



The RALC Reader

The Richardson Adult Literacy Center Newsletter—Holiday 2008

RALC Volunteers Honored

The RALC is blessed with many wonderful volunteers! Jean Stuart and Barbara Berthold were honorees at the recent Helping Agencies Serving Richardson Volunteer of the Year Luncheon.

Jean was nominated by the service organization Altrusa International of Richardson in the field of Community Leadership. One of her major volunteer activities is at the RALC. She serves as President of the RALC Board of Directors and is the cheerful office volunteer you speak to when you call the Office on Thursday morning. She is currently spearheading the updating of the RALC Strategic Plan.

Barbara teaches a Conversation class, tutors an individual student, designed an assessment, developed and analyzed data for a tutor survey, serves on the Richardson Adult Literacy Center Board of Directors, co-authors the tutor newsletter and can be counted on to help the RALC wherever she is needed. Because English is not her first language, all of these accomplishments have been especially challenging. She was nominated by the RALC in the Education category.



JEAN STUART AND BARBARA BERTHOLD

Alejandra's Story

My name is Alejandra. I am 28 years old. I live with my mother, brother and boyfriend. I have been living in this country for four years. My mother was the first to get here. Three years later my brother, boyfriend and I joined her. She lived with two friends. They were drunkards and my mom was different. My boyfriend and I were tired of having discussions with these guys. Then we decided to get another apartment and I took my little brother with me. My mom wasn't sure at first, but finally she came with us. It was hard to get an apartment. Luckily I met a woman who helped me to get the apartment and a job. I started to work, but I needed to speak English. I felt frustrated and I left that job and decided to learn English. English helps me a lot in my family life because I help my brother on his schoolwork and we learn more talking to each other in English. I help my mom when she doesn't understand something. She doesn't speak English and she is afraid to go to school. She thinks she is too old to learn something, but this year she is trying to go to school. My family is glad that I'm learning English. They know that thanks to that I have a better job in an American restaurant. I started doing prep and sometimes doing dishes. I learned fast and they gave me more hours and more money. I'm happy there because I always learn something new. I know I can get an even better job if I want to. Now things are getting better. I have time to spend with my family. We all like

to go shopping and go to the movies. We like to visit the park or zoo and sometimes the museum. One thing I really like about learning English is that when we go to the movies, for example, I can understand what people are saying. We all are looking forward to a better future for my family, and me and my boyfriend because we are going to have our first baby soon.

This story was published in the Texas Literacy Quarterly. Alejandra is a student of tutor Liz Harling. They have been working together for four years. "Ale's" baby was born in early September.

After the holidays,
how about becoming a tutor for RALC?

RALC Tutor Training: "Have It your Way!"

We offer two options—or you can do both!

Option 1—Independent study. Tutor takes three short online courses, then works through a locally produced DVD at tutor's convenience. A short meeting with a trainer is scheduled to answer questions and provide face-to-face interaction.

Option #2—Attend a Tutor Training Workshop! Orientation and instruction will provide you with the tools you need to begin tutoring.

To register or for more information, please call the RALC Office, 972-644-5119.

