



FOND DU LAC LITERACY SERVICES

2021 Annual Newsletter



Jose became a U.S. Citizen in Feb, 2021!

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Note from Juana Montes-Hernandez, Literacy Coordinator

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on our 2021 accomplishments and look forward to how we can improve in 2022. We are grateful for your continued support and proud to be able to provide literacy instruction to adults in Fond du Lac County. As the pandemic continues to present challenges, we look for new and innovative ways to carry out our mission. Our doors are open and we're striving to get learners back to pre-pandemics skill levels. We have matched numerous students to tutors and have been campaigning to recruit more volunteer tutors. Some new and exciting undertakings in 2021 include partnering with FDL County's Society of St. Vincent de Paul to offer a community resource fair. The goal was to assist with information and present immigrants with resources to help those with limited English speaking skills more easily navigate and overcome obstacles that result from language barriers. A follow-up immigration legal conference was held with questions answered by local attorneys to address some of the legal questions that are frequently asked. A nine-week citizenship class was held to help those interested in becoming citizens, and additionally, we started up a workplace literacy program at a local stone quarry. It's been a busy and productive year!

"I loved getting to know the students and was always impressed by their commitment to studying and positive energy".

-Citizenship class Instructor, Anna



2021 STATS

82

Tutors

1,912

Volunteer Hours

99

Learners

82

English Language

17

Basic Ed

48

Female

51

Male

To donate toward our Year-End Campaign go to our website:

<https://fdlpl.org/fdlliteracy>

DECEMBER, 2021

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

Sawsan & Suzan's Story



Sawsan and Suzan
(story below)

*"Every week,
I learn something
new, like vocabulary
or how to pronounce
a word that I never
heard before"*

Sawsan and Suzan are native Arabic learners and sisters! Both have small children younger than 5 years of age. They are faced with a variety of difficulties, since their husbands' native language is Spanish and there are fundamental differences between the two languages. With the help of Google Translate, the little English they know, and with translation help from their husbands, they shared how they felt after a month of receiving tutoring services, "I really enjoy learning English because every week, I learn something new, like vocabulary or how to pronounce a word that I never heard before. I like to learn from my tutor because she has a lot of patience with me." They don't speak or understand Spanish, which adds another dimension to their learning journey. Small and big goals continue to be met by both. Suzan passed her U.S. citizenship interview and became a U.S. citizen and Sawsan is preparing to apply for naturalization.



Mary and Deb,
Student & Tutor
(story below)

Mary's Story

*"I can't
believe
how much
I learned!"*

Mary is a long-time student with FLS. She started as a student in August, 1989 and continues to receive tutoring services today. Mary missed a lot of school when she was younger and consequently found that she struggled with reading, writing and math. She struggled to fill out application forms and other basic life skills. Mary says she has been blessed with such wonderful tutors over the years. She says, "I wouldn't be where I am today, without them. Looking back, I can't believe how much I learned!" Her tutors gave her the encouragement she needed to continue to learn and work on her reading and writing skills. She continues to be motivated and now works with kids at the YMCA and wants to give them what she received – the gift of encouragement and patience. She is very thankful for the opportunities she's had over the years. Currently, she likes to write poetry and hopes to graduate next spring. She wants to encourage all those that need help to reach out. It's made a world of difference in her life and it can in theirs too!

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