

# Literacy Advocate

www.kalamazooliteracy.org

February 2019

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**"People don't  
realize how a  
man's whole life  
can be changed  
by one book."**

— Malcolm X

A publication of

**KLC**

kalamazooliteracycouncil

## Learn tutor strategies and tips by joining a forum

**K**alamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) tutors are invited to join one of our Tutor Forums to acquire tips and tutoring strategies that help adult learners. These forums are an extension of the Adult Literacy Research and Training Symposium that is hosted annually in collaboration with Western Michigan University. The tutor forums focus on four areas: ESL, Health Literacy, Parent Literacy, and Workforce Literacy.



The KLC also hosts the Friendly Connections Tutor Forum, which provides tutors with an opportunity to share successes and challenges, and an opportunity to gain insights into the learning process.

All tutor forums are open for new and experienced tutors and instructors who support KLC students. The KLC also has online forums for each focus area that include handouts, tutor tips, and other materials. Tutors interested in joining an online forum should contact KLC Adult Learning Services Navigator Emily Demorest at [edemorest@kalamazooliteracy.org](mailto:edemorest@kalamazooliteracy.org) to receive a log-in and directions.

Tutor forum descriptions are listed below. For more information or to join a tutor forum, please call the KLC at (269) 382-0490 ext. 222 or visit the website at [www.kalamazooliteracy.org](http://www.kalamazooliteracy.org).

### ESL Tutor Forum

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an important part of the adult learning continuum. Immigrants and refugees in our community are eager to learn language and literacy skills that help them function at work, school, and community settings. This forum provides teaching strategies for tutors and instructors who provide literacy instruction for English Language Learners.

#### Forum Leaders:

**Vicki Konzen**  
ESL Instructor  
ESL of Southwest Michigan

**Connie Sandelin**  
ESL Instructor  
ESL of Southwest Michigan



**March 11**

6:30—8:30 p.m.

**Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church**  
1747 W Milham Ave.  
Portage, MI 49024



**March 20**

6:30—8:00 p.m.

**Goodwill Industries  
of SW Michigan**  
420 E. Alcott Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

### Health Literacy Tutor Forum

Because health is a topic that applies to every adult learner, using tutoring strategies that meet the health goals of learners is important, yet most of the materials for adults do not consistently incorporate health content. This forum explores strategies to provide instruction that imparts health and literacy skills for adult learners.

#### Forum Leader:

**Dr. Doris Ravotas**  
Fulbright Specialist, Coordinator of Interdisciplinary Health Services  
School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs  
WMU College of Health and Human Services

**Continued on Page 3**

# President's Message: Getting on the right track for 2019

By Eduardo Osorio



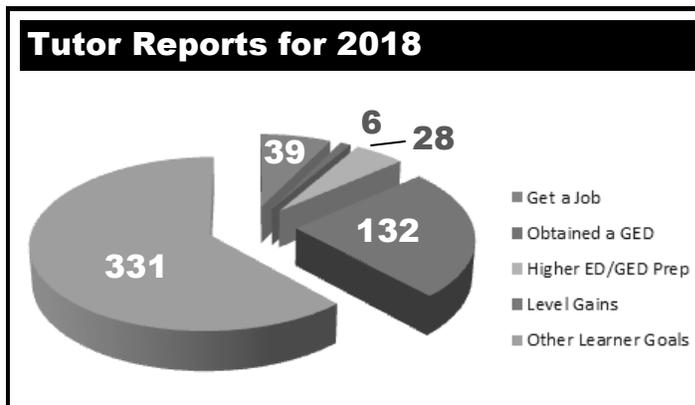
Eduardo Osorio

## Greetings Fellow Volunteers,

Our most important priorities in 2019 are to empower navigators and tutors to serve Adult Basic Education proficiently, and to reach learners in underserved areas. These priorities mean several things. It is asking us to expand and solidify our services to help our learners achieve the specific goals of obtaining a job and getting a GED to enter higher education. We have the tools and infrastructure to do so; however, we have to develop our most important resource—our people. An element that is reflected in these priorities is very positive. Our 1:1 Adult Tutoring Program is doing great.

To better serve our learners during the first part of the year, we will do some research to find out the hours they prefer, where they are located, and, ideally, the goals they want to reach. Then we can move forward to serve learners' needs. Later in the year, we want to create new literacy centers to serve community needs. I'm pretty excited about these two prospects, and I can't wait to share our progress toward them with you during the year.

Let's look at how the last year went. The graph below shows the compiled results from 2018. I'm particularly impressed with the amount of jobs our learners obtained: 39! Another important figure of achievement for our learners: 17 learners achieved a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level and our goal was 12. Kudos to our tutors and our learners!



