

from our staff...

6 things we're thankful for

JennaRose

THANKFUL FOR:

*PCs for People
partnership*



"I load computers into my trunk and deliver them to the students while they are in class. Everyone is so excited for their classmate, so there's lots of clapping and smiling faces."

Thanks to a partnership with nonprofit [PCs for People](#), adult students at our Open Door Learning

Annelisa

THANKFUL FOR:

*GED volunteer John
Schwarz*



"John created the Homestretch Group for four of our students to prep for the GED Math test. Little did we know that the homestretch would last up to 18 months!"

Math. Students find this subject intimidating (especially after the new GED format debuted in 2014). That's why Annelisa

Dan

THANKFUL FOR:

*Hard work by North
Dakota programs*



"The groups were all nervous. They were practicing on their breaks and in the bathroom. Once the pitch presentations began, the whole room was at rapt attention."

Dan describes a scene at our Library and Literacy Leadership Institute in North Dakota. Through

Center can earn a free computer by completing distance learning lessons (100 lessons for low-level and 200 for advanced). So far, 13 students have received a computer for their home.

is thankful for volunteers like John, who "studied the test deeply and tailored the lessons to address individual needs." Thanks to him, [all four students](#) in this group have passed the math portion!

mentorship, seminars and shared working sessions over 14 months, organizations are helping each other improve services and extend their reach -- especially important with the recent influx of unskilled labor and refugee resettlements in the state.

Ellen

THANKFUL FOR:

50 years of AmeriCorps
VISTA



"I am thankful for all of the people who have dedicated a year of their lives to serve as a VISTA, allowing the experience to make a long-term impact on their career goals and community involvement."

AmeriCorps [VISTA turned 50](#) this year, and we were honored to be mentioned on several occasions (including a shout-out from Senator Amy Klobuchar) at Minnesota's official celebration. We supported 91 VISTA members in our Summer Reads and Literacy VISTA programs last year.

Lindsey

THANKFUL FOR:

Grant for Pre-GED
curriculum



"She is just below a 4th-grade reading level. Jumping right into studying for the GED is quite a leap for her."

Lindsey knew we had an obligation to help students like this -- students who have the desire to earn their GED but lack the reading skills it requires. Lindsey's idea? A pre-GED curriculum. It will give learners more time to develop reading and writing skills before digging deeper into the GED test content. Thanks to a grant from [Pearson](#) for this pre-GED curriculum, Lindsey's dream will be put into action this year.

Mary

THANKFUL FOR:

Arlington Hills Lutheran
Church



"Arlington Hills Lutheran Church has donated land for our school garden and allowed us to use the commercial kitchen to prepare meals, like our school's Thanksgiving dinner."

The church (where our Open Door Learning Center - Arlington Hills is housed) also gives adult students a chance to practice work skills in a real setting. Students learn all the behind-the-scenes tasks at the [Alley Shoppe](#), a free clothing store for Ramsey County residents. We are so thankful for this partnership!

BONUS! We are thankful for: YOU!

Last year, 942 donors supported the literacy council. The six accomplishments above would not have been possible without your investment in this important cause. This Thanksgiving, please know that you are greatly appreciated!

Hope to see you!

{Mark your calendar for upcoming events}



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR SECOND ANNUAL...

Winter Tales

Festive gathering * Student storytelling

Friday, December 4

5-7 p.m. (short program begins at 5:30)

700 RAYMOND AVENUE, STE. 180, ST. PAUL 55114

Join us for a winter celebration! We'll have treats and refreshments for you to enjoy while you listen to our Open Door Learning Center adult students share their writing about winter, snow and holiday festivities.

Space is limited, so sign up for this FREE event today!

mnliteracy.org/WinterTalesRSVP



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