

She's Got Drive

Student Selado, a Somalia native, has been a hardworking student at our school since joining in 2017. Selado has prioritized learning English literacy skills, meeting with her tutor, Lori, and conversing with fellow students in our Community Connection Center. Recently, however, she has been hitting the road—as well as the books—to earn her driver's license. All her hard work has certainly paid off; she recently passed the driver's exam! Congratulations, Selado!



Thank You for Your Service, Summer VISTAs!

Our school has been honored to receive help this summer from our AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates: Joana, Ronda, and Kathryn. Together these three have carried out our mission and changed lives through helping in our Community Connection Center, instructing new group classes, assisting with social media, and more. Thank you all for your hard work this summer—you have made a lasting impact on our school and our students!

Joyful and Humbling

Our volunteers play a pivotal role in the implementation of our school's programming. Over the summer, we received tremendous help from new volunteer, Reagan. Reagan stepped up to assist with group class instruction, even substituting for our evening group classes! Of her work with our organization, she said: "Volunteering at the Literacy Council of Grand Island has been full of joyful and humbling experiences. The gratitude and sincerity of the students is unlike anything I have ever seen and it's so rewarding to teach those who are so eager to learn. Being at the LCoGI is one of the most pleasant ways to spend time." We are so glad you think so, Reagan. Thank you for your help!





Delightfully, Connie

Since joining our organization this year, volunteer tutor Connie has been a light in the life of her student, Mei Jiang or “Jung”—and everyone she meets. Connie has helped improve her student's English and literacy skills, finding laughter along the way. On her experience working with Jung, Connie said: "I had heard about the Literacy Council of Grand Island for several years. Since volunteering, it has been a joy to help her. She is bright, eager to learn, and works hard. This has been such an enjoyable experience for the both of us!" You do great work for our students, Connie. We are so grateful for your energy and commitment!

Welcome, Yolanda!

This summer, we have been honored to work with our newest volunteer group class instructor, Yolanda. She has been teaching an afternoon class on Sundays, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. As a retired ESL teacher, Yolanda brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our school. “I love the people here and the support of the staff. This is a very safe environment for students and the resources are great.” Thank you for all you do for our school, Yolanda!



Teaching with Confidence

Volunteer tutor Ron has been a tremendous addition to our organization since joining us in 2016. Ron is quick to build connections with everyone he meets. His work ethic and compassion for students are so inspirational. "When I began tutoring at the Literacy Council of Grand Island, I questioned my ability to teach. Now I feel confident as a tutor. I have enjoyed getting to know Abdullahi and the other students at the school. The Literacy Council has good opportunities to help others—and to learn about other cultures, which has been a plus for me." Our school is lucky to have volunteers like Ron. If you would like to get involved and make a positive impact like Ron has, please contact us!

We Need Your Help!

This summer, our school introduced several new group classes led by our AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates on a variety of subjects, including: beginning English, digital literacy, art, and citizenship. Through these new classes, we can best meet the needs of our students: from using the computer, to expressing creativity, to becoming civically engaged in the community—all while providing English language instruction. To continue offering these new classes, our school needs a volunteer to instruct the following group class: Beginning English on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. No teaching experience is necessary. We provide the teaching materials, training, and support needed for your success. We want to help you help others! Interested? Contact our school today to volunteer.

