

2016 SUMMER ISSUE

Upcoming Events

Next tutor training:
August 20th

Open House and
Tutor/Donor Appreciation:
September 24th

Fall classes begin:
September 26th

Thank You Spotlight Sponsors

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Spotlight on Literacy

Our 2nd annual Spotlight on Literacy Benefit Dinner was held on April 29th. It was a special night celebrating our students' successes, our new business partnerships, and sharing our mission with new friends. Together 150 guests raised \$23,000 to empower more community members with necessary literacy skills. Thank you to our sponsors and guests for your support.



One of the highlights of the evening was the "dessert dash". Local businesses and individuals donated a delicious array of desserts for our guests. The table with the highest bid amount got to run to the dessert table first. Fast

walkers and pointy elbows provided lively entertainment for all.



We were honored to have the former **Governor Barbara Roberts**, as our keynote speaker. She told a moving and personal story of advocating for the education of her son.



Our Literacy Trailblazer Award went to the **Honorable Paul J. De Muniz** for his outstanding efforts to

promote literacy in our community. Last year's recipient, **Danny Santos**, presented the award.



Maria Garibay, one of the students from our business partnership at Cabdoor, expressed thanks for the opportunity to improve her English skills. In fact, she made so much progress in class that she moved into a team leader position at Cabdoor, is more engaged with coworkers thanks to her increased confidence speaking English, and she now assists with ongoing ESL classes at Cabdoor.

Thank you to all that attended and made the night a success.

Grant to Expand Workplace Literacy

We began holding ESL classes for **Cabdoor** employees in January of 2015. According to Cliff Stites, one of the owners and a tutor, the program is a win-win situation and has created "a culture of comradery" due to the diminished language barrier among employees.

The success of this pilot program led to a new business partnership with **Fjord, Ltd.** in Woodburn.

Fjord is a contract apparel manufacturer, cutting and sewing sportswear and athletic team uniforms. Fjord provides the space, a portion of the cost of books and pays the tutors' expenses. All students are taking classes on their own time. During the first term, five levels of ESL classes were held. One of the tutors is a former employee of Fjord, Pete Yazzolino. According to Pete, "the first three months already have

shown improvement through actual testing as well as a noticed improvement in self-confidence in using the English language."

We were honored to receive a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation to expand our Workplace Literacy program to manufacturing businesses. Our goal is to take these services to eight to ten local businesses in the next two years.

Student Success



Bryan "Little Eagle" Steele was featured at our Spotlight Benefit for his tenacious drive to complete his GED so he could graduate from Chemeketa. (Please go to our Facebook page to see his story.) We are delighted to report that Bryan passed his GED test with flying colors and graduated in June from the Machinist program. Well done Bryan!

Tutors Wanted

- No experience necessary.
- We have tutors with various backgrounds, from government to business to computers.
- Classes are taught in the morning or evening to accommodate many schedules.
- We need tutors in English and Spanish GED, ESL reading and writing, ESL conversation, English and Spanish computer skills, and Citizenship classes.
- All you need is a heart and desire to help people succeed.

Next training is August 20th
Contact the office at 503-463-1488 for more info.

Thrivent Financial

Join other MVLC supporters and donate through the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program. For more information, visit www.thrivent.com



Check out our Facebook page and website www.midvalleyliteracycenter.org for the latest news and upcoming events

Volunteer Spotlight: Jody Horner

How long have you been a tutor? Two years. **What is the most memorable or funniest experience as a tutor?** I read the classic children's story: "The Three Little Pigs" to my students, which is the 3 pigs story from the perspective of the pigs. Then I read the story: "The True Story of the Three Pigs" to them, which is the same story, but from the perspective of the wolf. They were to listen to each story for the details and the probability of the events happening the way they were presented. Then they were asked to share which story they believed to be more true: the Pig's story or the Wolf's story and why. Adrian shared that he

believed the Wolf's story because he was polite and tried talking to the pigs first and all he wanted was a cup of sugar to make his dessert. He paused, and then he showed us a picture of him in his backyard with pork sausages on his barbecue. Then he said, "oh yeah, and because I like pork". **What do you like most about teaching adults?** I am so amazed at how hard they work to better their English and better their lives. Many of them have families and jobs and come to Mid Valley with a positive attitude, willing to take risks and soak up all that they are learning and ask for more. I love it when they reach that point where they are

comfortable enough to ask clarifying questions rather than the "nod and smile". **What is your favorite book?** I am always reading so I have lots of favorite books, but my all-time favorite is "To Kill a Mockingbird" and most recent favorite is "I Am Malala". **What would you like to learn to do?** It's something that I just recently learned to do: Climb. I am not afraid of heights, but I am afraid of falling. I have done it now 4 times with my son Jory, and each time it gets easier. It's all about perspective and problem solving. Plus I trust my son, Jory with my life as he is the one on the end of the rope I am dangling from.

Save the Date for our Open House

We are so happy to be in our new facility. We have more classrooms, private testing rooms, and our students and tutors love the more central location in East Salem. Thanks to the generosity of the Blanchet Community Foundation, we have tripled our enrollment in our new facility at the East Salem

Community Center. To show our gratitude to our volunteers, tutors, and donors, we invite you to a fun evening of wine tasting, specialty olive oil tasting, appetizers, and tours of our new facility. Please join us on **Saturday, September 24th at 5pm**. Our new address is 1850 45th Avenue NE.

Join our Special Event Team!

Want to help MVLC but tutoring isn't for you? No problem! We are developing a volunteer team that will help with special events. Please contact Erin at erin.audley@gmail.com for more information.

MID-VALLEY LITERACY CENTER

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