



Adult Literacy Collaborative OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Directory of Adult Literacy Services

- **Adult Education**
- **English as a Second Language (ESL)**
- **Family Literacy**
- **Literacy Tutoring Services**

PREPARED BY:

kalamazooliteracycouncil

420 E. Alcott Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

PH: (269) 382-0490 Ext. 222

www.kalamazooliteracy.org

Adult Literacy Collaborative of Kalamazoo County

Overview

The Adult Literacy Collaborative of Kalamazoo County (ALC) is a group of adult education, workforce development and literacy agencies that are working to create a conduit for providing comprehensive adult literacy services by establishing a central point for referring services, developing common initiatives, and providing support to local agencies that further the cause of adult literacy. The ALC provides a forum for shaping common goals for adult literacy providers. It also serves as the venue for determining adult literacy priorities, identifying and expanding resources, and aligning services and programs.

Pursuit of the goal of having a fully literate community is more critical now than ever. In Kalamazoo County, over 31,000 people or 13% of adults cannot read a simple story to a child, an intersection on a map, a prescription label, or total purchases from an order form. Additionally, children whose parents are functionally illiterate are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate. Helping adults improve their basic literacy skills has a direct and measurable impact on both the education and quality of life of their children. Moreover, for families to take full advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise or more confidently support their children's education, they must be able to model reading and literacy in the home. Parents who value their own educational attainment make a great difference in their children's success. That is why the ALC will be committed to quality literacy education to eliminate these problems and enhance the lives of adults through programs that increase reading, writing and spelling skills.

The Directory of Adult Literacy Services provides information that will help connect those seeking services to the appropriate agency. The directory provides the following information about each listed agency:

- Contact Information
- Service Population
- Services provided
- Assessments used to measure literacy/education level and progress
- Organization Type

The work of the ALC is supported in part by a grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The group is convened and facilitated by the Kalamazoo Literacy Council.

For more information contact

Michael D. Evans

Director of Literacy Services
Kalamazoo Literacy Council
PH: (269) 382-0490 Ext. 222
Email: mevans@goodwillswmi.org

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Comstock Public Schools (Compass High School & Adult Education)

3010 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 • www.comstockpublicschools.org

Program/Service Description:

Compass High School provides an educational alternative for individuals ages 16 through 19 who, for a variety of reasons, do not find success within the traditional high school programs. These students may wish to complete their high school education earning a diploma or GED equivalent. Students may be referred by parents/guardians, their home high school, social services, the court system, or they may contact Compass High School directly. The program also is designed to meet the educational needs of pregnant teens and school-aged parents. Classes are available throughout the day as well as evening classes.

The Adult Education program provides GED preparation.

Service(s): High School Diploma, GED

Service Population: Adults ages 20 and older who have a 6th grade reading level or higher. Those who read below a 6th grade level are referred to the Kalamazoo Literacy Council.

Assessment Tool(s): TABE

Contact:

Jay Birchmeier, Principal

Phone: 269-388-9477 **Fax:** 269-388-9491 **Email:** birchmeierj@comstockps.org

Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic

WMU 3514 Sangren Hall, Kalamazoo, MI 49008 • www.wmich.edu/coe/spls/clinic/

Program/Service Description:

Over a period spanning nearly 70 years, the Reading Center and Clinic has provided numerous clinical, research and diagnostic services to a diverse population of children, university students and adults in our local and surrounding communities. The Reading Center and Clinic:

- serves as an intern facility for undergraduate and graduate students involved in all levels of diagnosis and tutoring under professional supervision
- provides diagnostic services for individuals
- provides tutoring and small group literacy instruction to individuals of all ages who may be experiencing reading and/or writing difficulties
- provides a trained and supportive staff of professionals to supervise undergraduate tutors who meet weekly with their students throughout the semester
- takes referrals by self, schools, or parents
- provides future teachers and master teachers with literacy practicum experiences in diagnostic teaching in a clinical setting.

Service(s): One on one tutoring, group tutoring/classes

Service Population: K-12

Assessment Tool(s): Various

Contact:

Dr. Susan Piazza, Director

Phone: 269-387-3470 **Fax:** 269-387-5703 **Email:** susanpiazza@wmich.edu

Douglass Community Association

1000 W. Paterson St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • www.douglasscommunity.org

Program/Service Description:

The DCA strives to reach their vision that all youth will have the supports they need to achieve their full potential through their mission of providing collaborative opportunities for youth development, education, healthy living and leadership.

