



Tutor Talk

Fall 2015

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Updates from Carol HasBrouck Browning, Executive Director of GLA

There is no higher calling than when a person gives his or her own knowledge, skills, time or resources to someone in need of help. This is the fundamental principle of volunteerism.

Volunteering is at the heart of community-building. Volunteering promotes trust and reciprocity. It encourages good citizenship and provides people with an environment where they can learn the responsibilities of community and civic involvement.” -Published by the Red Cross International

Volunteers are our life-blood! The relationships you create, the example you set and the knowledge you impart made an immense difference in the lives of the 1,173 students that you worked with this past year. For all that you do, we say THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS!

Let me give you a quick update on activities at GLA since our last Tutor Talk:

The Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale was a huge success in August. Over 126,000 books were donated; over 10,000 people attended the sale over the course of the weekend, and the event raised \$134,626 for GLA support! I know many of you either volunteered or attended and purchased books. Thanks to everyone for your contributions.



GLA has a Promethean Board! – Some might know it as a “smart board”.

Rotary Clubs of Greenville have generously provided funds for both this “smart board” and an electronic communications board in the lobby of GLA at McAlister. We can use the communications board to recognize donors, tutors, student successes, staff, board members and also update class schedules, upcoming events and much, much more. Watch for training on the smart board at an upcoming tutor training event. Rotary is also funding GED scholarships for our students.



Tutor Feedback - Because you are such a valuable asset to GLA, we want to provide you with the resources you need and also hear about your successes and challenges. Mrs. Beck Sullivan, our Volunteer Coordinator, will be emailing you a survey in the near future. Please make sure you give us your honest feedback so GLA can continue to provide effective education for our students.

GLA as a Testing Center – We have received verbal approval from the State Department of Education for GLA to become a TASC testing center. TASC is an alternative to the GED. We are very excited about this possibility and will keep you updated as we get further down the road. Having our own testing center will make it much easier for our students. More to come...

Greenville ESL



Susan started teaching ESL at the tender age of ten. She was in 5th grade when the teacher assigned her a young student from Cuba. "We began with primary readers and over the next three years, Harry and I sat side by side as he became more proficient in English and I gained an education in people," explains **Susan** who has been volunteering with GLA since 2010. Recently, **Susan** has been focusing on preparing students for the citizenship test. "It is an extremely rewarding feeling to see someone who has studied so diligently pass the test, and I have had the honor of seeing both of my students succeed," says **Susan** referring to Thuy and Zaed, our most recent citizenship graduates. **Susan** suggests to new tutors, "Relax. Your students need to feel comfortable enough to make mistakes and laugh about it. Just like your students, you're learning. Enjoy the experience."



Tutor Highlights

Greer

ESL tutor **Beth** feels privileged to volunteer at GLA. "My parents taught ESL and I remember how rewarding they found it. I've always been interested in people and other cultures." As her children became older she had more time and wanted to make a difference in others' lives. **Beth** has tremendous respect for each of her students. "I am my students' teacher and they are mine. They teach me about selflessness, kindness, patience, tenacity, courage, humor and much, much more." In coming to the USA, many of our students are isolated from their families, friends and coworkers. "I draw from my personal experiences, especially my failures, to humorously illustrate lessons for my students." The tone of the class is sometimes set by the students' personal situations, in which spontaneous classroom discussion is sparked by many day to day life situations: makeup, death, menopause, pregnancy, parenting, stepchildren, and government. "I think people best remember lessons they can connect to something." **Beth** uses Pinterest as a valuable and inspirational source for teaching grammar and pronunciation in her class. Find GLA on Pinterest at: <https://www.pinterest.com/englishclasses/>



Beth with the "Mighty Mouth" prop she uses to help students with pronunciation

Simpsonville

In December 2013, April passed the GED after failing 6 times. What helped her finally pass was working one-on-one with her tutor, **Yvonne**, in Reading and Social Studies. They met at the GLSC learning center as well as the library twice a week. Today, April still stays in touch with her tutor. She just called her to let her know that she has not only one job, but two! Sometimes they meet for lunch, sometimes they just catch up on the phone. It's now almost 2 years later and their relationship continues as **Yvonne** still mentors and encourages April to follow her dreams.



