



Annual Report, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

THE NUMBERS

In 2011, 27 tutors worked 415.5 hours with 91 clients

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Hoosier Hills Literacy League

GED Graduates increase by 175%!

Every Thursday afternoon in a meeting room of the Lawrenceburg Public Library, 3-4 dedicated tutors guide students of various ages as they reach back in their memories to their high school days.

This isn't a class reunion or a walk down memory lane, this is GED preparation classes.

Thanks to consistent funding from the Greater Cincinnati United Way, we have offered this weekly class since 2005.



Students have many reasons for not graduating high school, and the journey to earning their GED is often full of starts and stops.

We're not exactly sure why we've seen such an increase in student success this year, but it likely has to do with recent changes in the state-funded GED programs.

The Department of Work Force Development has recently assumed responsibility for Adult Education, and just this past Summer the Southeastern Career Center in Versailles has given the GED portion of Adult Ed to River Valley Resources out of Madison.

As in the past, state funded GED classes are available at all area Work One locations, but these classes have attendance requirements and waiting lists that often conflict with the schedules of working adults.

Many of our students first called Work One, who then referred them to our weekly classes. Thanks to our volunteers and funders, we can offer the flexibility and one-on-one attention many need to achieve their goal of GED.

Our Graduation Celebration in May will recognize students who have earned their GED since 2009 — 17 students and counting!

Congratulations to our 2011 GED grads!

- Brianna Bischoff**
- Shane Carey**
- Sarah Elza**
- George Ferguson**
- Rhiannon Frazee**
- Tim Lawson**
- Betty Howard**
- James Karn**
- Carol Perry**
- Daniel Webster**
- Sarah Widener**



Introducing After the Bell—Authors on Stage 2011-2012

After the Bell, the HHLL's after school tutoring program, has been constantly evolving since it's introduction in 2006.

Last year saw the addition of class cash incentive program, which gave students the ability earn "money" for using their time wisely, and then to purchase treats with their earnings.



This year, thanks to funding from

both the **Dollar General Literacy Foundation** and the **Sprint Excellence in Education Grant**, we have been able to add "book sale" days, so students can work towards building their own personal library.

We've also formed a partnership with **Ivy Tech Community College's** Early Education Program, enabling us to have a year-long Intern Brittney McNare.

During the first third of the program, Brittney helped plan many educational games,

which we shared with families during our first Family Night in November.

Our second Family Night in February will feature activities related to picture books that have been made into movies.

In the Spring, students will have the opportunity to create their own original hard bound book, which they will share from the stage at the final Family Night in May.

During 2011, 3 adult and 6 high school volunteer tutors donated 69 hours, impacting 15 students and families.



HHLL'S Board of Directors—Ins and Outs

2011 saw some

changes in the composition of the HHLL's Board of Directors.

Harriet Lowe, a retired teacher and long-time Board Member, has been unable to attend meetings due to some health issues. Her absence has been felt not only as a board member, but as a dedicated tutor for After the Bell. We continue to see evidence of her experience and wisdom as we carry on the work that she started.

Cindy DiBiase has been an integral part of the operations of the League since 2006. As a dedicated tutor and substitute teacher, she stepped in to serve as the Literacy Administrator in 2009. She lead the League through the challenging

time period when the Imagination Library's growth exceeded our funds. Her quick action enabled us to continue providing books to children after only one month of interruption. She conducted a direct mail fundraising campaign and secured the emergency funding through the Library Foundations of the Aurora and Lawrenceburg Public Library Districts. Their support continues to this day.

She also used her talent for organization to ease the transition to a new Literacy Administrator, Laura Priebe. She continued to be part of the Board until her recent resignation.

Cindy is one of our most valued tutors, and though we will miss her input on Board decisions, we are grateful that she has agreed to continue volunteer as a tutor.

We are excited to welcome 2 new Board members to the

League — **Jenna Baumgartner** and **Darlene Rueger**.

Jenna has been a volunteer tutor for the Literacy League since 2008, and has worked with the same young man for over a year. With her job at the Business Office of Ivy Tech, she will strengthen our partnership with our local community college.

As an employee at the Lawrenceburg Public Library's Circulation Desk, **Darlene** saw first hand how one-on-one tutoring made a positive impact on one client's life. Since she has now retired from that position, she's agreed to support the Board as a Member At Large.

We are both grateful for outgoing board members contributions and excited to welcome new members!



There's a Place for YOU on HHLL's Board of Directors!

We currently are accepting nominations for the following positions on the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is interested, please let us know!

