

# When you close the literacy skills gap, you open doors to the future.

April 20, 2021

Dear Literacy Advocate,

After a difficult year, doors are starting to open. What about you? Have you opened the door to children and grandchildren? Seen a longtime friend for a walk outdoors? *Thank you for opening this letter.*

Ever since her grandfather inspired her to want to build things, Carlea has dreamed of a career in construction. A *future entrepreneur* who plans to open the doors of her own company one day.

***This spring, would you give \$50 to open the door for students like Carlea who want to improve their reading and math skills?***

Carlea loves masonry – the rhythm of the work, the connection to the tools, the beauty she creates.

You would be inspired by her enthusiasm and work ethic. And her love for her family and Pontiac home.

**But Carlea needs stronger reading and math skills.** She graduated high school but doesn't have all her basic literacy skills.

***YET.***

**Carlea walked through the doors of Oakland Literacy Council and found a tutor and the support she needs to close her skills gap and pursue her dreams.**



*Carlea says learning with a tutor is much easier than high school. She is gaining confidence as her reading comprehension skills grow!*

---

**We know this makes all the difference, just as it did when you opened the door for Hyunjung.**

A 2014 immigrant from South Korea, Hyunjung dreams of owning her own nail salon here in Oakland County.

When she came to Oakland Literacy Council, Hyunjung had a basic grasp of English, but her speaking skills were not strong. She remembers,

***“I felt like I didn’t have a future.”***

With tutor Jenny, Hyunjung found what she needed: the chance to practice English with a patient and encouraging partner.

Jenny helped Hyunjung build the confidence to take the next step. Together, they visited a local beauty school to learn more about the programs.



Hyunjung enrolled. She will become a certified nail technician in June! Now she says,

***“In five years, I want to open my own salon.”***

You opened the door to entrepreneurship for Hyunjung.

**Won’t you make the same investment in Carlea and the other 200 students that Oakland Literacy Council serves?**

*Hyunjung, a nail technician student, says,  
“Jenny (tutor) always inspired me.  
She would tell me to try it, and she was  
patient with me.”*

---

**Just a small donation of \$25 helps us provide highly trained tutors, purchase licenses for online learning, and offer group learning.**

Twice a week, Carlea meets with her reading tutor. Her vocabulary is growing. She also works with a math tutor on skills to help her become a capable mason. She will learn to calculate area for complex jobs. She will be able to figure how many bricks to order and the correct width of the grout.

**Reading. Writing. Speaking English. Using a computer. Math.** These are the skills that give adults a chance for better employment. A chance for advanced education and training. A chance to earn more. A chance to be able to teach their children and grandchildren.

***During this critical time of recovery, will you make sure we can keep closing the skills gap and opening doors to the future for Oakland County adults and their families?***

*For a trained nurse who recently immigrated to the United States ... and is working a fast-food job until her English skills improve.*

*For a grandmother raising two grandsons after losing her daughter to COVID-19 ... her dream is to earn her GED to inspire her grandchildren.*

**For all the other Oakland Literacy Council students.**

Carlea's dreams are within reach. She can own her own construction company – and one day offer apprenticeships to the next generation.  
**All because of you.**

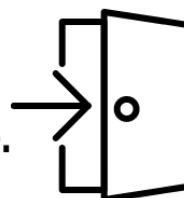
Complete the form on the back of this page, call 248.253.1617, or go to [www.oaklandliteracy.com/opendoors/](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com/opendoors/), and make your gift today.

**Thank you,**



Lisa Machesky,  
Executive Director

**Turn this page over to  
open doors to the future.**



**P.S. Would you take a moment to write a note of encouragement to an adult who is working hard to build literacy skills?**  
*(Even if you can't donate right now.)*

# Thank you for opening doors to the future TODAY!

Please **mail this form** in the enclosed envelope,  
donate online at [www.oaklandliteracy.com/opendoors/](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com/opendoors/),  
or call **248.253.1617** to make a donation by phone.

1) **YES, I would like to help adults build reading, writing, speaking, math, and computer skills!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2) **This spring, please *open doors* with my single gift of:**

☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500    ☐ Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Your students can count on me each month\* with a gift of:**

☐ \$10    ☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*credit card only

3) **Payment:**

☐ **Check** – Please make checks payable to **Oakland Literacy Council**.

☐ **Credit Card** – Visa, Mastercard, or American Express

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Gift of Stock** – Contact Lisa Machesky at [lisa.m@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:lisa.m@oaklandliteracy.com) or 248.253.1617.

4) **Write a note of encouragement to an OLC student (optional):**

---

---



43700 Woodward Avenue, Suite 20, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248.253.1617 • [www.oaklandliteracy.com](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com) • [info@oaklandliteracy.com](mailto:info@oaklandliteracy.com)