



Congratulations to Hugh Tulloch!

Hugh Tulloch, a literacy tutor at the Tomlinson Adult Learning Center has been selected as one of thirteen outstanding Pinellas County School volunteers. Hugh certainly exemplifies excellence in volunteerism. For almost two years, Hugh has diligently and successfully tutored adult education students. Initially trained by the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg, Hugh has broadened his tutorial skills and currently works with students on a one-to-one basis, in small groups, and in whole class situations. His talents range from teaching phonic sounds to the higher level reading comprehension skills needed to pass the GED examination.

Hugh not only excels in providing appropriate instruction, his extensive background in the military and business has taught him the importance of assisting adults to plan and overcome personal barriers to achieve their goals. Hugh also helps all students to access community resources and navigate social service agencies to eradicate barriers to class attendance and learning. To build rapport, he has attended a student's boxing matches, bought fund raiser items, secured legal assistance for students, and the list goes on. Not only is this gentleman a resource for students, he also assists the instructional staff. There is not a problem that the staff or students have that Hugh would not try to help solve.



PHOTO: Tutor Hugh Tulloch with Donald Smith

Tomlinson Adult Learning Center and the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg are very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, committed and personable volunteer. Since Hugh began tutoring he has amassed three hundred and eighty volunteer hours! Hugh Tulloch is making a difference in the lives of students, staff and his community.

Article by Mary Putnam

Catch this story...

An inspiring real-life story on NPR StoryCorps about a young girl and her determination to read despite dyslexia. Her new found love of reading and her goal to be a teacher when she grows up and to help dyslexic students.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100296324>

Did You Know?

Adult Learner Day

Did you know that all of our adult learners are invited to attend the Adult Learner Day at the Florida Literacy Coalition Conference on **Wednesday, May 6th FREE OF CHARGE**. This year's Conference is being held in nearby **Clearwater at the Belleview Biltmore Resort**. Special sessions will address areas such as health literacy and developing learner involvement and leadership. A full day of activities has been set up by a committee of adult learners. This is an excellent chance for our adult learners to meet students from other programs across the state. All coordinators and tutors should encourage their students to attend. We had great reports from students who previously attended the conference when it was held in St. Petersburg. For registration information go to www.floridaliteracy.org.

Quotes

“If you can read this, thank a teacher.”

- Anonymous teacher

“You cannot help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself.”

- General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

“To teach is to learn twice.”

- Joseph Joubert

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

Can You Help Just a Little More?

This year the Literacy Council of St. Petersburg will celebrate its 41st anniversary of service to the community. But when I look back over the past 3 years, I see that the Literacy Council has made remarkable progress in just a short time. By getting the word out through speaking engagements and through our web site, we have made the community aware that we are here to fill a critical need. And so our student population has increased significantly. This community awareness has also allowed us to recruit more volunteer tutors. We have opened 3 new tutoring sites at schools in the past 3 years. Each is well on its way and is already growing rapidly.

But there are many facets to the Literacy Council, and a few people can't do it all. As you know, we have no paid staff—we are all volunteers. That includes the Literacy Council officers, members of the Board of Directors, the coordinators, the writers in our newsletter, and our community speakers just to name a few.

So take a minute and give this question serious consideration, “Can you help just a little more?” Would you like to write an article for the newsletter? Would you like to speak to a community group about the problems of adult illiteracy and our Literacy Council? Would you like to work on a fund raising project? Would you like to work on the upcoming Annual Awards Dinner? Are you interested in training new tutors?

New people available to take on extra work allows our organization to continue to grow, stay vibrant, and able to meet our community's continuing demands for help in this critical area.

Think about it. If you're available, give us a call at 727-521-1117. But regardless of your decision, know that your efforts each week are very much appreciated by your students and the Literacy Council.

Barbara Taylor
President

Passing the Torch – Coordinators Change at 2 Sites

Coordinators have changed at two of our tutoring sites: Lakewood Community School and St. Pete College/Seminole campus. When St. Pete College/Seminole campus opened this past spring, Ann Palmer started things along as its first coordinator. Now that this tutoring program is on its way, Ann has passed the coordinator duties over to Patti Neary.

Patti has been actively involved with our program since 2007 and we know she will help to expand this newest site. St. Pete College/Seminole campus currently meets on Wednesday evenings.

At Lakewood Community School which is our oldest tutoring site, Ann Palmer has assumed the coordinator duties from Barbara Taylor. Barbara has been the coordinator at that location for the past 4 years. Lakewood tutoring meets on Monday and Wednesday evenings. There are over 22 students registered at that site.

Student Corner:

Thanks to students Linda Barrett, Kelly Ropel, Lavern Samuel and Tracy Zhang

My Christmas Story
by Linda Barrett

It starts the day after Thanksgiving. They call it Black Friday. I call it Shameful Friday. We push and shove people for the "Almighty Dollar."

Why don't we remember that it's Christmas season. We could close the stores because it's Jesus' birthday. Everybody forgets it and then two years later the items bought are sitting in a yard sale.

We should enjoy eating with family and friends. I like to watch everybody opening gifts and I like to watch Christmas videos and DVDs.

So, I'm going to say good-bye and Merry Christmas and good night to all!

Volunteering
by Kelly Ropel

My friend where I live told me about helping at the Salvation Army last December. I said I would go with her, and her husband took me. I went there and everyone was sorting the toys. They had lots of toys, bikes, food and other gifts. The presents were for kids whose parents couldn't afford gifts for them. There were also things for the grownups, like scarves, hats and food.

They gave us little bells like the ones they ring at the grocery stores. We were also treated to a lunch. I like helping people, and I felt good about doing this. People need to help each other. I will do it again next year.

My Name is Lavern
by Lavern Samuel

My name is Lavern Samuel. I am looking for a job as a domestic. I want to get a better job. I started going to Tomlinson Adult Learning Center for my GED and reading in October, 2007. I am doing very well in school. I have a ten year old son that helps me with my reading skills, and I am blessed with a Christian husband who is teaching me about the bible and encourages me in my efforts to better myself and our family. We all go to the Elim Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I had some hard times in my life. We lived in Nassau, Bahamas. I never got to know my mother. She passed away when I was five years old, so I was raised by my grandmother. Sometimes I wanted to give up, but with the Lord God in my life, I have made big changes for the better.

I am reaching for my goal to get my driver's license, GED, and get a better place to live. With the help of God and my family, I hope to reach my goals in the next eight months.

Thank you,
Lavern Samuel

Trip to Beijing
by Tracy Zhang

In April 2008 we flew to China. We traveled to Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin. We had a really good time there.

When we went to Beijing, it was before the Olympics. We drove to the Bird Nest Stadium and the Water Cube. We took pictures outside. We vacationed in Shanghai to meet my friend. We took the train to Tianjin to visit our family. We ate different kinds of Chinese food and spent over one month there.

China is changing a lot. A lot of new buildings are rising higher to the sky. New subway stations, new train stations and now the airport are very modern and comfortable. Chinese people like to work hard and study hard. This is why every time I go back, I always am surprised. I feel so proud of my hometown.

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