

Third “Graduating Class” of Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutors at CCLS

December 11, 2009

The Citrus County Library System (CCLS) has graduated its third class of Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutors. This class brings the number of Volunteer Tutors to 76 system wide. As of November 2009 there were 92 registered adult learners in the Library’s Adult Literacy Education Program. Of the 92 learners, 48 have been matched up with trained and qualified tutors. These literacy teams, consisting of one learner and one tutor, are meeting on a regular basis in libraries around the county. CCLS is currently in the process of matching the newly graduated tutors with eager adult learners.



Seated from left to right: Carol Zaglin, Yvonne Cordero, Connie Bookwalter, Connie Grier, Connie Howell, Frances Barg, Dede Titcomb, and Nancy Weymouth. Standing in center from left to right: Gloria Nelson, Marcia Stepanek, Joanne Nesler, Maureen Grimes, Joan Leonard, Roberta Reiss, Flossie Benton Rogers, Cheryl Pence, Vickie Caligure, Pat Rohtla, Jo Smith, Zolika Heath, and George Gehen. Standing in back row from left to right: Gary Johnson, James Boorum, Susan Mutschler, Bill Williams, Tom Mueller, Charlyn Hill, Bob Newkirk, Alyce Bullock, Cherie Byrnes, and Peter Braginton.

The training was led by a ProLiteracy certified instructor in a 12-hour literacy workshop, using the LitStart method, which values relevant, learner centered goals.

A majority of the adult learners in the CCLS program are Adult Basic Education learners (64%) as compared to ESOL learners (36%). ESOL learners are not native English speakers and are usually seeking English language assistance in addition to reading and vocabulary guidance. CCLS has adult learner participants from many countries, including: Thailand, China, Japan, Germany, Venezuela, Spain, Russia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico, Korea, and the Philippines.

The greatest need for the Adult literacy program has been in the Beverly Hills and Homosassa areas, followed closely by Inverness and Crystal River. The Floral City area is also seeing some growth in demand for CCLS’s Adult Literacy Education services.

The adult learners have specific goals to achieve, both short and long range. Examples are: being able to read a street sign, a recipe, a newspaper headline, or being able to read a book to a child. Some adult learners in the Library’s Adult Literacy Education Program aspire to pass tests that will help them get new and promising careers.

All Adult Literacy services provided by the Citrus County Library System are free to the public. Furthermore, the Adult Literacy Program is open to all people needing assistance, regardless of their gender, religion, race, color, national origin, disability or age.