What Four Weeks of Listening Taught Me About Coffee, Chairs, and Culture

Four weeks in as Interim CEO at the Literacy Alliance, and my calendar has mostly held conversations: board members and staff at their desks, GED classes in session, volunteers, potential partners and donors over coffee. I came in planning to listen before I talked. What I got instead was a masterclass in hospitality.

I've learned that "hospitality culture" isn't a slogan around here. It's the extra chair someone pulls up next to a student without being asked. The volunteer who remembers a student's kid's name. The donor who takes a call at 7am and asks how a program is going, and how else they can help, not just how much we need. Turns out excellence and financial resilience aren't opposites of warmth. They run on it.

A few funders have told me, gently, that our budget updates read like tax forms. Fair point. We're working on that, starting with this newsletter.

None of this fixes our cash reserves on its own. But a staff and donor community this generous with their time is exactly the foundation the next phase of our plan needs. Thank you all for the coffee, the honesty, and the patience.

More soon,

Remound Wright
Interim CEO

Student Spotlight: Nancy

Nancy shares how a sister's recommendation led her to TLA and why she wants other students to know it's not as scary as it seems.

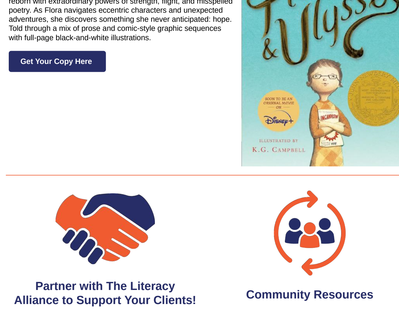
Read the full story on The Literacy Alliance blog.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jane

Small steps, big wins. Jane's second year as a Project Build tutor has taught her more than she expected.

Read the full story on The Literacy Alliance blog.

Save the Date - Tickets Available Soon!



Celebrate the Chance to Fulfill Your Vision

The Journal Gazette

This Independence Day, our chief marketing and communications officer, Matt Wire, wrote about a different kind of freedom: the freedom to change your life through literacy. His op-ed ran in The Journal Gazette, and it starts like this:

"We just celebrated the Fourth of July. We think about freedom. We think about the people who fought for it. But freedom is more than a moment in history. It is a promise we get to keep alive every single day.

Freedom is the right to change your life. It is the chance to start over, no matter how far behind you feel. In this country, your past does not have to decide your future. That is a kind of independence worth celebrating, too."

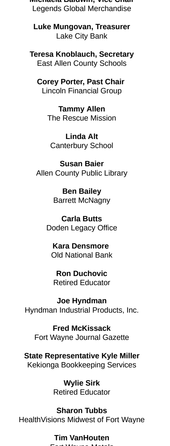
Read the rest of the op-ed at The Journal Gazette (subscription required), or click here for a PDF.

Project Reads Book of the Month

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures
Kate DiCamillo (Author) | K. G. Campbell (Illustrator)
240 Pages | Ages 8 to 12

A laugh-out-loud 2014 Newbery Medal winner about a self-described cynic named Flora Belle Buckman and a squirrel named Ulysses who, after a chance encounter with a vacuum cleaner, is reborn with extraordinary powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry. As Flora navigates eccentric characters and unexpected adventures, she discovers something she never anticipated: hope. Told through a mix of prose and comic-style graphic sequences with full-page black-and-white illustrations.

Get Your Copy Here



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.

Mike genuinely enjoys meeting new people and talking to our community about TLA, so don't hesitate to reach out.

To refer clients, schedule a visit, or invite Mike to speak at your next event, please contact him at:

(260) 423-0006 (direct)
mike@literacyalliance.org

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

The Literacy Alliance
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

1005 W. Rudisill Blvd., Suite 307
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
(260) 426-7323 | Email

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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