Thanks for all you do! There is no doubt in my mind that our community is stronger because of you.

Eduardo Osorio  
President, 2018-2019

## JOB OPPORTUNITY AND BASIC SKILLS (JOBS)



### Wednesdays

The Reading Center at Goodwill

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission

9:00 - 10:00  
Study with tutors

10:00 - 11:00  
Works Skills Presentation

11:00 - 12:00  
JOBS Computer Lab

For enrollment call (269) 382-0490 ext. 263.

### Board of Directors 2018-2019

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Michael D. Evans, Executive Director

### Literacy Advocate

is published four times a year by the Kalamazoo Literacy Council — a nonprofit organization committed to quality literacy education that enhances the lives of adults through programs designed to increase reading, writing and spelling skills.

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## Literacy Council prepares for Kalamazoo SCRABBLE Fest

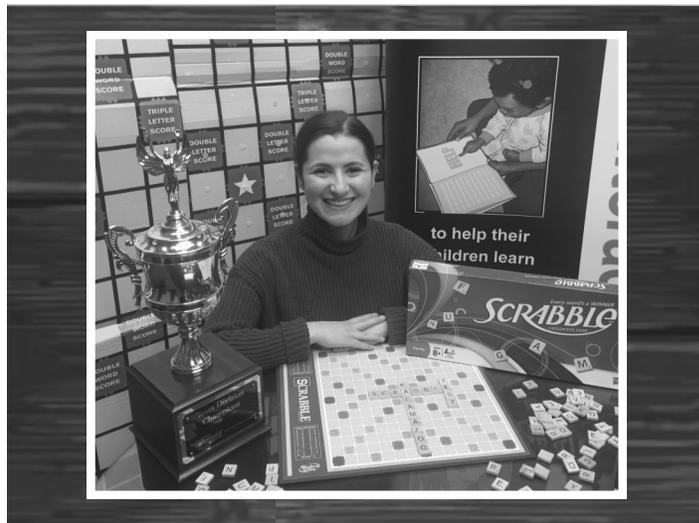
By Jessica Taitz, Project Manager

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) will be teaming up with Bell's Brewery to bring a fun-filled event to the Kalamazoo community— the **9th Annual Kalamazoo Scrabble Fest!** This will be the KLC's fourth year in a row working with Bell's Brewery to bring our community together to raise awareness and help improve the state of literacy in the Kalamazoo area.

Every time Bell's Eccentric Café is filled with players excited and committed to bettering their community. Last year, the KLC raised over \$15,000 to aid this worthy cause. For our **9th Annual Kalamazoo SCRABBLE Fest**, we aspire to make an even bigger impact on adult literacy.

The **9th Annual Kalamazoo SCRABBLE Fest** is a fantastic way to help support the KLC's mission of providing quality literacy education that enhances the lives of adults through programs designed to increase reading, writing, and spelling skills. This event allows our community to come together to raise awareness, donate, and better our community.

You have numerous ways to participate in this fun-filled event. Our registration includes both an individual "Just For Fun" and "Competitive" division, allowing participants to compete in a level they feel comfortable in. We also have a team option for those wishing to

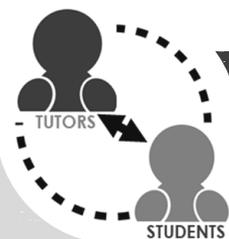


compete in teams of four. This division allows the team to compete in a unique form of SCRABBLE that is sure to make for an action-packed afternoon! In addition, we are always looking for passionate individuals to volunteer their time to assist in making our event a success!

The **9th Annual Kalamazoo SCRABBLE Fest** is scheduled for **April 6, 2019**, at Bell's Eccentric Café, 355 E. Kalamazoo Avenue, from **12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Individual registration is \$25 and registration for a team is \$200.

For registration or volunteer information, please call the KLC administrative office at (269) 382-0490, ext. 222, or visit our website at [www.kalamazooliteracy.org](http://www.kalamazooliteracy.org).

**Reserve your spot TODAY!**



### Friendly Connections Tutor Forum

**Feb. 21**

6:30—8:30 p.m.

Goodwill Industries of SW Michigan  
420 E. Alcott Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Everyone is invited to share student-tutor stories, successes, frustrations, and questions. Attendees will gather tips for improving tutoring and gain insights and understandings of the learning process. This forum will also feature strategies for tutoring adults with Learning Disabilities and Learning Differences.

