



Adult Learning Center News

Fall 2011

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Director's Message - Transforming lives through Education

The Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County Celebrates 40 Years

Deanna Strand

In 1972, in the basement of First Parish Church, the seeds of DALC were planted. Helen Phipps and Irene Duffy had a vision to help adults learn to read and complete high school. That vision has been realized and exceeded in ways unimaginable 40 years ago.



James McAdams, Helen Phipps, Irene Duffy

Core literacy programs established in the 1970's have grown substantially. DALC is now the second largest adult learning center in the state of New Hampshire and more adults completed their GED here than anywhere else in the state last year. Every year, 1,000-1,200 students improve their basic skills in our classes and 250-300 graduate with a high school credential. Another 1,500 in enrichment, workforce development/corporate training



Dover Adult Learning Center opens computer lab



and driver's education bring our total enrollments to nearly 3,000 annually.

English language learners, who represent 45 countries and dozens of languages, number over 200, and eight to ten new US Citizens emerge from our doors each year. Dozens of volunteers guide an equal number of adult students toward a better life through education in every town and city in Strafford County.

Personal Enrichment (hobbies, all levels of

computer software, music/arts, cooking, & health and wellness) bring depth and richness to our students' lives.

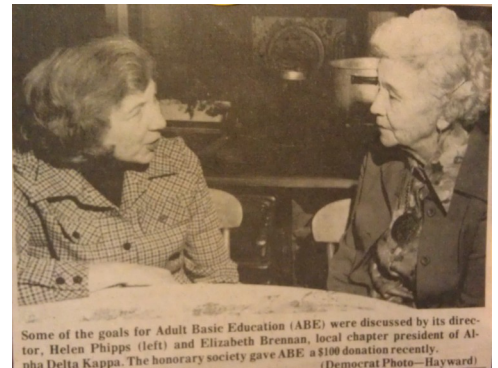
Over the past 4 decades, new programs have appeared and evolved. College preparation classes for non-traditional students and individual assistance help adults navigate from adult education to the post-secondary training that is essential for success in today's world.

Our Corporate Training & Workforce Development programs include professional writing, computer software training, and customer service, as well as basic skills, all of which can be customized and offered at the work site

or at the Center.

Hundreds of online courses make education available anywhere you have internet access and any time you are free. A substantial donation from Lonza Biologics has allowed us to equip our computer lab with state of the art hardware with the latest software and on-site technical support.

What remains constant throughout our history is the dedication and commitment of our students and staff, and the need and desire of adults to continue to grow and learn throughout their whole lives. DALC has been responding to that need and desire for dec-



Some of the goals for Adult Basic Education (ABE) were discussed by its director, Helen Phipps (left) and Elizabeth Brennan, local chapter president of Alpha Delta Kappa. The honorary society gave ABE a \$100 donation recently. (Democrat Photo—Hayward)

Helen Phipps and Elizabeth Brennan

ades. We can't know what adult education will look like in another 40 years, but we can expect that DALC will grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the adult students we serve.

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Celebrating 40 years of Transforming Lives through Education

Our Board Members

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In Their Own Words...

Cory....by Carol Provost

Like the Wind You're
 Around.....
 Swirling
 Swirling
 To the ground....
 I Feel You though
 I Cannot touch you
 These walls are Deep
 Just Like
 The Memories
 I Keep.....
 So I can use one
 Everyday
 To Make Sure
 Your Face Never
 Fades
 Away.....!!!
 (For my Son: I love you)

I Remember.... by Lili Clough

When I came to the U.S. I felt happy and sad. I thought "God, where am I?" When I looked around, everything was different! In the beginning I felt depressed because I missed my family, and the food. The food tasted different.

I cried and cried. I walked and cried. When I knew I was pregnant it was more difficult for me.

I was depressed because I missed my mother and I thought for me in the beginning it was very hard. When my son was born everything changed for me. I was happy. I thought my life changed. God gave me a big gift. The gift was my baby, Brian.

