

## A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Can you feel it? Change is in the air.

Change has also been happening at the Literacy Council of Grand Island. As the world transitions from winter into spring, we at the Literacy Council have been transitioning from old ways into new.

Come into the Literacy Council offices to see the changes we have been making for yourself! We have recently had the pleasure of welcoming a new member to our staff, Madison Moe, as our new Educational Programming Coordinator. You can even come to visit us later in the day because we've extended our office hours; with our new hours, we will be open until 8 PM on Thursday evenings.

We have also made changes to the materials that tutors can choose to use in their sessions; the new curriculum is called "English No Problem." As part of our expansion, we have also added new group classes in the hopes of assisting some of our students who are awaiting tutor matches.

As an additional expansion of our services, through a partnership with the Career Pathways Institute, we have built together a new learning space within our Language and Learning Lab that will hopefully better accommodate our ever-growing body of students seeking literacy education.

Although we have been making these changes, some things at the Literacy Council will never change: our mission, our goals, and our hope that we can improve our community one student at a time.

Best,



Kurt Stoppkotte  
*Executive Director*

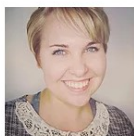
## LITERACY COUNCIL STAFF



**Kurt Stoppkotte**  
*Executive Director*



**Karla McGeorge**  
*Office Coordinator*



**Madison Moe**  
*Educational Programming Coordinator*



**Julie Gustafson**  
*Grants Coordinator*



*Pictured: Muna Tutu and Abdelfaiz Ali*

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## LITERACY COUNCIL BOARD

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Phillip Erb	VICE-PRESIDENT
Ellen Dolan Merril	SECRETARY
Yvette Engelhaupt	TREASURER
Lori DePue	Jean McFarland
Carol Hansen	Steve Millnitz
Pete Letheby	Tracy Noble

## LITERACY COUNCIL WELCOMES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR: MADISON MOE



"Ironically, I find myself at a loss for words as I search for a way to say how honored I am to have been chosen as the Literacy Council's new Educational Programming Coordinator," said Ms. Moe.

"I am so glad," she added, "that I get to call myself a part of the Literacy Council of Grand Island's team! I can't wait to become more involved with the Grand Island community through my association with such an amazing organization that has had a measurable impact on the lives of so many."

Moe (23) graduated *summa cum laude* within the Honors Program from the University of San Diego in San Diego, CA with a B.A. in English. She recently finished an internship with the Walt Disney Company in Florida.


She enthusiastically brings to the position her passion and her belief that everyone should have access to literacy programs.

Moe volunteered previously as a tutor at the Pikes Peak Literacy Center in Colorado Springs, CO, where she helped to bring children up to their commensurate reading level. She has also attempted to learn a new language as an adult, so has experience as a student and as a tutor.

She is very excited to be a facilitator to the learning process. With her new role, she hopes to be able to foment positive change in our community.

*"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."*


*— Frederick Douglass*



**ProLiteracy**

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**U.S. FACTS**




**36** Million  
adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third grade level.

**68%** of programs are struggling with long student waiting lists, and less than 10 percent of adults in need are receiving services.

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**FAMILY LITERACY**



**72%** chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves. These children are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out.<sup>1</sup>

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**EDUCATION**



**ONE IN SIX**  
young adults—more than 1.2 million—drop out of high school every year.<sup>2</sup>

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**ELL (English Language Learners)**

2 million immigrants come to the U.S. each year, and about

**50%**  
of them lack high school education and proficient English language skills.<sup>3</sup>

### ENGLISH? NO PROBLEM! NEW MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR TUTORING

As some of you may already know, we recently ordered new materials for our tutors to use during tutoring sessions. The series is called "English No Problem."

The series not only includes books with accompanying workbooks for students whose English skills range from the most basic (Literacy Level) to the most advanced (High Intermediate), but it includes workbook-type periodical booklets: "Health Series," "From Home-to-School" (multiple levels), and "That's Life."

We will continue to provide materials that tutors can check out, along with Office Copies of Teacher's Editions for our materials. We still ask that students purchase their copies at cost.

