

Also: Meet Mario, End of
Program Year Data, New Staff
and more!

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Unlocking Futures: Literacy Pittsburgh Builds Pathways to Opportunity



A Message from CEO Carey Harris

Literacy Pittsburgh helps people build brighter futures, whether that means earning their GED, improving English language skills, finding a better job, or taking the first steps to achieving lifelong dreams. As the organization continues to grow, CEO Carey Harris sees even greater opportunities ahead for learners, employers, and the region as a whole. “We have amazing people to serve, and I am so excited about creating programs and

pathways for them to unlock their future,” she says.

This time in history is especially important for adult education in the Pittsburgh region. Employers are searching for skilled workers while demanding increasingly specialized skills compared with just a decade ago. “Employers need people and people need skills, and we sit in the sweet spot right between those two things,” Carey explains. “It’s an important time for us to rise to the occasion.” Literacy Pittsburgh’s mission provides both employers and workers with the relevant assets for success. [Keep reading.](#)

BNY IMPACT Supports Literacy Pittsburgh Students



At Literacy Pittsburgh, we know that learning extends beyond the classroom. Students are most successful when their basic needs are met, which

is why our Free Student Cabinet provides essential items at no cost to anyone enrolled in our programs. From hygiene products and clothing to household necessities and other everyday essentials, the cabinet helps reduce financial stress so students can focus on achieving their educational goals.

Recently, the cabinet received a tremendous boost thanks to Alex Coombs, a Literacy Pittsburgh tutor, who organized a workplace donation drive through BNY's Employee Resource Group - IMPACT. The generosity of BNY employees resulted in a wide variety of much-needed items that will help stock the cabinet and ensure students have access to the everyday essentials they need.

Reflecting on the success of the initiative, Alex shared:

"We're grateful for the generosity BNY employees have shown in support of BNY IMPACT's donation drive benefiting the Free Student Cabinet at Literacy Pittsburgh. Every contribution, no matter the size, reflects BNY employees' commitment to supporting our local community and making a meaningful difference in Pittsburgh."

Thanks to Alex, BNY IMPACT, and the many BNY employees who participated, our Free Student Cabinet is better equipped to support students and their families in the months ahead.

**Your Support Made an Impact on
#ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert Day**



Thank you to everyone who supported Literacy Pittsburgh during #ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert Day.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, #ONEDAY was a success for Literacy Pittsburgh. Every gift, share, and message of encouragement helped raise awareness of the importance of adult education and will help adults and families across our region build the literacy, digital, and workforce skills they need to achieve their goals.

Your generosity will go even further thanks to The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. Eligible gifts made during #ONEDAY will receive additional support through the event's incentive pool, extending the impact of your contribution and helping us create more opportunities for adult learners.

We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped make this day possible. Together, we are creating pathways to brighter futures for adult learners and their families across our region.

Pro Bono Collaborative Legal Project

The Collaborative for Immigrant Impact has launched a Pro Bono Collaborative Legal project. Attorneys are needed who are interested in volunteering for this important effort. Please see the flyer for details.

ARE YOU AN ATTORNEY
LOOKING TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME & EXPERTISE
TO SUPPORT
IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

HELP THE COLLABORATIVE FOR IMMIGRANT IMPACT
EXPAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH PRO-BONO WORK!

FREE TRAINING AND MENTORING PROVIDED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT

✉ LEGALTR@CASASANJOSE.ORG ☎ 412-482-0190







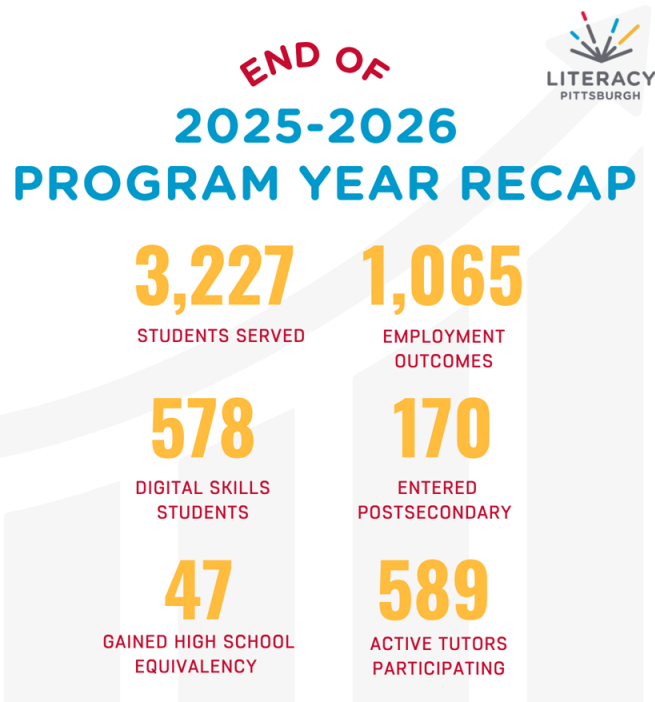


nonprofit-partners.org/cii



Better Lives Through Learning: 2025–2026 Impact Snapshot

The Program Year 2025–2026 was packed with growth, perseverance, and success! Thanks to our dedicated students, tutors, and supporters, Literacy Pittsburgh continues to make better lives through learning. Here is a quick snapshot of our End of Program Year results:



Staff Connect at July Retreat



Literacy Pittsburgh staff members gathered on the last Friday in July for a day of connecting, aligning, and learning. These twice-yearly retreats give our 70+ strong staff a chance to spend time together, build bonds for better collaboration, learn new skills, and discuss strategic priorities and progress

Spotlight on Success: Mario



Mario moved to the United States from Cuba with the dream of continuing his career in healthcare and helping others. Although he had studied medicine and hematology in Cuba, he knew that he needed to improve his English and gain new skills.

At Literacy Pittsburgh, Mario studied English for Academics for 18 months with teacher Amanda. He explains, “Her patience and dedication helped me gain confidence in reading, writing, and speaking English.”

Mario didn’t stop there. He next took Customer Service for Healthcare and Microsoft Excel. Literacy Pittsburgh also connected Mario to PA Women Work, where he took classes on job interviews, résumé preparation, and communication skills. He says, “These lessons gave me the confidence to present myself professionally and helped me enter the workforce successfully.”

Through Literacy Pittsburgh’s Career Pathways program, Mario learned about the Bidwell Training Center. He enrolled in their Institutional Pharmacy Technician Program, which became a turning point in his career journey.

New Customer Service Class Cohort

Are you or someone you know looking for a new job? Prepare for a career in customer service and administrative roles. Hone your soft skills and earn certification in Customer Service skills through PA Women Work and IBM SkillsBuild. Boost Microsoft Office skills in Outlook, Teams, Word and Excel. Develop SMART goals, explore career pathways, and practice networking and interviewing skills.

This class gets results!

- Micadiane got a job in customer service at **UPMC**, referencing the HEAT method in her interview.
- Denis and Prima also got jobs at **UPMC**.
- Dania got in with **AHN's TAP program**, starting an associates in Allied Health careers
- Cynthia found work at **Metro Community Health Center** after taking Customer Service

Upcoming schedule:

 September 14 to December 16

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:00 pm - to 3:00 pm

 Literacy Pittsburgh

411 Seventh Ave,

Suite 525

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Registration deadline: September 1

 Contact for more

details: vdestefano@literacypittsburgh.org

Welcome New Staff: July 2026

We are pleased to welcome the following new faces to our team:



Becky Newton, Donor Engagement Specialist



Alyse Whiddon, English Language Learning
Instructor



Angela Chang, Family Literacy Instructor

Sign up for our Next Introductory Tutor Training!

[Learn more](#) about becoming a volunteer adult literacy tutor and register for training.

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners In-Person Workshop

Saturday, September 12
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Green Tree Public Library
10 W Manilla Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Introductory Tutor Training: Teaching Adult Learners In-Person Workshop

Tuesday, September 15
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Literacy Pittsburgh's Downtown Center
411 Seventh Ave
Suite 525
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Why We Do the Work We Do

“I am very thankful for Literacy Pittsburgh,” she shares. “Thank you for your patience and support. You help me believe in myself.”

Literacy Pittsburgh Student



Two new merch store items: Tank tops for hot summer days and crewneck sweatshirts for chilly nights! Check them out at the link! Visit our merch store.

Thank you to Highmark Wholecare for sponsorship of *The Spark Online*.



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