



October 30, 2019

Dear Friend:

35 years ago, Michael Jackson premiered the moonwalk. 35 years ago, *Terms of Endearment* won Best Picture. 35 years ago, the Olympic Games were held in Los Angeles. And 35 years ago, the Oakland Literacy Council was founded.

35 years of Oakland County adults learning to read, write, and speak English.

35 years that supporters like you have been helping your neighbors.

This year, with our *35 Faces of Literacy* campaign, we honored the important work people like YOU make happen each and every day. 35 students, tutors, and advocates who are working to eliminate adult literacy here in Oakland County. Each tells a story. **Here are just a few of them.**

Meet Sundus: A Face of Independence

Imagine fleeing your war-torn homeland because you feared religious persecution – to a country where you couldn’t speak the language. Sundus was a civil engineer in Iraq, but, without English skills, she couldn’t practice her profession here in Michigan. She had to depend on others for everyday tasks like making appointments and shopping. Two years ago, Sundus began studying with her Oakland Literacy Council tutor, Carole. Now, says Sundus, “I do everything by myself.”



Sundus depended on everyone else.

Because of you, she can take care of herself.

Donate today to help more neighbors like Sundus.

Because 35 years isn’t enough. Did you know Macomb County no longer has an organization dedicated to ending adult literacy? **Your support will ensure that Oakland County residents have a path to independence.**

Did you know there are 105,000 functionally illiterate adults in Oakland County? Over 350 residents have already reached out to us in 2019, but we know there are many
(over, please)



Yes! I agree that 35 years isn’t enough. Count me in. Together let’s end illiteracy in Oakland County.

Here’s my donation of:

☐ \$35 ☐ \$70 ☐ \$135 ☐ _____

☐ Send me a quarterly newsletter about how my money is making a difference!

☐ Email: _____

☐ Regular mail

Please return this reply card in the enclosed envelope. **Please make your check payable to Oakland Literacy Council.** To charge your gift, please see the back of this form. To give a gift by phone, or make a gift of stock, call 248-253-1617. To donate online, go to <http://www.oaklandliteracy.com/donate35more/>. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

more who need our services. YOU can make literacy a reality for more adults in Oakland County. Your donation will change lives and strengthen our community.

Meet Eric: A Face of Confidence

Imagine if your school had just “pushed you through” and you never learned to read very well. Imagine how isolating it would be to work alone so no one would know. Eric, a skilled carpenter, relied on his family to write his invoices and avoided social situations because he was embarrassed about how he struggled to read. Eric found the Oakland Literacy Council and together with his tutor, Alec, started his literacy journey. Every day he is building his vocabulary and reading fluency, and his confidence has never been higher.



**Eric doubted he could ever read very well.
Because of you, he knows he can.
Donate today to help more neighbors like Eric.**



Meet Denny: A Face of Opportunity

Imagine struggling for most of your life, limited to laboring in a steamy kitchen because you couldn’t speak the native language. Imagine trying to pursue your dream without being able to communicate. Denny came to the United States with “zero” English but dreamed of owning his own restaurant. Denny and his tutor, Denise, spent over two years working together. Now Denny is the proud owner of two restaurants in Oakland County with plans to make it three!

**Denny had a dream. Because of you, that dream is a reality.
Donate today to help more neighbors like Denny.**

Because 35 years isn’t enough. In year 36, your gift will open doors to confidence, independence, and opportunity, and brighten lives.

Together, we can make every face in Oakland County a face of literacy.

Gratefully,

**Lisa Machesky
Executive Director**

Meet many more students, tutors, and advocates on our website at www.oaklandliteracy.com/35-faces-of-literacy/.

P.S. Another meaningful way to support our students is to tutor. In exchange for your time, we will train and support you! Learn how at www.oaklandliteracy.com/become-a-tutor/.

☐ I’d like to be an **Oakland Literacy Council Champion** by making an automatic monthly donation from my credit card. Please automatically repeat my gift below each month.

Please charge \$_____ to my credit card: ☐ per month ☐ one time

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____ CVV CODE _____

NAME ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE _____

One sentence in your will can make a lifetime of difference. Simply share this with your attorney or financial planner: *“I bequeath \$___ or ___% of my estate to Oakland Literacy Council, 43700 Woodward Ave, Suite 20, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302.”*