



Don't Miss Out – Tickets on Sale!

Federal Funding Update

The past few months have been a financial roller coaster for The Literacy Alliance as state and federal funding sources destabilized. Staff, students, volunteers, and other stakeholders have felt the shock of hearing news from Washington that confirms, “they are talking about us!”

Reduced state funding and the threat of frozen federal funds forced TLA and many other nonprofits to make tough programming decisions. For us, that meant staff terminations (since 80% of our program costs are salaries and benefits) and cutting several classes, hoping students can adjust to new times and locations. It’s been a hard but necessary pivot to continue serving as many students as possible with fewer resources.

Now, we’re relieved to share that federal funding has been unfrozen for this program year. This ensures we can continue our mission, but it’s not business as usual. The funds come with new requirements, including strict verification of U.S. citizenship or lawful immigration status, which will create additional barriers for some students.

We also know government funding is never guaranteed. To reduce our reliance on it, we need your help:

- Visit our classrooms to see our work in action and help spread the word.
- Advocate to state and federal legislators about the value and return on investment of adult education for employment, wage growth, and post-secondary credential attainment in our region.
- Volunteer in one of our programs.
- Make a [donation here](#).
- Join us for *Laughs for Literacy* on Friday, September 19, as a [corporate sponsor](#) or attendee. Details and tickets at www.laughsforliteracy.com.

Together, we can meet these challenges and keep providing the life-changing education our students deserve.

If you have any questions or would like to see how your donations are making a direct impact in the community, feel free to contact me.

Melinda Haines
Chief Executive Officer
o: 260.426.7323
d: 260.423.0001
e: melinda@literacyalliance.org



Student Spotlight: Olivia

"This program has truly opened my eyes to see that I can succeed and earn my high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. I plan to attend Ivy Tech..."

Visit the [TLA Blog](#) to read more about Olivia's experience at TLA as a Project Graduate student.



Project Reads

K-3 Reading Program

Volunteers Needed

One hour. That's all it takes to change a child's story. Many kids in our community are struggling to read at grade level, and without support, they risk falling further behind. Project Reads is looking for compassionate volunteers to spend just one hour a week helping children discover the joy of reading. It's a small commitment with a life-changing impact.

Join us for the 2025–26 school year and help open the door to a brighter future.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Whitney

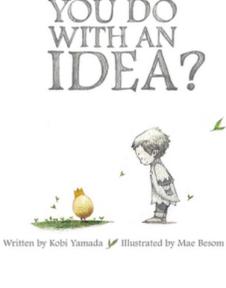
This month, we're proud to shine a spotlight on our very own **Whitney Webber**. Whitney's unwavering dedication to helping children discover the joy of reading is nothing short of inspiring. Her passion, creativity, and commitment are making a real difference in the lives of young readers—and in our community.

We're excited to share that Whitney's story was recently featured in *The Waynedale News*, highlighting the incredible impact she is making.

See more about Whitney and find a link to the story on our blog at literacyalliance.org/blog.



Pictured: Whitney Weber and Deb Dutton



Get Your Copy Here

Project Reads Book of the Month

What Do You Do With an Idea?
by Kobi Yamada (Author), Mae Besom (Illustrator)
36 pages | 1-2 grade readers

This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens. This is a story for anyone, at any age, who's ever had an idea that seemed a little too big, too odd, too difficult. It's a story to inspire you to welcome that idea, to give it some space to grow, and to see what happens next. Because your idea isn't going anywhere. In fact, it's just getting started.



Partner with The Literacy Alliance to Support Your Clients!

Are you a local agency with clients who could benefit from The Literacy Alliance's services? We're here to help! If your agency would like to learn more about TLA's free programs—including high school equivalency prep and English language learning—we'd be happy to arrange a facility tour or give a group presentation to your staff.

To schedule, or to refer your clients, contact TLA's outreach coordinator, **Mike Jackson**, at:

☎ (260) 423-0006

✉ mike@literacyalliance.org

When making a referral, please include the following information:

- ✓ Applicant's name
- ✓ Applicant's phone and email address
- ✓ Referring agency name

Together, we can empower individuals through literacy and education. Let's make a difference—one referral at a time!

Community Resources

The Literacy Alliance's **Community Resources** section connects you to job opportunities, financial aid, continuing education, housing assistance, legal support, healthcare, and more—all in one place.

We update it regularly, so if you haven't checked it out yet (or it's been a while), now's the time! Click the button to explore resources that can make a difference today.



[Community Resources](#)



Our mission is to empower people and strengthen community through education.

You Can Help

- [Volunteer](#)
- [Refer a Student](#)
- [Donate Today](#)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
1005 W. Rudisill Blvd., Suite 307
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
260-426-7323 | [Email](mailto:info@literacyalliance.org)

2023-2024 Impact Report

Melinda Haines
Chief Executive Officer

Matt Wire
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

Laura Woodfill
Associate Director of Development

Deb Dutton
Project Reads Program Director

Mike Jackson
Outreach Coordinator

Nikki Minarik
Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Brian Thomas
Administrative Coordinator

Drew Herendeen
Administrative Coordinator

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East Allen County Schools

Fred McKissack
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

State Representative Kyle Miller
Kekionga Bookkeeping Services

Luke Mungovan
Lake City Bank

Sharon Tubbs
HealthVisions Midwest of Fort Wayne

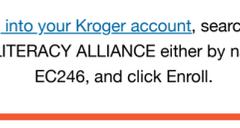
Tim VanHouten
Fort Wayne Metals

LaRae Bane, Board Intern
Allen County Public Library

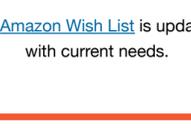
Justin Trefl, Board Intern
Fort Wayne Allen-County Airport Authority

Melinda Haines, Ex Officio
The Literacy Alliance

[Click here to see the entire TLA team.](#)



[Log into your Kroger account](#), search for THE LITERACY ALLIANCE either by name or EC246, and click Enroll.



The TLA [Amazon Wish List](#) is updated often with current needs.

[Click Here To Support TLA](#)



The Literacy Alliance
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Suite 307
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
United States
(260) 426-7323 | literacyalliance.org