

# LCLC Newsletter



A U N I T E D W A Y A G E N C Y



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

### SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- We try to hold a tutor training once per quarter—if you would like to attend a training, please call us at 705-0001.
- Don't forget to call or email with your stories, thoughts, or suggestions.
- We have free LCLC stickers for your car bumper or window. If you would like one, just stop by and ask Jessica.

As the new Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition, I wanted to write a few words of introduction. First, though Patsy Thomas has stepped down as director, she is still very much a part of the LCLC. I am glad to say that she continues to volunteer, and to give me lots of excellent advice.

As for myself, I am a lifelong book-lover with a conviction that literacy can change lives. I am thrilled to be a part of this organization- more than I could possibly say. I hope that you all will continue to call or drop by if you need anything at all, or even if you would just like to chat. I know that tutors are the backbone of the literacy effort in Lee County, and I hope you will call on me if there is anything I can do to help you.

I look forward to continuing to meet tutors past and present as the year progresses.

All the best -

Jessica Nelson

## AUBURN "CHEF OF THE YEAR"

Arricia restaurant, in conjunction with corporate sponsors Michelin and E & J Gallo Winery, hosted the fifth dinner in a series of unusual fundraisers Monday, May 1. Each month, a guest chef competes for the title of "Auburn Chef of the Year," with the proceeds from each dinner going to a charity of the chef's choosing. Monday, Bob and Lolly Steiner were the chefs for the evening, and they chose the Literacy Coalition as their charity. Bob has tutored with the LCLC for several years, and both Steiners have demonstrated extraordinary friendship to the LCLC in the past.

All told, the evening raised over \$3,000, including a generous donation of \$1,000 by Regions Bank of Auburn. This was an unlooked for and utterly overwhelming boon for the Literacy

Coalition. As always, this money will go straight to more materials for our tutors and learners, so if you have any requests, please let us know. Thank you to Bob and Lolly, Arricia Restaurant, Michelin, E & J Gallo Winery

Seated, from left: Bill Walsh, Jim Phillips, Josie Walsh, Linda Davis. Standing, from left: Patsy Thomas, Sylvia Stephens, Bob Steiner, Lolly Steiner, and Mike Davis.



## 2006 LEARNER OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Literacy Coalition recognizes an outstanding learner at our annual dinner. This year, the dinner was held in February at the East Alabama Medical Center's Health Resource Center, and we honored Perry Cooper. Perry is a person that we are always glad to see. I don't believe I have ever seen him walk in without a smile on his face. I particularly remember when he sat down with me for a minute and told me about his 7 children. Every one of his children who wished to go to college, he told me, went. Perry found a way to send them, though he himself could not read. Now that his children are provided for, he is learning to read with the help of his tutor, Ellie O'Steen.

We asked Ellie to share a few words

about their learning journey:

Perry has been a very dedicated learner since I began working with him in 2005. He already knew his alphabet, but phonetic sounds were something new for him and he put in a lot of hard work and dedication towards learning these sounds so that he can begin to sound out words better. In November 2005, Perry completed the first reading/workbook in the series and passed the test with flying colors. I am very proud of Perry's willingness to learn, work at home on his assignments and be open to trying new experiences. Perry sets a wonderful example to all his children and family with his dedication.



*Learner of the Year Perry Cooper (right), with Tutor of the Year Ellie O'Steen (left). Congratulations Perry and Ellie!*

**ATTENTION: NEWSLETTERS  
MAILED TO TUTORS ONLY.  
Please share them with your  
learners.**

### Special Assignment

The Auburn Senior Center wants to find a tutor for a small group of Senior Center clients who would like to learn to read or improve their basic reading skills. The class would be one day per week, for an hour to an hour and a half. If you might be interested, please call the LCLC to find out more.

### Wal-Mart Distribution Center Supports Literacy with \$1,000 Grant



### LCLC ON THE WEB

A former LCLC volunteer, Montevallo student Amanda Golden, has designed a new LCLC website. Look for us on the world wide web soon at: [www.leecountyliteracy.org](http://www.leecountyliteracy.org). We hope to post photos, news, and helpful links for tutors and learners. Send us your links, photos, or news!

## LCLC RECEIVES DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION GRANT



The Literacy Coalition just received notice that our grant proposal for the 2006-2007 Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant was approved. This money will fund dynamic new software for the computer in the LCLC Learning Resource Center.

The software, called KeyTrain, contains 11 full courses of instruction, ranging from basic literacy to GED preparation. In today's world, computer literacy can be as important as any other workplace or communication skill. With these courses, a learner can not only practice and learn reading, math, and workplace skills, but she/he can get valuable practice using a computer.

KeyTrain is not meant to supplant the LCLC's one-on-one tutoring, but to complement it. Tutors may come to the Literacy Resource Center room

(next door to the LCLC) with their learner to take advantage of this software. Learners may also come on their own for extra practice; call first to ensure that the director is there to conduct a tutorial.

Dollar General is a Fortune 500® company and the leader in the dollar store segment, with more than 8,000 stores and \$8.58 billion in fiscal 2005 sales.

Since 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has improved the functional literacy of adults by providing grants to non-profit organizations dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

Dollar General's commitment to literacy began with J.L. Turner, co-founder of Dollar General. With only a third grade education, J.L. overcame tremendous odds and built the company now known as Dollar General Corporation.

## FUTURE EDUCATORS TUTOR FOR THE LCLC

Service Learning is one of the hottest catch-phrases in education today. Sure, you may not hear references to it on MTV, but every future teacher at Auburn knows all about it.

Education majors must take EDU 3000 to graduate, but this is not just a lecture course—it comes with a requirement of at

least 25 hours spent as a volunteer for a local non-profit organization. The LCLC has been fortunate enough to be one of the EDU 3000 partners. Auburn Service Learners have staffed after-school programs, tutored GED seekers, and worked with traditional adult literacy learners. They provide invaluable help to

the Literacy Coalition each semester.

If you are like me, you will be cheered to think that the volunteer spirit is being instilled in Alabama's future educators. I like knowing that tomorrow's children will be taught by men and women who know first hand the value of the volunteer experience.

*"My personal experience at the Opelika Learning Center was very rewarding...I enjoyed being there, and hope that my contributions helped people increase their knowledge so that they can achieve their goal - receiving a GED."*

*- Katie Davis,  
Auburn Service Learning student*



## A U N I T E D W A Y A G E N C Y

Lee County Literacy Coalition  
2133 Executive Park Drive  
Opelika, AL 36801

Phone: 334-705-0001

E-mail: litcoalition@bellsouth.net

## T U T O R S

- We would like to plan a “Tutor Social” to allow an opportunity for you to meet each other, exchange stories and ideas, and generally enjoy yourselves. If you have any preferences as to day and time, let me know, so that as many people as possible can attend.
- Here are some links for learners studying for the GED:
  - [www.gedpractice.com](http://www.gedpractice.com)
  - [www.gedmath.com](http://www.gedmath.com)
  - [www.gedreading.com](http://www.gedreading.com)
  - [www.gedscience.com](http://www.gedscience.com)
  - [www.gedsocialstudies.com](http://www.gedsocialstudies.com)
- If you would like to see your learner recognized for her/his hard work, and your learner has no objection to being seen in print, please send us her/his name and a description of your time together.

These resources can give your learner extra review, prep, or practice for taking the GED.