

THE LAUREL OF

JANUARY 2015

# ASHEVILLE

THE ARTS AND CULTURE OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS



# This Year, Consider Tutoring with the Literacy Council

According to a study by the University of Scranton, some of the top New Year's resolutions for American adults last year include such things as losing weight and getting fit. The top five resolutions made by adult students at the Literacy Council of Buncombe County (LCBC), however, are quite different.

They say they want (1) to be able to read mail, medicine bottles, and everyday language; (2) to get a job; (3) to help their children with schoolwork; (4) to become a U.S. citizen; and (5) to earn a high school equivalency diploma.

"These tenacious students are dedicated to achieving their goals," says Ashley Lasher, executive director of LCBC, a nonprofit organization that works to increase comprehensive literacy and English language skills through specialized instruction by trained tutors.

Each student has his or her personal goals and reasons for enrolling in the council's programming. CJ, who suffers

from dyslexia, came to the Adult Education program in 2014 because he wanted to read to his four-year-old granddaughter. CJ spent his entire life struggling with basic reading and writing skills. After working one-on-one with a volunteer tutor, CJ can now read children's books with his granddaughter.

Another student, Mariano, gave himself the goal of earning a better job. He has been working with an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) tutor for one year. As the result of his hard work and increased English skills, he was offered a promotion at his construction job. He is now being trained, in English, for HVAC work.



Mason & Mary

With the help of trained volunteers, such goals as these can become realities. This year, add a new resolution to your list. Become a volunteer tutor with LCBC and pledge two hours each week to helping someone achieve their literacy goals. Learn more at [litcouncil.com](http://litcouncil.com), or by e-mailing [volunteers@litcouncil.com](mailto:volunteers@litcouncil.com).

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March 5-9, 2015

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