn't feel comfortable at all. My country had a communist government since 24 years ago.

Venezuela used to be a very rich country, full of natural resources, very good soil for agriculture and also had the second largest oil reserve in the world. Before the "Revolution" we achieved The second place in the "Happiest people of the world" We never feel so frustrated before the current government. Currently there is a lot social injustice, and human rights don't exist. There is no safety, no medicines, no food.

When I lived in my country I got a degree in Administration and another one in Marketing but I never studied English before I came here. I barely understand the language, for this reason I had to take jobs in cleaning enterprises and restaurants as a dishwasher. It was an opportunity to learned English taking with my coworkers, but the most of the people in my work spoke Spanish. The challenge to me at this time was to get jobs can be relation with my knowledge and my training.

One day a friend from Church invited me to come to The Literacy Network. It was so nice, the people here is so kind and always are so helpful.

I took classes at all the levels, conversations classes and finally classes with tutors. My confidence has been increasing day by day. Also, in this year, i would like to study something related with my current job and hopefully I could apply to a supervisor position at the end of 2023. Also, i would like to teach new employees in the future in the company where i currently working.

## **I'm ready to Be Happy**

I'm ready to take responsibility of the happiness that I want to see in my life. First of all, I recognized that I can't control everything around me. I understood that everything can change at any time anywhere without previous notice. I'm responsible for my health, my body, my thoughts, my habits and my success in any area.



I'm responsible for my health. I used to have very bad habits. I used to eat very badly, I did not do any exercise, I used to work too much, two or three jobs at the same time because I did not make enough money to pay my expenses for my family. After all of those bad habits, I finally got very sick, depressed and I had an unhappy life.

After several years, I understood that if I wanted to help my family, I had to help myself first. I had to learn how to take care of myself, so I started to run at the park very frequently as the doctor suggested. I changed my habits, I ate better, I had to quit and kept only one job, but I started to study English instead. At the first time, it was hard, but as time went by, I improved my English skills, I found a better job and it made me feel very happy.

As a result of having changed my lifestyle, everything changed in my life. I always try to keep myself motivated with all of the good things that I have in my life. I used to be worried all the time because of anything or everything, but now I'm here saying I'm ready to be happy because I'm already happy.

## ELSA BASHA

*Level 3 English Class*

My story begins four years ago when my family and I decided to move to the United States. I have been a nurse in Albania for 28 years. And when I came here, I did not know anything in English except how to greet someone. It was difficult at first, I tried hard to fit in and do my job. Then, I felt the need to look for schools or options for classes, I felt ready to challenge myself more. I did not want to feel bad because I could not speak English and what I wanted to express. So, I googled, and I found information for Literacy Network. I felt so happy and excited. I went in person and asked what the steps were to start classes. I learned that the opportunity that Literacy Network gives to emigrants to learn English is a miracle. This is my third year as a student, and I am currently enrolled in the last semester of Level 3. I feel more confident discussing, and expressing myself and having a daily conversation with my team workers, and doctor, or when I am out shopping. Thanks to the opportunity Literacy Network gave to me and the amazing teaching team they have, I am ready in 2023 to start looking at a different job that is closer to nursing and challenge myself even more.

## ANA PAULA

*Level 2 English Class*



I am from Brazil.

I arrived in Madison on August 10, 2022.

I feel ready because I believe in the quality of teaching.

I am willing to learn another language. I'm happy to try.

What made you feel ready to come to Literacy Network?

When I came my first time to the United States, I didn't speak any English and that was hard in the beginning. I tried to communicate with other people for basic things in the stores and it was difficult for me, but people were always really nice and patient. Then a friend told me about a Literacy Network. He told me that I could take classes near where I lived in the Northside of Madison. I started to take classes in the Veracourt center. That was my best decision and I feel blessed to take this opportunity. Now, I can understand more and communicate with other people for work and for a regular life.

What am I ready to do in 2023?

I'm ready to continue learning English, that makes my life better here. This year I took a decision about exploring new places in the city, like restaurants, parks, museums. I know that now I can take better opportunities in the job, before I needed help to communicate with my managers, but now I'm the person who helps other people and that's amazing!

I'm thinking to try new hobbies, too. I like photography and this year I'm gonna start.

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**NEBIAT***Level 2 English Class*

My name is Nebiat. I came from Eritrea East Africa. I was came to us and Madison in 2018

I am feeling ready to reading ,speaking and listening

I am ready for in 2023 .I will take to english class level 3,level 4 and GED .