**Forum Leaders:**  
Adult Tutoring Program Team  
Friendly Connectors, Tutor Trainers, and Assessors



### Workforce Literacy Forum

**March 8**

2:00—2:00 p.m.

Michigan Works Southwest  
1601 S. Burdick St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Getting a job is a major motivation for many adult learners. In today's workforce, knowing how to read is a necessary skill to obtain a job, be promoted, or keep a current job. This forum will explore how tutors can provide instruction to help learners acquire the literacy skills they need to engage in workforce development activities.

**Forum Leaders:**  
Michael D. Evans  
Executive Director  
Kalamazoo Literacy Council

Stephen Weaver  
Career Specialist  
Michigan Works Southwest

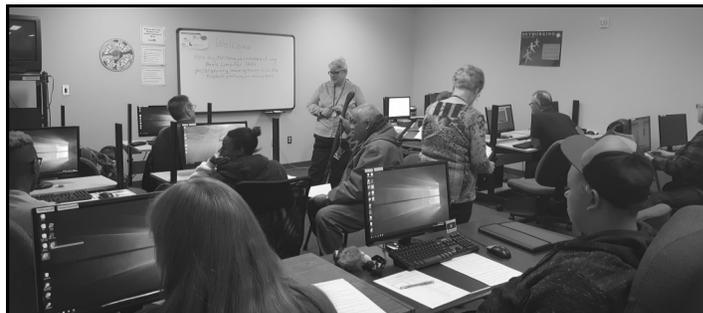
## Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan awarded grant from Google to teach digital skills

**K**alamazoo Literacy Council (KLC) students and area residents can improve their digital skills thanks to a new class offered at Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan in collaboration with the KLC.

Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan was awarded a \$20,000 grant from Google.org to implement the Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator<sup>SM</sup> program. The organization is one of several Goodwill Industries programs across the country to receive the grant.

The first local Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator<sup>SM</sup> class began on January 16, 2019, at the computer lab located in the Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan facility at 420 E. Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. The 15-week class, which teaches basic computer skills and equips participants with entry-level and mid-level digital skills training. The class builds upon the computer classes and instruction that have been provided at the site. KLC Tutor Paula Aldridge is one of the computer instructors. She is supported by Pat Angerman, Vocational Rehabilitation Team Manager for Goodwill Industries of Southwestern Michigan.

“The Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator<sup>SM</sup> class is an excellent opportunity for adults to improve their computer and digital literacy,” said KLC Executive



Computer Instructor **Paula Aldridge** and Goodwill Vocational Rehabilitation Team Manager **Pat Angerman** lead a class.

Director Michael Evans. “We are excited to collaborate with Goodwill Industries on this important program.”

An overview about the Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator<sup>SM</sup> will be presented at the Adult Literacy Collaborative of Kalamazoo County meeting on February 25, 2019, at 12:00 p.m. at Goodwill Industries. Community partners and stakeholders are invited to attend. For reservations please contact Michael Evans, at (269) 382-0490 ext. 222 or email [mevans@kalamazooliteracy.org](mailto:mevans@kalamazooliteracy.org)

For more information about the Goodwill Digital Career Accelerator<sup>SM</sup> program, contact Pat Angerman, at (269) 382-0490 ext. 270 or email [pangerman@goodwillswmi.org](mailto:pangerman@goodwillswmi.org)

## Tutors needed for research study

**R**esearchers in the Psychology Department at Western Michigan University are looking for Kalamazoo Literacy Council tutors who are interested in participating in their study. The topic of the study is “Training Tutors to Teach Literacy Activities to Parents with Low Literacy” and you can participate if 1) you are a current KLC tutor and 2) you currently work 1-on-1 with a parent with low literacy.

Time commitments for the study are a 6-hour training day where breakfast and lunch will be provided as well as a follow-up observation session lasting no more than 1-hour. Participants who finish the study will be compensated. For questions or to see if you qualify, please email: [psy\\_acadlitlab@wmich.edu](mailto:psy_acadlitlab@wmich.edu)



## Parent Literacy Tutor Forum

Parents are the first teachers of their children, and helping their children read is a critical part of parenting. This forum explores evidence-based literacy activities for parents that can be used to help improve reading outcomes. It also introduces a training model that practitioners can implement when supporting parents as teachers.

**March 12**

**2:00—4:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church**

321 W. South Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

### Forum Leaders:

**Dr. Elisabeth Isidro** and **Mya Hernandez**  
WMU Dorothy McGinnis Reading Clinic and Center

**Everyone needs to read  
to help their children learn!**

## Monthly reporting is vital

By Your Friendly Connectors

**W**hy is monthly reporting from tutors so important? Because we care about the progress of each KLC student and each KLC tutor. The monthly log measures not only volunteer hours dedicated to learners and learning centers, but it is an important *communication tool* for tutors.

