

Student Spotlight: Ricky

School was not working for Ricky. At The Literacy Alliance, he found a new path, earned his HSE, and set his sights on a career in welding.

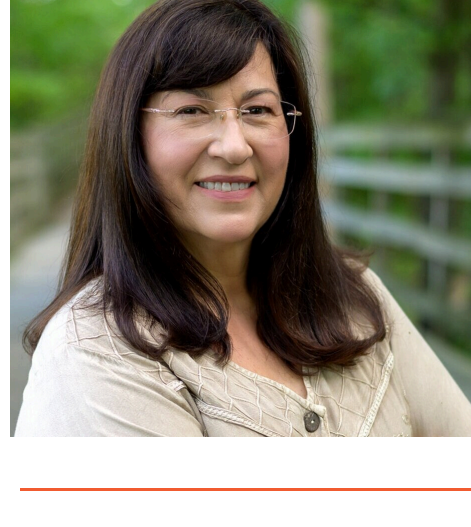
Read Ricky's full story on [The Literacy Alliance blog](#).



Volunteer Spotlight: Carla

Carla serves on the board and tutors with Project Reads, experiencing The Literacy Alliance's mission from both sides.

Read the full story on [The Literacy Alliance blog](#).



TLA CEO Retiring this Summer

You may have seen in the [Journal Gazette](#) that our CEO, Melinda Haines, will be retiring this summer. Since stepping into the role in 2020, Melinda has led the organization through meaningful growth and positive change.

Her leadership has made a lasting impact on our work, our team, and the community we serve. Please take a few moments to read the article and join us in wishing her all the best as she focuses on her health.

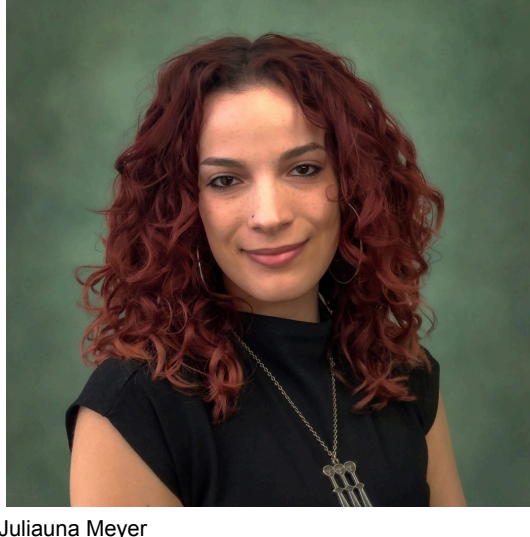
We are incredibly grateful for her dedication, vision, and the strong foundation she leaves behind.

Potential candidates are encouraged to apply at literacyalliance.org/jobs.

Welcome, Juliauna and Aisha!

We are thrilled to welcome two incredible additions to The Literacy Alliance family: Juliauna Meyer, our new development coordinator, and Aisha Cansler, our new testing administrator.

Juliauna brings a wonderfully winding path to TLA. A Purdue-trained scientist turned artist and educator, she spent the pandemic years building an art business focused on making creative education accessible to young people without formal training. That spirit of removing barriers carried her through work at an early education nonprofit and libraries across northern Indiana and ultimately to us. A first-generation college graduate, Juliauna understands firsthand the life-changing power of education. When she is not coordinating development efforts, you might find her on a trail, strumming her guitar, solo traveling, or curled up reading with her cat, Amethyst.



Juliauna Meyer



Aisha Cansler

Aisha joins TLA with a background in business administration and a career defined by purpose. From mentorship to credit restoration to supporting pathways to homeownership, she has dedicated herself to helping individuals build confidence and generational wealth in their communities. A proud mother of two adult sons who inspire her daily, Aisha brings devotion, determination, and a deep belief that every day is a new opportunity to grow.

"We are so excited to welcome Juliauna and Aisha to the TLA team," said CEO Melinda Haines. "They each bring a unique perspective and a genuine commitment to the communities we serve. I cannot wait to see the impact they will make."

Please join us in giving them a warm welcome.



Tickets Now Available!

Join us for an exclusive evening inside the Main Library after dark, where stories, community, and connection take center stage. Enjoy great food, drinks, behind-the-scenes moments, and a one-of-a-kind atmosphere as the library closes to the public and opens just for you.

This special evening brings together community leaders and champions of literacy and workforce development, with proceeds supporting The Literacy Alliance and Friends of the Library.