## PAULINE TCHONANG

*Level 2 English Class*



My name is Pauline I'm from Cameroun. I moved to Madison in 2022.

When I will work more money, I will return to my country to open a large clothing store for men, women, and children

I study English because it would serve me as a language to communicate with other people when I will travel to other countries to buy new clothes.

Speaking English and french is advantageous in the business world, because it will allow me to communicates with several people (suppliers and buyers) I will buy the clothes which are fashionable for drew a lot of customers

I will be very happy to start my own business knowing that every beginning is not easy I will fight until the end to succed. I will earn a lot of money and I will be able to save for my retirement

## YUSUF

*Level 2 English Class*



My name is Yusuf.

I am from Somalia. I began my English class this year. I felt ready because I have a lot time of this year. My first goal is English studying. I spend time usually watch YouTube videos. Actually I'm happy because I have opportunity to Literacy Network.

Thank you

## SOLANGE

Level 3 English Class

I feel very confident, safe, and happy ,, each semester is one more step forward.2023 I hope Literacy Network continues to bless us

*"I hope Literacy Network continues to bless us."*



## ANONYMOUS

Level 4 English Class

As an immigrant, learning English for me was challenging from the start, speaking Spanish as a first language and learning a new language has been difficult for different reasons. It's not easy for me to say the words in the correct way and tell them clearly .

One of the biggest challenges is to find a high level job , like a supervisor or manager position. I know and I understand my job duties and have many ideas that would be very good and very powerful to share with my coworkers and management, but when I'm in a meeting I feel the necessity to speak out my thoughts and opinion but my insecurity with English stops the possibility of communicating more effectively.

Additionally, I have a neighbor who is very nice with my family , she is very friendly and I would like to talk more and know her better , but sometimes when I try to talk with her, my words get stuck ,my mind stays in blank and I just finish saying just bye and this gets me very frustrated, but thanks to Literacy Network, I'm working on that , working hard to try to talk confidently, I have more confidence talking to people in the supermarket , in my job , participate more in class , help my son to learn any subject and explain to him in English.



My name is Arina and I'm from Russia. I moved to the USA 9 months ago. My life in Russia based on communication. When I was in school I was successful in writing, speaking and literature, my favorite subject. I would say I'm very social person. In my country I have a lot of friends and a lot of good and useful relationships. I have always worked with people as a teacher, psychologist, and through my job in retail. I would

say that words are my power. I could do almost everything by using only my words and my communication skills. Now because my English is not well, I feel like I lost my power and I need to get it back. I would like to communicate with people in English without fear. I want to feel confident and I don't want to be worry about how I speak. I want to feel like English is my native language. This personal goal is more important for me now, than professional goals. I think the Literacy Network will help me with that process. I need to get more practice and knowledge to kill my fear. I want to speak and understand English well. I believe in myself and in Literacy Network.

**NATHALIE***Community Literacy***What made you feel ready to come to Literacy Network?**

The need to speak English.

**What are you ready to do in 2023?**

I'm ready right now because I feel more confidence. I'm ready to improve my English to get a promotion at work. I'm ready to study to take the CPA exam.



## **I'm Ready**

I'm from Veracruz, Mexico. I moved to Madison in 2015, eight years ago. I wanted to learn English. I started talking classes in MATC. I liked but I don't practice my English because I only work with people who speak Spanish.

In 2019, I started work in hotel in maintenance department. I practice my English with guests and co-workers.

In 2023 I was promoting to front desk. So I want to improve my writing and speaking to communicate better with guests.

## **JOHANNA VASQUEZ DIAZ** *Community Literacy, Level 2 English Class*

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My name is Johanna. I'm Nicaraguan. I have one daughter and two granddaughters. I visited my family twice a year. But in 2018 I decided to stay in Madison.

I already studied Chemistry in my country with a master's degree in analytical chemistry. In the future I want to change jobs but I need to speak, write and listen to English very well.

My dream is to work on my career, my goal is to overcome the language barrier.



I would like to continue with my education and thank you for the opportunity that Literacy Network has given me to follow my goal.

