

LITERACY COUNCIL OF GRAND ISLAND

Winter 2019 Newsletter

info@giliteracy.org • (308) 385-5515 • 312 N. Elm St. Suite 101
www.giliteracy.org • www.facebook.com/LitCouncilofGI



EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

RAILSIDE PLAZA
GRAND ISLAND, NE

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019, 12:00-4:00 P.M.

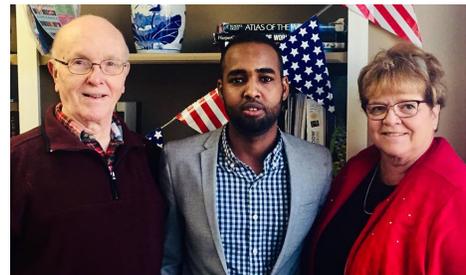
Earth Day Festival

The LCofGI is excited to announce our first ever Earth Day Festival! Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 28, from 12-4 PM for this can't-miss event. Everyone in the community is invited to come on down to the Railside Plaza for an afternoon of food, fun, and learning--all with an environmental twist. Attendees will learn how to better our world through reducing their waste and learning to recycle--the right way. You won't want to miss this!

Let's Hear It for the Students!

The winter holidays may be over, but the celebrations sure aren't... because our wonderful students continue to give us so much to celebrate!

Congratulations to student Dek on becoming a U.S. citizen! Thank you to board president and volunteer tutor, Vikki Deuel, for organizing a fun-filled afternoon commemorating her student on his accomplishment and helping Dek to prepare for the exam. We had several special guests stop by for the festivities, including Dek's family and his first tutor, Del Roper. What an amazing accomplishment and celebration!



Abdelhfeiz "Ali" recently stepped up to the plate and volunteered to serve as a translator for an Arabic-speaking individual seeking help at a local shelter, something that wouldn't have been possible when he first registered as a student just a year and a half ago. But thanks to his hard work with the Literacy Council and heart for serving others, Ali took initiative to help a fellow Grand Island resident in need. Thanks for giving back to the community, Abdelhfeiz!



Let's Hear It for the Students! (Cont.)



The sky's the limit! Our student, Leticia "Lety", has been unstoppable this past season. She has been taking advantage of every opportunity she can to better her literacy skills - attending morning and evening group classes, meeting with her tutor, Tracy Noble, and even fitting in extra study sessions at the pool while her kids have swim lessons! Keep up the amazing work, Lety!



Soon after registering as a student, Elsamani set aside time from his own lesson to help a couple of fellow students improve their English and computer literacy skills. Great work, Elsamani.



Gratitude comes in many forms, and for student Ameina, it is best expressed through the written word. In fact, she wrote a wonderful thank you letter to a donor who generously contributed supplies for our Community Connection Center knitting class. What an accomplishment, Ameina!



LCofGI student Hassan began assisting fellow students in the Community Connection Center the same day he registered with the Literacy Council! It warms our heart to see students giving back so readily.



It's not everyday you turn 82! After learning of volunteer Eunice Kehler's 82nd birthday, student and group class instructor Dennis took it upon himself to organize an impromptu celebration-- complete with treats, hugs, and singing. Everyone at the Literacy Council was happy to put on an impromptu celebration for our special lady. Happy Birthday, Eunice!

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

A huge thank you to Grand Island Central Catholic for selecting the Literacy Council as a recipient for its "Christmas Cheer" program. Students worked hard to raise \$940 for our school. Thank you to the students of GICC!



THANKS to YLT

Special THANKS to Youth Leadership Tomorrow students, McKenna Marsh, Taylor Grabowski, and McKenna Schroeder, who became involved at the LCofGI while serving in Youth Leadership Tomorrow's partnership at our organization!



McKenna has always had a special place in her heart for the LCofGI due to family ties with the organization. "The Literacy Council brought a great man named Dennis into my family's life. My grandad, Densel Rasmussen, was Dennis' tutor, and throughout their sessions, they become very close." But it was not until her involvement with Youth Leadership Tomorrow that encouraged her to volunteer at the Literacy Council. Now, McKenna serves as a dedicated tutor and friendly face for students.



Taylor has gone above and beyond, volunteering to come in to assist with group classes and projects outside of YLT weekly, even instructing group class from time to time! We are so grateful for your efforts, Taylor!



McKenna began tutoring her student Maria, and is dedicated to helping others and making a difference in our community. "I like helping others and making a difference in the community. It's such a good feeling to see how you impact the students." Thanks, McKenna!



Environmental Literacy Week

Our first Earth Day Festival isn't the only new event we'll be offering this season. April 21-27 is Environmental Literacy Week--and we'll be offering new resources and activities all week! Students and volunteers will learn about recycling and waste reduction through a specialized curriculum available during their one-on-one tutoring sessions, group classes, and community connection center encounters. We think it is important that we all understand the environmental issues facing our community and our world. Stay tuned for some great learning tools!

