

DOVER ADULT LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER



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A Message From the Director

Deanna Strand

How Donations Remove Barriers

The three greatest barriers to participation in adult education are lack of safe reliable childcare, housing insecurity and transportation challenges.

Adult learners can end up in a cycle of struggle when they can't get to school to study for their high school equivalency test, or to gain the level of English language proficiency they need to be successful in their education, career or community.

Our counselors assist students in finding resources to mitigate these big three barriers and make it possible for them to get to school consistently, be focused and relaxed when they are at school, and have the capacity to study and do homework outside of school.



Deanna Strand



Thanks to two generous community partners, Walmart and Kennebunk Savings Bank, this just became easier. Due to their donations, we are now able to buy bus tickets and taxi rides for students, and can continue to provide, even expand childcare for parents to use while they are in school.

Many adults would be unable to participate in adult education without these supports. These gifts will help them be successful in their pursuit of basic education and career opportunities, and better able to obtain housing, childcare and transportation, interrupting a spiral of obstructions.

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Learning. About You.

In the Spotlight

Making the Match

There are many volunteer opportunities with Dover Adult Learning Center, from classroom support to child care. But one of the most rewarding and flexible opportunities is working one-on-one with a student through our Adult Tutorial Program.

According to Volunteer and Tutorial Coordinator, Bridget Barker, there are more than 80 tutors paired with students right now.

Where does Bridget find volunteers? "The most effective recruiting tool is word-of-mouth, I have my tutors share with people about their experiences," she says. "And I tell people everywhere I go. If they're not interested, they might know somebody who is."



Bridget also takes advantage of the Dover Public Library Volunteer Fair and sets up a table at the MUB at UNH to recruit students studying education.

She adds that retirement communities can be a great place to find tutors, "If I can get one person, they can send it to the group, and it just grows from there."

We also promote opportunities on our website where prospective tutors can indicate the days and times they are available and what types of positions they are interested in, such as the opportunity to work with our students at the Strafford County Department of Corrections.

Then comes the match making. Bridget emails the pool of tutors, some current and some waiting to be matched, a list of students and their needs. Many will pick who they want to work with but sometimes Bridget will hand pick a tutor because of a particular need or circumstance.

Tutor-student pairs often become long term friends. "I have lots of tutors who are still in contact with the former students," she says. "It is a nice experience and tutors say they get as much out of it as a student."



To learn more about volunteering with DALC, check out the descriptions below or go to our website: doveradultlearning.org/volunteer

Check out these current opportunities:

Tutor-Provide one-to-one basic skills instruction in the community.

Childcare Assistant- Care for children aged 6 weeks to 6 years. Help them learn ABC's and numbers, play games, and enjoy healthy snacks, while their parents study.

Data Management- Help maintenance of high-quality data, which informs programming, grant applications and more.

Classroom Aide-Work under an experienced teacher to provide individual and small group support to students.

Around the Center

Bill Badgley is once again offering one of his popular **Advanced ESL Classes** which started in January. Enrollment is ongoing.

John Tibbetts returned to DALC to teach **ESL Level 1** in the evenings starting in January. He will be a long term sub for Prentiss Phillips who is traveling.

Michelle Lebs joined DALC as **Technology Integrator** in November, replacing Peggy Harvey. Michelle is a NH Certified Technology Integration Specialist and Google Certified Educator Level 2.

Leslie Fitzpatrick comes on board in February to teach **ABE & HSE Prep** in Rochester in the evenings. She teaches Science at Epping Middle High School during the day.

Did you know there's a **Multilingual Book Group**? Our students from around the world share books in their own language with activities and art projects for participants. Members of the community are encouraged to come to the Dover Public Library to listen.

In Memoriam

Lili Ellison died on September 29, 2023 at the age of 92 in Providence, RI. Debbie says, "She was with her family and still quite herself." Lili was a volunteer tutor for many years and helped many students learn to read.

Maria Faskianos, passed away in New Jersey from pancreatic cancer. Maria served for a total of 18 years on the DALC Board, completing her second nine years in June.

She was a fierce proponent of education for all and a champion for adult education.



Maria Faskianos

Thank you to our Friends of the Center

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Support DALC:

- *Become a volunteer tutor*
- *Serve on a committee*
- *Join our Board of Directors*
- *Be a corporate sponsor*
- *Add DALC to your estate plan*
- *Donate and become a Friend of the Center*



The Helen Phipps Heritage Society

In 1970, Helen Phipps became the Director of Dover Adult Basic Education and went on to found the Dover Adult Learning Center.

Helen passed away at the age of 83 in 2010 and to honor her dedication and commitment to adult education, the DALC Board of Directors established the Helen Phipps Heritage Society to allow supporters to make a leadership gift to continue her legacy.

Give a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the proceeds of your:

- will
- insurance policy
- trust
- annuity
- IRA
- retirement plan

Gifts will be used for future capital improvements such as classroom equipment, educational software, tools and technology.

Making a contribution is easy. DALC has volunteer advisors that can work with you or your agents.

Contact Executive Director Deanna Strand at 603-742-1030.

Our Programs and Services:

English Language Learning
College, Training and Workforce Prep
Academics and High School Completion
Integrated Education and Training
Computer Training
Tutoring

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