Having a dream is the first step to achieve a goal. I believe a big dream will come true when an individual has a clear plan to get things done properly and efficiently. My dream here in the US is to continue my education and to find a job at a Biology laboratory. I have been interested in Biology since I was a high school student. That is why, I got my Bachelor's degree in Biology .Although; I am able to communicate with people here in the US ,I would still like to be fluent in English. That is why ,I am taking the literacy network English course. Another challenge that I have is my visa type, I am currently on j2 visa which means I am not allowed to work here. I need to get a work permit from the immigration office to be able to work. Luckily, I have already applied to get the work permit and I hope to get it in couple of months. So I have a clear plan, I would like to be fluent in English and find a job at biology laboratory . As you may have noticed ,I am really working hard to achieve my goal.(please cross your fingers!!) Having a job will affect my life positively in many aspects. Obviously ,it would be a big financial help to cover our expenses .Another advantage of having a job for me is getting out of the house and making some friends .This is really important because we have no relatives here. To sum up , having a clear plan and consistency are two factors to achieve a goal .

**MARIA***ESL Tutoring*

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For this year, my goal is to get my HSED, so I can take more classes and hopefully change my career. I feel ready because it is another chance to study what I am passionate about. In the past, I was more scared because my English was low. Since I started at Literacy Network, my English has improved. Now, I have confidence that I can earn my HSED and open more doors for better opportunities.

## **MAVI**

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Mavi, I from Colombia I came to the United States 2 years ago.

I came to Literacy Network because I needed to learn English, I feel that a very effective way to advance in this country is having command of the language.



Here in Literacy Network, I feel comfortable learning and they have given me the confidence to continue growing.

I am ready for 2023 to be able to speak English without fear, without fear.

I thank Literacy Network for giving me the opportunity to learn, for having good teachers, motivated to teach.

## **VERONICA**

*Community Literacy*

I was ready to come to Literacy Network because I wanted to speak with other people. When I went to the Literacy Network I didn't speak anything and I was ready to learn because it's important to speak english in this country. I come to Literacy Network because the previous semesters were very helpful. Now I have more confidence in speaking English and I want to learn more.

This semester I am ready to learn even more vocabulary and practice my English. I want to learn more about this language and keep moving forward.

## **I'm Ready to drive again**

I'm considering taking the wheel in my hands again. I know there are only two options: to get up or stay down completely in life. I am ready for opportunities one of them is to stop being invisible. IN THE YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC, I had a car accident. I changed my life at that time. On my medical instructions I had to stop my English class because I have severe pain.

I felt like I had stopped my life for couple years. But that is not a reason to stop my program at Literacy Network again, with patience and help I returned to work towards my goals, like learn English and drive again a car.

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## **DIGNA RIVAS**

Literacy Network is helping for me, because when arrived to US, I don't understand nothing the language English. That moment my nice tell me of Literacy Network. I started study it. I am learning new word, grammar, verbs, pronunciation, writing and listening. The Covid 19 were problem for me because stop my learning, although, I take English class online, I think that I do not advance in learning. Then I started face-to-face class again. I have gained more confidence and security when speaking, and I understand more and more when the people speak to me. The teacher tutors and administrative staff have always been very kind and have helped me whenever I need them. Now I will continue learning and studying to fulfill my dream of speaking and understanding English fluently. Thank you Literacy Network for helping me fulfill what I long for so much.

My name is Ziveida . I'm from Venezuela. I'm a Doctor but I do not like a Doctor no. I arrived to U.S in 2021.



## **The Power of Learning to Brighten Up My Life**

What is your attitude towards learning? I believe that attitudes are important in almost everything, but in particular, one's attitude toward learning can determine the whole of life. I also think we live in an era of lifelong learning, whatever we do. I want to say that English literacy is at the heart of lifelong learning.

I have been using the Franklin planner for a long time. I determine five governing values for my life every year and reflect them on my planner. I have determined these five as my governing values in recent years: environment, health, learning, fun, and tolerance. I also have been learning `three new words` and `three sentences` in addition to Ventures textbooks. I am sure that these `three series` are vital to my learning.

I practiced identifying `three new words` with two example sentences last year. I also wrote `three sentences` around my interests(values). I was able to learn a lot from these practices. First, I learned how to respect the Earth (ENVIRONMENT) through `three sentences`. I think it is meaningful to understand the common issues of our planet in crisis. Second, I learned how to stay in good

shape(HEALTH) by using a standing desk while learning. I believe that a healthy mind comes from a healthy body. Third, I learned how to communicate better(LITERACY SKILLS) through Ventures textbooks. I am convinced that the most important competency in the age of lifelong learning is literacy skills.

I will continue to learn contents related to my governing values through the `three sentences` this year as well as last year. I will also continue to learn literacy skills through Ventures textbooks. In particular, I want to learn SPEAKING SKILLS including pronunciation, intonation and stress. I recognize that the digital transformation is happening faster than we thought because of the pandemic. I want to learn DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS to adapt to these changes.

