

Moving toward a brighter future through literacy



Friends of GLA Kick-off

Books & Brew @
Upstate Craft Beer Co.

October 26th ~ 6:30pm

*Food and beverages will be
available for purchase.*

Please call 864.467.3456
for more information.

*Drop off book donations @
Upstate Craft Beer Co. for GLA
during the month of October!*



GLA
GREENVILLE LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

Greenville Literacy Association Celebrates National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

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Contributing writer

The Greenville Literacy Association (GLA) has a lot to celebrate during National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, September 26–October 1: The achievements of its students, the dedication of its volunteers, and the generosity of the community that supports its programs.

In the half-century since its founding, GLA has become the largest community-based adult literacy organization in the state, serving 1,100–1,400 students annually at its three centers in the Greenville area—McAlister Square, Simpsonville and Greer. Its mission has broadened to include preparing students for the demands of a competitive job market, offering classes for high school equivalency (GED), WorkKeys, English as a second language (ESL), as well as preparation for the health and manufacturing fields.

“GLA is a key player in the constantly changing field of adult education and

we provide an affordable option,” said Jocelyn Slaughter, executive director. “We partner with the business community to find out what they need, then help our students become more employable.”

After completing a pretest to determine their level and goals, students are placed in classes where they receive individualized instruction based on their needs.

In a new initiative, Career Pathways, GLA partners with Greenville Technical College (GTC) to offer motivated candidates the opportunity to prepare for the GED while receiving job-skills training at the same time. Scholarships provided by local Rotary clubs have helped some students overcome financial hurdles.

With one in six U.S. students dropping out of high school each year, and 43 percent of adults with the lowest literacy levels living in poverty, programs like this are in high demand. Effects are generational, since children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading

levels themselves, and are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years, or drop out. (source: prolitteracy.org)

“We just had a husband and wife pair pass the GED and WorkKeys—one a gold!” Slaughter said. “They were SNAP recipients with small children. Now they are planning to go to college in the spring.”

The staff and volunteers at GLA see firsthand how education changes lives, ultimately benefitting the community.

“Throughout my time with GLA, I’ve witnessed countless moments of victory,” said Eleanor Vaughn, GLA event volunteer and former tutor. “Whether it’s a potential job candidate qualifying for a previously unattainable promotion or a formerly nervous parent who’s now able to speak to their child’s teacher with confidence, there’s always something to celebrate. It’s this practical approach to progress and enrichment that make it a vital component of the Greenville community.”

Bob Morris, president of the Community Foundation of Greenville, said: “Advancing adult literacy in our community helps people move out of poverty by opening doors to educational and employment opportunity, and is fundamental to effectively breaking the cycle of unemployment and poverty. Literacy is essential to developing a strong community, vibrant economy, and improved quality of life for everyone.”

The community can help in many ways. Volunteer tutors are needed to help teach classes in math, social studies, ESL, civics, healthcare or manufacturing-related subjects. GLA accepts year-round book donations for the The Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale at the McAlister Square location.

“Funding is always needed to continue our much-needed programs,” Slaughter said. “Greenville is very generous; we see that year in and year out.”

For more information, visit greenvilleliteracy.org or call 864.467.3456.

Photography by Amy Randall