

## Your gift of literacy moves adults and families *forward!*



**Matching offer ends December 31, 2021!**

Month Day, Year

Dear <<Salutation>>,

As I write to you today, I am reflecting on a year full of change and renewal. Maybe, like me, you are gathering with family and friends again this holiday season – but cautiously, to stay safe and healthy. *Some days it feels like two steps forward and one step back.*

Thankfully, donors like you made sure Oakland Literacy Council moved forward in 2021, so our students could take big steps in their lives.

**Will you give \$50, so they can keep moving forward in 2022?**

**Thanks to a generous literacy advocate, if your end-of-year gift is received by 12/31/2021, it will be matched dollar for dollar\*!**

Oakland Literacy student *Bernadette* knows what it means to have to take a step back ... Growing up in Pontiac, Bernadette recalls being “smart as a whip” and her father’s pride in her academics. But at just 15 years of age, Bernadette made a difficult decision. Her nieces and nephews needed her. Just one year shy of graduation, Bernadette dropped out of high school to care for the children. She went on to join the workforce.

Yet Bernadette’s love for learning never faltered. She never lost sight of her goal to earn her GED. Bernadette found Oakland Literacy Council and was paired with tutor Rachel, a recent college graduate from Naperville, Illinois. Rachel’s family comes from Pontiac, just like Bernadette.

Bernadette graduated from the reading program at Oakland Literacy in 2021. Besides getting one step closer to her GED, she is learning how to build up her credit – to one day own a home.



*Along with meeting with her tutor, Bernadette studies on her own with Essential Education, one of the online learning programs that are helping OLC students make progress faster.*

**Now Bernadette is enrolled in Oakland Literacy’s math program!**

\* \$5000.00 in matching funds available.



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**Math was a big step forward for Oakland Literacy Council, too.**

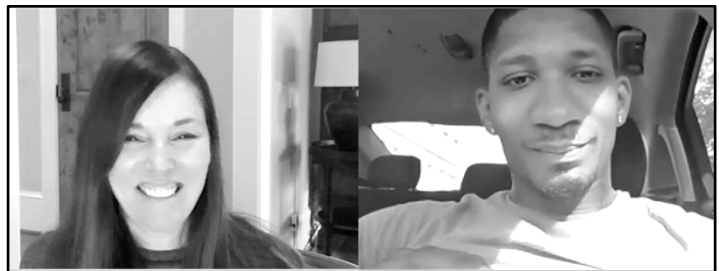
*Did you know there are over 250,000 adults in Oakland County who lack basic math skills? (PIACC, 2019)*

**Lack of basic math skills is holding people back from getting into training programs and being successful in community college.** We need to train more math tutors and match them with adults who are ready to move forward. To achieve this goal, we need funding so our new math coordinator, a PhD from Oakland University, can work full time. With your help, we can build better bridges to career and college readiness for our adult students.

**Every week, over 200 tutor-student pairs are meeting virtually to build reading, writing, English-speaking, and math skills.**

Adults who once thought reading was out of reach are moving forward. This time last year we introduced you to *Cornelius*, a full-time working father of two who never had a chance to go to school.

Cornelius and his tutor, Kim, have been using the Barton curriculum for adults who may have learning disabilities. With this multi-sensory program, Cornelius is finally breaking the code of phonics, the essential building blocks of reading. His confidence and pride are growing. Today, he can read his daughter a bedtime story. Cornelius now says,



*Cornelius (right) makes time between jobs to meet with his tutor, Kim (left). They are both “thrilled with the progress he is making” using the Barton program. The pair plan to work on math together, too, when Cornelius is ready.*

***“I see college in my future ... and then that dream job.”***

Your *matched* gift (by 12/31/2021!) means Cornelius and the 300+ adults served each year by Oakland Literacy Council won't have to take a step back. **They can keep moving forward to pursue their dreams for employment, education, family life, and citizenship.**

And when you give, you are not just helping our adult learners. You are making our community stronger. Stronger because of students like *Brenda*.

An immigrant from Mexico, Brenda wants to improve her English to become a citizen. At work, she helps other immigrants thrive in the United States.

Ever since the pandemic began, donors like you made sure Oakland Literacy didn't take a step back. Indeed, virtual tutoring moved us forward ... to serve more adults than ever before ... to recruit tutors from throughout Michigan and the U.S.... to build a digital literacy program and more.

**We know you don't want our students to take a step back. So, we can't take a step back. This time of recovery is too critical.**

*Our Pontiac Literacy Initiative is now at risk because the funding organization cannot continue supporting the program in 2022. This initiative paid for successful student outreach in Pontiac, many of the laptops and hotspots we loan, and support from our digital literacy coordinator.*



*Brenda (left), an immigrant from Mexico who works at a community center in Pontiac, studies English over Zoom with her tutor Connie (right), an accountant from Midland, MI. Recently, they had the chance to finally meet in person!*

**Please join our family of literacy champions. It is only with your investment that Oakland Literacy can give more adults the chance to build foundational skills — reading, math, and digital — they need for the future.** These are the skills that moved all of us forward — will you give more adults the same opportunity?

- ✓ Giving TODAY will help us launch a digital literacy tutoring program.
- ✓ Giving TODAY will help us match more tutors and students for reading.
- ✓ Giving TODAY will help us bring math programming to more adults.

**Will YOU make a single or monthly commitment to adult literacy by 12/31/2021 that will be matched dollar for dollar\*?**

**Please don't miss this chance to double YOUR impact.**  
**YOU can keep adult learners and their families moving forward in 2022.**

***Thank you and happy holidays,***

Lisa Machesky,  
Executive Director

Please turn this page over for  
giving instructions and form.



**P.S. Any readers on your holiday list? Honor them with a gift of literacy!**

\*\$5000.00 in matching funds available.

**THANK YOU for moving  
adults and families *forward!***



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## DONATION FORM

**3 convenient ways to give:** **MAIL** this form in the enclosed envelope  
**ONLINE** at [www.oaklandliteracy.com/Match2021](http://www.oaklandliteracy.com/Match2021)  
**CALL 248.253.1617** to donate by phone

- 1) **Yes, I want to help adults build reading, writing, speaking, math, and basic computer skills in 2022!** *(Kindly add any missing contact information.)*

Name: <Addressee>

Address: <Street>

City: <City>

State: <ST> Zip Code: <ZIP>

E-mail:

Phone:

- 2) **Please MATCH\* my single gift of:**

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

**Adult learners can count on me each month with a matched\* gift of:**

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

\* \$5000.00 in matching funds available; maximum \$500 match per single donation.

\*\* Monthly donors: credit card only; match limited to \$500 and available funds.

- 3) **Payment:**

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

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

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

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

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

- 4) *(Optional)* **This gift is in honor/memory of** \_\_\_\_\_.

Please notify (name/address): \_\_\_\_\_