

For Immediate Release

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The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation has Granted The Literacy Alliance \$25,000 for Project Connect

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The Literacy Alliance (TLA) is pleased to announce a \$25,000 grant from The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation for its Project Connect (PC) program. Project Connect is an English language learning program that emphasizes basic reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, offering real-life practice. All TLA programs, including PC, are free for students.

In Allen County, approximately 40,000 people live in households where English is not the primary language, with more than 7,000 living in poverty. About 98% of TLA students are low- and moderate-income adults facing educational barriers. They join TLA to attain their high school equivalency diploma or improve English skills for better communication in daily life and expand their job prospects.

To meet growing demand for English language instruction, TLA collaborates with churches, community centers, and Amani Family Services. Regular communication and a quarterly newsletter keep partners informed and engaged.

"We are excited about this grant as it will allow TLA to expand the Project Connect program and serve more than 300 clients who are currently on a waiting list," said Melinda Haines, Chief Executive Officer of The Literacy Alliance.

For more than 50 years, The Literacy Alliance has been fueled by a simple yet powerful truth: Literacy changes lives. Our mission is to empower people through education. But we are more than educators; we are catalysts for empowerment.

Our free programs for adult learners include Project Graduate, which provides classes in Allen, Adams, and Wells Counties for those who wish to earn a high school equivalency diploma and Project Connect, an English language learners program serving individuals and employees in Allen County. Moreover, our commitment extends to our youngest learners in Allen County, who, through Project Reads, begin their inspiring journey toward reading proficiency and educational excellence.