Now I feel happy in the U. S. and I cook Colombian food every day. I talk everyday with my family. I am very happy with my beautiful family and I am proud of myself because I can drive to my school and I can speak a little English.

Friends of the Center

Founder's Circle (\$500+)

Abraham Burtman Charity Trust
 First Church Parish
 Kathryn Forbes
 Measured Progress, Inc.
 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
 Carlo Nittoli & Jim Verschueren
 Tasker Family
 John & Julia Ver Ploeg

Advocate (\$250+)

William Badgley &
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 Ann & Arthur Corte
 Dr. James & Maria Faskianos
 Charles D. Reynolds
 Walmart Foundation
 David & Belinda White

Bequests

Estate of Patrick M. Raftery

Benefactor (\$100+)

Bottomline Technologies
 Barbara Bradshaw
 Jean Bullen
 Pat Caron
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 Gerald & Patricia Daley
 Peter & Linda Davis
 Dianne C., Dean
 Paula & John Deplanche
 Marsha Seibert Foster
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 Philip Hatcher
 Anthony & Minnett Induizi
 Pamela Krans
 Madbury Community Club
 Bruce & Donna McAdam
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 Jack & Judy Mettee
 John & Jane O'Connor
 Lucy & Charles Putnam
 Susan O. Smith
 Ronald N. St. Germain
 Dr. & Mrs. David B. Staples

Paul & Deana Strand
 Lisa Janicki; Eric Janicki
 & Margaret Foley
 JoAnn Vatcher

Friend (\$40+)

Sandra Ackler
 Maybeth Anderson
 Shea Avery
 C & K Beaudoin
 Mary Buese
 Mary A. Churchman
 Joe & Paula Dubois
 Dupont's Service Center
 Elizabeth G. Feuer
 Peter & Joyce Forsythe
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 Tom & Aline Goss
 Haus Family
 Russell & Kate Huntress
 Cathenne Johnston
 Susan Long
 Darlene & Wayne McEwan
 Joe & Maggie Moore
 Dennis Munson
 Earl Neal
 Bev O'Brien

Sandra Phipps
 Pamela Raley
 Ann Schultz
 Martin & Patricia Sorensen
 Anne & Bruce Smith
 Tasker Funeral Home
 Walmart/Rochester
 Elizabeth Warner

Other Supporters

Give with Liberty
 Karen Bowker
 Suzanne Clement
 Mary Dennis
 Kathryn Drew
 Susan Holak
 Laurie Legard
 Thelma MacMaster
 Diane Siekman
 Simbug, Seacoast IBM Users
 Gail & Roy Tanner
 Shenanne Tucker
 William Wetzel Jr.

Thank You!

Center Stars - Tatiana and Jim



Tatiana

Tatiana, who came from Russia in 1999 as a young girl, had a sporadic education as well as a tough home life. Eventually she left her adoptive parents, as she knew it was time to "fly out" on her own. For a while she was homeless, but eventually she received the help she wanted and needed.

"I never gave up, I'm not a quitter," she said firmly. Four years ago she began coming to Denise Reddington's morning ABE class where she has found success. She comes 4 mornings a week, getting a ride to class and taking the bus home. Tatiana works hard on reading and learning. She says she loves history and science. She also reports that Denise is "awesome and very patient. We're the cool class!" Although math is not her favorite, she says she almost passed the math GED test last year. "I had the highest (attendance) last year: 301 hours!" she added.

Tatiana is also active in sports in her spare time. She began taking Quest marital arts almost a year ago and expects to achieve the orange belt soon. She is involved in

the Special Olympics, achieving gold at times. She says she also loves baseball and karate. In addition she reads chapter books such as the Nancy Drew and Little House series. "I just imagine myself in the story," says Tatiana. She also has traveled to Denver, New Mexico, and recently Disney World for free, thanks to a family member who works there. She hopes to go to New York City sometime to see Ground Zero. She vaguely remembers seeing the Twin Towers when she flew here from Russia, and wants to see the site again someday.