Learning is always at the heart of my life. I am sure that if I continue to improve my English literacy skills, I can challenge anything else I want. Sometimes I get inspiration from the words of the wise: “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” What is your attitude towards life and learning?

Finally, I have really learned a lot from the Literacy Network classes with the help of teachers, tutors and coordinators. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the people involved in the Literacy Network.

## **GUY WATERS**

*Essential Literacy Tutoring*



I know

What it's like to have something to say  
but you can't because if you do life will  
never be the same.

What it's like to feel all alone in a room  
full of people

I know the struggles of getting out of

bed knowing what lies ahead.

I know what it's like to be hurting and it seems like no one cares

I know it feels like you can't go on but you must.

I know it feels like life is crazy like it's can't be real. like it's a dream  
and you want to wake up

I know life is hard especially for you and me. But you must go on.

talk to me

talk to me

I will listen

I will hear you

I will not Judge you

I will not dismiss you like you do not matter

I will help you if you let me

I will be your rock Just let me

talk to me

When you fell like life is to hard

I will carry you

talk to me

When you think no one hear you

I will make them hear you

talk to me

When they try to Judge you

I will defend you

talk to me

When they try to dismiss you

I will make them see you

talk to me

When you need me

I will be there



I'm ready for citizenship!

To be ready for citizenship, I have to pass the test. I study for my test. I memorize the questions and write the answers. I practice listening to the questions and talk about the questions with my daughter. She reads the questions and I write the answers. I

don't have the appointment for the test now, but I hope to take the test in January, 2024.

When I am a citizen, I will need to do many things. It will be good for me to obey the law so I don't have problems. I feel excited about voting because I will be able to vote for the president in 2024. I will need to learn more about the people who are running for president.

I'm trying to be a "Model citizen" – a good person, a good member of our community. When I work, sometimes people need help finding places in the hospital. I say, "No problem; I'll walk with you." I feel good helping another person when they need information.

Getting a US passport will be different. Right now I have a green card for resident alien. I'm not sure how the passport will be different. Maybe it will be easier for me to go to Mexico and come back. I will work hard every day for the next 8 months to be ready for citizenship.

*"I will work hard every day for the next 8 months to be ready for citizenship."*



## **AURELIA**

*Community Literacy*

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In Fall 2020, I started studying at The Literacy Network because my husband encouraged me to keep studying English by Zoom. I wanted to learn more vocabulary, reading and writing. The first reason to keep learning English is my daughter. She is in middle school and we have meetings with her teachers. Sometimes they don't speak Spanish or they don't have enough interpreters because they assist other parents. Second, sometimes I need to schedule a doctor's appointment for myself or my kids. Finally, I work at a hotel. In my job, I need to understand the guests, my coworkers and my managers. I like to learn more about hospitality, and different areas like maintenance and management. In 2023, I am ready to help my daughter with homework, feel more comfortable scheduling doctor's appointments, and get a promotion to a new position at my job.

*"The first reason to keep learning English is my daughter."*

## **VICTORIA**

*Community Literacy*

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My first motivation was my daughter , because she is very busy with her husband, and her family, and work.

She wants me to learn more English, and she pushes me to do more by myself.

I am ready to improve in my speaking my listening and reading and writing because those are my goals. Another thing that I dream about is to get my certificate from the MATC in Early Childhood Education. Were I am taking classes I know it will help me get into my certificate program

I am sure I can do both

There are a few things that made me feel ready to come to Literacy Network. The first thing is that I would like to come back to college in order to gain my degree equivalency in psychology. In this moment, I have more time to take classes and educate myself because my kids are older and are able to take care of themselves. Part of my intention to come back to Literacy Network and improve my English is because I want to teach my kids that it's never too late to educate yourself and to keep learning no matter your age.

In 2023, I'm ready to open my mind to learn new things, face new challenges, and to gain new experiences. One of my goals is to take a few classes or a course to get started on my degree equivalency. I know that it's going to be challenging, but I believe if I continue to practice with my tutor I can improve my writing and reading skills. In that way, my classes can be more productive and I can get more out of every class.

Another reason why I came back to Literacy Network is technology. Literacy Network is flexible because they have a lot of options, days, times, and modes of learning that can be convenient to students who want to improve in English. It's not necessary to make arrangements for my schedule and family. This era just makes everything easy and accessible for us to be successful and complete our educational goals.

