



FOND DU LAC LITERACY SERVICES

2023 Annual Newsletter



“Marie is an excellent teacher. I feel much more confident speaking English. I don’t make many mistakes when speaking as I used to.”

Wendy, from Honduras, came to the U.S. as a child! She is working with her tutor on Math, Civics & language skills in an effort to obtain her GED

2023 STATS

101

Volunteers

4,235

Volunteer Hours



218

Learners

207

English Language

11

Basic Ed

112

Female

106

Male

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Note from Juana Montes, Literacy Coordinator

With the curtain drawing to a close in 2023, we reflect on what an amazing year we’ve had. We are so proud of the many accomplishments made by our students, with 61% of our students increasing their test scores or completing a workbook and 92% achieving a personal goal of theirs. We are incredibly thankful for the ongoing support of so many businesses and individuals who found it in their hearts to donate throughout the year to help our mission of developing local adults’ skills in reading, writing, speaking English, and mathematics.

2023 has brought us a 48% increase in student enrollment over 2022. We currently serve approximately 218 learners and continue to grow quickly. We continue to work with our many local partners to improve and expand upon our services. In conjunction with United Way and Literacy Opportunity Fund, generously supported by the Nora Roberts Foundation, we have partnered with Vir-Clar farms to hold literacy classes for their employees to improve safety and communication with them. Pacto de Gracia, St Katharine Drexel homeless shelter and Broken Bread along with many other partners help spread awareness of literacy opportunities available and provide services to their clients. Partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul and Holy Family Parish allowed us to hold immigration clinics throughout the year. Together with the Service League of FdL grant and other local agencies, educational and informational seminars were put together to help newcomers to the United States. Our focus in 2024 is to recruit more volunteer tutors and add additional group classes to keep up with the ever-increasing student population. We will continue to come up with new and innovative ways to help our students in all aspects of their life.



Vir-Clar Farm English Language Learner Class taught by tutor, Susan

To Empower Lives through Literacy, please donate toward our 2024 Campaign by going to our website:

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



TUTOR & STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

*Paul with his students-
Elsa, Sara, Lisa, Olga & Helen*



*Paul with students Elsa & Olga (left)
students Helen and Lisa (right) and
Sara pictured alone*

*"I'm not stopping
now! This big
accomplishment has
motivated me to
continue improving
my English
language."
~ Elsa*

Paul has been a tutor since 2018 and is currently working one-on-one with five different students, Elsa, Sara, Lisa, Olga, and Helen. All 5 students have similar goals but different needs, availability, and skill levels and Paul accommodates them all. They all are interested in improving their lives by learning to speak better English and agree that with Paul's help doors of opportunity will open. Elsa, Sara, Lisa, and Olga all have goals of becoming U.S. citizens. Elsa became a U.S. citizen and took her oath in April 2023 and continues to work on her English speaking skills. Olga is planning to take the test in December 2023 and Sara & Lisa are hoping to start the naturalization process in 2024. We are so proud of all of our students and so thankful for Paul's continual commitment to improving literacy in Fond du Lac County!

*"I can talk in
English much
easier now and
am able to make
friends at work"
~Alvaro*

Alvaro's Story

*Alvaro & Jim,
Student & Tutor
(story below)*



Alvaro moved here from Mexico and came to FDL Literacy Services in August, 2022. Since that time, Alvaro has become a mentor to others and encourages others to seek out our services so they can better themselves just as he did. Alvaro's goal was simply to improve his English – and that he did! He's improved so much that he helps interpret for others at his workplace. Alvaro's commitment has been his biggest asset and a huge reason that his confidence & English skills have grown so quickly.

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