"I love learning," said Tatiana. "I learn as much as I can."



Jim's quest to learn began at a young age. He left school at age 15 when he was still in the 4th grade. His family moved so much, he was unable to complete many grades. His two buddies were in high school. So when they wanted to join the Navy, he wanted to as well. But, he could not pass the test. That hurt. Although he was later drafted into the Army, he remembered that previous slight. Thus, he began his lifelong quest to educate himself.

He read and read. When he worked at Madbury Metal, he said he always carried a book around to read. He and his wife liked to read about the Oregon Trail in the 1800s and how they lived back then. "I like history," Jim said. He tried to teach himself, but there were words he did not know as well as words he could not pronounce. He read in the newspaper about the adult education possibilities at Dover Adult Learning. But it wasn't until after his wife passed away, that he felt he had the time to come to the Center. "I thought I'd give it a chance; I'm retired anyway," he said. And, he is blind in one eye.

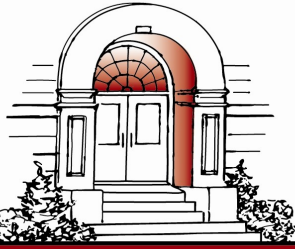
Jim was paired with Maggie Moore, a volunteer tutor, over a year ago. "She had me read, pick out words I didn't know, and look them up in the dictionary," said Jim.

Maggie said, "What I love about working with Jim is that he comes up with his own learning strategies. For example, last spring he wanted to write weekly responses to newspaper articles he was reading. That way, he could practice spelling and using the words in the articles and at the same time express his own opinions. He has been teaching himself for a long time!" She also found that he loved editorials. So, she encouraged him to write one. He finally decided to write one on then President Bush's school voucher proposal. It was sent in and printed in the newspaper. Maggie found it and framed it.

"I read newspapers and magazines. I try to read something every day," said Jim. And, he noticed that his reading has improved. Jim did briefly try a GED class, but he found that getting his GED was not really what he wanted. "My time is limited," said the 80 year-old, "maybe if I was young." So, Jim continues to do what he loves - learning.



Jim



Dover

ADULT LEARNING CENTER

Strafford County

DALC 61 Locust Street
Dover, NH 03820

Coming soon...
Sponsorship information for
Red's Race for a Better
Community!
Sunday April 22, 2012
Save the date!

www.DALC-Online.org
email: dalc@DALC-Online.org
603-742-1030

Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.

Your Donations at Work... Front Desk Team

Donations to DALC provide many things for the students, like pens and pencils, books and supplies, but your contributions also provide something extra special - a friendly welcome day or night.

The front desk at the DALC office is staffed by Terry Snook and Janet McConnell. For a first time visitor just getting to the office may have



Terry Snook

been a big challenge so a smile and a patient manner really make potential students feel welcome.

Both Terry and Janet register

people for GED testing.

It is extremely busy right before a big test when people are trying to get signed up and ready to go.

When someone comes here for the first time says Janet, "I send them into to meet with the counselor who will let the know what they need to do and then bring them back so that I can register them and get them into classes."

Terry and Janet also sign up teens for driver educations classes and make sure that parents know they have to be at the first class.

Day or night there are also many people stopping into the office unable to find the other things at the McConnell center like the gym, the cafeteria or public meetings that are going on.

Janet works as a paralegal at a local law firm, and previously worked as an assistant to Bev Obrien at Dover

High School in the Adult Diploma Program.

Janet puts together the wonderful bulletin boards to keep us all informed of activities at the center . She also makes copies for teachers, answers the phones and give directions.

Janet says she loves the ESOL students the most, "they are just terrific, they work so hard...I can't imagine being in a place where I didn't speak the language and coming to a place like DALC and learning the language."



Janet McConnell