



Literacy Council of Carroll County

225 Clifton Blvd. Westminster, MD 21784 410-857-0766 June, 2019 www.literacyccmd.org

What We Learned at USCIS

Every year the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) gives training and information to those people working with people hoping to become citizens of the United States. This year Susan Ridder and Vicki Mayo, two of our tutors, attended representing the Literacy Council. They reported back the following changes to the citizenship process:

- 1) People will be tested using tablets and a stylus for both the reading and writing parts. The tablets will be attached to a stand so the test will be given while the person is standing. The Literacy Council will probably need to purchase tablets with styluses and stands so students can practice taking the test using this new format.
- 2) Currently the price for the test is near \$650.00. Every two years the cost is reevaluated and is expected to rise soon.
- 3) The current wait time in Baltimore from the time of application to test is 12 to 15 months. The biometrics appointment is usually 2 weeks after the application. The biometrics appointment gathers fingerprints, photographs and digital signatures for investigators to use for background checks.

At this moment the Literacy Council has 5 students pursuing the citizenship test. They are from the following countries: Cameroon, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Columbia and Portugal.

In the past year 4 students have become citizens. Their native countries were China, Cuba and Venezuela.

A Special Thank You

To **Brenda Lewis, Vicki Mayo** and **Debbie Bunker**

for manning our desk at the Belk Charity Sale on May 4, 2019. Dedicated, hardworking volunteers are what make the Literacy Council possible.



To **Sandy Sidlovsky, Jo Donaldson** and **Ankita Lamba**

for representing the Literacy Council at the 20th Annual Spelling Bee. You were in the lead for a while and your strategy almost paid off. Well done, intelligent volunteers.

Reminder
Golf Tournament
Friday, July 19th
See the flyer at the end of the newsletter



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A Farewell to Mary Scholz

Mary Scholz, a tutor with the Literacy Council for several years, celebrated her birthday with her student and Sam Greenholtz, Literacy Council director, on May 6, 2019.

It was also Mary's last day of tutoring because she is moving to South Carolina. She will be missed by all of us and, in particular, by her student who baked the delicious cake. Mary's dress was designed and made in Cameroon and was a gift from her student.

Mary has already checked to see if there is a similar tutoring program available in her new community.

"My work with the Literacy Council has been so rewarding", said Mary, "as soon as I get settled I will look into joining the Carolina program."

We wish Mary and her husband all the best in their new home and community.

June 11, 2019 Judy Center

On June 11, 2019 the Literacy Council will have a table presentation and personnel at the resource fair presented by The Judy Center at Elmer Wolfe Elementary School. The Judy Center specializes in helping preschool children and their families. The Literacy Council has several students who are young parents and have worked with their literacy issues as it effects their children and their family life.

Welcome to Dr. Brian Jacobs

Dr. Brian Jacobs will join our staff as a volunteer grant writer.

He lives in Sykesville and is a scientific consultant having his degree in physics.



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For information call

Sam Greenholtz 410-596-3811 Scott Geenholtz 410-596-3811

Literacy Council Office 410-857-0766



presents

10th Annual Charity **Golf Tournament**

to benefit the

Literacy Council of Carroll County

Friday, July 19th, 2019

Quail Valley Golf Course

900 Teeter Road
Littlestown, PA 17340

