



Laughs for Literacy 2025 - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who joined us, donated, and sponsored this year's *Laughs for Literacy!* A special thank you to our hilarious comedians, Zach Wycuff and Angel Gaines, who kept the room laughing all night.

Because of your generosity, The Literacy Alliance can continue offering free, life-changing programs to our community. Every ticket purchased, every donation made, and every sponsor's support helps us move closer to our mission: empowering people and strengthening community through education.

Literacy truly changes lives. From adults earning their high school equivalency diploma, to parents gaining confidence to read with their children, to English language learners finding their voice, your support ensures that these opportunities remain free and accessible. When individuals improve their literacy skills, they open doors to better jobs, stronger families, and a brighter future—not just for themselves, but for the entire community.

Couldn't be there or didn't get a chance to donate? Your gift still makes a difference! Click the button and help keep free literacy programs going in our community.

[Give Now!](#)

LAUGHS FOR LITERACY!
Friday, September 19, 2025
Baker Street Centre

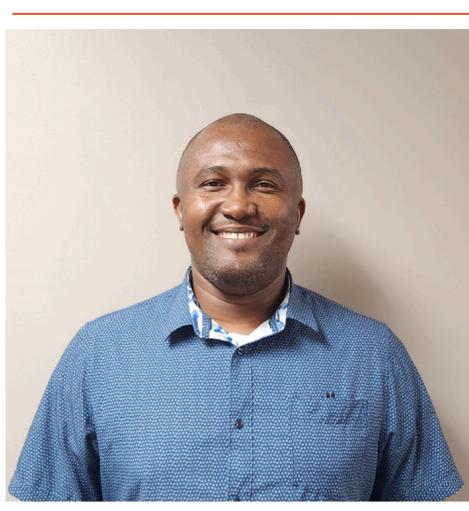
HEADLINER SPONSOR
COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

FEATURED ACT SPONSOR
OLD NATIONAL BANK

OPENING ACT SPONSORS
Custom Engineering & Fabrication, Inc. **FORT FINANCIAL** **Lincoln Financial Group**

PRO Resources **Rea**

MIC CHECK SPONSORS
 Baden, Gage, & Schroeder
 Burlington English
 Fort Wayne Metals
 Haines, Ierzbarger, & Skiba
 Horizon Bank
 Lake City Bank
 Pizza Hut of Fort Wayne



Student Spotlight

Discover **Maxime's** inspiring journey with The Literacy Alliance—how earning his HSE is opening doors to college, business ownership, and giving back to the community. [Read more on our blog.](#)



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet TLA volunteer, **Linh**, who finds hope in helping others succeed. Discover how tutoring inspires persistence, growth, and a love for learning. [Read more on our blog.](#)



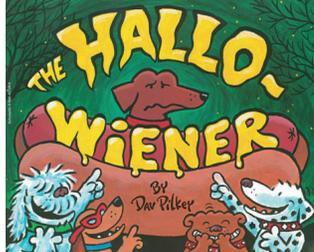
Fort Wayne Mayor Sharon Tucker Declares Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

We are honored to share that Mayor Sharon Tucker has officially proclaimed September 14–20, 2025, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in Fort Wayne.

During a special presentation at the Mayor's office, representatives from The Literacy Alliance (Melinda Haines), Fort Wayne Community Schools (Lonnie Heck), and Impact Institute (Caroline Foster) joined together to accept the proclamation. This recognition highlights the importance of literacy as a foundation for opportunity, empowerment, and community growth.

At The Literacy Alliance, we believe literacy truly changes lives. This proclamation shines a spotlight on the efforts of educators, students, and partners across the city who are working every day to make sure that more adults and families have access to the tools they need to succeed.

Thank you, Mayor Tucker and your staff, for your continued support of adult education in our community.



Project Reads Book of the Month

The Hallo-Wiener
 By Dav Pilkey
 32 pages | Grades K-3

From the creator of *Dog Man* and *Captain Underpants* comes a Halloween classic that is both funny and heartwarming. *The Hallo-Wiener* tells the story of Oscar, a little dachshund with a big problem. His classmates will not stop teasing him. But when Halloween night takes an unexpected turn, Oscar shows that courage and kindness matter more than size or shape.

This hilarious and uplifting picture book is a reminder that even the smallest among us can be the biggest heroes. It is a perfect seasonal read for young learners and families to share.

[Get Your Copy Here](#)



Partner with The Literacy Alliance to Support Your Clients!

Are you a local agency with clients who could benefit from The Literacy Alliance?

We offer free programs like high school equivalency prep and English language learning. Schedule a facility tour or staff presentation to learn more.

To refer clients or schedule a visit, contact **Outreach Coordinator Mike Jackson** at:

[\(260\) 423-0006](tel:(260)423-0006)
mike@literacyalliance.org

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.

[Visit the Community Page](#)



Literacy Changes Lives. 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](#)

[2023-2024 Impact Report](#)

Melinda Haines
 Chief Executive Officer

Matt Wire
 Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

Shubitha Kever
 Director of Operations

Deb Dutton
 Project Reads Program Director

Laura Woodfill
 Associate Director of Development

Mike Jackson
 Outreach Coordinator

Nikki Minarik
 Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Brian Thomas
 Administrative Coordinator

Drew Herendeen
 Administrative Coordinator

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

2025-26 Board of Directors

Isabel Nuñez, Chair
 Purdue University Fort Wayne

Michaela Baldwin, Vice Chair
 Legends Global Merchandise

Luke Mungovan, Treasurer
 Lake City Bank

Tammy Allen, Secretary
 The Rescue Mission

Corey Porter, Past Chair
 Lincoln Financial Group

Trudy Adams
 Brightpoint

Susan Baier
 Allen County Public Library

Ben Bailey
 Barrett McNagny

Kara Densmore
 Old National Bank

Ron Duchovic
 Retired Educator

Teresa Knobloch
 East Allen County Schools

Fred McKissack
 Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

State Representative Kyle Miller
 Kekionga Bookkeeping Services

Sharon Tubbs
 HealthVisions Midwest of Fort Wayne

Tim VanHouten
 Fort Wayne Metals

Carla Butts, Board Intern
 Doden Legacy Office

Melinda Haines, Ex Officio
 The Literacy Alliance



Support us through our **Amazon Wish List!** Help offset the cost of supplies by purchasing needed items. The list is updated regularly, so check back often!

[Amazon Wish List](#)



Planned Giving
 Join us today. Together, we can write a future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

[Planned Giving](#)



Shop and Give
 Effortless giving! Log into your Kroger account, search for THE LITERACY ALLIANCE (or EC246), and click Enroll.

[Log into Kroger](#)

{{Disclaimer}}
 The Literacy Alliance
 1005 W. Rudisill Blvd.
 Suite 307
 Fort Wayne, IN 46807
 United States