Save the Date

Annual Awards

October 6th

6:30PM

Brookwood Church
Simpsonville

Miracle Hill Ministries

Recently, GLA partnered with Miracle Hill Ministries to provide adult education in their adult residential facilities. When Program Manager Janet Wolf went to the Greenville Rescue Mission to introduce a pilot program there, **Bob** was there to greet her and offer his assistance. **Bob** is a longtime, faithful volunteer at "the Mission." He helps out in the computer lab and supports the men in many different ways.

Bob said that we should consider him the *Chief Assistant* to the ABE program at the Mission. He said he had no idea where this might lead. He began by mastering the promethean board and observing some one-on-one math tutoring. Before long, he was tutoring students in math; serving as liaison between GLA staff, Rescue Mission staff, and students; and taking new tutors under his wing. **Bob's** assistance has been invaluable. He understands the culture of the Mission, is proactive, and genuinely cares about the clients. His students say that one of the things they appreciate most about **Bob** is that he takes the time to explain things so that they can understand them. Thank you, **Bob** for everything you do!



Staff Updates

Many of you know **Michelle Irby**, GLA's former administrative assistant. In May, when Leah Clark resigned from the position of Program Manager in the Greenville office, **Michelle** applied and got the job! The position of administrative assistant was filled by **Wendy Hamilton**. **Wendy** is no stranger to GLA having been an active Book Sale and Novel Event volunteer. We welcome both ladies to their new positions and wish them every success as part of the GLA family.

New Tutors Trained March - May

ABE

David Anderson
Leslie Brooks
Nancy deJong
Maureen Dubois
Shannon Geiger
Beverly Gillespie
Diane Irving
Meredith McGinnis
Julie Morency
Scott Nathan
Clara Parejs-Romero
Jill Ritchings
Kelli Shride
Paul Shultz
Jackson Trice

ESL

David Anderson
Darlene Cook
Jeannette Deale
Mariola Gorska
Sarah Holcomb
JM Hoskinson
George Johellen
Jade Kelley
Ellen McLaughlin
Amanda Meadows
Diana Miel
Shane Santini
Cecilia Sun
Michelle Thompson
Annika Trauth

Tutor Tips and Ideas from Greer...

Our absolutely wonderful intern **Leslie** has been teaching both ESL and ABE classes here in Greer. We want to share some useful information that we have learned from her. She has been teaching a higher level ESL class using an ESL resource from Heinle ELT/National Geographic <http://ngl.cengage.com/ng> She also teaches a Pre-GED Reading class as well as a Test Prep Reading class at the GED level.

She found that using these *ESL books in her ABE classes* helps students with sequencing in the GED classes. They are engaging, have incredible photos, with interesting, current topics that include science, history and technology. **Jennifer** also likes the content in the third book. She thinks it is more engaging for Pre-GED students than some of the GED-focused reading books.

Series information:

There are 6 books in the series. The lowest level is called Foundations, and then there are books 1-5. You can order free sample copies on the website as well as look at the table of contents and sample lessons. Reading Explorer 3 is good for Pre-GED reading and Reading Explorer 5 is good for GED students working in the Test Prep class.

From Tiffany in Greenville...

The GED is comprised of text dependent questions that require test takers to dig deeply into the text to answer the questions. Often our students are not ready for GED level questions.

www.readwork.org is a free web resource that offers text-based questions at all reading levels. The website even offers Science and Social Studies passages.

From Ashley in Simpsonville.....Here are some great ESL classroom management tips.....

<http://bit.ly/1OyNRMv>

We want your ideas!

Tutor talk is a forum to exchange ideas and tips. Just like you, we are always looking for new and better ways to help students. If you have an interesting idea, valuable tip or a great website to share, please call Harriet at (864) 688-2212 or email to:

withers@greenvilleliteracy.org

If you change your email address, please let Wendy know at: hamilton@greenvilleliteracy.org

GLA Calendar

October:

6 Annual Awards Ceremony at Brookwood Church 6:30PM. All centers close at Noon.

November:

7 ESL Workshop 9:00 - 3:30PM

21 ABE Workshop 9:00 - 3:30PM

26, 27 Thanksgiving—All centers closed.



December:

18 All centers close at noon for Christmas break.



January:

4 All centers reopen at 8:30AM.