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## Volunteers Needed!



### Help Us Reduce Our Waiting List!

Did you know that 209 students across Allegheny and Beaver counties are waiting to be matched with a volunteer tutor? We need your help to reduce our waiting list!

If you already volunteer with us, thank you! If not, why not give it a try in the New Year? Or send a friend our way who loves helping and meeting new people!

Volunteering with us gives you the chance to see the impact of your actions firsthand. You don't need to have teaching experience, and you don't need to speak a foreign language. Your enthusiasm, patience, and compassion are far more important.

As an Adult Literacy Tutor, you will work with a student or a small group twice a week for 1.5 to 2 hours per session, for a minimum of six months. Tutoring sessions are held in a public place or virtually at a mutually convenient time for student and tutor. Training is provided. All volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high

school credential or higher. [Sign up to become a tutor here.](#)

You can also help our students as a Classroom Aide, tutor for our Empowering Readers for Success program in select elementary schools, Early Childhood Volunteer, or Citizenship Mock Interview Volunteer. [Learn more at our website.](#)

## One Big Table News



With the new year comes the news that Literacy Pittsburgh will not be hosting its annual One Big Table event in 2026. The celebration is being paused to focus energy on what matters most: supporting our students and programs directly. While we were looking forward to celebrating with you in April, this decision reflects our commitment to responsible stewardship amid potential federal funding cuts. We hope to bring back the event, more vibrant than ever, in 2027.

Literacy Pittsburgh remains strong and is committed to serving our students and families through these challenges. Although One Big Table won't take place this year, our work continues, and

your support remains vital. Literacy Pittsburgh served over 3,200 students last year, and that number continues to grow. Together, we can continue providing adults and families in our region with literacy and education programs that empower them to achieve their goals and take the next step towards their future.

For those who were looking forward to purchasing tickets to the event this year, we hope you will consider supporting Literacy Pittsburgh in other ways during this critical time. There are many ways to show your support, including:

- [Making a donation](#) to help sustain our programs and services
- [Advocating for adult education funding](#) by reaching out to your state and local representatives
- [Volunteering your time](#) to help our students and families

Thank you for continuing to stand with our students, families, and community during these uncertain times.

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## Spotlight on Success: Yaroslava and Ilya



Students Yaroslava and Ilya with their tutor Erin

Yaroslava and Ilya came to the United States from Ukraine over two years ago. They arrived not knowing any English and found their way to Literacy Pittsburgh. After full days of hard work—Yaroslava works as a home health aide and Ilya installs drywall and wallpaper—they attend class with their tutor, Erin, two days each week.

Erin, too, finds time in her busy schedule as a graduate student to meet with her students. Bit by bit, Yaroslava and Ilya are improving their English. It has been amazing to watch their language improve and to get to know them better and better. Yaroslava and Ilya are setting the example for their daughters—one in high school and the other who started at CCAC this past semester.

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## Our Community Makes Our Work Possible



As we begin a new year, we want to extend our sincere thanks to our community for continuing to support our students and our work. Your generosity makes it possible for adults and families across our region to build essential skills

and access resources that open doors to new opportunities.

Because of you, families are strengthening their reading, writing, math, and English language skills. Parents are gaining tools to support their children's learning, and students are building confidence that extends far beyond the classroom. These outcomes are not abstract, they are the direct result of a community that believes adult education is foundational to creating better lives.

Your support was especially meaningful this year, as nonprofits like Literacy Pittsburgh faced uncertainty and increased demand. At a time when adult education continues to face challenges, your commitment affirmed that this work matters and that our students deserve consistent, high-quality instruction and support.

We are deeply grateful for every gift, every advocate, and every partner who stood with Literacy Pittsburgh this year. As we move into the new year, there is still important work ahead and we are encouraged knowing we do not do it alone.

Thank you for being part of the Literacy Pittsburgh community and for investing in better lives through learning.

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## Career Services Programs

The Career Services team at Literacy Pittsburgh is dedicated to helping students carve a path forward through a variety of methods. Whether students are looking to write a resume, apply for jobs, find training programs, or discuss their options, we are here to help. Some of the services we provide include:

**Drop-in Hours** are offered 3 days per week at our Downtown Center. They are designed to help

answer job search-related questions quickly. No appointment needed.

**Career Advising** is for students who want more regular check-ins with a Career Advisor. During meetings, we can help students find jobs to apply for, polish resumes and cover letters, and apply for programs that will help them reach their career goals. [Keep reading](#)

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## Donor Spotlight: Louise Herrle – A Lifelong Champion for Literacy in Pittsburgh



When it comes to shaping the future of Literacy Pittsburgh, few people have left as enduring a mark as Louise Herrle. Her journey with the organization spans nearly four decades, beginning in 1984. It was then that she first became a tutor after connecting with former Executive Director Don Block at a United Way meeting.

“I was a tutor for a number of years, and fairly quickly, Don asked me to join the board,” Louise recalls. She served on the board from 1988 to

1999, including six years as board president, and has remained a steadfast supporter ever since.

Louise's impact on Literacy Pittsburgh is both deep and diverse. From launching a literacy program at the jail to spearheading the creation of an endowment to ensure the organization's long-term sustainability, Louise sought ways to grow the organization's reach. "I'm very much interested in mentorship and providing people with skills to improve their lives," Louise shares. "Reading is fundamental, not just for independence, but for self-esteem and the ability to participate fully in society." [Keep reading](#)

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## **Starting 2026 With Purpose: How Literacy Pittsburgh Helps Students Set—and Reach—their Goals**

As we welcome a new year, many of us take time to reflect on where we've been and where we hope to go. At Literacy Pittsburgh, goal-setting is at the heart of everything we do—because every student who walks through our doors brings their own aspirations, challenges, and dreams for the future.

No matter the goal, our work begins with understanding each student's starting point and creating a clear, personalized pathway forward.

### **A Strong Start Through Placement and Assessment**

When students enroll, they complete placement tests that help us understand their current skill levels. For students working toward their GED, we use the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) to identify strengths and academic areas that need support. English language learners take the BEST Plus test, which measures everyday speaking and listening skills and places them into one of several

proficiency levels—from Beginning Literacy to Advanced. [Keep reading](#)

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## Student Wishlist

We stock our student kitchen with snacks and other essentials to help keep students focused and learning. We would appreciate your help! We encourage you to check our Amazon wishlist, which includes kitchen items and our free cabinet that is open to all students.

[CHECK OUR AMAZON WISHLIST](#)

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## Sign Up for Our Next Introductory Tutor Training

[Learn more](#) about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor and register for training.

**Thursday, January 15**

**9:30 am - 11:30 am**

Literacy Pittsburgh's Downtown Center

411 Seventh Avenue, Suite 525

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Thursday, February 5**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Penn Hills Library

1037 Stotler Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**Saturday, February 14**

**10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - West End

47 Wabash Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

CLP is not the host or organizer of this event. CLP does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event.

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## Why We Do the Work We Do

**Tutor Henry Wilde has a mission:** take math students from “I’ll never understand this” to graduation. After a decade of doing just that, for Henry it never gets old. “After 10 years, I still tell my wife I really enjoy tutoring,” Henry says.



Support Literacy Pittsburgh with your purchase of comfy tees, cozy sweatshirts, and other cool merch. 10% of each purchase will help our students to succeed. Visit our merch store.

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