



## **Our Program**

Literacy *Delaware*, Inc. assists adults reading at or below a fifth grade reading level and/or adults who do not speak English to significantly improve their literacy skills. We believe literacy has the power to “open minds and change lives”.

Volunteer tutors receive approximately 21 hours of training in which they learn a variety of techniques to assist them in tutoring. Training consists of 4 sessions meeting face-to-face in addition to online instructional modules. A tutor commits to a yearly 90 hours of tutoring. Many tutors have continued to teach long after completing their initial commitment. Literacy *Delaware* provides ongoing support and guidance to trained tutors through in-service workshops and assistance from staff. Many other volunteers assist with learner orientations and evaluations, tutor orientations, training, and special events.

Literacy *Delaware* is an accredited affiliate member of ProLiteracy, which provides research, training resources, professional development but no monetary support. In 2001 the organization became an independent 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. In 2003, the original, founding name Literacy Volunteers of America/Wilmington Library Affiliate, Inc. changed to Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults/Northern Delaware, Inc. In 2016, the name changed once more to Literacy *Delaware*, Inc. to reflect the expansion of service offerings statewide.

## **Program Accomplishments**

- Since the program’s beginning in 1983, over 2,600 adults have received assistance in improving their literacy skills.
- In 1990, in order to meet the growing demands of the community, services expanded to include English Language Learners.
- In 2007, the program was awarded the Delaware Interagency Council of Adult Literacy award for program innovations.
- In 2008, the Council recognized the Adult Literacy Learning Center at the Woodlawn Library.

- In 2009, classes at the Bear Library for English language learners started, funded through an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant.
- In 2009, ProLiteracy reaccredited the organization a second time.
- In 2011, Literacy *Delaware* staff provided tutor training to educational staff and select inmates at the Howard Young Correction Center.
- In 2011, Literacy *Delaware* partnered with Wilmington Head Start at the West End Neighborhood House Child Care Center to establish a family literacy program “Parents Learning English at School (PLEAS).”
- In 2012, PLEAS added reading and math classes.
- In 2013, another PLEAS program opened at a second Wilmington Head Start center at West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Wilmington.
- In 2014, a satellite tutoring program opened at the Dover Public Library.
- In 2014, tutor training included a hybrid model combining face-to-face training sessions with online learning.
- In 2014, Literacy *Delaware* partnered with the Claymont Community Center to help establish and give administrative support to their adult English language learning program.
- In 2014, Literacy *Delaware* partnered with New Castle County Head Start at the Absalom Jones/Marshallton Centers to provide a family literacy program “Parents Learning English at School (PLEAS).”
- In 2015, staff provided tutor training once more to select inmates at the Howard Young Correction Center.
- In 2015, Literacy *Delaware* partnered with St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Wilmington to offer morning English language classes for parishioners and neighborhood residents.
- In 2015, services expanded to include Sussex County, partnering with the Frankford Library.