



Adult Learning Center News

Spring 2014

Volume XI, Issue 2



Giving adults in Strafford County a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity.

Director's Message

Deanna Strand

Spring is a magical time in the world of adult education. As the school year winds down, there is much to be excited about and many wonderful events to look forward to.

In our annual celebration of cultural diversity, the Culture Exchange, our ESOL students



will practice their growing language skills with special guests, sharing art and artifacts from their culture. The whole center will gather for an awards ceremony on the last day of school, coming together for one last time to eat and celebrate.

The 25th anniversary edition of our annual publication, "In Our Own Words," featuring poems, essays, artwork and stories by adult students is "on the press."

And of course, our annual graduation, scheduled for June 16, promises to be a joyous and moving celebration of student achievement.

Of course, the end of the year is also a time to reflect on the accomplishments of 2013-14. We have successfully transitioned from the GED to the HiSET, and students are finding success in large numbers with this new high school equivalency test. Student participation in record numbers made Red's Race a huge success, which we celebrated with a Center

-wide pizza party and awards ceremony.

Our growing Adult Career Pathways program is helping adults throughout the community prepare for college and career training, and challenging our staff to find creative ways to meet diverse needs.

Year in and year out, the hard-working staff, dedicated board and resilient students at DALC amaze me with their passion for and commitment to the transformative power of education.

Be a part of our success:

- ◆ Serve on a committee
- ◆ Become a volunteer tutor
- ◆ Join our Board of Directors
- ◆ Take an enrichment class
- ◆ Become a Friend of the Center by making a donation
- ◆ Include us in your estate planning
- ◆ Become a corporate or event sponsor

Inside this issue:

In Their Own Words	2
Friends of the Center	2
Center Stars	3
Your Donations at Work	4
Education News	4

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In Their Own Words...

My Soul Mates are Pieces of My Heart....by Margareitha Momor

Do you want your spouse to be your soul mate, first and foremost?
 Yes, I do want my spouse to be my soul mate, first and foremost! Why? Because for me, when we promised to get married, it started from that moment. We promised to want to always be together, forevermore, in health or sickness, for richer or poorer, to still keep together in all circumstances. It's not easy to be together forevermore, but we are trying. I like to have a community called family. And now I have it, a family. There are parents and kids. I love my spouse and my kids, so I would like us to be together forevermore. They are my soul mates in my life.

Sometimes we have troubles for different reasons in our household, but we know that's normal. No household is perfect. We come from different characters, and no character is the same. We just understand and love each other if we want to be together – foremost. Love is the most important thing for me.

In Our Own Words... is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, they reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.

Friends of the Center

Founder's Circle (\$500+)

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 Deanna & Paul Strand
 David & Maureen Staples
 Kathleen Thompson
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Donations Received

In Honor Of:

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Center Stars - Mike and Brady



"He is one of those people that you wonder how were we so lucky to have him?" said Jill Taylor. **Mike** is a volunteer in the evening HiSET preparation

classes. Last fall, he wanted to volunteer somewhere, as he felt volunteering was important. He looked up "volunteer tutoring" online, and found that Dover Adult Learning Center needed volunteers. He called, and Deb Liskow, the volunteer coordinator found that Jill would appreciate help with students who wanted to pass their GED before the test changed in December.

Math is Mike's specialty, and math help is what is needed most often on the high school equivalency tests (GED/HiSET). He not only volunteered on Tuesday nights, but toward December when the last GED tests were being given, Mike came Thursday nights, as well. "I don't know what we would have done without him!" said Jill.

Then he continued to volunteer in January as students began familiarizing themselves with the new high school equivalency test, the HiSET. Mike enjoys tutoring in Jill's class. "I like the way everyone is on each other's team; everyone wants everyone to do well."

Not only is he helping out with Jill's class, but he is tutoring another student so he can get higher scores on

his Accuplacer. What subject? Algebra, of course! The Accuplacer is a test used by many colleges and universities as a placement guide. Not passing can mean that students must take costly remedial classes with no credit before beginning college courses.

Volunteering has been part of Mike's life for quite some time. He helped students who were slightly younger than he was in high school, usually in math. Then he continued on in college. He even helped a nine year-old in reading.