I have been lived in U.S. for 7 years and I still couldn't have a good relationship with the people in here because I still can't speak English well. Therefore I decided to attend in English classes for improve my vocabulary and have better conversation.

**What made you feel ready to come to Literacy Network?**

I came to the USA in August 2022. I studied English 20-25 years ago at my school and the university. So it was obviously that I had to refresh my knowledge in English and Literacy



Network has such an option for me. And I have always been ready to study English and learn more about the language.

**What are you ready to do in 2023?**

I'm ready for new experience in 2023. I hope to find a good job. I expect to travel, to have fun, to try new food, make new friends, paint beautiful paintings. I plan to help my parents. I want to raise my children in peace and safe. I have a huge hope that war will end and I could return and give hugs people I love with all my heart.

**VERONICA**

I feel confident speaking English with people at work, at school.

I feel ready to go to the Literacy Network because I can meet with more students and more teachers, practicing my English with other people.

I like the schools because there are more people learning.

I am ready to register my company for cleaning and increase my English.

To register my company first I need to put the name of the business and apply with the form online.

## **ANONYMOUS**

*Community Literacy*

I started Literacy Network about 2 years ago, Because I wanted to help my daughter's new school homework at home.

I'm ready to read some English books in 2023.

I'm ready to write down some new English words and how to use the English sentences in my notebook.

I'm ready to do some school volunteers and hear people's talk to my English practice.

## **GLORIA VASQUEZ**

*Community English Class*



Was I ready? I think that if I am ready to do something means that I am prepared, in other words, it means that I could manipulate or handle a situation or particular task. It is paradogic but I never felt I was ready to communicate in English with others. For this reason I felt I was needing help. Who or what can help me? I discovered Literacy

Network for a brochure in Verona Public Library. I decided to call and teacher Ena answered. She informed me about the program. I applied and the English classes started. I felt ready to come to Literacy Network because I felt not ready to keep a dialogue in English. After the first course there, I began to feel more confident and more prepared to communicate with others. Thanks to my teacher, my classmates and to Literacy Network. I desire now to be ready to improve every day my English speaking . I want it and need it. I am ready to achieve it in this year 2023.

**What made you feel ready to come Literacy Network?**

Well, I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn with Us. I like the flexibility of the class, because we can share ideas to learn more practice, how to speak, writing and hear pronunciation.

Because, I want to grow in my life, I think this is very important to learn the first language in this country for anything.

Sometimes in my work has promotion that I have not been able to apply for not knowing English.

That is sad because having the necessary training and the experience of the job, not being able to grow because of the language.

**What are you ready to do in 2023?**

Learn to be able to study and improve my self to be able to help others.

**EBTISSAM****What made you feel ready to come to the Literacy Network?**

When I came to live in the United States from the United Arab Emirates I asked my daughter if she knew any school or center where I could practice English with my husband.

My daughter asked some of her friends at UW-Madison and told me about Madison College classes. We went to register to learn English at Madison college but before registering, the secretary told me that my husband and I must take an exam to know which



level we were at. During the pandemic all the schools and colleges were closed so I searched to find a way to study online and I found the literacy Network. The Literacy Network gave me and a lot of people hope to follow and achieve their dreams so I will advise anyone to register in it. Also, the Literacy Network teaching style is very diverse which is amazing. For example, every semester, they renew their teaching method to fit the comfort of the students which makes the students gain confidence and register for classes every semester. Literacy Network always directs us to the best.

### **What are you ready to do in 2023?**

I am ready to improve my English and I hope to find a course to study for my citizenship because studying the questions alone will not suffice. Someone must have the experience in order to go to the exam with confidence and knowledge. At the Literacy Network I try to practice comprehension and I read more and more. Also, I read stories with my grandchildren to improve my pronunciation. I feel happy when I can make an appointment without help or speak with someone like a doctor and explain what I want or feel. I like Literacy Network because they always ask about following up with them. Also, sometimes they send students books for free to improve learning which is rewarded by us improving in the language and feel happy. Learning makes us deal with others with confidence and opens doors for us to work.

## **URIEL**

*Community English Class*



### **I'm ready!**

it is exciting to have the opportunity to learn another language from home. I am ready to learn all the new words, and also the teacher's lessons.

**1. What made you feel ready to come to Literacy Network?**

Great desire to learn the official language of USA and integrate society faster.

**2. What are you ready to do in 2023?**

Work hard to fix my language problem at the new location.

