



Student Spotlight: Larry

Larry passed the GED test and earned his high school equivalency (HSE) diploma at age 52 with help from The Literacy Alliance. Read his story and learn how adult education can open new doors at any stage of life.

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



Volunteer Spotlight: Brendan

For 28 years, Brendan has sat across from students chasing a dream most people take for granted. Here is what that does to a person.

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

Welcoming Remound Wright As Interim CEO

This summer brings a meaningful transition to The Literacy Alliance. We are welcoming Remound Wright as our interim chief executive officer, and at the same time saying a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Melinda Haines. After six and a half years of dedicated leadership, Melinda is retiring to focus on her health and recovery from acute myeloid leukemia. Her care for our learners, volunteers, and community partners has left a lasting mark on this organization and on the people it serves. We are grateful for everything she has given to TLA, and we wish her strength, peace, and brighter days ahead on her recovery journey. There will be a retirement party later this summer to say goodbye in person.

Stepping into the interim role, Remound brings more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership and a steady hand for guiding organizations through times of change. A graduate of Third Sector Company's Interim Executives Academy, he has led teams, strengthened operations, and built community partnerships across a wide range of organizations. Most recently he served as interim president and CEO of Summit Equestrian Center right here in Fort Wayne, a nonprofit that supports military veterans and individuals of all abilities through the healing power of horses. Before that, he served as interim president and CEO of United Way of Howard County, where he focused on programmatic excellence, board engagement, and real community impact.

Remound is also a familiar face close to home. As co-founder of RW Consulting here in Fort Wayne, and through past roles with organizations and businesses across the region, he understands what it takes to keep a mission moving forward. His strengths in community engagement, financial stewardship, and strategic planning make him a strong partner for TLA during this season of transition.

We are glad to have Remound on board, and we look forward to introducing him to the learners, volunteers, donors, and partners who make our work possible. Please join us in welcoming him to The Literacy Alliance.

Welcome TLA's Newest Board Members

We're thrilled to welcome four new members to The Literacy Alliance board of directors: Linda Alt (Canterbury School), Joe Hyndman (Hyndman Industrial Products, Inc.), Wylie Sirk (Retired Educator), and Adam Welch (Greater Fort Wayne).

Each of them brings experience, expertise, and a genuine commitment to our mission, and we're grateful for every bit of time, talent, and treasure they're willing to share.

We Couldn't Do It Without You: TLA Celebrates Its Volunteers

On Tuesday, June 23, The Literacy Alliance gathered at Ceruti's for its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, an afternoon dedicated to the people who power our mission. Over a wonderful lunch and plenty of well-earned accolades, the staff and board members of TLA came together to say thank you to our incredible volunteers.

The numbers behind those thanks are remarkable: over the past 11 months, 188 volunteers contributed 4,945 hours of service across Allen, Adams, and Wells Counties. Every one of those hours represents an act of encouragement, patience, and dedication that has changed lives.

The luncheon also honored two standout volunteers. *The Gordon Cole Outstanding Volunteer Award* (adult education) was presented to Cindy DesJean, and the *Toma T. Davis Tutor of the Year Award* (Project Reads) was awarded to Katherine Smith. Congratulations to both!

We were also grateful to welcome guest speakers Teresa Knoblauch, Assistant Superintendent at East Allen County Schools and a TLA board member, and Charles "Charlee" McConnell, a dedicated Project Graduate volunteer of more than nine years, who reminded us why this work matters.

To all of the TLA volunteers, those who joined us and those we missed: please know we couldn't do what we do without you. You are what drives us forward, each and every day. What you do for our students ripples out into our entire community.

No two words could ever fully capture our gratitude, but we offer them with our whole hearts: **thank you**. We are humbled by all you give, and honored to celebrate you.



Retiring CEO Melinda Haines and Interim CEO Remound Wright



Nan Wilson (Teacher), Cindy DesJean (Project Graduate Volunteer), and Cathie Bledsoe (Digital Navigator)



Katherine Smith (Project Reads Volunteer) and Deb Dutton (Project Reads Program Director)

Save The Date



Project Reads Book Of The Month

Have You Ever Wondered?

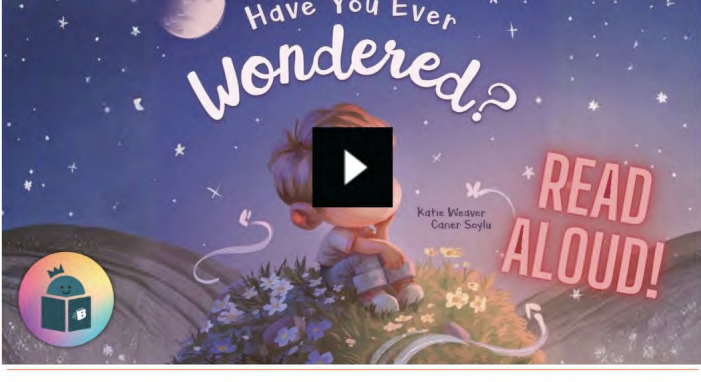
Katie Weaver (Author) | Caner Soylu (Illustrator)

36 Pages | Ages 6 and up

A tender picture book that invites children to explore their own courage, curiosity, and compassion through gentle, poetic questions. Each page encourages young readers to embrace trying, dreaming, and changing as natural parts of growing into who they are meant to be.



[Get Your Copy Here](#)



In Memoriam: Joe Stabelli



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Joe Stabelli, husband of the late Judy Stabelli, on May 10, 2026, at the age of 93.

Many of you will recognize the Stabelli name. Judy served as a longtime executive director of The Literacy Alliance, and [The Stabelli Society](#) was established in her honor. Joe shared that spirit of service in his own quiet, steady way. A social worker, psychologist, professor, self-taught jazz guitarist, and devoted family man, he lived a life defined by resilience, generosity, and care for others.

Vision impaired from a young age, Joe never let that reality limit him. He earned degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh, performed jazz at venues throughout Fort Wayne, cooked from scratch for his family, and brought his dogs to nursing home visits to comfort residents.

He will be deeply missed by those who knew him and by the broader community he and Judy so meaningfully shaped.



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

 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, health insurance, 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.

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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[2024-2025 Impact Report](#)

Remound Wright

Interim Chief Executive Officer

Matt Wire

Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

Shubitha Kever

Director of Operations/Chief Examiner

Deb Dutton

Program Director, Project Reads

Juliana Bengs

Associate Director of Workforce Development

Laura Woodfill

Grant Manager

Mike Jackson

Outreach Coordinator

Nikki Minarik

Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Juliauna Meyer

Development Coordinator

Drew Herendeen

Administrative Coordinator/Testing Administrator

Aisha Cansler

Testing Administrator

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

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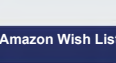
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Tim VanHouten

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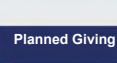
Adam Welch

Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.



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!

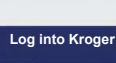
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Planned Giving

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](#)

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