

Eastern Shore Literacy Council

LITERACY HI-LIGHTS

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Spring 2016

*"One glance at a book and you
hear the voice of another
person, perhaps someone dead
for 1,000 years. To read is to
voyage through time."*

— [Carl Sagan](#)

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Tyson Foods Grant Received



We are thrilled to announce that we have received a very generous \$21,000 grant from Tyson Foods, Inc. to help provide English as a second language instruction to two new classes for both Hispanic and Haitian learners via the Family Literacy Program. The need for services is so great on the Shore that we are adjusting our model from only offering one-on-one tutoring by volunteers to also offering classes twice a week for 5+ learners of varying levels of proficiency. In addition, we are trying to offer instruction in both the evening and on weekends to allow for more

learners to attend classes. We are also providing childcare which will allow parents to attend classes more regularly and reduce attrition.

Because many of our volunteer tutors have other commitments that prevent them from teaching on weekends or evenings, this grant will allow us to hire two certified ESL teachers part-time to handle the multi-level classes. In addition, we are now able to hire a part-time child care supervisor who, with volunteers, will handle the 10 or more children who come with their parents to class.

What is Family Literacy?

You've heard the term but what does it really mean and why is it important? Literacy is not just an individual situation— it affects the whole family—financially because of lower earning potential, educationally because the child is often not well prepared for school, and it is isolating. A child's first teacher is the parent, especially the mother. Family literacy combines adult literacy, English as a second language education, and child literacy education in order to involve the entire family. A family literacy program can increase parents' own literacy while teaching them how to support their children in school.

With multiple failing schools on the Eastern Shore, we have become partners with Metompkin Elementary in Parksley to start a test program on Family Literacy which involves tutoring adults 4 hours a week and providing child care to reduce the drop out rate. The goal is to increase the parents' participation in their children's education so that they are more successful.

This is what Success Looks Like-Molly and Earl

"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book."
— [Frank Serafini](#) "



Growing up one of 7 children in a poor family in Guatemala, Magdalena (Molly) Gaspar longed for good quality, fresh food. After immigrating

to the US in 1999, she spent many years doing field work in both Florida and on the Eastern Shore of VA- back-breaking work picking oranges, tomatoes, and other crops. She worked hard, met her husband in VA, and had 4 children. But, she always had a dream to open a business focused on fresh, high-quality produce. She had the contacts in the wholesale market, but with only 1 year of formal schooling in Guatemala, Molly's dream had little chance of succeeding.

In 2015 she contacted the Eastern Shore Literacy Council and was matched with experienced tutor Earl Frederick. Here's what Earl says:

"I was impressed with Molly's understanding and use of the English language. I felt that she was near-fluent in everyday English from the beginning. The hurdle I faced was that she could not read English at all; in fact, she told me that she didn't read in Spanish, either."

"At the end of one of the early classes, I realized that unlike my other learners, Molly had a very large English vocabulary, and in that respect she resembled young native English speakers, she already spoke the language. I thought back to when I learned to read (along with

"Dick and Jane") and wondered if a phonetic approach (pronouncing the sound of each letter in each word, and repeating that procedure over and over, faster and faster) until she would hear the word that she was looking at. That was my plan, as naive as that might have seemed.

"There were books in the classroom that were designed for beginning readers of the same type as the old "Dick and Jane" readers, so I gave it a try, hoping for at least some success. The first story was about a cat named "Sam" and the story was made up of three-letter words, none of them tricky-for example, "Sam cat sat." We started in that "ssss-aaaa-mmmm: Sam "one word at a time. On the third of 4 pages Molly said to me "I'm reading!" I think I'm going to cry." Well, I was at the same point, too, but I said "don't cry yet, we have only one more page to read!" Typical teacher!"

"Since that day when I was as happy as she was, Molly has read her way through 4 more stories with complete understanding of the story. She has a grasp of this simple technique for "sounding out a word" that all of us have been taught and I see nothing that can hold her back now. She has truly taken wing."

Working with Earl prepared Molly and her family for starting their own business. When her husband's company closed and he lost his job, they began selling fruits and vegetables at the local flea market, and based on that success, they opened Molly's Fruit in Onley mid-January, 2016. Molly's Fruit now offers fresh-cut fruit every day made into delicious salads and drinks as well as wraps and a fresh fruit and vegetable market. Molly's future plans include expanding her business and attaining her GED once her time allows. Molly's advice to others is "You can do anything. Always go forward, never go backwards".

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope."
— [Kofi Annan](#)

Thank You ESLC Supporters-2016

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United Way of VA Eastern Shore
Women of Naomi Makemie Presbyterian Church

Corporate and Business Sponsors

Tyson Foods, Inc.