**Tutors: please set up a time for your student (s) to be tested, so that we can provide you with the appropriate level of materials for your student.**

For times please email our *Educational Programming Coordinator, Madison Moe* (see above) at [mmoe@giliteracy.org](mailto:mmoe@giliteracy.org) with the SUBJECT line reading: "ESL Placement Test."

Our new materials also contain an *online* component that tutors can access through our website [www.giliteracy.org](http://www.giliteracy.org) by clicking on the "Tutor Resources" tab and going to the links provided below that say "English No Problem." Each book level has a corresponding portion available online that includes flashcards, audio files, activities and more!

### Literacy Council Needs Wish List

The Literacy Council of Grand Island subsists entirely off of charitable donations, in-kind donations, and grants. Please contact us if you would like to donate any of the following as an in-kind donation:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Spiral (or similar type) lined notebooks           | Mechanical pencils                             |
| Kleenex  | Hand sanitizer                                 |
| Clipboards   | General cleaning products                      |
| An outdoor bench (donate or build)                 | Bottled water or funding for a water dispenser |
| Outdoor furniture (chairs, umbrella, small tables) | Readers/Reading glasses                        |

# Student Stories

Mubarak Abdulkarim



*Pictured: Lyn Hulit (tutor) and Mubarak Abdulkarim (student)*

## WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE: PASSING THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TEST

At the Literacy Council of Grand Island, we believe that it is only when we work together that we can achieve our goals. Lyn and Mubarak have been working toward Mubarak's goal to pass the United States Citizenship test for the past four months and have been paired together since July of 2016.

On April 3rd of 2017, Mubarak passed the United States Citizenship Test! This was a big step for Mubarak, and many of our students hope to do the same though it is very difficult to pass the test. We are so proud of the effort that Lyn and Mubarak have put into achieving this amazing goal together.

When asked how he felt about this achievement, Mubarak was all smiles (as was Lyn!) and said that he couldn't be happier and was excited for the future. Mubarak continues to work with Lyn on practicing his English grammar skills, and also works in our Language and Learning Lab on the computer for additional assistance and practice.

Originally from Sudan, Mubarak came to the United States from a refugee camp in Kenya in 2012. He hopes to one day be reacquainted with the remainder of his family back in Sudan.

This is a great example of the type of change we try to facilitate here at the Literacy Council of Grand Island. Our students come to us hoping to gain literacy skills, but that is not the end of their journey. Becoming fluent in English opens new doors for our students, doors into futures that are only possible once they've attained a certain level of literacy.

When our students first meet with their tutors, they have a conversation about what each student's goals are and how those goals can be achieved. Gaining literacy in English is often a necessary step, a step and not the end.

Many of our students, like Mubarak, have an overarching goal such as attaining their GED, getting a degree in English which they already hold in their native language or country, or by becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

We believe that we can achieve any goal when we work together.

## THE TRUE COST OF ILLITERACY

If you can read this, you may be thinking that illiteracy doesn't affect you.

You might be thinking:  
*So what? I'm literate. I read.*

### Except:

Research by ProLiteracy shows that **36 MILLION adults** across the United States cannot read, write or do basic math above 3rd grade level.

*Again, so what? That's not great for them, but what does that mean for me?*

Well, when an individual is illiterate, the number and types of jobs which that individual can perform are extremely limited: and many can't work in any industry due to their limitations.

*The job market's terrible all around these days...*

Yes, it is...

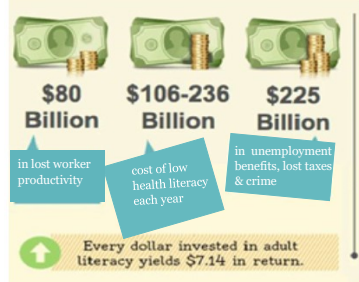
But that means that there are **36 MILLION adults in America** that are costing the U.S. around **\$225 BILLION or more EACH YEAR** due to non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of revenue due to unemployment.

This info-graphic breaks down the annual cost of Illiteracy for the United States Government.

## The Cost of Low Literacy

Illiteracy has tremendous consequences, but these consequences go beyond the affected individual. They affect families, communities and the entire society.

