

# DOGWOOD LITERACY COUNCIL

## A YEARLY NEWSLETTER FROM DLC

### WELCOME

#### DLC History

The Dogwood Literacy Council (DLC) is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that was incorporated in July 1990. In beginning years of DLC, the primary program involved tutoring students who were working on adult basic literacy. With the high volume of immigrants living in NWA region, programs transitioned very quickly to serving students who are learning to speak English as a second language. Since then, DLC programs have evolved to meet the literacy needs of the diverse community.

#### DLC Mission

Our mission is to provide free instruction in speaking, reading, and writing English to adults who wish to learn English or improve their literacy skills. With the new skills obtained, students gain confidence in working, interacting with others, and living productive lives.

***Transforming lives and communities through literacy***

#### DLC Vision

Easily accessible quality literacy instruction in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and the surrounding communities. A more literate community is a stronger community!



## WHAT WE DO

### English Literacy

We offer free, small group classes and one on one tutoring at all levels for adults wishing to improve their English reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

### Citizenship

We offer a citizenship class that helps students learn about the naturalization process and how to avoid common mistakes.

### ...And More!

We offer a class where students learn and live out healthier lifestyle choices and are equipped to make competent health decisions for their families. This includes teaching healthy cooking skills as well as trips to Panther Health and Wellness clinic, dentist's offices or other medical professionals. These field trips aim to help our students be more prepared & willing to seek medical help when they are in need.

We are working with our current students who have preschoolers on the importance of family literacy and book ownership.

We offer classes in "Survival" Spanish to help community members communicate across linguistic barriers in Siloam Springs. This class has a fee and is used towards fundraising.





## ALBA'S STORY

Alba and I met two years ago. She said she needed help getting ready for the citizenship test, which was a new experience for me, but I was ready to help. I found out very quickly how willing Alba was to put both her time and effort into this project. We'd found a booklet with 100 questions which could be on the test, and she already knew the answers to most of them. She had the knowledge, but lacked confidence, so that's what we worked on. We met twice a week, and it seemed like she knew more every time we met. She knew a lot of the answers to the questions but not why these questions were important, so we went to learn why they were in the book. Our studies fortified her confidence, which prepared her for the test. She was overjoyed, and after a year of study, she applied for the test, which she passed. I am positive she did well in every area of the test. Alba was an absolute joy to work with and I am happy I was able to help her.

—*Ben Calvert*



## SANDRA'S STORY

Sandra Kinney is from Colombia and first came to Dogwood Literacy Council in January 2019 to improve her English skills. As a strongly motivated student, she has been able to improve her literacy skills incredibly. Sandra attends morning classes on Monday and Wednesday and has proved that hard work and practice does pay off. Now that her English has improved, she hopes to apply what she's learned in class in her future job. Dogwood Literacy Council is proud of the work Sandra has put in.



Pictured above is Sandra and her tutor Helen Garst.

## YOU CAN HELP!

You are receiving this letter because one of our board members believes in your compassion and willingness to help. Dogwood Literacy Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization helping the local community for the past 29 years and runs strictly on grants and donations from people like you. Would you or your business please consider partnering with us as a volunteer, sponsor, or financial sponsor?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation in the amount of...

\$20.00  \$40.00  \$50.00  \$100.00 Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I would volunteer as a tutor/office assistant.

I would like to sponsor a Citizenship Student with a donation of \$1,000.