



Student Spotlight: Ambre

My name is Ambre, and this is my story. I came across The Literacy Alliance four years ago. My mother helped me by calling and setting a date for orientation. I was in Pre-HSE for two years, and then I graduated to the regular HSE class. My mother passed away on August 8, 2019. I fought hard not to give up on everything. I kept my head held high, and I wanted to show her that I am still going and that I am going to graduate.

I am learning a lot that I never knew. I'm learning how to do fractions, proportions, division and expressions. I am thankful for my teacher, Amy, for actually sitting with me and taking the time to help me understand problems in my workbooks.

I am not sure what I want to do after I finish HSE. I've never really thought about it. I think I'll use my diploma to get a better job. Though I like working at the job I've got now, maybe I would like to get better pay.

I want to pass HSE and move forward with

my future. I will miss the class when I graduate because my teachers were nice; they let you know how good a job you're doing and push you to make goals and achieve them.

Update: Ambre passed the high school equivalency (HSE) exam in January 2021. She is currently looking into opportunities at a local community college and is excited about her new prospects.

"My mother passed away on August 8, 2019. I fought hard not to give up on everything. I kept my head held high, and I wanted to show her that I am still going and that I am going to graduate."

Have you seen the TLA blog? No? You should visit, it's filled with stories about our amazing volunteers and students like Ambre.

literacyalliance.org/blog



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Volunteer Spotlight Amanda

Amanda learned about the volunteer opportunity at The Literacy Alliance through her workplace. She loves getting to know the students in the pre-HSE course and is passionate about helping and educating others. She's always looking for a new challenge. Having previous experience as a Junior Achievement instructor has helped her calm students' anxiety when they have trouble with a concept.

"One of the big benefits of tutoring is feeling like you are making a difference for a student and helping them to achieve their goals. It feels great when a student you're helping starts to understand what they are learning and has that "light bulb moment."

Amanda has one piece of advice for current and future tutors, "Be patient. It pays off for both the tutor and the student."

With the help of volunteers like Amanda, students at The Literacy Alliance receive a personalized learning plan, including tutors when needed. They often leave the program with a greater sense of confidence.



Do you have time to help adult learners in our community? **Let's talk!** Call (260) 426-7323 or visit literacyalliance.org to learn more.

Advancing Literacy

PUBLICATION OF THE LITERACY ALLIANCE

SPRING 2021



2021 HSE Graduate | Ambre

Mission

The Literacy Alliance strives to end illiteracy by teaching adults through learning centers, literacy programs and tutoring services that empower individuals to succeed at work, at home and in the community.

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Exciting Times at TLA

We are not slowing down at The Literacy Alliance! New students continue to enter our classes and we are providing in-person instruction by following established safety protocols. Our in-class graduation ceremonies give us a chance to celebrate with each student who reaches that graduation milestone. Thank you for continuing to support them through your donations of caps, gowns, time and money. Your investments continue to pay off!



Arena Dinner Theatre Partnership

You are invited to join us in mid-April as we livestream a virtual production of "Salt & Pepper," which is being produced by our friends at Arena Dinner Theatre. More details are in this newsletter, but mark your calendar for the weekend of April 16 so you can tune in to this free play that brings awareness to the challenges of adult illiteracy. Please register and share the event with your friends and colleagues.

Impact Update

As we enter into the last half of our program year, we are pleased to share that The Literacy Alliance is trending very positively compared to last year, as well as to the state, in terms of the success metrics we measure. Our students are making more measurable skills gains than last year (69% this year compared to 58% last year) and our average is higher than the state's (69% compared to the state's 55%). And 43% of our students have attained their HSE, compared to 28% last year and 25% for the state this year. Most impressively, 89% of our students take part in some form of distance learning compared to 74% last year and 37% for the state this year. Our staff is dedicated to student success!

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Finally, The Literacy Alliance could use your help as we spread the word about our need for a part-time volunteer coordinator (visit the Employment page on our website for details) and as we search for classroom space in Decatur that would allow us to have an evening class. If you have information that could help us move forward with these two areas of need, please get in touch with me.

Happy spring!

Melinda
Melinda Haines | CEO
melinda.haines@fwliteracyalliance.org

Spring Cleaning

It is time for spring cleaning here at TLA! Thanks to the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, we were selected to be a part of a cohort of local non-profits that have been given a year's free access to Network for Good, a stakeholder management system. This has inspired us to clean up our database and now we want to make sure that we are communicating with you in your preferred method.

Please take a few minutes to update your information by scanning the QR code or visiting our website at www.literacyalliance.org/InTouch to update your preferences.



We never share our data and promise to keep your contact information safe.



"Salt & Pepper" explores family, friendship and illiteracy. Salt's grandfather can't read or write. He's ashamed to tell anyone, and his silence has had a devastating effect on the entire family. Salt can barely read, and Pepper, his new friend, reads voraciously. Together they discover a past, the secrets of which are revealed in an old box of mysterious postcards.

Visit www.literacyalliance.org/arena to register for this free event!

Graduating in a Pandemic Just Got Easier!

We are thrilled to announce that several generous donors have responded to our appeal to raise funds to pay for our students' high school equivalency (HSE) tests for the foreseeable future. Special thanks go to the Marion-Clairmont Family Fund, the Waterfield Foundation and 17 individual donors for contributing enough to this special fund to pay for 80 exams! Thank you for helping remove a significant barrier for our adult students.

While this funding will pay for the exams needed through the rest of our program year, the expense will be ongoing. Will you invest in the future of our community by donating to cover the cost of one or two HSE exams?

Visit literacyalliance.org/HSEfund to donate today.



Did you know there is no cost to students for our classes? It is one of the many ways The Literacy Alliance is removing barriers for adult learners in Allen, Adams and Wells counties. Please consider investing in the future of our communities by visiting our website, literacyalliance.org/donate, or by using the enclosed return envelope.

Do you have a cap, gown or tassel that's collecting dust?

The Literacy Alliance is looking for gently used graduation caps, gowns and tassels. Our students are doing so well that we are quickly running out of supplies! If you have a cap, gown or tassel you'd like to donate, please call the TLA office at (260) 426-7323. Thank you!



Join the Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is an annual giving club to acknowledge the part donors play in the delivery of our mission. The Honor Roll recognizes donors who contribute \$250 or more annually, and whose commitment to The Literacy Alliance provides regular and significant support of the advancement of our students.

Earn Perfect Attendance by starting a monthly gift. Perfect Attendance allows a donor to join the Honor Roll with a smaller upfront gift.

To learn more visit literacyalliance.org/honorroll

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Social Media

Did you know you can follow The Literacy Alliance on social media? We like to share stories about our students, volunteers and staff.

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