

Also: #OneDay Critical Needs
Alert, Meet Rocio, All Access with
Andy Garcia premiere, and more!

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Literacy Pittsburgh Expands Programs to Reach More Learners Across the Region

Literacy Pittsburgh is excited to announce the beginning of a significant geographic expansion that will bring more career programming, tutoring, and adult education services to communities across southwestern Pennsylvania.

Over the next few months, Literacy Pittsburgh will begin expanding **career programming into Beaver, Washington, and Greene counties.**

These programs will include classes and services connected to our **administrative, healthcare, and construction career pathways**, helping adult learners build skills, earn credentials, and prepare for employment in fields that are important to the region's workforce. [Keep reading](#)

Giving Opportunity: Literacy Pittsburgh to Participate in #ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert



On August 4, Literacy Pittsburgh is participating in #ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert, a 24-hour online giving event hosted by The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. This community-wide campaign supports nonprofits providing essential services across our region.

Every donation between \$25 and \$1,000 will receive a boost from an incentive pool, helping your gift go even further.

Your support helps fund our college and career readiness programs, English language learning, workforce readiness initiatives, and digital literacy classes—creating opportunities for adults and families to build brighter futures.

When adults improve their literacy and language skills, entire families benefit. Parents can better support their children's education, individuals can access greater employment opportunities, and communities grow stronger.

Help us spread the word and join us on August 4!

New Board Officers Elected

Literacy Pittsburgh is pleased to announce the officers for our 2026-27 Board of Directors.

Leslie Gromis Baker, *President*

Kevin Kinross, *Vice President*

Ellen Freeman, *Secretary*

Bill Southern, *Treasurer*

Andrea Clark Smith, *Immediate Past President*

We also wish to recognize and thank:

- **Danell Cooper** for more than 10 years as board treasurer.
- **Steve Sokoloski** for at least 8 years of service on the executive committee, serving as secretary, vice president, president, and then immediate past president.
- **Andrea Clark Smith** for serving on the executive committee for 4 years, first as secretary, then as president.
- **Mimi Fairman** and **Steve Mazza**, whose board terms have ended.

We appreciate your dedication to better lives through learning!

All Access with Andy Garcia Premiere



On Wednesday, June 17, ,we welcomed more than 100 donors, tutors, students, and friends to watch our feature story on *All Access with Andy Garcia*. It was a proud moment for Literacy Pittsburgh with so much positivity and enthusiasm from guests and staff alike. Guests had an opportunity to enjoy cuisine from Tana Ethiopian Cuisine and Arepittas along with beverages from Cobblehaus Brewing Co. and Timbre Winery. Guests visited our classrooms and learned about our programs through a variety of fun activities, including a round of GED prep Jeopardy!

Our feature story will air on PBS stations across the country, giving us the opportunity to highlight the importance of adult education programs to both employers and students enrolled in them. Air dates will depend on the individual outlets.

We will be sharing a special opportunity soon for you to SHARE this exciting feature with friends, colleagues and family!

This project is a wonderful opportunity to spread our mission of better lives through learning!

[View more pictures from the event at this link.](#)





Literacy Pittsburgh Celebrates Pride Month



Literacy Pittsburgh attended the Pittsburgh Pride Festival on the North Shore on both June 6 and June 7, as well as Millvale's celebration on June 20.

The conversations we had with former students, current and potential tutors, and community members inspire us! Here are some of the stories we heard:

- A former student stopped by and told us, "I love Literacy Pittsburgh! You helped me to get my GED at 30, and now I'm in nursing school. I couldn't have done it without you!"
- A CCAC staff person said that she allows tell students about our programs when they want ESL services, "Literacy Pittsburgh programs are free and I tell them they should start with you. They'll learn a lot."
- A nurse stopped by the table and said she wants to volunteer because her wife has had such a great experience in our GED classes
- A mother-daughter duo of former elementary school teachers decided to sign up for tutor

training together

- A new resident of Pittsburgh stopped by to tell us that literacy is vital and he appreciates the work that we do

Events like Pride offer Literacy Pittsburgh staff a chance to be present in the community, to show the face of the organization, and to tell people more about what we do, who we serve, and how people can get involved.





Literacy Pittsburgh in the News

Literacy Pittsburgh was recently featured in several media outlets.

- **Marketplace on NPR**: As the cost of living rises, adult education programs offer one path to earning more.
- **Beaver Valley Times**: Every Pennsylvanian has a role in reading.
- **The Chronicle of Philanthropy**: Turning Challenges Into Programming Innovations. Additionally, Carey Harris [appeared on a webinar](#) talking about this topic to a national audience.

Spotlight on Success: Rocio

A success story from Teacher Shirley: "Rocio joined my citizenship class in February. Since then, we have worked together both during and before class to help her prepare for her citizenship interview and test. When she first started, she

really struggled with speaking and writing. Before class, we practiced with mock interviews and writing exercises. Rocio also worked hard on her writing during her free time, often bringing in notebooks to show me how much she had practiced. I'm so happy and proud to share that on Monday, April 20, Rocio passed her citizenship interview and test. Congratulations Rocio! You are a great example of how hard work truly does pay off."



New U.S. citizen Rocio with her instructor, Shirley Rykaceski

Welcome to Our New Staff Members for June

We are pleased to welcome the following new faces to our team:



Anna Pellas, Career Advisor



**Maleena Dominick, Marketing and
Communications Intern**

**Sign up for our Next Introductory
Tutor Training!**

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

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners In-Person Workshop

Tuesday, August 4

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Carrick

1811 Brownsville Rd

Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is not the host or organizer of this event.

CLP does not support, sponsor, or represent this group or event.

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners In-Person Workshop

Saturday, August 8

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

New Brighton Public Library

1021 3rd Ave

New Brighton, PA 15066

Why We Do the Work We Do

"Literacy Pittsburgh was the light in the midst of the storm. They really care, and the staff – even on my bad days – were like, 'You can still do this.' "

Literacy Pittsburgh Student



Two new merch store items: Tank tops for hot summer days and crewneck sweatshirts for chilly nights! Check them out at the link! Visit our merch store.

Thank you to Highmark Wholecare for sponsorship of *The Spark Online*.



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