

DOVER ADULT LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER



ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Spring 2020 | Volume 17, Issue 1



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE | Deanna Strand

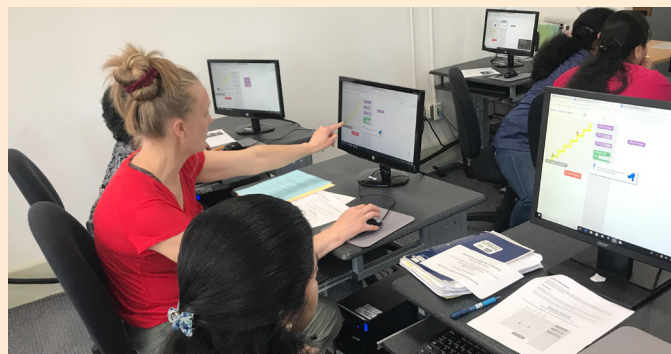
Carin D'Ambrosia | Photography by Carin



For nearly 50 years, Dover Adult Learning Center has been bringing the residents of Strafford County new opportunities for learning and growth. It's hard to believe that adult learning in Dover began in a church basement staffed with volunteers. Due to their foresight and tenacity, our multiple locations (Dover, Rochester, Farmington and

Strafford County Department of Corrections) serve one of the largest adult literacy populations in the state. In the past 40 plus years, almost 8,000 people have become high school graduates in our programs. During the last school year alone, over 200 adults from 50 different countries took classes to improve their ability to speak, read and write English, earn US Citizenship or gain civics skills.

In addition to academic programs, high school completion, and English for Speakers of other Languages, we offer a wide array of fun and affordable learning experiences. Want to learn about beekeeping or fly fishing, make jewelry or salsa? Maybe you need some confidence in your math skills to return to college, or perhaps you are contemplating a career change. You might want to start a business or find balance in your life. There are courses available for you. We offer workforce training, career advising, digital literacy and many online courses. Whatever new skill or life change you're dreaming of, there's a good chance Dover Adult Learning Center has something for you.



DALC has thrived and grown because of its steadfast commitment to welcoming all, reducing barriers, and creating opportunity. We rely on the support of our volunteer board, many long time donors and our long tenured staff as well as the commitment of the Dover Community to support lifelong learning. At the heart of it all is our caring culture in which every learner is welcomed and embraced.

At DALC, lives are truly transformed through education. Adults and youth get a second chance, a fresh start or a new opportunity. They become better prepared for work, college and training, and improve their skills as family members and citizens. Here, they find opportunity, self-confidence and economic well-being.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has played a part in building this amazing learning community. ■

Deanna Strand
Executive Director

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

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DALC Board of Directors

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We need your support!

As a donor to Dover Adult Learning Center, you help transform the lives of thousands of youth and adults in your community. Please help again this year.

Every dollar helps make someone's future better.

- Since 1968, more than 7,600 people have finished high school at DALC.
- Last year, overall enrollments exceeded 3,500.
- Each year, more than 1,000 people gain critical literacy skills and improve their lives at work, at home, and in the community.

When basic needs are met and barriers are lifted, students move forward with their education.

- Ana was unable to attend class due to her work schedule. She worked with a tutor, she improved her English skills so she could get a better job. They worked on business English and career skills. Ana ended up deciding to open her own business in January which has been successful.
- Ray earned his adult high school diploma by completing several of DALC's alternative credit options which gave him flexibility because of his busy restaurant job. Looking for a career change, he is now enrolled in EMT and fire suppression courses in hopes of becoming a firefighter.
- Nate enrolled two years ago as a teen, when he felt he was getting overwhelmed by large classes and peer interactions. The small classes at DALC and individual attention helped him gain become a confident learner and mastered new skills he never thought possible. With newfound self-assurance, Nate is now enrolled in the advanced manufacturing training program at Job Corps.

Your annual donations help us provide these vital programs and services !

- 20 students in transitional housing, homeless shelters or other locations were taught in a community location.
- More than 75 students received scholarships for high school classes, HiSET fees, caps and gowns.
- 35 children received care while their parents attended classes at DALC.
- A \$500 emergency fund provided food, gas, and phone cards for students in need.

With your help, the future is brighter for more adults in Strafford County. Thank you for your support of Dover Adult Learning Center.

Sincerely,
Shauna Brown, *President* and Martha Caswell, *Chair*,
Fundraising Committee

IN OUR OWN WORDS

An Unforgettable Experience

by Arati Sapkota

While I was earning my Bachelor's Degree in Public Health in Nepal, we had to do fieldwork for community health diagnosis in a small village in Gorkha District, which is a historical place located in a remote area not too far from my hometown. It was a group effort that my classmates and I needed to perform together. We stayed over there for a month. We had to spend a lot of time walking and collecting data from each household available in the village. During our spare time, we used to hang out together and have fun. One day when had a break, we went swimming in a nearby river. I had never swum before, but I did try. I started to struggle in the middle of the river. When I started to sink, I felt scared and hopeless. One of my friends saw me and pulled me out of there. She saved my life.

During our time together, we took lots of photographs. One of my friends told us scary stories at night. We visited Gorkha Durbar Square, which is a historical place in Nepal. We went to cultural programs of that district. I think this was one of my best experiences. It was very scary and yet, at the same time, enjoyable.

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



This year, DALC launched two sections (morning and evening) of Washington state's hybrid curriculum, Integrated Digital English Acceleration or Project I-DEA. This coursework uses themed modules (Health and Wellness, pictured) and a 3 hours in-class, 3 hours at-home structure. Every six weeks, a new module is introduced, keeping the work challenging and interesting. Kayleigh Guzel's class loved drawing the human body, and learning good questions to ask their doctors. ■

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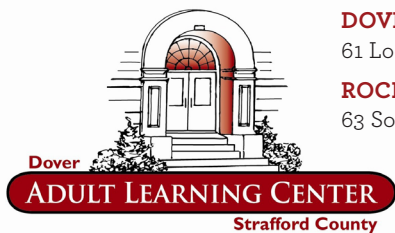
Donations Received in Honor of:

Lara Scammon
Louise McCone

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- Become a volunteer tutor
- Join our Board of Directors
- Teach an enrichment class
- Include DALC in your estate planning and become a member of the Helen Phipps Heritage Society
- Serve on a committee
- Take an enrichment class
- Become a *Friend of the Center* by making a donation
- Become a corporate or event sponsor

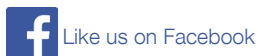
doveradultlearning.org/support



DOVER: McConnell Community Center
61 Locust Street, Dover 03820 | (603) 742 - 1030

ROCHESTER: First Church Congregational
63 South Main Street, Rochester, NH 03867 | (603) 335 - 6200

Email: dalc@doveradultlearning.org
Website: www.doveradultlearning.org



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