



FOND DU LAC LITERACY SERVICES

2024 Annual Newsletter



“I am so thankful I was matched with a tutor so fast. I received much support and encouragement from Literacy Services and my tutor, Paul, to accomplish my goal!”

Maria Elena completed the Naturalization process and became a U.S. citizen in June, 2024!

2024 STATS

*AS OF 12/13/24

68

Volunteers

3808

Volunteer Hours

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Note from Juana Montes, Literacy Coordinator

So many exciting things happened in 2024! We’ve had three students graduate with their GED, ten students become U.S. Citizens, and many others achieve personal goals such as completing workbooks or reaching goals they set for themselves. Our clients include individuals with learning disabilities, high school graduates who struggle with reading, and those learning English as a second language. It is an incredible experience to witness our students achieve their milestones!

These wonderful moments are made possible by our generous donors who understand the importance of literacy and its power to open doors to better opportunities for families and our community. Currently, we serve approximately 200 learners and continue collaborating with local partners to expand our services, acting as a liaison in Fond du Lac County to reach the Latinx and low-literacy communities.

We are dedicated to being a trusted resource for our clients in all aspects of their learning journeys. We create strong mentorship opportunities and help learners develop skills that allow them to advocate for better careers, improve their job marketability, and enhance their chances for advancement.

In addition to our tutoring services, we held two legal clinics where participants could schedule free consultations with immigration attorneys to discuss their paths to citizenship. Our drop-in services also enable any community member to receive assistance with document translation, completing applications, and addressing other short-term literacy needs.



192

Learners

177

English Language

15

Basic Ed

105

Female

87

Male

To Empower Lives through Literacy, please donate toward our 2025 Campaign by going to our website:

<https://fdlpl.org/literacydonate>
or scan the QR Code



*Scrabble Bee 2024
Celebrating our students who achieved a GED/HSED or became a U.S. Citizen*

TUTOR & STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Meet Roxana & Marcelo



Javier achieving the American Dream (story below)

Javier's Story in his own words...

Javier, originally from Venezuela, started tutoring at FLS in January, 2024. He came to the United States wanting the American dream.

Hello, let me introduce myself. My name is Javier Rojas. I am 38 years old and I moved to the United States two years ago, right here in Wisconsin. I came here because a friend told me about the job opportunities in this state and they always spoke English, which motivated me to move here because my main intention is to be bilingual. I signed up for FdL Literacy Services to improve my English (I could only say hello or say a few words, that's all) and with Juana's help, she managed to find a tutor for me because I had a complicated work schedule and my English was getting more advanced for the basic group classes. I started working with my tutor, Sharon, and since then, we have both dedicated ourselves to working together to achieve my goals. These classes have helped me grow a lot. A couple of months ago, I decided to buy a house and I did it. I did it with a 100% American realtor, and the entire process was in English. Although when we started working on it I was a little stressed out because of all the English it required, my classes helped a lot to improve my listening and comprehension. As time has passed I have felt much more confident and sure of myself and I have been able to make great friends with English speakers and every day I feel much better. Given all this improvement, a couple of weeks ago I had a job interview for a more professional position and I did it without problems. I had a pleasant conversation with my interviewers and I believe and trust that the result will be positive (they are still in the selection process) but if not, this helped me a lot to strengthen my confidence and security and now I dare to have other interviews at this level. I am very grateful to the program, to Juana and the girls at the office, and to my tutor Sharon for everything they have helped me with, to resolve all my doubts when I have them, and for the pleasant talks that undoubtedly helped me a lot to improve.

Marcelo, Roxana and their two daughters lived a very simple life in Uruguay. Roxana was an ICU nurse for over ten years, while Marcelo worked in retail. They never imagined they would end up living in the United States until an unexpected opportunity arose. Marcelo received a visa from his brother, who had petitioned for him when he was younger. The original intent was only for Marcelo to visit his family in the U.S. On one of those visits, he found a job and extended his stay. However, he missed his family immensely, feeling their absence in his daily life.

Keeping their family together was a priority for Marcelo and Roxana. Marcelo decided to petition for his family to join him in the U.S. It was a long process, but after three years, they were finally reunited. Adapting to U.S. culture proved overwhelming at first. The fast pace of life, the different language, and unfamiliar customs were daunting. Roxana struggled with her English, and Marcelo found it challenging to communicate at work, often feeling like an outsider. However, their daughters adapted more easily. They quickly made friends at school and learned English through interactions with their classmates.

In 2018, Roxana enrolled at Fond du Lac Literacy Services to work with a tutor. Her tutor, Karen, supported her through the challenges of adjusting to a new culture and helped Roxana stay connected while continuing her studies. In 2024, Marcelo also began taking English classes with Karen which helped him feel more confident at work. With their increased fluency in English, Roxana and Marcelo achieved significant milestones: Roxana became a U.S. citizen, Marcelo earned his GED, and they purchased a home.



Marcelo celebrating his graduation with his wife, Roxana and their two daughters!

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