

LiteracyLinks

The Portland Literacy Council Newsletter for Volunteer Tutors

Peggy L. Murphy, Editor

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In This Issue

Tutor Conference
Take a U-Turn, Get a GED
Tutor Toolbox
Calendar
GED Changes
Opportunities

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Portland Literacy Council

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2012 Volunteer Literacy Tutor Conference

Literacy is



Saturday, March 10, 2012 8:30 am - 3 pm
Vollum Center at Reed College
Portland, Oregon

Conference Features

Morning refreshments
Educational presentations
Professional training
Hands-on workshops
Cutting-edge learning strategies
Networking opportunities
International Cultural Presentations
Student speakers
A fabulous buffet lunch
Raffle and door prizes

All for a low \$35 fee
View the program online at [PLC website](#)

Register now - you don't want to miss it!

Rudy Tires of Dead End Jobs & Makes a U-Turn to a GED

by Peggy L. Murphy

Rudy Ubaldo isn't letting any grass grow beneath his feet. The first graduate of the GED Labs program at Multnomah County Library earned his GED and is now enrolled at Mt. Hood Community College. His motivations for completing the GED: being a role model for Alexi, his 11-year old daughter, and expanding his employment opportunities beyond dead end jobs.

Natives of Oaxaca, Mexico, Rudy's family immigrated to the U.S. in the 1980s. His parents worked long hours just for the family to survive, leading Rudy to feel he'd been abandoned. The family moved twelve times by the time Rudy got to high school. Rudy remembers physical abuse and anger towards his parents.

The U.S. fell far short of Rudy's expectations for a new life. By the time he was 11 years old, he was sneaking around, drinking with young adults. When Rudy immigrated, he spoke no English, was not literate in his own language, and didn't learn to read well. Rudy's mother was unable to go to school because she had to help her mother, and his father chose not to. Rudy continued to fall behind academically, had really poor attendance, and school became harder and harder. Not surprisingly, he dropped out of high school in the 10th or 11th grade.

So, what turned Rudy's life around? One factor was being turned down for a job he wanted because he had no diploma or GED. He's dealt with his addiction issues. He's improved his reading skills to the point where he now enjoys reading for pleasure. He has full custody of his daughter.

Rudy's turnaround gave him a sharp focus for his goals. He realizes that wanting isn't everything, and is confident that he can achieve his goals. The GED Labs were a good fit for Rudy; while he'd enrolled in ABE classes, he had difficulty processing the information. Through the GED Labs, he was able to direct his efforts, study effectively, and be successful on the GED tests.



Rudy Ubaldo

(photo courtesy of Rudy Ubaldo)

In addition to his educational achievements, Rudy's family relationship are stronger than ever. He and his daughter live with his parents, who look after his daughter while he attends Mt. Hood Community College or works at his on-call job as a delivery driver for Multnomah County Library, a job that requires a GED. He's determined to give his daughter the experiences he didn't have and expects her to go to college.

Rudy also volunteers for Multnomah County Library, using his bilingual skills to reach out to others.

No grass is growing under Rudy Ubaldo's feet.

Editor's Note: *When asked for advice for tutors, Rudy said to remember that people come from different backgrounds and experiences. He had to get over a lot of issues before he could get more out of life, have more energy, and prioritize goals. Rudy's experiences are a good reminder that adult learners move in-and-out of programs and often study on their own to improve their skills.*

What's In Your Tutor Toolbox?

Sponsored by Peggy L. Murphy, Volunteer Literacy Tutor

2-1-1 Info (Human Services in Oregon/Southwest Washington); **CASH** (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope)

2-1-1 Info — While tutors aren't social workers, adult learners sometimes need the help of social services.

I've been tutoring a long-time immigrant whom I feel may be undernourished. A colleague reminded me about **2-1-1**, a telephone number that connects callers to human services in Oregon and Southwest Washington. One call to 2-1-1 I located three meal providers in the student's neighborhood, one with a work/meal barter system.

Call **2-1-1 in Washington County** and reach Community Action (Helping People, Changing Lives).

CASH Oregon — The 211 website has a referral for a toll-free phone number and website for free tax preparation assistance: 866-698-6158. The tax referral is provided in conjunction with **CASH** (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Oregon, a non-profit committed to improving the financial health of low income working families and individuals.

For Your Calendar

Volunteer Literacy Tutor Training

Registration Information (register by Email or telephone 971-722-6111 X3700)

- February 25 & March 3, 9 am to 4 pm
PCC Willow Creek
241 SW Edgeway Drive, Beaverton
Near SW 185th and Baseline Road
Park in the MAX parking lot
- April 7th & 14th, 9 am -4 pm
PCC Southeast Center
2305 SE 82nd Avenue, Portland

Literacy is a Life Saver

Volunteer Tutor Literacy Conference
March 10, 8:30 am to 3 pm
Reed College, Portland, Oregon
See our lead article, page 1

FYI – Changes to the GED

GED Testing Services has posted to the Internet: **"The Assessment Guide for Educators."** This report is billed as "concrete answers" on upcoming changes. This link also leads to FAQs, fact sheets, videos, and a newsletter.

Opportunities

"Making It Clear"

Health Literacy Conference
March 9, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Multnomah Athletic Club
1849 SW Salmon St, Portland

Sponsored by Legacy Health and partners, national and local experts will share research and evidence-based practices to help increase health literacy and improve quality, safety, and outcomes. Adult literacy educators are among the target audience.

Conference fees: \$75 January 16th and after.

See [conference website](#) for details. Please direct questions to Kari Stanley, Director, Community Benefit, Legacy Health, kstanley@lhs.org, 503-413-6011.

GED Labs Orientation, Multnomah County Library

- Holgate, Sat., April 7, 10:30 am -12:30 pm
- Kenton, Sat. May 12, 3 - 5 pm
- Rockwood, Sat., June 16,
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Registration is required. Learn what and how to study for the GED. Find out if one is ready to test; if not, find out what kind of assistance is available. A GED test scholarship at Londer Center awaits those who complete the GED Labs.