



2021/2022 Annual Report

Promoting Literacy through Advocacy and Instruction

"Keep reading. It's one of the most marvelous adventures that anyone can have."

THE STORY OF 2021-2022



Dear Friend of Literacy,

For the first time since Spring, 2020, we are breathing a bit easier and beginning to see our facility fill with language, smiles, and laughter...a place where hopes and dreams come true...a place

where lives are changed! Gaston Literacy Council (GLC) envisions a community where all adults have the language and literacy skills they need to succeed. Our programs include English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship and Adult Education, including high school equivalency prep and basic adult education. Prior to Covid, we provided services to over 200 adult students annually, and are now working to rebuild our enrollment and fill our classrooms! Each student is provided a free assessment and is offered tailored instruction through small classes and one-on-one instruction as needed.

We are also proud to provide the Reading Soul Mates Program in select Gaston County elementary schools. This support is staffed by volunteer tutors who work

with eligible 2nd grade students each week for 30-minutes, building confidence and reading skills needed to perform at grade level.

Gaston Literacy Council was founded in 1974 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please find out more about our organization, programs, and volunteer opportunities on our website at www.gastonliteracy.org.

Sincerely yours,

Mary W. Massey, Chair

GASTON LITERACY COUNCIL STAFF

- Annie Anthony, Reading Soul Mates Coordinator
- Merry Deely, Reading Soul Mates Coordinator
- Kelly Link, Assistant Director, Instructor
- Linda McConnell, Executive Director
- Elizabeth McLean, ESL Instructor
- Delta Sanders, Funds Development Coordinator
- Donna Watson, Lead ESL Instructor

DEFINITION: Literacy is the ability to clearly read, write, and speak English on a level necessary to develop one's knowledge and potential, compute and solve problems, achieve individual goals, and function in our English-speaking society.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Gaston Literacy Council, Inc., a private non-profit organization, exists to help people become functionally literate through advocacy initiatives and instructional services.

VISION: The Gaston Literacy Council, Inc. serves to promote a thriving, productive community that recognizes individuals in need of literacy services, encourages them to come forward, and supports their efforts to gain essential knowledge.

VALUE STATEMENT: The Gaston Literacy Council, Inc. believes that literacy enriches the quality of life for individuals and our community. To this end, we are committed to:

Partnership, Responsibility, Accountability, Inclusiveness, Accessibility, Learner-Centered Instruction, Volunteerism.

LITERACY AND POVERTY...

Benefits of Literacy in the Fight Against Poverty



1. LITERACY IMPROVES HEALTH
2. LITERACY PROMOTES "LIFELONG LEARNING" AND BUILDS SKILLS
3. LITERACY IMPROVES THE ECONOMY AND CREATES JOBS
4. LITERACY PROMOTES GENDER EQUALITY
5. LITERACY PROMOTES DEMOCRACY AND PEACE
6. LITERACY BUILDS SELF-ESTEEM AND OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE

Phil Ritter Board Leadership Award

The "Phil Ritter Board Leadership Award" was established in May 1992 and has been presented annually (almost!) since 1993 to a current or past member of the Gaston Literacy Council, Inc. Board of Directors for exemplary dedication and service. This is a very difficult decision as we have many deserving candidates to select from.



Previous Phil Ritter Recipients:

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 1993 | Max Erwin | 1994 | Jim Baldwin | 1995 | Mitchell Moore |
| 1996 | Glenn Parrish | 1997 | Jack Page | 1998 | Sheri Sellmeyer |
| 1999 | Jennie Stultz | 2000 | Elaine Jenkins | 2001 | Jick Garland |
| 2002 | Frank Matthews | 2003 | Martha Burris | 2004 | Caroline Garrison |
| 2005 | Bill Cozart | 2006 | Annette Gehle | 2007 | Merryman Cleveland & Larry Petty |
| 2008 | John K. Long | 2009 | David Fleenor | 2010 | Richard Rankin |
| 2011 | Judy Planer | 2012 | Ed Sadler | 2013 | Annabelle Kelly & Maria Matiz-Gihwala |
| 2014 | Linda McConnell | 2015 | Julia M. Shovelin | 2016 | Benette Sutton |
| 2017 | Gayle Kersh | 2018 | Ann Woody Drum | 2019 | Tim Efird |
| 2020 | Scott Roberts | 2021 | Carol Elliott | 2022 | Lil Summerville |
| 2023 | ??? | | | | |