**LATONYA LANGSTON***GED/HSED Tutoring*

I want a scholarship to help with bills, due to my busy school schedule, I'm not able to work many hours at work. So I only get to work on Friday's on till I have completed school to earn my HSED hopefully by June of this year or no later then this summer. Going back to school has become a bit hard for me. But my determination to finish school. Will not stop me at this point. I'm almost there. Going to keep going because after this life will be better ahead.

**MUSTAPHA SISSOHO***GED/HSED Tutoring*

I want a scholarship to help my transportation to college for my In-person classes. I feel ready because I have more confidence that I can upgrade my English speaking and writing skills at literacy Network. I am ready to continue with my HSED program and also a degree program after HSED.



## **I'm Ready!**

I feel ready to come Literacy Network for the following reasons:

- The desire to review and remember what I learned in previous classes.
- The need to communicate better with other people.
- The joy to learn and progress, exercising the brain.
- The trust in the friendly teachers.
- The opportunity to practice conversation with my partners.
- In general, to come to Literacy Network is a joy and a productive opportunity, and I feel ready to get advantage of it, to enjoy more the United States and the beautiful city of Madison.

## **Never limit your dreams.**

I still remember living in a small village in northeast China when I was a little kid. I lay on the lawn in the warm sunshine in spring, chased butterflies and caught fish from the river in summer, climbed trees to get fruit in fall, and had snowball fights with my friends in winter. I thought living in that village, speaking my hometown dialect, and doing the same work as my parents did when I grew up would be my whole life. But now, when I look back on my life path, it is something I had never thought about as a little kid. I had never thought I would live in the US one day, using English at work and even in daily life.



My English learning journey started in my first year in middle school. The teacher was a Chinese lady. My first few classes were simple and fun, and I loved them. But later on, it changed, as I had to recite grammar rules, English words, and sentence structure. English became a subject that I hated. I asked my teacher one day: "Why do I have to learn English? I live in China, people use Chinese to communicate, English is useless here" the teacher smiled and answered my question patiently. "Jidong, I know you like art, I assume that seeing colors is significant for you in your life. Have you thought what it would like if you can't see colors one day?" This is a question that I had never thought of as a kid. I paused for a while, then I said: "I don't know, I might have depression, I might feel that my life is hopeless" She laughed and said: "English is like your eye, if you could speak English well, you will see something differently from the whole world, not only from China. I know you haven't been to other places, but please remember your life is full of adventures. Your future is unlimited and bright, English will be a flashlight. It will light up the road you will be walking in your future". Of course, I couldn't understand all words from her at that moment as I was too little and had never seen anything outside my village. To be polite, I nodded and smiled at her. "Thank you, I will put your words in my mind and keep learning English as best I can," I said.

Time flies, and now I am 34 years old. I look back on my life path. My teacher was right, "Life is full of adventures." English is my flashlight. It lighted up my career and changed my life path. I say this because English helped me get a job offer from Singapore, and it helped me to travel to different countries without fundamental communication issues. It helped me to gain a wide variety of experiences either in my personal life or my professional life.

In August 2021, I entered the US, and I wasn't sure whether I would stay here for long or return to Singapore or China because of my family issues. I experienced culture shock and met people from different states, skin colors, and English accents. Every coin

has two sides. I also met a guy who is my best friend right now. He taught me how to drive a car, order food, show me things I had never seen before I was here, and sometimes correct my English pronunciation and grammar. I also learned something fun, American slang, "I am pooped." The story happened on a beautiful morning. I went on a hike with my neighbor. After, we sat on chairs to have a rest. He said, "I am pooped" I was shocked and looked at him. "What? You are 35 years old grown man, and you pooped in your pants just now? " He laughed so hard and explained what it meant. This is not the only one, I have many.

Now I live and work in the US, which requires me to speak English daily. I realized that my English level couldn't meet my requirements if I wanted to expand my social sphere. Understanding co-workers' conversation with different accents, understanding all the documents at work and be able to write appropriate emails and work reports. So I have some formidable obstacles in front of me. They are English listening, reading, and writing. To break down those obstacles, I looked online to find English learning programs, I found an English teacher who offers a weekly class through Zoom, and the tuition fee was affordable. I experienced one of his tutorial classes, and it turned out poorly, I felt uncomfortable with his teaching style. So I kept looking online, I am still trying to rethink what keywords I put in google, but the Literacy Network website came to my eye on a beautiful afternoon, warm sunshine and blue sky. As you know, living in Wisconsin, they are luxury things during the long winter. I thought that was a good sign, I should give it a try. I dialed the phone number from Literacy Network's website, and a sweet lady answered my phone and helped me finish my registration appointment. All went pleasantly. It was another good sign, wasn't it?

