



Don't Miss Out – Tickets on Sale!

Get Ready to Laugh!

Please join us at **Laughs for Literacy!**—The Literacy Alliance’s biggest fundraiser of the year—on **Friday, September 19, at 6 PM at Baker Street Centre.**

This year, the need is greater than ever. More than 55,000 adults in northeast Indiana struggle without a high school diploma or with limited English skills. At the same time, funding for adult education programs is shrinking, even as demand continues to grow. For our students, education isn’t just about learning, it’s about finding stable jobs, supporting families, and creating brighter futures.

That’s why I’m asking you to come laugh with us. When you buy a ticket, you’re not only signing up for a fun evening, you’re investing in your neighbors and in the future of our community.

We’ve put together a fantastic lineup:

- **Angel Gaines**, a former educator and comedy powerhouse, has performed around the world and brings uplifting, hilarious energy to every stage.
- **Zach Wycuff**, a rising star known for his quick wit, heartfelt storytelling, and lovable humor.
- And back again this year, our emcee **Nicholas Ferreri**, chief meteorologist at WANE 15.

Tickets are just **\$75 each**, which includes the show, a full pub-style buffet, and one drink ticket, and our thanks! Or, bring friends and save—**4 tickets for \$250**. Want a little extra? Upgrade to **VIP for \$125** and enjoy general admission plus the buffet, 2 drink tickets, TLA swag, and our thanks!

I hope you’ll join me for a night of fun, food, and laughter that makes a real difference. Together, we can help more adults take their first steps toward a diploma, a career, and a fresh start.

Melinda Haines
Chief Executive Officer
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TLA Welcomes New Director of Operations

We are excited to welcome **Shubitha Kever** as our new director of operations. With nearly 20 years of leadership in higher education and nonprofits, including her most recent work at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Shubitha brings extensive experience in operations, grant development, and inclusive programming. Her expertise will help strengthen TLA’s capacity to deliver free education programs across Allen, Adams, and Wells Counties.



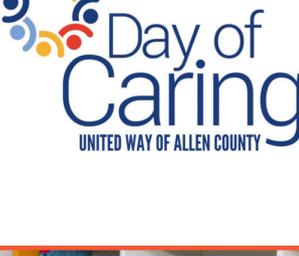
Student Spotlight: Swa

"I started working at a warehouse and saw that opportunities for promotions and advancement kept passing me by due to my lack of a diploma..."

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

Volunteer Spotlight: United Way Day of Caring

Volunteers from **Lutheran Life Villages** and **1st Source Bank** joined The Literacy Alliance for **United Way’s Day of Caring**, supporting families and childhood literacy in Fort Wayne.



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



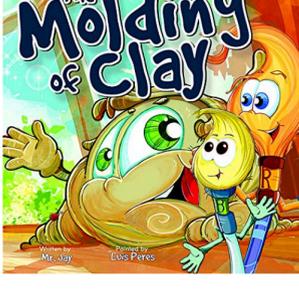
Project Reads

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!](#)



Project Reads Book of the Month

The Molding of Clay
By Mr. Jay | Illustrated by Luis Peres

The brushes are back for another colorful adventure! When Clay visits the art studio, he quickly learns that some brushes act differently—but that’s what makes them special. Through playful rhymes and vibrant illustrations, this story encourages children to practice kindness, acceptance, and understanding of others’ unique abilities.

[Get Your Copy Here](#)

Perfect for ages 3–9, *The Molding of Clay* opens the door to conversations about empathy and inclusion in a fun and memorable way.



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](#)



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

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2023-2024 Impact Report

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Laura Woodfill
Associate Director of Development

Mike Jackson
Outreach Coordinator

Nikki Minarik
Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Brian Thomas
Administrative Coordinator

Drew Herendeen
Administrative Coordinator

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Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

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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 Treft, 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](#)



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