### Annual U.S. Tab For Low Literacy



### Literacy Partners

literacy is a skill that can be learned... and...

That's a lot of money coming out of your pocket...

Invest your *time* instead.

Invest in a better future.

## Volunteer Today

Literacy Council of Grand Island  
[www.giliteracy.org](http://www.giliteracy.org)



## GROUP CLASS SCHEDULE

As of May 2017 we are offering 5 free ESL Group Classes as a part of our literacy education services:

### Mondays

**Lori** 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Advanced English/GED Skills  
Level: High Intermediate/Advanced

### Tuesdays

**Danielle** 9:30 AM-10:30 AM  
English No Problem Health Series  
Level: Beginning/Low Intermediate

### Wednesdays

**John** 10:00 AM-11:30 AM  
US History/Citizenship  
Level: Beginning/Low Intermediate

**Lori** 3:00 PM- 4:00 PM  
Advanced English/GED Skills  
Level: High Intermediate/Advanced

**Valerie** 4:00 PM-5:00 PM  
English No Problem Workbooks  
Level: Beginning/Low Intermediate

Do you have any fun community involvement opportunities or projects that you would like students or tutors from the Literacy Council to come and assist with?  
Please let us know!



Either e-mail the information for your project/event to **[info@giliteracy.org](mailto:info@giliteracy.org)** or please feel free to stop by our offices located at **312 N Elm Street Grand Island, NE** with a flyer or other promotional materials!

## GROWING A BETTER COMMUNITY TOGETHER: LITERACY COUNCIL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Linna Dee Donaldson, Literacy Council of Grand Island tutor and Grand Island City Councilwoman, is working on an exciting community opportunity.



A new community garden is located at **415 S. Cherry St., Grand Island, NE** and still has plots available for those who wish to try their hand at growing fruits, vegetables, herbs or whatever else!

Gloves and gardening tools are provided, but please bring your own plants!

Linna Dee jokingly said: "Gardening can be wet work—sometimes our socks need to dry out!"



Literacy Council of Grand Island students and members of the community are encouraged to plant, grow, and harvest their own fruits and vegetables!

For questions, please contact Linna Dee at (308) 380-6773. Thank you!

## GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC (GICC): STUDENTS LENDING A HELPING HAND



The Grand Island Literacy Council's needs have been growing, but some GICC high school seniors have helped to temporarily alleviate our shortage of tutors.

Grand Island Central Catholic seniors tutored Literacy Council students every Friday in the months of March and April for their world religions class. We want to thank Board Member and tutor Tracy Noble for facilitating this awesome opportunity!

The Literacy Council of Grand Island is constantly looking for new ways to work together with our Hall County community. We hope that projects and endeavors, such as this one, will become the new outreach style and norm for the Literacy Council!

Not only did GICC seniors help Literacy Council students—many of whom are non-native, English as a Second Language Learners—but we were so happy to have had the help of Grand Island Central Catholic students from *all grades* who came and volunteered at our office for their annual Service Day on May 10th.

Central Catholic has a Service Day each year when students visit organizations in the community to clean up and volunteer. From tutoring students and helping out in group class to organizing and cleaning the office, the students tackled every task sent their way! We are so appreciative of their support and hope to continue our close exchange with GICC in the future!

Photo from Grand Island Independent Article:  
Find it here— <https://goo.gl/QvQdmw>

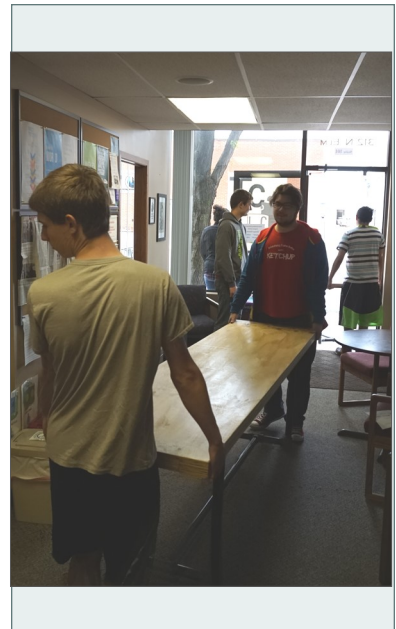
## LANGUAGE AND LEARNING LAB 2.0

Senior Chelsea Perez from the Career Pathways Institute (CPI) decided to make a difference in her community for her senior project.