The registration day experience made me want to learn English at Literacy Network. From the moment I walked through the doors of Literacy Network, I knew that I had made the right decision. The staff was welcoming and friendly, and they made me feel

like I belonged. The classes were challenging sometimes, but the teachers were patient and supportive, which helped me to build my confidence. One of the things I appreciated most about Literacy Network was they focus on practical skills. I don't feel pressure during the courses at all. Teachers always encourage us to share our ideas and express ourselves, this made the learning process more relevant and engaging. It is also a fantastic opportunity to meet amazing people worldwide. It is another memorable experience for me.

Mastering a new language takes time and dedication, but with the help of the Literacy Network, I am making progress every class. I am grateful for the support and guidance that I have received, and I know that I will make a great progress after I finish the whole learning program.

Overall, English did open my eye to see the diversity of this world and brought more and more opportunities and friends to my life. Without it, neither my career nor my life wouldn't reached this far. As I continue my journey, I am excited to see where my new language skills will take me. Thank you to the teacher from my middle school. Your words are always in my mind. My future is unlimited and bright, and thank you for those excellent teachers' hard work at Literacy Network.

**HELENE PELAGIE STREETER**

*Level 3 English Class*

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I 'm ready this year to apply for Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) certification.

Also I would like to have a little computer skills. .THANKS



My main goal have been learn english language for that i went to the Literacy Network. When I was work in Future Foam this is a company that manufacturing mattresses, a coworker talked about this student center. since 7 months i have been here. This program and my other additional effort make me more confidence to communicate with each other.

**HECTOR MARTINEZ**

Hi, my name is Hector. I want to tell you about how literacy network helped me. I came to the United States of America 4 years ago. It was difficult to understand a new language.

It was difficult to buy groceries at the store, talking with my neighbors, teachers, doctors and coworkers.

When my coworker recommended signing up at literacy network I didn't hesitate.

I waited for a tutor to be available.

When literacy network called me for a tutor available, I started going every weekend in the morning, but it's hard because every day I wake up early for work and I go to bed late but it's worth it because learning English I can have the better job and I can have a better life for me and my family.

This year I feel more comfortable with basic English, I am ready to advance to harder English

## THAYA

*Level 3 English Class*

I was retired in 2020. I want to take care of my health and take care of my grand child. I came in 2002 to us. from 2002 to 2020 I worked in one place. Because of my language problem I was very quiet and did my work happily. During my retirement I heard about Literacy net work. Teacher Ilana taught 2nd level. She explains very well. Now I am level 3, Teacher Emma is also very good. I am little confidence communicating in English. I am very thankful to Literacy net work for the services they are doing for the community. Now I volunteer in the library when I get time. 2023 I want to speak very well without fear, I want to learn sewing and computer skills.,.



## LINDA

*Community Literacy*

I came to Literacy Network because I need to improve my English skills and I need help to know how to get a job in this new country. Actually, in Literacy Network I found all what I needed and more. I found a wonderful environment to know people and make new and good friends. I got help for my mom to achieve her goal of be a citizen and I have known interesting and several ways to achieve my professional goals. I am so grateful to have found a lot of super nice people to help me with my professional, communication and personal goals.



## OLEKSANDR DRUZHYNIA

*Level 2 English Class*



I'm Sasha. I'm from Ukraine. I moved in USA one month ago because in my country continues the war.

Then came here I go to Literacy Network. Now I continue going to English classes.

In 2023 I want learn English on my best try.

## MARTIN SILVA

*Level 4 English Class*



Couple years ago before I was in English classes from literacy network it was difficult to find better jobs due to me speaking very little English. I also had problems making appointments for the doctor, mechanic, or ask questions in stores for things I need to buy. Thank you to literacy network and my teacher, ms Catalina, because now I have a better job.

I can now do things I couldn't do before my English classes. I can make appointments and ask questions with my doctor. I can talk about the problems with a mechanic and I can understand the solution when explained. I can also communicate more with people in English in public.