Individual Donors

Ralph W. Dodd
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Spell "Rite" Adult spelling bee 4/15/16



The Literacy Council's Spell "Rite" Adult Spelling Bee competition will be held at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club on Friday, 4/15. The social

hour and silent auction will start at 5:30 P.M. with dinner at 6:00. After dinner, six teams will compete for the title "Best Adult Spellers of the Eastern Shore". Last year's winners, Bear and Cub, will be back to face off against The Rite Reverends, Tutor Dynasty, Accomack County Schools Avengers and two other teams.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of salad, chicken marsala, and dessert. Cash bar will be available.

Gluten-free dessert or vegetarian entree are available upon request at time of ticket purchase.

Auction items include CBBT tour and gift cards for the restaurant, a Kindle Fire, numerous gift cards, jewelry, and hand-crafted items.

Tickets are available at the Book Bin, H and H Pharmacy, Rayfield's Pharmacy, Sundial Books, CD Marsh, and the Literacy Office at the Eastern Shore Community College (White Building). \$25 before 4/8, \$30 after. No tickets sold at door.

Feed-a-Mind Set for June 17-27



SAVE THE DATES! Some fabulous food was served last year by our participating restaurants- don't miss it! You can help literacy on The Shore and enjoy the best restaurants in the area during our Feed a Mind Celebration this year. Area restaurants make a donation of either a set amount or a percentage of the bill when you dine out during this week.

Last year's event raised \$9,000 and our goal for this year is \$9,500. More details to come. Watch our Facebook and website (www.shoreliteracy.org) in the next few months for more information.

Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament 2016

The 2016 Drive for Literacy Golf Tournament is Friday, October 7, 2016 at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club. In addition to being able to play on the Ed Ault designed 18-hole, par 70 course, you'll enjoy a buffet lunch and social hour with hot and cold appetizers during

which prizes will be awarded. We have one **NEW** \$2000 "Pro" sponsorship available which includes your business name in the tournament title, two 4 person teams, as well as all media coverage. A \$1,000 sponsorship includes multi-media promotion for your business as well

as a team fee for 4 golfers. Other opportunities to highlight your business include sponsoring a hole for \$100, a beverage cart for \$250, and lunch or the social hour for \$500. Individual golfer fees are \$100.

Please call the office at 757-789-1761 for additional information.

ESLC Annual Celebration

The Eastern Shore Literacy Council is holding its Annual Celebration on Thursday, April 7th at 6:00 pm at the Historic Old Onancock School, 6 College Avenue, Onancock. All tutors, learners, friends of Literacy and interested public are invited to attend. We will honor our English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education Tutors and Learners of the Year, as well as presenting

community awards and recognitions. Light desserts will be served. Please join us to celebrate our learners' and tutors' accomplishments.

Tutors Needed

We love our tutors. They give generously of their time and knowledge to help adults on the Shore improve their English skills.

But, we have learners waiting to be matched to a tutor, and we just don't have enough tutors. Won't you consider becoming a tutor? No special training is needed. We train you and give you the materials you need to be a great tutor. Also, if you love children, please consider helping with childcare at our evening ESOL classes. Give Lakesha a call at 789-1761 or email us at esliteracy@gmail.com.

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the gift of literacy.**

*Change a life. Volunteer to be a
tutor. Call 757-789-1761 or email
esliteracy@gmail.com*



Tyson Foods, Inc.



A Goodbye to Jenny



What a sad task it is to report that Jenny O'Neill is no longer with the Literacy Council. As of February 15, she resigned and, by the end of March, she and her husband, Charlie, will be back in Kentucky with all of their children and their soon-to-be first grandchild. We are losing an extraordinary director.

redesigned job descriptions, and brought new students and new funders. Her efforts have brought more than 100 people to our waiting list, and we now test parolees so they can learn if our program or GED could improve their employment possibilities. The Tyson Foods grant, which she wrote, is allowing us to offer classes for 25 learners. Jenny's favorite author Nora Roberts knows of us, and we will look to her again. And for the first time, we are officially offering child care, which improves retention and is the first step to our vision of Family Literacy.

Jenny's devotion to our cause of literacy led her to spend innumerable hours forming new alliances that generated money, learners and tutors. Jenny hired new staff with

Jenny, you will be missed. We know your heart is still with us, and we look forward to comments on our Facebook page as you settle into your new home. Your contributions to Literacy will live on. *Betty*

Yes, would like to purchase tickets to "Spell-Rite" Adult Spelling Bee

I would like to attend Spell-Rite on 4/15/16 please send me _____ tickets at \$25 each

I would like to make a tax free donation to sponsor _____ a learner \$60 , _____ a tutor \$120, _____ a class \$500 _____ other

Send this form with your check to the address above. Check for total of \$ _____ enclosed.

PAYPAL may be used for donations to Eastern Shore Literacy Council

Name: _____ Phone _____

Mailing address: _____

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Email: _____ *Yes, send me this newsletter by email in 2016* _____

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