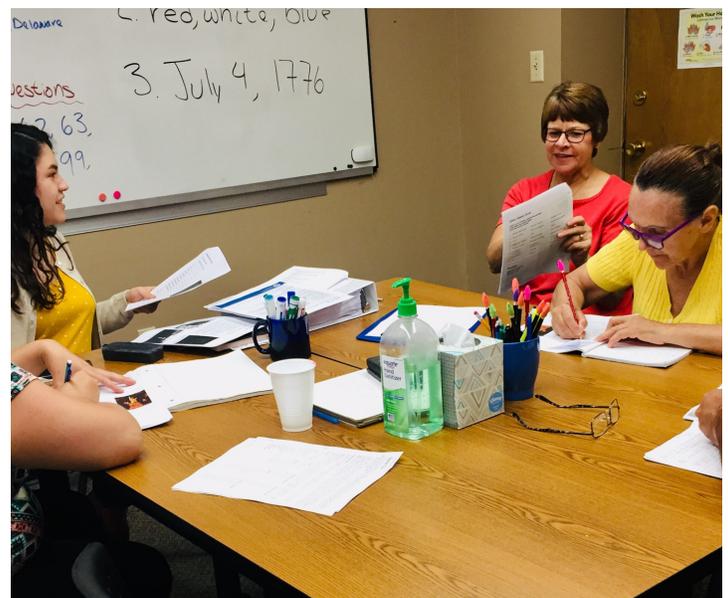


Notebook Shortage

Our school is in need of spiral notebooks to distribute to our students! If you plan to shop for school supplies as the summer comes to an end, consider purchasing a few extra notebooks to donate. Drop off your donation at our organization anytime during office hours. We appreciate your support!

Becoming Civically Engaged with Julie

Our school is proud to offer an abundance of opportunities for learning, including one of our newest group classes—Civics & Citizenship on Tuesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. We are especially proud to have hardworking, dedicated volunteers involved with us, like volunteer tutor—and now group class instructor—Julie, who has stepped up to teach this new course. Julie is passionate about civic engagement and serving the community and is ready to help our students identify similar passions. We could not ask for a better individual to teach this class. Thank you, Julie!





Recap: Volunteer Training & Support Meeting

We want to engage our students—this was the overall sentiment at our latest Volunteer Training & Support Meeting, led by our AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates: Ronda, Kathryn, and Joana. Together the trio shared about their experiences instructing group classes, introduced new materials, and encouraged dialogue with the overall goal being to continually engage our students. We think it's safe to say all in attendance left the event having learned something new. Thank you, Summer Associates, for facilitating our meeting and thanks to all our volunteers who attended!

Breaking the Ice

We would like to give a special thank you to icebreaker expert, Kevin Gomes, who helped conduct a training for our AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates on incorporating icebreaker activities into our group classes and community events. Our staff has already begun implementing Kevin's ideas into our curriculum and, most recently, our Community Potluck Picnic. Thank you for your contributions, Kevin. Your help and insight are appreciated!



Volunteer Opportunity: Scoop for "Scoops"

Help us help others by raising funds for our programming! Sign up to be a volunteer for the Heartland United Way "Scoops" Ice Cream Parlor (located at the Nebraska State Fairgrounds)! Volunteers can work on behalf of our school and we will receive the hourly wage earned by that person. To volunteer, register at Go2Volunteer.org, indicate that you will be scooping for "LCofGI" or "Literacy Council" in the Notes section of the online form, and be sure to show up for your selected shift. Thank you for your support!



Share Produce, Build Connections

As we transition into fall, we will continue to host a community produce share! If you have extra produce in your garden, you can stop by our school anytime during office hours to drop it off and even take other produce from the share baskets that you may not have in your own garden! It's not giving to charity, it's building community!



JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Serve with Us

Do you want to help us achieve our mission and make a difference in the community? We have the following positions available, offered through AmeriCorps:

- AmeriCorps VISTA - Volunteer Engagement Coordinator
- AmeriCorps Member - English Literacy Instructor

The full-time Volunteer Engagement Coordinator position, offered through AmeriCorps VISTA, will build a stronger, better-connected, and more prosperous community by engaging and supporting our school's volunteers.

The English Literacy Instructor position is 20 hours a week and will provide direct English language instruction to our students.

Interested? Contact our school at 308-385-5515 or info@giliteracy.org for more information.

Thank You to Our Funders

Thank you to our 2019 funders for providing for our organization and programming, which helps us to create a stronger, better-connected, and more prosperous community:

