

PRESS RELEASE

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From: The Literacy Council of Buncombe County
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Mayor Terry Bellamy proclaims September as Adult Literacy Awareness Month

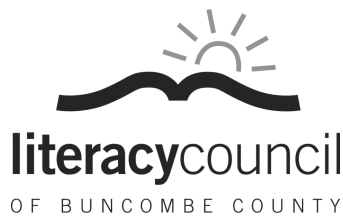
How can you help? Spread the word that the Literacy Council of Buncombe County offers hope to non-readers

Mayor Terry Bellamy declared September 2009 as Adult Literacy Awareness Month in Asheville, North Carolina, at the City Council meeting on August 25. Amanda Edwards, Executive Director of the Literacy Council of Buncombe, was present to receive the proclamation.

“Literacy is our greatest weapon in the ongoing struggle between success and failure to ensure economic vitality and prosperity for all our residents,” Mayor Bellamy, who is a strong advocate for quality education, read in the proclamation.

“Our goal is to raise awareness about the need to increase adult literacy in our community and help people know where they can go to get help,” said Amanda Edwards. “The Literacy Council provides caring and confidential help to adult non-readers through trained volunteer tutors. Statistics show that the greatest predictor of a child’s success in school is the reading level of his mother. If we can help adults build their reading, writing, and language skills, then we also help our children succeed in school.”

According to a literacy study conducted in 2003 by the U.S. Department of Education, it is estimated that 1 in 10 adults in Buncombe County cannot read at a basic level. By issuing the proclamation, Bellamy and Edwards challenge all citizens in Asheville and Buncombe County to take action for



Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

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literacy. Everyone can help by being aware of people who have difficulty with reading and by spreading the word that non-readers and non-English speaking adults can get help at the Literacy Council of Buncombe County.

About The Literacy Council of Buncombe County

The Literacy Council of Buncombe County, a non-profit organization accredited by ProLiteracy America, teaches adults basic reading, writing, math, and language skills through individual and small group instruction by trained volunteers. Since 1987, the Literacy Council's two core programs – Adult Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – have helped hundreds of students transform their lives as individuals, parents, workers, and citizens.

For more information, view www.litcouncil.com or call 828-254-3442.