Right now I'm working hard and continue studying my English in class because I hope to start my own business in the future. I want to show thanks and appreciation to literacy network and my teacher Catalina for all their help

My name is Anna, I am 39 years old and I am starting my life over. My story starts in February 24 2022. It should be a regular day with delicious morning coffee and warm shower. Instead of that this morning started from explosions because Russia invaded to Ukraine. It was the worst morning in my life! Me, my husband and 6 years old daughter couldn't find a safe place, we were frightened. I used to work in cardiosurgery hospital like a cardiologist, we spent 1 week in a hospital's basement then even there was dangerous. We decided to go somewhere far away from Ukraine. My husband couldn't go with us. That's how I ended up in the USA with my daughter. Now I don't have nightmares, I don't afraid of the sounds of planes, we have safety. On the other hand it costs for us everything, time with parents, meetings with friends, home, carrier. One year later I realized that I don't know when I can go back home. It seems like I should to start over my life here in the USA. My friends told me about Literacy Network and it helps me a lot with English. Now I'm thinking about to take my medical exams for being certified doctor in the USA. I think that the most important in my life are my daughter, husband, parents, friends and knowledge. I'm so thankful because I met a lot of very kind people and I would never have known how good people can be if it weren't the war. In Literacy Network I found knowledges, the best ever teacher and friends. Thank you!

*"I'm so thankful because I met a lot of very kind people and I would never have known how good people can be if it weren't the war."*

# LITERACY NETWORK PROGRAMS

## CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship offers English classes for lawful permanent residents pursuing their goal of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. 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, become more involved in civic life, and provide a more secure future for their family.

## COMMUNITY ENGLISH

Community English classes teach English as a second language (ESL) to adults so that they can engage in their family's education, advocate for their family's needs, and participate in their local communities. Currently, nine multi-level classes are supported in partnership with school, library, and community center partners throughout Dane County. Curriculum topics are based on students' goals and often include conversation, calling a child in sick, and scheduling appointments.

## COMMUNITY LITERACY (ESL TUTORING)

ESL students work one-on-one with volunteer tutors in a group ESL tutoring class every week. Students set their own goals every semester, and tutors use lessons tailored to each student's 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.

## ESSENTIAL LITERACY TUTORING

Program focus is on building essential skills in reading, writing, computers, or math. Students are native English speakers or English Language Learners who work with a tutor one-on-one for help strengthening essential skills. Students want to build their skills for



a variety of goals, such as increasing employment opportunities, preparing for further education, helping their children, or personal growth.

## **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.)

## **TRANSITIONS ESL CLASS**

Transitions provides personalized support, education, and career advising to help adults succeed at Madison College. The program supports higher-level English Language Learners by providing rigorous English language, literacy, critical thinking, and academic skill development. Participants receive personalized advising services to create a plan and identify resources to reach their educational and career goals.

## **WORKPLACE ENGLISH**

Workplace English classes offer customized on-site English language instruction to support employees' communication on the job. The curriculum is tailored to meet an employer's specific goals.

# 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](http://www.litnetwork.org/volunteer)**



*"We should go out of our way to make sure people are able to communicate."*

– Steve, volunteer tutor



*"I appreciate the whole-person and desire-based approach Literacy Network takes to helping adults achieve their literacy goals."*

– Gabbi, volunteer board member and monthly donor

## DONATE

**Your support** helps adult students 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.



*"We have been inspired by Literacy Network's volunteers, staff, and especially the dedicated students who are working so diligently to improve their lives, better provide for their families, and fully engage in our community."*

– Pete and Jill, loyal donors and planned givers



*"Investing in Literacy Network is investing in humanity."*

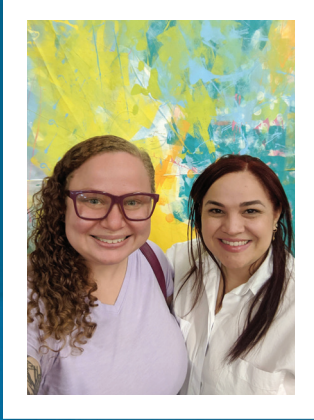
– Glauca, monthly donor

Donate Online: [www.litnetwork.org/donate](http://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.** Adults improving their basic skills need individualized support and individual lessons delivered one-on-one by volunteer tutors.

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

**Flexible curriculum.** Individual support means that our team meets each participant where they are.

**High-level support for success.** Every student starts their educational journey with a one-on-one interview to identify their goals and skill level and make a plan for success.

**Regular follow-up.** Staff follow up regularly with students to ensure they have the support they need to persist with programs.

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

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

**Building relationships.** Our students, 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 10,000 hours of volunteer time annually at a value of nearly \$300,000.



**Literacy Network™**  
*Improving Lives Through Literacy*

**Help people change  
their lives through  
literacy education!**

## **CONTACT US**

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

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