



Literacy Council of Carroll County

225 Clifton Blvd. Westminster, MD 21157

410-857-0766

May, 2020

www.literacyccmd.org

A Message from the Executive Director

I just want to thank everyone for their willingness to reach out to our students and to offer to work with them during this unprecedented period. I know it has not been an easy task to want to participate and not have the resources to accomplish our goals. To this end, we will make every effort to improve our home study program for the future, not just in emergencies but for our ongoing programs where it could be a positive solution for both the students and the tutors.

Unfortunately, these solutions will need to be funded. We have probably lost the Spelling Bee for 2020 and instead will focus on a new fundraiser for late fall. It is anticipated at this time that we will have our Golf Tournament on July 17th as scheduled. Needless to say, our funding requirements have taken a severe hit caused by the closing of the offices. Our constant efforts to reach new supporters both for the Spelling Bee and our Golf Tournament and to search grant opportunities have been severely hampered as many groups are uncertain of future needs.

On May 5th we have an opportunity to raise money through

#GivingTuesdayNow

It is a global day of giving and unity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further details will be forthcoming soon and I ask that each individual consider contributing whatever amount they may be able to give to the Literacy Council of Carroll County. This will enable us to keep our text books up to date, obtain new materials, continue to offer relevant programs to our students and to look to the future with new ideas and programs designed for everyone. We will send details on this opportunity as we receive them.

Again, thank you for being there for us and your students. I feel we have the BEST tutors in any literacy program and I am proud to speak highly of your commitment to the program whenever I have the opportunity.

Stay well,
Sam Greenholtz
Executive Director



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It is with deep sadness that we remember our dear friend

Mary Speciale 1936-2020

Mary volunteered at the Carroll County Literacy Council as a tutor teaching people to read, and then moved into the Office Manager position. She was a close associate of Dee Hines and worked very hard to strengthen and build literacy in Carroll County for many years.

Reflections on Our Current Times

From Heidi

My life during social distancing is boring filled with: baking, cleaning, too much screen time and TV.

I do, however, have my own superhero. My son, Adam, has been working at a nursing home with positive Corona virus cases. His contact with the residents has been a real worry for me. He reports everyday because of his concern for the residents.

Editor's Note: We are blessed to have so many everyday people become superheroes and step up to meet this challenge. Thank you to everyone working with love to care for us.



From Susan



I took this photo of Hannah, my cat, dozing in the only spot of sunshine in my living room. It amused me because it is such a typical cat behavior. Then I realized that maybe we should all be a bit more like cats! There is a lot of darkness and chaos around us right now, but there are also small patches of "light" each day. Like Hannah, we just have to recognize and immerse ourselves in them, soaking up the metaphorical warmth and comfort they can provide. So find your inner feline and enjoy your own version of a sunny spot, listen to some of your favorite music, do a crossword puzzle, write a letter to an old friend and maybe take a catnap!



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From Donna

Personal Ponderings on the Pandemic of 2020

I try to be self-aware of my moods and my restless mind. During this period of isolation and self reflection I've learned a few new things about myself:

* Yes, I'm a good baker, but it is not necessary to bake everyday! Only two people live in my house and if I don't stop my husband and I will forever be known as Rolly and Pollie.

* Put the scissors down Donna! I am not a hair stylist and cutting my own hair was never going to turn out well. Hug your hair stylist and leave an extra large tip when this is over to cover the damages.

* Turn off the TV! Constant news updates can seriously affect my mood. Turn on the music, sing and dance but only if you are home alone and the curtains are shut.

* It's amazing how much yard work and home maintenance can be accomplished when the golf courses are closed. Sorry Honey!.

* My daughter has turned into a prison warden. She now does random drive by's to make sure we are home and scolds us if we don't have our phones with us at all times.

* Social media has been a blessing and a curse but if you need a smile check out "Pluto Living - whooshing around the internets" Advice from a 13 year old Schnauzer and the Facebook Group called "View from my window" where people from around the world post pictures that will lift your spirits.

...and last but not least, we all have new Super Heroes – let's not forget that when this is over and life returns to normal.

From Oksana After winter comes spring