Tutor Training & Support Meeting

Mark your calendars! We are looking forward to our next Tutor Training & Support Meeting held on Thursday, April 18th at 5:30 PM in our Community Connection Center. This latest meeting will be led by our newest team member, Allison, Educational Content and Assessment Coordinator; she will be outlining a special curriculum for volunteers to use with students during our Environmental Literacy Week. This meeting will offer unique tools and resources for all to use - it's a can't-miss opportunity; we hope to see you there!



In It to Win It... Or Just to Have Fun: Annual Scrabble Tournament

This past month marked our 10th Annual Scrabble Tournament--a beloved tradition by members of the Grand Island community. To celebrate such an honorable milestone, we invited wordsmiths from across the land to put their skills to the test.

Participants competed in a league of their choosing, competitive or fun, leading to laughter, chatter, and only a little competitive yelling. All in all, this year's Scrabble Tournament was a success--even with the harsh winter weather.

Special thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who helped to make the event a success!



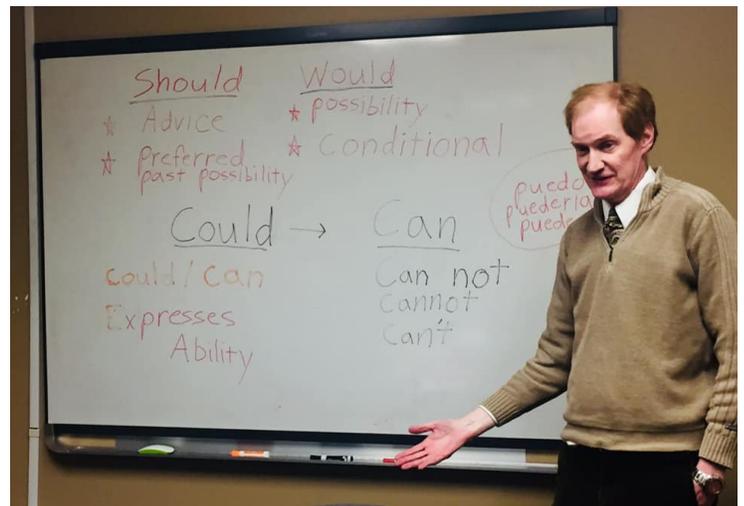


Welcome, Allison!

We are excited to welcome our newest AmeriCorps VISTA, Allison Hoden, to the LCofGI! Allison will be serving as our Educational Content and Assessments Coordinator, assessing new students and evaluating and expanding our curriculum offerings. Earning a degree in psychology from North Park University in Chicago and serving as a librarian there for several years, she brings an abundance of new skills and perspective to the organization. Allison is excited to help our team of tutors find just the right resources for their students.

New Face, New Class(es)

Putting the can in can-do attitude—and in his latest lesson—is our newest group class instructor, Shawn Farritor! Shawn has gone above and beyond to teach not one but TWO night classes after hours for our students! Mark your calendars for Shawn's Monday night class for advanced English speakers, and Wednesday night class for beginner students, both from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Welcome, Shawn! Thank you for all you do for the LCofGI and the community of Grand Island!



We'll Miss You, Eileen

In a tearful, yet heartfelt goodbye, tutor Eileen Ohlin shared the news with her student, Mazza, and the Literacy Council that she will be moving out of town. Mazza and the LCofGI are so grateful for all you have done, Eileen! Thank you for your service - you will be missed!

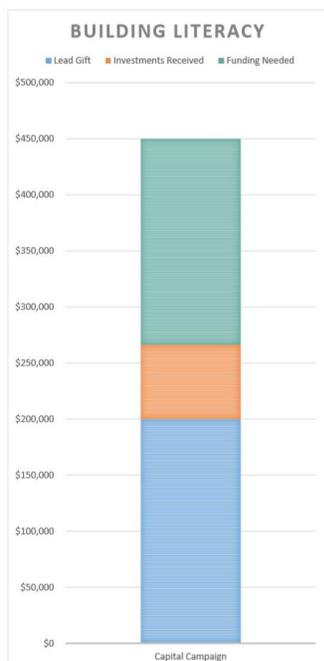
Thank You to Bosselman Enterprises

Thank you to Bosselman Enterprises for a very special investment of \$10,000 towards our Building Literacy Capital Campaign! We are so grateful to Bosselman Enterprises and to everyone who has invested in our drive for a permanent home for our school--but we still have a long way to go. Deepen your impact as a member of the Grand Island community and, please, invest now in our capital campaign.



She Takes the Cake

Turns out you can have your cheesecake - and eat it too! Volunteer tutor Julie Frandsen channeled her inner entrepreneur, selling raffle tickets to help the LCofGI raise funds for our Building Literacy Capital Campaign. Just what was Julie raffling off? Homemade cheesecake of any and every flavor! Talk about a sweet deal! Winners were selected in late February. We'd like to give a tremendous thank you to Julie for taking action and initiative to help our organization and to all who purchased tickets.



Building Literacy Capital Campaign Update

After launching our capital campaign nearly five months ago, we have reached just over 25% of our \$250,000 goal.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help us have a permanent home for our school. Please ask friends and family to support this important cause to make Grand Island a stronger, better-connected, and more prosperous community!