Meet the Author 2023 ... *Deborah Goodrich Royce*



After two years of postponing our Meet the Author Luncheon and Silent Auction, we finally came together in May of 2022 with author Karen White and are thrilled to be planning our April 19, 2023 event at Gaston Country Club!

Our guest author, Deborah Goodrich Royce, is an American former actress, story editor and author. Many of you All My Children "soap opera" viewers may remember her as Erica Kane's sister, Silver Kane. Deborah has also starred in feature films such as *April Fool's Day* and *Just One of the Guys*, TV movies such as *Return to Peyton Place* and *The Deliberate Stranger* and series such as *Beverly Hills 90210* and *21 Jump Street*.

SAVE the DATE!!
April 19, 2023

Deborah's literary thrillers include *Finding Mrs. Ford* and *Ruby Falls*. *Reef Road* is debuting in January 2023.

More information and chances to be a part of this event will be coming soon!

Reading Soul Mates

Updates from Annie Anthony and Merry Deely...

After delaying our start until January 2022, we were back in select Gaston County elementary schools and reading with our little 2nd graders!



We served children at Belmont Central, Gardner Park, North Belmont, and Sherwood. Although a shortened year (January – May), we served 43 2nd graders, with 95% making improvements in their reading skills and more than 23% achieving grade level. We are proud of these accomplishments and so grateful to our dedicated tutors!

Several generous donations allowed us to purchase new books for our “reading boxes” available at each RSM location, and new books for each student to receive at end-of-school year. Many of our students had never had their very own book!

Reading Soul Mates remains one of the most exciting and valuable programs operating within Gaston Literacy Council. Research continues to point to the value of early intervention and the difference it can make in the life of a child.

Sneak peek into 22-23!!

• 15 schools • 107 student/adult tutors • 210 2nd grade students (with more expected!)

WE'RE BACK!!

Time to Put on Your Thinking Caps!! Test Your Literary Trivia IQ!!



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

Gather your “book club” friends together and see what you know! Literary trivia can be educational and is always fun! Test your knowledge on the following 10 questions...if you are “stumped,” you will find the answers on last page!

1. Which Stephen King novel takes place in the fictional Overlook Hotel?
2. Which story authored by Washington Irving has the character Ichabod Crane?
3. What famous author was a descendent of one of the Salem witches?
4. First published in 1842, The Masque of the Red Death is a short story by which American author?
5. What is the name of the memoir written by Michelle Obama in 2018?
6. In the book Curious George, who is the monkey's companion?
7. Which detective series focuses on two brothers, Frank and Joe, solving mysteries?
8. What color is Pippi's hair in Pippi Longstocking?
9. Who were two of Nancy Drew's closest friends, helping her solve many mysteries?
10. Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code opens with a murder in which famous museum?

GASTON LITERACY COUNCIL PROGRAM INFORMATION

2021-2022

The 2021-2022 school year saw positive growth in both student enrollment and hours of instruction as we continued to monitor Covid and determine what instruction would be best for students and staff.

We are proud to have served:

- 111 adult students during the 2021-2022 fiscal year (an increase of 30 students)
- 73% of students post-tested in Reading and Listening demonstrated improvement in both Reading and Listening skills
- 2 students earned US Citizenship
- Hours of instruction increased by 564 hours to 3,713.75 hours

Our staff is to be commended for continued expertise in Zoom and for helping our students, many of them working toward improving English comprehension and digital literacy skills, as they were forced to transition to online learning.