[Get Your Tickets Today!](#)

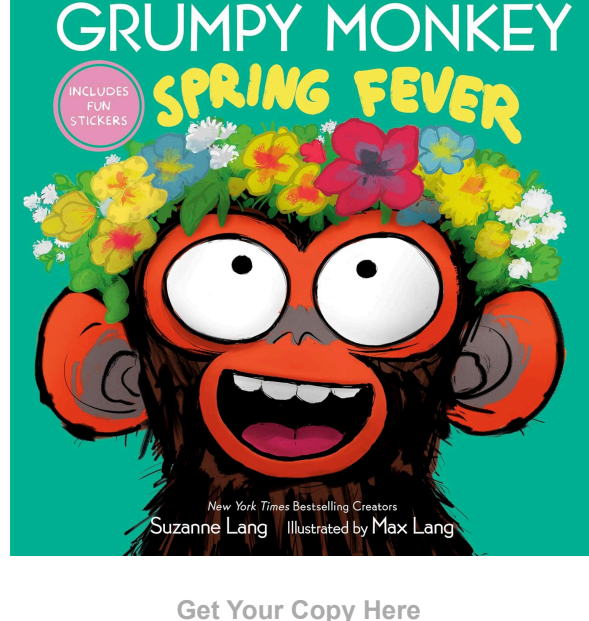
Project Reads Book of the Month

Grumpy Monkey Spring Fever by Suzanne Lang and Max Lang

Something is very wrong with Jim Panzee: he is happy. In this latest installment from the bestselling *Grumpy Monkey* series, Jim goes racing through the jungle laughing and shouting with glee, much to the alarm of his fellow animals. Norman quickly diagnoses the problem: spring fever. The jungle crew rallies with remedies like lavender, naps, and deep breaths, but nothing brings back Jim's beloved grump. And then it spreads. Before long, the whole jungle has caught it, and what begins as a crisis turns into an all-out springtime celebration. Packed with lively illustrations and a belly laugh on every page, plus fun stickers, this one is pure delight for *Grumpy Monkey* fans of all ages.

Click below to enjoy a read aloud video!

[Get Your Copy Here](#)



[Get Your Copy Here](#)



The 2024–25 Impact Report Is Here

The Literacy Alliance's 2024-25 Impact Report is now available.

Inside, you will find stories of perseverance, program growth, and the real outcomes made possible through the support of our community. This year's report highlights the students working to finish high school, strengthen their English skills, and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

You will also see the powerful impact made possible by the volunteers, donors, and partners who stand behind this work and believe in the power of literacy to transform lives.

Download the report below to see how literacy is opening doors to opportunity, strengthening our workforce, and building a stronger community for everyone.

[Download the Report](#)



Partner with The Literacy Alliance to Support Your Clients!

Are you a local agency with clients who could benefit from free programs such as high school equivalency preparation or English language learning? We would be happy to schedule a facility tour or staff presentation to share more about how we can support your community.

Outreach coordinator Mike Jackson is also available to speak to your church, civic group, club, or community organization about the programs and services we offer. If your group hosts an annual festival, fair, or community event, we would love to be part of it! Connecting with the community in spaces like these is something Mike truly enjoys, so do not hesitate to reach out.

To refer clients, schedule a visit, or invite outreach coordinator Mike Jackson to your next event, please contact him 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, financial 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](#)



2025-26 Board of Directors

Isabel Nuñez, Chair
Purdue University Fort Wayne

Michaëla Baldwin, Vice Chair
Legends Global Management

Luke Mungovan, Treasurer
Lake City Bank

Tammy Allen, Secretary
The Rescue Mission

Corey Porter, Past Chair
Lincoln Financial Group

Susan Baier
Allen County Public Library

Ben Bailey
Barrett McNagny

Kara Densmore
Old National Bank

Ron Duchovic
Retired Educator

Teresa Knoblauch
East Allen County Schools

Fred McKissack
Fort Worth Gazette

State Representative Kyle Miller
Kekianga 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

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](mailto:info@literacyalliance.org)

[2023-2024 Impact Report](#)

Melinda Haines
Chief Executive Officer

Matt Wire
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

Shubitha Kever
Director of Operations

Deb Dutton
Program Director, Project Reads

Laura Woodfill
Associate Director of Development

Juliauna Meyer
Development Coordinator

Juliana Bengs
Associate Director of Workforce Development

Mike Jackson
Outreach Coordinator

Nikki Minarik
Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Brian Thomas
Administrative Coordinator

Drew Herendeen
Administrative Coordinator/Testing Administrator

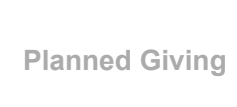
Aisha Cansler
Testing Administrator

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



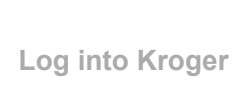
Support us through our **Amazon Wish List!** Help offset the cost of supplies by purchasing needed items. The list is updated regularly, so check back often!

[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