Responsibilities of the Vice President

The VP is a member of the Executive Board, and as such he/she will participate in the annual performance review of the Literacy Administrator, and attend all meetings, including any special meetings called by

the Literacy Administrator or other member of the Executive Board. The VP will lead the Quarterly meetings in the event that the President cannot attend.

Responsibilities of Board Members At-Large

At-Large Board members will serve as advocates for literacy in the community, spreading the word of the activities of the Hoosier Hills Literacy League in their circle of influence. To that end, the Literacy Adminis-

trator will inform them of upcoming classes, tutor trainings, and ongoing activities of the volunteers in a bimonthly newsletter, email or website updates. Board Members At-Large will also plan to attend Quarterly meetings which will last 60-90 minutes. They may volunteer in other ways, through serving on special committees (Scrabble Tournament) or tutoring students, **but are not required to do so.**



Our **Second Annual Scrabble Without Scruples Tournament** will be on Saturday, March 3, 9:00—noon at Ivy Tech's Riverfront Campus!



SCRABBLE

Save the Date—March 3, 2012

New this year—2 Divisions—Traditional and Speed Scrabble!

Both divisions will have Cheats available for Purchase!

See Ya later, Sharon...

Sharon Briones... how can we describe her?

She first came to the Literacy League's Pre-GED classes. Her goal—attain her GED before she turned 60.

She attended classes faithfully for over 2 years, taking the practice test to build her confidence.

When she took the Official GED in December 2009, she passed with flying colors. None of us were surprised.

Thursday afternoon classes had become a part of her weekly routine, and she didn't want to give it up.

We gladly accepted her help as a tutor. She offered a unique perspective that enabled her to connect with the students in a way that we couldn't. She had been where they were, and she was proof that success was possible.

She shared often about how she would lie in bed and practice mental math while waiting for sleep to come. No one was more surprised that Sharon when she came to actually enjoy math.

Sharon has moved with her family to the Chicago area, and she plans to share her experiences with her new community.

"The Little Piece of Paper"

Sharon Briones

To have that little
Piece of paper
Would make me
Feel very elated

Working my derriere
To the bone
Studying so hard
All I do is moan

Looking toward that
Special day
When the state
Will finally say—

"Hey you did it,
You passed the GED"
I'll be!
Praise the Lord Almighty!
I am Graduating!



Lawrenceburg's Loss
is Chicago's gain!

Imagination Library—Growing and Expanding

Dearborn County's Imagination Library has once again ended the year on a high note — 879 children will be receiving books in February — this is a record number!

The Library Foundations of the Aurora and Lawrenceburg Public Library Districts have once again joined forces to fund this wonderful program.

Thanks to generous funding

from the Ripley County Community Foundation and the Rising Sun Regional Foundation, the Hoosier Hills Literacy League has been able to launch the Imagination Library in Ripley County as well!

Families in Ripley County have waited long enough — a group of dedicated volunteers in Milan have been working for several months to bring the Imagination Library to these children,

and finally the wait is over.

Fifty-two children will be the first to receive their books in February, and as word spreads, more will enroll.

We are excited to partner with the committee in Milan to build a base of financial support so that we can continue to offer the gift of reading to more and more children in Ripley County, just as we have in Dearborn County.



879 Dearborn
County children
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books in
February — this
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2011 Numbers

Total Expenses for 2011—

\$38,279.17
Administrative Expenses
\$392.18 (1%)
Fundraising Expenses
\$1010.70 (2.7%)
Program Expense
\$36,877.28 (96.3%)

Programs

Imagination Library	\$27,572.41 (75%)
After the Bell	\$3,834.55 (10%)
GED Prep	\$2,688.40 (7%)
One on One Tutoring	\$2,782.43 (8%)

Volunteer Hours

27 tutors worked 415.5 hours

Total Clients—91 students

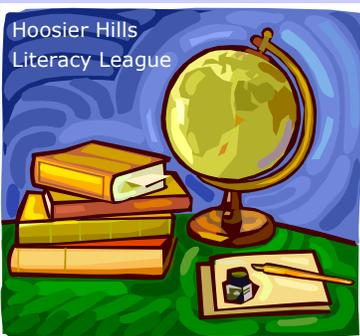
After the Bell	15 students (16.5%)
GED Prep	63 students (69.2%)
One on One Tutoring	13 students (14.3%)
Imagination Library	873 Children Currently Enrolled 217 Children Graduated

Hoosier Hills Literacy League

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Committed to Family Literacy



The mission statement of the Hoosier Hills Literacy League is to strive towards eliminating illiteracy in Southeastern Indiana.

www.hoosierhillsliteracyleague.net

Find us on Facebook

The Work of the Hoosier Hills Literacy League is Made Possible With Funds from the following Organizations:



Sprint Educational Excellence Grant Program