



The RALC Reader

The Richardson Adult Literacy Center Newsletter—Holiday 2010

Spotlight on Prestonwood Elementary ESL Program

The RALC has partnered with the Prestonwood Elementary School PTA to provide ESL instruction for parents of children at Prestonwood. Katie Patterson organized the program and has provided this article for us. Katie is the mom of fifth grade boy-girl twins, PTA President, and works at the Texas School Project.

“Teaching ESL has been the most rewarding volunteer opportunity I have experienced—and I do a lot of volunteering! This year, because I’m working almost full time and am President of our school PTA, I wasn’t sure how I was going to find time to continue teaching. Ultimately, I couldn’t say no. There is such a need for ESL—and its benefits for students are life changing.

Our program at Prestonwood is in its second year and has doubled in size, from about fourteen students last year to twenty-six students this year. Through their participation, students have become more comfortable coming up to the school for events—and even volunteering at the school. Learning English has also given them confidence in communicating with teachers and other parents. But, as much as these students are benefiting, their children and the Prestonwood community are benefiting, as well.”

Meet RALC Student, Letecia

Letecia works at Corner Bakery and says, “I need more English because my job is service. I need to speak more for communication and for understand. I practice every day in my job.”

Letecia has been the student of Samiha for nine months. According to Letecia, her tutor “is passionate. She teach (sic) me very good.”

They meet two times a week for one hour, and Letecia has homework once a week. They are able to adjust the meeting times to accommodate their schedules.

RALC Volunteers Honored

Helping Agencies Serving Richardson, a consortium of volunteer agencies in the area, honored RALC volunteers Liz Harling and Jack Jeter at the Volunteer of the Year annual luncheon.



JACK JETER AND LIZ HARLING

Liz is a community leader! She is active in the PTA at the school, local and state levels, serves her church and the Richardson Symphony, and is a tutor, trainer, Board member and exceptional volunteer for the RALC.

Our Webmaster, Jack Jeter, was the winner in the Education category. He designed and has maintained the RALC website for many years; it has had over 20,000 hits.

We congratulate our fantastic volunteers!

Save the Date

April 2, 2011

Murder in the Library
Our fundraising Murder Mystery play

Join the fun!

Check our website, RALC.org, in early
2011
for sponsor and ticket information

From Mimi's Desk...

The Center observed its 20th Anniversary in 2010; it is fun to think what the next twenty years will bring!

We also received the Bridge Award for Literacy Advocacy from the North Texas Future Fund and are grateful to the Honorable Carol Kent, who nominated the Center for this wonderful honor.

Janie Jaquier, Linda Olivera, Gerry Carron, Anne Vineyard (our data entry guru), Jamie Krieg, Jean Stuart, Carol Ahlburn, and Sandy Keiser are our faithful Office Volunteers who work at least a two-hour shift weekly, answering the phone and helping with clerical tasks. Most of them have been with us for many years. Our current subs are Jane Merz, Barbara Berthold and Ann Payne. Thanks so much to each of these ladies who keep our office running smoothly.

Happy Holidays to all our friends, volunteers and students!

Mimi Tanner
Executive Director

RALC Calendar

December 14 - January 5

Office closed for Winter Break

January 22: Tutor Training

Call the office, 972-644-5119, for more information.

From the RALC Board President

The Holiday Season is here! For me this marks a time to pause, reflect on the past year, and write Thank You notes to people who have touched my life.

Here is one to all of you: To the friends of the Richardson Adult Literacy Center (RALC), an all-volunteer organization, deeply rooted in the Richardson community, that has been advocating literacy and teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) for twenty years.

Twenty years of continuous community service. How is this possible?

Asked why they volunteer for the RALC, tutors and board members alike respond that they appreciate getting the chance to meet people from other cultures and learning about shared values; e.g., love of family, love of food, or holiday celebrations.

Like our adult students who find ways to integrate learning English in their busy lives, our volunteers know how important communication skills are and consider them valuable and rewarding gifts to share and receive all year round.

Lastly, the RALC exists because of individuals like you and because of other local philanthropic groups that are willing to give – time, knowledge, ideas, and donations. The motives are as diverse as the people and agencies that support the RALC.

I am grateful to all of you for sharing your special talents with us.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays,

Barbara Berthold, President
Board of Directors

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