No, he does not spend all his time volunteering. He has and enjoys a full time job in online marketing for a market research company. He also enjoys basketball, hiking, and playing guitar -- but, he added with his usual sense of humor, not enough to show anyone! And, the big news is that he is getting married next January! Plenty to smile about!

Unlike many HiSET students who want to go on in their studies or get a better job, **Brady** is different. He wants the insurance of if and when he does need another job, he can get a good one. He has a good job now, but he is making sure in case the company makes job changes in the future that he is covered.

A refreshing change to is-it-on-the-test mode, Brady many times wants

to learn the math or the writing skills. He began studying for his high school equivalency last fall in the evenings. Rather than try to finish before the GED test ended in New Hampshire, Brady opted to wait until the new HiSET test began to begin testing out of the five subjects. He will begin testing soon.

He enjoys his classmates, his teacher Jill Taylor, and the volunteer aide, Mike, despite the five subjects he needs to study. Brady frequently can be seen in class discussing possible answers with classmates, seeking answers from Jill or Mike, or trying to write an essay for the first time in his life.

Getting to class is not all that easy either. With three children, ages 10 months, 2 1/2 years, and 5 1/2 years, at home, Brady and his wife need to make sure someone is home to care for them. This means juggling both their jobs. When he needs to work overtime, he does not stay later because that would interfere with his wife's job, but he goes in earlier to work. And, with a demanding 2 year old and 10 month old, trying to study is impossible. Ask Brady for an imitation of their demands, and you will easily get the idea.

As to time off, Brady does not know what the word is. He describes his Sunday as kids and laundry all day long. His face lights up as he talks about if he had time off. "I'd go out to eat or to a movie!" But, that would require a babysitter and major planning.



Your Donations at Work - Scholarships: Investing in the future

Each year at graduation, outstanding students are recognized for their achievement and rewarded with scholarships. A significant funding source for these important awards comes from individual donors, who support DALC during our annual appeal.

The winning scholars are chosen based on the following criteria: Evidence of commitment to education and clear thinking about educational goals, likelihood of success in the higher education program chosen and need for financial assistance in order to reach their goal.

The Helen Phipps - Debbie Tasker Scholarship honors two of DALC's long-time directors. The Betsy Hackett Memorial Scholarship honors the former teacher for her passion for working with women in transition. The Donna McAdam scholarship is awarded in honor of the long-time counselor and her work with so many students over the years.

The Minetti Induisi Scholarship, funded by the Beacon Group, honors her work, past and present and her commitment to helping every student find success. Dover Rotary Club provides \$1,500 for scholarships, which is divided between a few very deserving students and also funds smaller scholarships throughout the year for testing fees and adult high school tuition.



Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820
www.doveradultlearning.org
603-742-1030

What's happening at DALC?

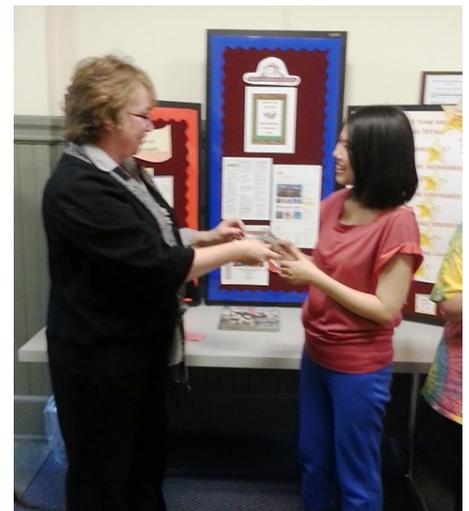
Keep in touch between our print newsletters by signing up for our emails at

doveradultlearning.org

You can also check out our Facebook page:
facebook.com/DALCNH

Education News - Red's Race a Win-Win

The big winners in the Reds Race - Run for a Better Community are (left to right) Jing Ling Lin (Joey) with a total of \$687.45 in pledges, Renee Wright coming in at \$379 and Faith Wong at \$226. The real big winner is of course DALC. Teams of students, staff and volunteers raised \$6700 and with additional race proceeds we will reach our goal of \$9000.



Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.