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## Celebrating International Literacy Day!



Today is International Literacy Day! This year, the theme is "Promoting literacy in the digital era." The shift to a digital-first world makes literacy more critical than ever, as it is the key to navigating, learning, and thriving in this new environment.

Literacy is the foundation for all people to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in society. But its value extends even further. It also empowers us to foster a culture of lasting peace, justice, and tolerance, and to build harmonious relations with others.

At Literacy Pittsburgh, we see every day how literacy opens doors, helping parents support their children, workers advance their careers, and neighbors fully engage in our community.

You make these transformations possible. Here are ways you can celebrate literacy today and throughout the year.

- **Make a gift in honor of our students.** [Click this link to donate.](#)
- **Volunteer as a tutor. Or, encourage a friend to help.** (See story below or [share this webpage](#).)

- **Continue contacting your senators and representatives to ensure adult education receives vital funding** in the upcoming state and federal budgets. [Use this link](#) to contact state elected officials and [this link](#) to contact federal.

When you support Literacy Pittsburgh, you're empowering students to achieve their dreams and create brighter futures for their families. Together, we can ensure that every adult and family in our region has the opportunity to learn and succeed!

## Be a Force for Good

September is Literacy Month! This is a perfect time to share your passion for learning.

Did you know that we currently have 275 adult learners on our waiting list? If you have been thinking of volunteering, sign up today! Or, help us spread the word about the need for volunteers, especially tutors. With your help, each of those new students could get started on their goals!

We've provided a graphic and text for you to copy and share. (Or you can just share what we post throughout the month of September!) Right-click on the graphic below to save it to your computer, so you can post it to your favorite platform. Use the text below to inspire your own post. With your help, Literacy Month can become a life-changing celebration for these waiting students!

September is Literacy Month! I am proud to support Literacy Pittsburgh and be a force for good in our community. I invite you to sign up to volunteer. Today, there are 275 adult learners on Literacy Pittsburgh's waiting list. They need someone like you to help them reach their goals. Learn more at [literacypittsburgh.org/volunteer](http://literacypittsburgh.org/volunteer).



## Tri-State Apprenticeship Summit Inspires New Ways to Support Students

Chief Program Officer Lori Como and Director of Strategic Initiatives Nicole Mannino Johnson recently attended the Tri-State Apprenticeship Summit. They heard from leaders in workforce development, registered apprenticeship representatives, business partners, and apprentices. The event provided an opportunity to learn how Literacy Pittsburgh can better support our students by understanding the in-demand careers available through apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in our region.

Literacy Pittsburgh partners with many programs in the trades, including Pittsburgh Gateways, APRI, Reimagine Reentry, and the Energy Innovation Center, to offer math brush-up and testing support, and we are building new ways to support our region's workforce.



Monique Yost, Partner4Work, and Nicole Mannino Johnson, Literacy Pittsburgh's Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Tri-State Apprenticeship Summit.

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## Try Our Coffee and Get a Free Mug in September for Literacy Month

Have you tried our unique Vita Nuova blend at La Prima Espresso Company? This special blend has tasting notes of peach, caramel, and candied lemon. Plus, when you buy a bag at any La Prima location during September, you'll get a free mug!

You can also purchase coffee (sans mug) [at their website](#). For each bag purchased, \$1 will be donated to Literacy Pittsburgh to help our students succeed.

**Fun Fact:** The name Vita Nuova is taken from a text by medieval Italian poet Dante Alighieri, with a nod to Literacy Pittsburgh's mission statement: "Better lives through learning."



## Thank You AmeriCorps Members!

We said a sad goodbye to our 2024-25 Compass AmeriCorps members. On behalf of our students and our staff, THANK YOU for your year of service.





We also recognized Nodira Bukharova from Uzbekistan who completed a fellowship with us.

Best wishes to everyone in your next steps!

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## Spotlight on Success: Angeli

Angeli arrived in the U.S. from the Philippines almost 17 months ago to reunite with her husband and build a life here. Her sister-in-law told her about Literacy Pittsburgh and Angeli started English classes in September.



Angeli came to the U.S. last year and Literacy Pittsburgh helped her learn English and get her dream job as a caregiver.

"I recognized the importance of effective communication in my daily life, work, and relationships," Angeli said. For her, learning at Literacy Pittsburgh has been "a wonderful experience."

In November, Angeli met with Career Advisor Dru Pelter. "She was very eager to start working, and she told me she had experience with caregiving," Dru said. He forwarded her an opportunity from Community Life for a nurse aide trainee. She said it was exactly the type of job she was looking for!

In January, Dru got a call from his contact at Community Life saying that they had hired Angeli. "She said Angeli was the star of the class among potential hires!" Dru said. "She told me, 'Please, if you know of more students like Angeli, send them to me!' Safe to say Angeli left quite an impression."

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## All Together Now!

From Aug 7-10, the All Together Now music festival used the power of music to bring together over 1200 people in support of our immigrant neighbors. Ten different venues and 21 bands and artists brightened our days and evenings. Thanks to all who helped manage the ticket sales, provided information at the events, and participated in the festival!

As a result of this event, over \$53,000 was raised to support the Collaborative for Immigrant Impact, a group of 18 immigrant-serving organizations, including Literacy Pittsburgh, in the Greater Pittsburgh Region.

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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.

### In-Person Workshop

Saturday, September 13

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Hazelwood

VOLUNTEER

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