### A monthly log tracks:

- the progress of each learner toward goals and overcoming barriers,
- the status of tutoring (continuing, temporary break, etc.), and
- requests for additional materials or resources needed.

### A monthly log also provides:

- *accurate* data for grant writing, fundraising, and planning purposes,
- a real-time snapshot of the impact of a tutor's service and/or needs, and
- an opportunity to share success stories - storytelling advances the KLC's mission.

### Submitting your monthly report is easy!

- Reminder emails with a link to the online log are sent directly to you.
- Volunteers at learning centers need to send monthly updates too!
- Questions? Trouble accessing the log? Your Friendly Connector can help, so call or email your Friendly Connector.

## Recognizing student success

By Tiyé Taylor, WMU Social Work Intern

**H**ave you ever wanted to show off your learner's progress? Have you ever been impressed by his/her progress but are not quite sure how to reward them? There are monthly reports, but there are other gratifying ways for your learner to receive recognition.

The KLC has Student Success nomination forms for the for recognition that highlights their work not only at the KLC, but in the community, as well. Tutors will receive these forms as part of the reminder for monthly reports. Selected Student Success nominations will be published in this newsletter with the learner's permission. Students may also be nominated for the Mard Little Award for Adult Learner Excellence, which is awarded at the annual Fall Reception to acknowledge these hard-working learners and to show that they are taking the right steps in changing themselves and their lives. For a learner to qualify for a nomination, they must demonstrate gains in literacy skills and the nomination must be based on accomplishments from the past year. In the nomination form, you should attach a narrative (two-page maximum) describing the nominee's work and six questions must be answered.

Another way your learner could be recognized is through their voice and leadership. Have you seen your learner take the lead in his/her work or in their life? Has your learner ever had any concerns or suggestions on how we can better improve our services? The Student Advisory Council may be a good fit for him/her. Learners come together, have their voices heard, and make changes to make the system work better for everyone. They would be recognized as Student Ambassadors and as a leader within the literacy community and within the local community. If you know an adult learner that may be interested in joining the Student Advisory Council, please call (269) 382-0490 ext. 263.

## Congratulations to the January 2019 Tutor Training Graduates!

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council is pleased to welcome nine new tutors who successfully completed Tutor Training in January. Special thanks to Tutor Trainers **Paula Aldridge, Kym Hollars, and Laura MacLellan!**



### FROM LEFT:

Newessie Gardner  
Allison Zheng  
Eduardo Osorio\*  
John Herberg  
Bernice Cunningham  
Anna Pilar Calsina Berna

**215 Tutors  
and counting!**

\*Thanks to **KLC President Eduardo Osorio** for his kind words at the graduation!

420 E. Alcott Street, Suite 400  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

# kalamazooliteracycouncil

EMPOWERING ADULTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
KALAMAZOO MI  
PERMIT NO. 55

## MISSION:

The Kalamazoo Literacy Council is committed to enhancing the lives of adults by improving their reading, writing and spelling skills.

*Serving  
Kalamazoo County  
since 1974.*

# EVERYONE NEEDS TO READ



## CALENDAR

### Board Meetings

Mar. 12 & Apr. 9 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.  
WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

### Adult Literacy Collaborative Meetings

Feb. 25, Mar. 25 & Apr. 22 12:00 — 1:30 p.m.

### Navigation Work Group

Mar. 20 & Apr. 17 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

### Tutor Orientations and Workshops

#### New Tutor Orientation

Mar. 7 7:00 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.

#### Tutor Training

Mar. 11, 14, 18, & 21 6:00 a.m.— 9:00 p.m.

#### Friendly Connections Tutor Forum

February 21 6:30 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.

### Symposium Tutor Forums

**Health Literacy:** March 20 6:30—8:00 p.m.

**Parent Literacy:** March 12 2:00—4:00 p.m.

**Workforce Literacy** March 8 2:00—3:00 p.m.

**ESL Strategies** March 11 6:30—8:30 p.m.

### 9th Annual Kalamazoo SCRABBLE® Fest

April 6 at Bell's Eccentric Café 12:00 p.m.— 3:30 p.m.



**SATURDAY**  
**April 6**  
12 — 3:30 p.m.



355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

\$25 per player for Competitive and Just for Fun divisions.  
\$200 for Team Division.

For questions or to register, visit or website at  
[www.kalamazooliteracy.org](http://www.kalamazooliteracy.org) or call  
(269) 382-0490 ext. 222.