

JANUARY 2025



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The [Literacy Council of Frederick County](#) provides adults with pathways to essential literacy skills. Success for the individuals and families we seek to serve rests on a collective community approach.

We are excited to announce that our newsletters will now be sent to you on a quarterly basis! We hope you enjoy this Winter issue and look forward to our next one in the Spring.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE Executive Director



Meet: Denise Hill, Executive Director

"As the newly appointed Executive Director of the Literacy Council of Frederick County, I am thrilled to step into this role and join this vibrant, adult education community. The Literacy Council has a long-standing tradition of empowering individuals through English literacy

As I begin this journey, I am eager to build on the incredible legacy of this organization. Together with our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners, we will explore new opportunities to enhance our programs, strengthen our partnerships, and advocate for the

and language skills, and it is an honor to lead this organization into its next chapter. From the moment I arrived, I have been inspired by the dedication of our volunteers, the resilience of our learners, and the generosity of our supporters.

Literacy is more than just reading and writing—it is the foundation for personal growth, family stability, and community progress. At the Literacy Council, we believe that every individual deserves the chance to achieve their full potential, and I am committed to expanding our reach to meet the growing needs of our community. Whether it's helping an adult learn English as a second language, preparing someone for a job or upskilling them to a better job, or supporting parents in reading to their children, our work impacts lives in profound ways.

critical role that literacy plays in creating a more equitable and inclusive community. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and hearing your ideas about how we can continue to make a difference.

Thank you for welcoming me to the Literacy Council of Frederick County. I am excited about what we will accomplish together and am deeply committed to advancing our shared mission of lifting lives through literacy. Here's to a future of growth, collaboration, and endless possibilities!"

Please join us in welcoming Denise to our community!

LEARNER Spotlight

Meet: Jhanet

Do you have any New Year's resolutions?

One of our learners, Jhanet, has been working hard to improve on her English skills, and now that she has attained her citizenship, we are excited to see her progress towards the next step in reaching her goals.

Be encouraged as you read more about Jhanet's persistence and determination in this month's blog. We hope it encourages you to press on and reach your own goals as we start this new year!



[Learn More About Jhanet Here](#)

Thank you for participating in our 2024 Annual Holiday Book Drive!



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

WE COLLECTED 945 BOOKS!



We want to give a huge THANK YOU to our partners, ACNB Bank, Phoenix Mecano, Curious Iguana, and our generous community for helping the Literacy Council's Parent Literacy Program receive over 900 children's books!

We collect children's book donations year round! If you didn't get a chance to support this drive, you can still shop online through Curious Iguana's bookshop link for direct shipment, or drop off books at the Literacy Council's office. Thank you!



Scrabble®



FOR LITERACY

Save The Date
May 7, 2025



Get ready to join us for Scrabble Mania for Literacy 2025 at Steinhart Brewing Company with Chris Sparks!

Scrabble Mania for Literacy 2025 will be held on May 7, 2025, at Steinhart Brewing Company with Chris Sparks, Surelocked In Escape Games! Back for another year of fun and games to support all of our literacy programs, we're excited to host teams to compete for prizes during this annual fundraiser.

Calling All Sponsors!

Want to [become a business sponsor](#) and help support our literacy programs? Now's the time to make a commitment! Contact Maggie Clingman at mclingman@frederickliteracy.org for more information.

Ticket sales will open later this spring for teams and players.

[Learn More Here](#)

UPCOMING Events

Save These Dates!!

- Unity Campaign - March 5-19, 2025
- Scrabble Mania - Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Check Out Our Events Calendar!

Recruiting Volunteer Tutors and Community Class Instructors

We are recruiting **volunteer tutors** to work with adults one-to-one or in small groups. You do not need previous experience. We will give you the training and teaching materials you need! We are also seeking **volunteer class instructors** with ESL teaching experience for our growing community class program. Tutoring and classes are conducted in person as well as in virtual formats.



Join the Literacy Council to help adults in our community gain literacy skills!

For upcoming **Volunteer Information Sessions** and **Tutor Training Workshops**, check out our Winter **Volunteer Training Schedule**. Please register [HERE](#) or contact us at: info@frederickliteracy.org.

Attend a Volunteer Information Session

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 30, 2025 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Attendance of a Volunteer Information Session (via Zoom) is required prior to registering for our Tutor Training Workshop.

Attend a Training Workshop for Tutors

Monday & Wednesday, February 10 & 12, 2025, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. AND

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

(Must attend all three sessions) Virtual.

If you are interested in more information about teaching a class, following attendance at a Volunteer Information Session, contact the Literacy Council at info@frederickliteracy.org. Orientations are conducted for instructors in preparation for upcoming class sessions.

Volunteer Training Schedule

SPECIAL Thanks

2024 Grantors

Ausherman Family Foundation
Burlington Stores Charitable Foundation
City of Frederick
Crimsonbridge Foundation
Delaplaine Foundation
Frederick County Community Partnership
Love of Christ Foundation, Inc.
Maryland Department of Commerce, Office of Tourism
ProLiteracy's Literacy Opportunity Fund & National Book Fund
Rotary Club of Carroll Creek

The CarMax Foundation
The Community Foundation of Frederick County
The Helen J. Serini Foundation
The Joseph D. Baker Fund, Inc.
The Kahlert Foundation
The Laughlin Family Foundation
Tourism Council's Destination Development
United Way of Frederick County
William E. Cross Foundation
Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County

The Gift of Literacy: Ways to Give

Thank you for considering a gift to the Literacy Council! Your financial contribution supports critical adult literacy programs in our community!

- Gifts can be made in [cash](#) or online with a [credit card](#).
- Become an [event sponsor](#).
- Gifts of [Appreciated Securities](#) can provide tax advantages.
- [Retirement Plan Giving](#) for those age 70½ and over may provide substantial tax benefits.
- Consider a [Planned Gift](#) to the Literacy Council.
- Contribute to [The Betty Seligmann Literacy Endowment Fund](#).
- Our [Giving Societies](#) are special charitable opportunities to champion the Literacy Council's mission.
- Access our [Annual Reports/Newsletters](#).

Questions: Contact us at (301) 600-2066 or info@frederickliteracy.org



Looking for a previous issue? Check our archive.



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