Financial Statement Summary **

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022



| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Beginning Balance</u> | \$156,870 |
| Receipts | 331,548 |
| <u>Subtotal</u> | <u>488,418</u> |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | <u>-329,782</u> |
| <u>Ending Balance</u> | <u>\$158,636</u> |
| Liabilities | 0 |

Endowment

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>Beginning Balance – Fair Market Value</u> | <u>\$1,041,296</u> |
| Deposit – Contributions | 0 |
| Withdrawals | -90,000 |
| <u>Net Earnings</u> | <u>-110,264</u> |
| <u>Ending Balance – Fair Market Value</u> | <u>\$841,023</u> |
| <i>Designated Scholarship Fund (included above)</i> | <i>\$10,008</i> |

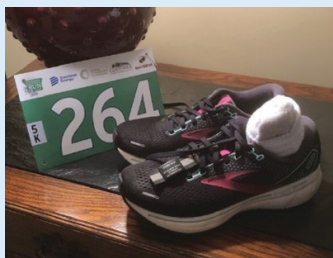
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**Audited statement prepared by Butler & Stowe and available on GLC website



Linda McConnell and Annie Anthony were guests on “Gaston’s Great Podcast” in September 2021, sharing with host Steven Long of GSM Services, the opportunity to hear about the positive things happening around Gaston County, and specifically Gaston Literacy Council! If you haven’t known about this series, it is full of great information about our great community! Take a listen! <https://www.gastonsgreat.com>

Community Foundation RUN 2022



On your mark, get set, and GO!! April 9, 2022 was a gorgeous day and with the new locale, Gastonia Honey Hunters ballpark, we were off and running for our community's non-profits!

GLC's supporters and donors worked hard with total proceeds of \$26,670.50 received. We wish to express heartfelt thanks to those of you, included in the contributors list, who helped us receive the maximum allowable matching gift of \$3,800 from the Community Foundation.

The 2023 RUN, set for April 1, 2023, will be here in a flash and we are hoping for your support! So, lace up those sneakers, hit the streets and build those miles, improving both your own health and the health of your chosen non-profit organization! #laceupforliteracy

Gaston Literacy Council, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the following supporters who made this report and our mission possible.

Major Funders

Sisters of Mercy

United Way of Gaston County



(Donations received between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022)

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."

George R. R. Martin

Read! Read! Read! Club (\$1 - \$49)

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Alan and Cathy Cloninger
Mary Cook
Tem Dalton
Carole Delia
Michelle Devine
Paula Dixon
Karen Fuhr
Mary Hoberg
Marion Love
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Skill Builders (\$50 - \$99)

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Amy Boyd

Thank You

Contributors

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Joe and Pam Wilson
Marsha Wright

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In memory of Hilton and Pete Parks
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In memory of Helyn Robinson
Patricia Dukes

Thank You

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The Carrie E. and Lena V. Glenn Foundation

All contributions support adult students working toward high school equivalency attainment, English as a Second Language, Citizenship, and the Reading Soul Mates Program (second graders learning to read on grade level)

Your contribution changes lives!



2021-2022 Grant Awards

- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Gaston Community Foundation
- Gaston County
(Family Advisory Board)
- Gaston East Rotary Literacy Endowment Fund
- NC Community Colleges System
- Sisters of Mercy NC Foundation
- United Way of Gaston County

In Kind

CC Communications (Web Site)

First United Methodist Church -Rent Reduction

Literary Trivia Answers

1. The Shining
2. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
3. Ray Bradbury
4. Edgar Allan Poe
5. Becoming
6. The man in the yellow hat
7. The Hardy Boys
8. Orange
9. Bess Marvin and George Fayne
10. The Louvre

Literary IQ Scale: if you answered correctly...

- 0-3 You Might Want to Give Us a Call...
- 4-6 Keep Reading
- 7-9 Wow! That's Impressive!
- 10 We're Hiring!!



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