1. DCA provides tutoring along with a range of after school programs for school age children. Parents of participating children who might benefit from services provided by KLC tutors can be identified and referred.
2. Interested in hosting group tutoring sessions with the KLC
3. Interested in serving as a site for reading level assessments for adult students

Service(s): One on one tutoring, group tutoring classes

Service Population: K-12, Families, Early Childhood

Assessment Tool(s): None

Contact:

Denise VanDyken, Associate Director

Phone: 269-343-6185 **Fax:** 269-343-2914 **Email:** d.vandyken@douglasscommunity.org

Even Start Program

3400 Lovers Lane, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Program/Service Description:

Even Start is a federally funded Family Literacy program designed to help both parent and child reach their educational goals. The Kalamazoo Public Schools Even Start program works with approximately 30 families. It serves parents and children under the age of 8 years. Literacy development is the focus behind everything Even Start does. The qualifying criteria for Even Start are:

1. Live within Kalamazoo Public Schools school district
2. Have at least one child under the age of 5
3. Have not completed high school or GED and are ready to participate

Service(s): Family Literacy

Service Population: Families, Early Childhood

Assessment Tool(s): TABE

Contact:

Marguerite Watson, Even Start Coordinator

Phone: 269-337-0098 **Fax:** 269-337-1693 **Email:** watson@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan

420 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 • www.goodwillswmi.org

Program/Service Description:

Goodwill provides adult basic education (5th grade levels and up) and GED preparation (9th grade and up) as part of a collaborative with Kalamazoo Public Schools. This service is offered free to the public with intensive one-on-one tutoring, and morning and afternoon classes in Math and English. As part of Goodwill's partnership with KPS and KLC, remedial reading assistance is offered. Goodwill's 'drop in' approach allows students to work one on one with teachers while catering to their individual schedules. Program is open entrance / open exit, offered year 'round and has extended evening hours on Tuesdays. Scholarships for GED Testing can be accessed for low income students. Job skills classes also offered to enrolled students.

Service(s): One on one tutoring, Group tutoring/classes, GED

Service Population: Age 20 and up.

Assessment Tool(s): TABE

Contact:

Scott Goodwin, Family Literacy Coordinator

Phone: 269-382-0490 Ext. 229 **Fax:** 269-382-6836 **Email:** sgoodwin@goodwillswmi.org

Hispanic American Council

930 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 • www.hispanicamericancouncil.org

Program/Service Description:

Interpretation and translation of Spanish and English; English language classes with emphasis on life-skills; family reading program; coordinates English language classes with Kalamazoo Public Schools and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Service(s): ESL

Service Population: 16 and over

Assessment Tool(s): Various

Contact:

Lori Mercedes, Program Director

Phone: 269-385-6279 **Fax:** 269-385-2803 **Email:** lori@hispanicamericancouncil.org

Kalamazoo Adult Education

715 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Program/Service Description:

Kalamazoo Adult Education (AE) provides instruction for adults who seek to improve skills in Reading, Math and English (Literacy). Students in this program work at their own pace using a variety of instructional tools and methods.

AE students can also elect to prepare for the General Education Development (GED) test. Students are placed in individual programs to ready themselves for the GED's five subject tests. A third component of the ABE program is English Literacy-Civic (ELC). Students in these classes are from all over the world. They seek to improve their communication skills in the English language and navigate through American society. All students have post-graduation transition services available to them. All GED graduates are required to complete paperwork to transition them from their educational goal to employment, apprentice programs, or college.

Service(s): One on one tutoring, Group tutoring/classes, ESL/English Literacy/Civic, Adult Basic Education Grades 0-8

Service Population: Adults 20 and over

Assessment Tool(s): TABE

Contact:

Kimberly Thinnes, Adult Education Coordinator

Phone: 269-337-0422 **Fax:** 269-337-0490 **Email:** thinneskj@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

Kalamazoo Literacy Council

420 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 • www.kalamazooliteracy.org

Program/Service Description:

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide quality literacy education that enhances the lives of adults through programs designed to increase reading, writing and spelling skills. The organization provides tutor training for qualified volunteers in the Laubach Method, a phonetic system, and provides one-on-one services to adults. It offers free literacy tutoring and free educational materials to adults who have been evaluated by the KLC.