Career Pathways Institute is an innovative learning experience for motivated learners in Grand Island, Nebraska. The program gives motivated students the opportunity to enter the world of work or gain a head start on college upon completion of high school.

Working in conjunction with the Literacy Council of Grand Island, Chelsea has helped us to expand our services by partnering with Mr. Forsman and CPI juniors to create a more open and welcoming environment within our Language and Learning Lab. The re-design will also allow the Literacy Council to better accommodate our ever-growing population of students who are actively seeking our free literacy education services.

The Language and Learning Lab is just one of the education services that we offer at the Literacy Council; our students utilize software to partake in self-paced, computer-centric language acquisition and study.



*“You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him to find it within himself.”*

—Galileo

## Are you game?

LITERACY COUNCIL  
SEEKING PLAYERS  
FOR



EMAIL [INFO@GILITERACY.ORG](mailto:INFO@GILITERACY.ORG)  
IF INTERESTED

### PART-TIME ESL INSTRUCTOR

Seeking an applicant who must:

- Have prior ESL instructing experience
- Be passionate about helping us to achieve our mission
- Be available to work Thursday evenings (5 PM on)

We offer a fun, exciting work environment and the experience of having an immediate, profound, transformative impact on many lives. This is a great opportunity to better understand the Grand Island community and help a small not-for-profit to grow!

Please send resume, cover letter, and references to [hr@giliteracy.org](mailto:hr@giliteracy.org)

### LITERACY COUNCIL OF GRAND ISLAND FAST FACTS

Ratio of Staff to Board  
4:14

Ratio of Students to Staff  
426:4

Avg. # of New Students per  
week in 2017  
5 /wk



Please LIKE our  
Facebook Page:

LITERACY COUNCIL OF  
GRAND ISLAND



FOLLOW us on Twitter  
[@litcouncilofgi](https://twitter.com/litcouncilofgi)



FOLLOW us on Instagram  
[litcouncilofgi](https://www.instagram.com/litcouncilofgi)



*Pictured: Yvette Engelhaupt (Treasurer, Tutor)*

## OUR MISSION

To teach our students, free of charge, the literacy skills necessary to communicate, grow, and thrive within our community.

## GO BIG GIVE: A SUCCESS STORY!



We want to thank all of those who chose to donate to the Literacy Council of Grand Island during the Go Big Give 24-hr Giving Day!

Thanks to everyone's support, we were able to raise approximately \$3000 that will go towards funding access to free literacy education in Hall County.



adults in the United States cannot read, write, or do basic math above a third grade level.



*"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of becoming."*

*—Goethe*

**Literacy Council of Grand Island**  
312 N Elm St.  
Suite #101  
Grand Island, NE 68801

### Office Hours:

*Monday-Wednesday*  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM  
1:00 PM-5:00 PM

*Thursday*  
9:00 AM-12:30 PM  
1:00 PM-8:00 PM

**Phone:** (308) 385-5515

**E-Mail:** [info@giliteracy.org](mailto:info@giliteracy.org)

**Website:** [www.giliteracy.org](http://www.giliteracy.org)



## Would you like to get involved?

### VOLUNTEER

#### Tutoring

You don't need to be a teacher.  
It only takes **1 hour/week!**

#### Teach

One of our Free ESL Group Classes!

#### Assist

In our **Community Connection Center** or in the **Language and Learning Lab!**



### DONATE

Or **find out more** about our organization by visiting *our website*  
**[www.giliteracy.org](http://www.giliteracy.org)**

## Thank you to our funders:

Peter Kiewit Foundation  
Earl & Maxine Claussen Trust  
Union Pacific Foundation  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Equitable Bank Charitable Foundation  
Chief Foundation

Principal Financial  
NorthWestern Energy  
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Community Development Block Grant  
Bank of the West