

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Literacy Council tutor and student volunteer together at medical clinic

Lidia Yurco and her English tutor Anne Ramirez spend one evening every week volunteering at a free medical clinic for the uninsured run by the Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry. For Lidia, it's a chance to serve the community and practice her English and nursing skills at the same time.

Yurco and her family immigrated to Asheville from Moldova two years ago. She had worked as a registered nurse for seven years in her country, and hopes to one day be able to do the same here. She has been studying with Ramirez, a volunteer tutor from the Literacy Council who is also a nurse, for the last eight months, and she studies at home and at the MAHEC library in preparation for the nursing exam.

"Lidia is very highly motivated and is a pleasure to work with," says Ramirez, who has volunteered as an English tutor with the Literacy Council for four years. Ramirez is also a longtime ABCCM volunteer, and in April of this year she invited Yurco to accompany her at the clinic in order to give her an opportunity to practice English in her field. Lidia also spends one day a week in the front office of the clinic, helping to update charts, register patients, and performing other clerical duties. Office manager Cathy Bolick says "Lidia is awesome! She's very kind and patient; people feel very comfortable with her."

Prior to moving to the US, Lidia hadn't studied English, but spoke three languages in addition to her native Moldovan. She says English is "not so difficult, but it takes time." Of her tutor Anne, Lidia says "It is a joy to work with her. She has become like a very close friend to me. She's a very good role model."

To learn more about the Literacy Council, please call 254-3442 or visit www.litcouncil.com.
To learn more about ABCCM, please call 259-5300 or visit www.abccm.org.

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