The KLC's **Everyone Needs to Read (ENT-R) Adult Literacy Program** is an effort to improve the literacy skills of adults in Kalamazoo County and increase access to literacy services. **ENT-R** helps individuals and organizations find information about how to get a tutor or other literacy services. The KLC also coordinates the Adult Literacy Collaborative of Kalamazoo County.

Service(s): Free individual tutoring of English-speaking adults in reading, writing, spelling; stressing Laubach Method, a phonetic system, tutor-training workshops.

Service Population: Adults ages 18 and over with a reading level of 4th grade or below.

Assessment Tool(s): TABE, Laubach

Contact:

Michael D. Evans, Director of Literacy Services

Phone: 269-382-0490 Ext. 222 **Fax:** 269-382-6836 **Email:** mevans@goodwillswmi.org

Kalamazoo Public Library (Ready to Read)

315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • www.kpl.gov/ready-to-read/

Program/Service Description:

Ready to Read encourages parents to read aloud to their children, beginning at birth, to help prepare them for learning to read. KPL leads this community collaboration of medical practices, human services agencies, preschool classrooms, and nonprofit organizations.

Service(s): Family Literacy, Early Childhood

Service Population: Families with children aged birth to five years. Adults in need of literacy services are referred to the Kalamazoo Literacy Council

Assessment Tool(s): None

Contact:

Andrea Enyedi, Ready to Read Program Coordinator

Phone: 269-553-7885 **Fax:** 269-553-7921 **Email:** andrea@kpl.gov

Specialized Language Development Center

504 S. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • www.sldcenter.org

Program/Service Description:

The Specialized Language Development Center provides:

- Standardized assessments to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in regards to phonemic awareness, decoding, comprehension and fluency.
- One-to-one tutoring using an explicit, sequential, multisensory best-practice approach proven to be effective for individuals with a unique learning style, like dyslexia.
- Intensive training programs in the Orton-Gillingham approach
- Professional development and community workshops providing recent research-based data on brain processes and reading; rules and tools of the English Language to teach spelling and comprehension strategies.

Service(s): One on one tutoring, community awareness workshops and trainings.

Service Population: K-12

Assessment Tool(s): WRAT-3 (Wide Range Achievement Test) – isolated words for reading and spelling; CTOPP (Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing) – phonological awareness subtest; GORT-4 (Gray Oral Reading Test) – passage reading to check reading rate, accuracy, and comprehension; Phonics Fundamentals© Test of Coding Skills – to check student knowledge of vowels, consonants, blends/digraphs, syllable patterns, and spelling rules.

*In January 2011, we will be replacing the above-mentioned assessments with the Woodcock-Johnson.

Contact:

Carol McGlinn, Executive Director

Phone: 269-345-2661 **Fax:** 269-345-5210 **Email:** cmglinn@sldcenter.org

Heidi Turchan, Director of Training

Phone: 269-345-2661 **Fax:** 269-345-5210 **Email:** hturchan@sldcenter.org

Youth Opportunities Unlimited/Michigan Works!

422 E. South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Program/Service Description:

Y.O.U. offers multiple educational and pre-employment services such as:

- Individual needs assessment
- Assistance with barrier removal
- Credit recovery (NovaNET)
- WorkKeys/KeyTrain – Skills Assessment
- Tutoring and high school completion assistance
- Scholarship/financial aid assistance
- College/career development
- Occupational & technical training
- Work experience
- Job search assistance (including the Michigan Talent Bank)
- Job retention services
- GED preparation assistance for youth ages 18 and 19
- Adult Basic Education courses for youth ages 18 and 19
- WorkKeys/KeyTrain – skills assessment
- Job Preparation Assistance
- Supportive Services – Financial and resource support
- College/Career Development

Service(s): Individual Tutoring, GED, Adult Basic Education, Credit Recovery

Service Population: Youth ages 14-21, Adults 18 and over

Assessment Tool(s): TABE, CASAS, WorkKeys/KeyTrain

Contact:

Lisa Smith, Lead Case Manager

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