

# LITERACY MATTERS

[WWW.GASTONLITERACY.ORG](http://WWW.GASTONLITERACY.ORG)



Fall Newsletter



## Growth & Success in Q1 2024

As we enter the new year, we are happy to announce an incredible growth in the need for our services. Since this time last year, we have more than doubled the number of students we serve in English as a Second Language classes. Our Reading Soul Mates program has added schools, and we hired an additional part-time coordinator. Maintaining our services is not possible without the financial support of our donors!

We now offer a health literacy class which started in September. Thanks to CaroMont Health for funding this new opportunity for our students.



Support Gaston Literacy by  
donating today!

01/02



## Please Join Us for An Evening With Claire Jimenez, author of *What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez*

Thursday, November 7th  
6:30PM

Gaston Country Club  
Click [here](#) to register!

Thanks to partners, Gaston County  
Public Library and Belmont Bookshop

### English Language Learners

- **Record Participation:** Since July 1, we proudly served a record 217 adults.
- **Student Progress:** 55% of students post-tested made measurable progress.
- **Citizenship Milestones:** Two students earned their U.S.

Citizenship since July 1.

### Reading Soul Mates

Reading Soul Mates (RSM) is a preventive program providing support to identified children in 2nd grade who need some assistance in improving their reading/literacy skills. Data from the past five school years indicates that 96–98 % of the students participating in the program make reading gains by the end of the year. Contact Coordinators, Annie Anthony, Merry Deely, or Mary Wholey to volunteer, [a.anthony@gastonliteracy.org](mailto:a.anthony@gastonliteracy.org)

### New to our Team!



Deana Murphy, Executive Director, joined GLC in July 2024 after a career in education. She previously worked as a teacher, a college lecturer at UNC Charlotte, and the Director of Pre-Kindergarten Services with Gaston County Schools. She is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte.