

DELAWARE COUNTY

Spring 2010



LITERACY COUNCIL

TUTOR TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training: 10-hour training for tutoring in Adult Literacy or English as a Second Language

April 17 & 24

(Saturdays) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Media Presbyterian Church,
30 East Baltimore Avenue, Media

Call 610.876.4811, to sign up for a workshop. Volunteer and change a life today!

DATES TO REMEMBER

DCLC office will be closed:

May 31 Memorial Day
July 5 4th of July Holiday

Save These Dates:

June 16 GED Graduation Ceremony. Latham Hall, Widener University
Nov. 6 A night with Mick Moloney, Irish musician and author of **Far from the Shamrock Shore**, to benefit DCLC

DCLC tutors logged more than 9,000 hours changing people's lives last year.

Read more about our service in the 2008-2009 Annual Report inside this issue.

Forging New Partnerships

Work is one of the main reasons people come to the Literacy Council for help. Sometimes it is because a new supervisor has new expectations; other times it is a new test required to keep an old job. Some people have worked at the same job for many years and then the company closes, leaving them looking for a new job with old skills. For some people, the ending of a job is the motivation needed to get a GED.

For 35 years, DCLC has been helping people improve their workplace literacy skills, enabling people to get new jobs or retain old jobs.

This past year, the Literacy Council received two workplace literacy grants from the Delaware County Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

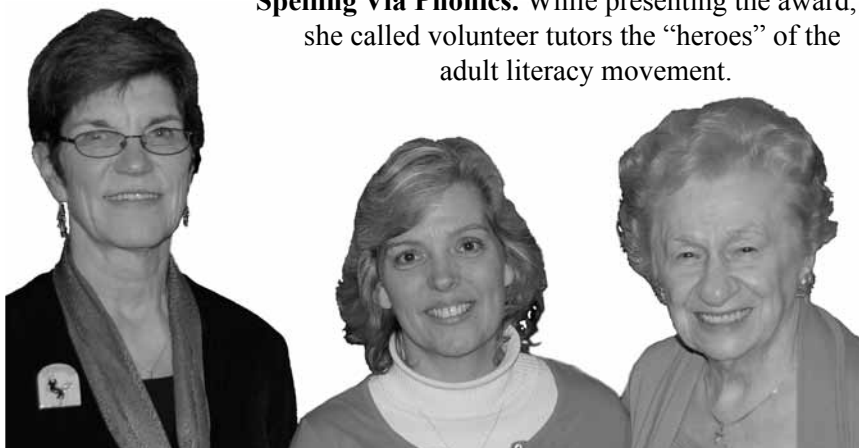
In a joint venture with the WIB and Harrah's Chester Casino, the Literacy Council is offering a GED preparation class at our center in Chester as well as workplace literacy instruction at Harrah's Casino.

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Literacy Council Celebrates Year of Accomplishments

The Delaware County Literacy Council (DCLC) recently hosted our Annual Literacy Celebration at the St. James Alumni Doghouse in Eddystone. Volunteers, adult learners, staff, and supporters shared a potluck supper and celebrated DCLC's accomplishments of the past year.

As part of the evening's festivities, several awards were presented. Dottie Tiffany of Holmes, center in picture below, received the Helen B. Simyak Tutor of the Year Award. Ms. Simyak, on right, is a longtime volunteer and supporter of DCLC and the author of **Reading and Spelling Via Phonics**. While presenting the award, she called volunteer tutors the "heroes" of the adult literacy movement.



More pictures and honorees on page 3



**Message
from
adeline**

Celebrating 35 Years of Changing People's Lives

This year, the Delaware County Literacy Council is celebrating 35 years of teaching people to read, write and speak English—35 years of changing people's lives by raising literacy levels.

I believe that everyone who has been involved with the Literacy Council has a story to tell—of how they came here, their goals, their struggles, their accomplishments. Although we usually think of adult learners as being the people who are here to learn, tutors also learn from their tutoring experience.

Many tutors have told me how much they learn from their students—about the courage it takes to ask for help, about the challenges their students face in daily life and about the powerful motivation that brings their students to DCLC. I have heard tutors speak with incredible admiration for their students' dedication to learning and pride in achieving goals.

During this 35th Anniversary year, in particular, we want to honor all these stories.

Everyone Has a Story to Tell is our theme this year, and during the year, we will be gathering the stories of people whose lives have been changed by our work—our own Story Corps, if you will.

If you are interested in helping us in this project, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing and reading your stories.

Robert Rimm, one of our volunteers, has invited me to be a storyteller on his website, Journalism, Your Voice • The Journey (<http://journalism.org/>). I have begun to blog about adult education (<http://journalism.org/category/blog/madeline-bialecki>). I see this as another avenue for telling the stories of the people whose lives are touched and changed by their interaction with the Literacy Council.

P.S. Thank you for your support on Philadelphia Marathon Sunday. My goal was to walk the Rothman 8K in one hour, ten minutes. I finished the 8K in one hour, four minutes! I also raised over \$3,000 for the Literacy Council! I want to thank Ed McCann and his family for choosing DCLC to honor Ed's sister Sandy McCann.



Ed McCann, front row at right, motivated family and friends to participate in Philadelphia Marathon events as part of Team Sandy, in remembrance of his sister Sandy and raised \$5,263 for DCLC.

DCLC Board of Directors

Ann Seidman, President
Shonette Harrison, Vice President
Robert M. Berley, M.D., Treasurer
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Delaware County Literacy Council's Mission

The Delaware County Literacy Council works with adults who wish to read, write, speak and understand English, helping them to increase their communication skills and to participate more fully in society. The Council uses volunteers to ensure that programs are free and accessible to everyone.

Literacy Council Celebrates Year of Accomplishments

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Joan Neely of Swarthmore received Volunteer of the Year honors for the hours she gives testing Adult Basic Education students. She is pictured with DCLC staff members Karen Hamilton, left, and Tatiana Moskatova.

Rick Burns of Wallingford was also honored as a Volunteer of the Year. He provides Information Technology services to DCLC.

Fran Bloom of Swarthmore, pictured at right, and Medy Dath of Secane (unable to attend) were named the Tutor-Student Pair of the Year. Ms. Bloom has been Ms. Dath's tutor since January 2009, and the two have established a relationship of mutual respect. Ms.



Dath's goal is to obtain her U.S. nursing license to continue her career in nursing. According to Ms. Bloom, "It has been a joy to work with Medy and to assist her in working toward her goal. Her level of commitment has been inspiring."

Grace Slupianek of Broomall was honored as Student of the Year. Originally from Poland, Ms. Slupianek has increased her English skills with the help of DCLC and now works as an engineer.

DCLC congratulated Aziza Bakr of Chester, Alia Bedasso of Upper Darby, Young Yu of Aston, and Lyudmyla and Oleksy Oksyuk of Crum Lynne for becoming U.S. citizens in the past year.

Vince Donlevie, Senior Vice-President and General Manager of Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack, accepted the Community Support Award on behalf of Harrah's. Among its many efforts in support of DCLC, Harrah's



has provided funding for a new workplace literacy program that is being administered by DCLC in partnership with the Delaware County Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Donlevie stated that Harrah's was proud to be involved in adult literacy and emphasized the critical role that reading plays in living a fulfilling life.

Forging New Partnerships

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These two efforts are intended to improve the literacy levels for adults who live and/or work in Chester.

The Literacy Council is also working with The Center Foundation in Media through an American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) grant to offer out-of-school youth (18-24 year-olds) the opportunity to both increase their literacy skills and gain work experience through internships. This grant incorporated KeyTrain instruction, a computer-based work-skills program

which is being used in conjunction with a Work Keys Certificate program offered through the Delaware County CareerLinks. DCLC now has a KeyTrain license, and we are able to offer this invaluable resource to all of our students.

In the current economic climate, strong literacy skills are even more important for workers and job-seekers. These grants increase our capacity to help Delaware County adults improve their work skills.

Winners of First DCLC SCRABBLE® Tournament



Winners in the Advanced Division, Stan Hwang of Springfield, first place, and Trinia Jones of Philadelphia, second, receive prize bags from Executive Director Madeline Bialecki.

Pictured below are Audrey Stephan of Aston, first, and Erik Froelich of Lansdowne, second, in the Level One Division.



Wordsmiths from all over Delaware County put their skills to the test at the first annual Delco Plays SCRABBLE® tournament on November 7 at Springfield Mall.

Presented by DCLC, the Delaware County Library System, and Delaware County Council, the event featured two-player games presided over by volunteer referees from DCLC's corps of literacy tutors. Volunteers from the Swarthmore College Rotaract Club also pitched in to help the event run smoothly.

NBC10 meteorologist Dave Warren, pictured at right, welcomed the players and volunteers with words of encouragement and a reminder of the importance of literacy. He recounted how days spent studying weather in the Haverford Township Free Library led him to a successful and rewarding career.



After all of the tiles were placed and the many words formed, four players emerged victorious. The winner of the Level-One Division was Audrey Stephan of Aston, while Erik Froelich of Lansdowne came in second place. In the Advanced Level-Two Division, Stan Hwang of Springfield edged out Trinia Jones of Philadelphia to take the crown. Executive Director Madeline Bialecki awarded the winners with a gift bag full of goodies, including donated Nifty Fifty's gift certificates, Delaware County Literacy Council T-shirts, and Springfield Mall promotional items.

The tournament was part of a month-long celebration of SCRABBLE® that highlighted the importance of adult literacy and was sponsored by the Swarthmore Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Central Delaware County and the Springfield Mall.

DCLC Staff

Madeline Bialecki, Executive Director
Deb Charley, ESL/FL Coordinator
Karen Hamilton, ABE/GED Coordinator
Susan Keller, Volunteer Coordinator
Naomi Bailey*, Math Coordinator
Russell Bankes*, Move Up Instructor
Gloria Beam*, GED Instructor
Patricia Boccella*, Administrative Assistant
Gwen Cottman*, GED Instructor
Maureen Culbert*, Bookkeeper

Ann Gilligan*, Workplace Literacy Instructor
Nancy Kirkwood*, ESL Instructor
Kim Kondla*, Tutor Trainer
Olga Moskatova*, Evening Receptionist
Tatiana Moskatova*, Data Entry
Reisa Mukamal*, Classroom Assistant
Bob Preston*, Tutor Trainer
Kristine Songster*, Family Literacy Instructor
Kristin Tiburzio*, Family Literacy Instructor

* part-time staff

Thanks to DCLC's 2008-2009 Volunteers

George Acton
Elizabeth Allen
Beth Alois
Emma Alois
Paul Alois
Peter Alois
Naomi Bailey
Kyle Barger
Donna Barksdale
Katie Barksdale
Cindy Bateman
Gloria Beam
Eva V. Beehler
David Belanger
Lrel Bell
John Benson
Marynell Benson
Trudie Bennett
Robert Berley
Reneé Biondi
Shirley B. Birenbaum
Marisa Jean Blagman
Ronald Blagman
Frances Bloom
Carol Bobrowski
Patricia Boccella
Mary Pat Bongiovanni
Justin Borkowski
MaryKay Bowden
Harry Bowe
Drick Boyd
Marion Boyle
Eileen Brennen
Barbara Broadbent
Kimberly Read Bryan
Rick Burns
Nora Burridge
Patricia Burroughs
Gloria Campisi
Joe Canamucio
Olga Canamucio
Ranjan Cardinal
Kathleen Carzo
Brenda Chang Castillo
Lyn Chesna
Peter Churchman
Carol Clark
Rachel Clarke
Markiya Collier
Mary Connell
Virginia Conover
Joe Ann Craft
Joann Crowley
Kira Daniels-Green
Leslie Darley
Suzanne Davis
Vince Debow
Susanna DeCecco
Jane Delaney
Terese DeSanto

Ceil Dobkin
Gail Dougherty
Jack Dougherty
Diane Drott
Rosemary DuFrayne
Rick Durante
Sarah Durgin
Linda Durieux
William Engler
Catherine Englert
Priscilla Ewing
Sister Patricia Farrell
Bonnie Fay
Katchin Fazzini
Jacqueline Fields
Maureen Fleming
Kristin Forman
Joanne B. Frank
Elaine Frieberg
Lori Friedgen-Veitch
Leslie Friedman
Christine Friel
Judy C. Gaskin
Ann Gilligan
Patricia Gladstone
Chris Goldberg
Morgan Goodwin
Celesta Gray
Flossie Graziola
Nancy Griffith
Sharon Hale
Mary Halloran
John Hanson
Shonette Harrison
Patrick Hartnett
Joseph Hawkins
Terri Heinrichs
Wendy Hess
Charlotte Hobson
Patricia Hodnett
Diane Hughes
Anne Iskrant
Diana Janik
Kimberly A. Jennings
Mary Johnson
Allison Jolly
Hedy Kahn
Joanna Kammer
Barbara Kaplan
Sandy Kauffman
Michael Kauffmann
Ralph Kaufman
Fern Kenrick
Kim Kondla
Daria LeRoy
Nancy Letts
Mao Ling
Barbara Logan
Chrissy Longbottom
Jeannie Longin

Marjorie Lucci
Virginia Lumley
Debra Lytle
Dolores Magro
Ann Mahon
Melissa Maleno
David Markman
Dorie Martin
Joan Martinolich
Joanne Mattes
Peter Matthews
Edward McCann
Virginia McCarry
Joseph McGonigle
John McGuckin
Kerrigan McKay
Rosemary McLaughlin
David McNicholas
Sally McNulty
Liz Meister
Marjorie Merklin
Paula Miller
Doris Mitrani
Lillian Mittleman
Mary Ann Mittleman
Mary Moore
Anita Jean Moran
Eve Mountford
Reisa Mukamal
Sister Antoinette Munafo
Mary Murray
William Murray
Joan Neely
Joshua Ocko
Diane Olchowik
Tyese Oliver
Christine Olmsted
Marian O'Meara
Elise M. Ortiz
Rheanne Pahl
Barry Patterson
Patricia Paul
Sister Bernice Pelczar
Susan M. Ploeg
Bob Preston
Peter Provenzano
Linda Ramsey
Brucie Rapoport
Phaedra Reed
Reginald Regis
Marie Reich
Elizabeth Reilly
Linette Reilly
Madeline Reilly
Rebecca Reinhard
Betsy Rentz
Will Richan
Robert Rimm
Mona Rofail
Madison Ruffin

Frank Rule
Maureen Rutkowski
Sandra Salmans
Rande Saxe
Janet Schroeder
Frances Schultz
Richard Schuster
Arnie Schwartz
Shannon Scully
Rose Marie Seavey
Ann K. Seidman
Katy Seitz
Cheryl Shusterman
Lillian Sigal
Janice Simko
Gordon Simmons
Carol Smallwood
David Smallwood
Elizabeth Smith
Greggory Smith
Jill Smith
Suzanne Smith
Wayne Smith
Carolyn Snape
Maddie Soffer
Richard Spahr
Leigh B. Sparks
Jane Spiller
Bill Stewart
Jack Stoddard
Joan Strachota
Amy Strauss
Helen Subbio
Paul J Sude
Lawrence Sullivan
Joanne Suozzi
Joanne Sutton-Smith
Maddie Sutton-Smith
Mark Sutton-Smith
Olivia Sutton-Smith
Sarah Szymczak
Anne Tague
Marilee Taussig
Lois Taylor
Christina Teter
Selina Thompkins
Dottie Tiffany
Christy Tramdaks
Eleanor Vadala
Saral Waldorf
Margaret Wales
Erica Walker
Linda Walker
Cathryn Walsh
Anne Weisbord
Melissa Wickham
Cam Witzleben
Mary Woods
Jerry Young

Welcome New Tutors

Kade Langston Aris
Gloria Barsky
Cora Becker
Parminderjit Bhullar
Valerie Blair
Jane Bostwick
Elizabeth Braden
Saundra Brown
Susan Campanile
Robert Campbell
Stephanie Campetti
Anthony Carbo
Jan Carfagno
Linda Carr
Julia Ann Clark
Desiree Collins
Maureen Cotterill
Lance Cristiano
Michael Daddario
Barbara Damon
Erica Danowitz
Janet DeAmbrogio
Jennifer Dixon
Erin Dolinger
Harvey Engelhardt
Roberta Evantash
Louise Ewen
Komlan Ezunkpe
Lenore Fair
Joseph Feldman
Anastasia Flick
Joyce Fortunato
Barbara Frank
Carolyn Gelone
Donna Glace
Susan Gordon
Brenda Gray
Lorraine Grippi
Christopher Haas
Elizabeth Hamilton
Gabrielle Harman
Monet Hawkins
Alvie Hearren
Robin Hickerson
Nancy Hoffmann
Richard Hollingsworth
Saiyida Zakiya Islam
Lansana Jabbie
Joy Jackson

Marriane Jenkins Wrambel
Hattie Johnson
Margaret (Penny) Klingler
Nicole Krom
Catherine Lathbury
Sharon Lilly
Nancy Loescher
Cynthia Long
Margaret Manila
Tanya Manila
Ron Martella
Lizatte Martin
Marcia McCallister
Theresa McGilvery
Florence Medica
Patricia Miele
Pat Morgan
Deborah Mustafa
Rosemarie Naef
Koffi Occanseay
Judy Peeler
Thomas Pickard
Andrea Poyser
Rosalie Pressman
Stephen Reckefus
Dawn Marie Riddle
Trudi Rockwell
Megan Rutkowski
Gregory Sacharok
Patricia Scanlon
Susan Seitz
Indravadan Shah
Samantha Shutter
Rube Sigman
Maxine Singletary
Edith Smith
Kathryn Stairs
Emy Starankovic
Barbara Starkey
Erin Strandberg
Maria Strauman
Samantha Strike
India Sutton
Kevonna Tandon
Asiya Thompkins
Maria Valentin
Helene Van Hoeven
Jacquelyn Witherspoon
Kaylin Womack



Tutor Peter Matthews, at left, and his ESL Conversation Class attended “The Christmas Carol” at the Hedgerow Theater after reading the play in class.

Sun East Offers Adult Student Award

April 20, 2010, is the deadline for entries in the People Helping People Adult Student Award – \$100 for an exemplary adult learner who is also involved in his or her community.

Sun East Federal Credit Union created the award especially for DCLC adult learners to honor community involvement by an adult student.

Tutors can help their adult learners enter the contest by having them submit a 75-100-word essay describing a volunteer or helping experience. Contact Susan (610-876-4811 or volunteers@delcoliteracy.org) to receive a copy of the rules and the application.

Tutors,

Please remember to report your tutor hours because we need them for our grant reports.

Your hours can be called in, mailed in or reported on our website, www.delcoliteracy.org.

In 2008-2009, tutors logged 9,115 hours. Be proud of your contribution. Thank you!

The Community Supports DCLC

Special thanks to the following who donated time and talents to DCLC:

Six students from Swarthmore College painted and assembled furniture at DCLC's offices on Saturday, October 24. Participants, pictured below, are part of Swarthmore College's

"Saturdays of Service," an endeavor of the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility that arranges for students to volunteer in one-time service projects. Thanks to Rebekah Judson, Menghan Jin, Emma Ambrose, Amandine Lee, Marcus Mello and Jeff Cao.



DCLC volunteer Peter Matthews of

Boothwyn provided on-site guidance and supervision as the students painted a classroom and put together donated tables. The painting and construction will allow DCLC to provide bright, attractive space where volunteer tutors and adult learners can work together.

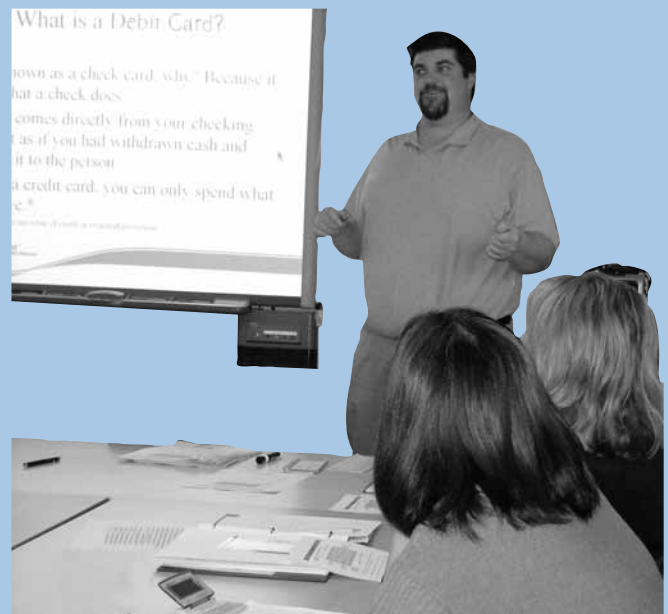
Outback Steakhouse in Springfield hosted a fund-raising luncheon to benefit the Literacy Council on Saturday, November 21, 2009. The event raised \$1,192 to support DCLC's programs.

The **Patricia Kind Family Foundation** awarded DCLC a grant of \$5,000 to be used to increase the number of volunteer tutors working with adult learners. This is the third year the Literacy Council has received support from the Patricia Kind Family Foundation, and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Ten Thousand Villages in Media held a community shopping night to benefit the Literacy Council on Wednesday, December 8. The evening brought in \$328 for DCLC. Ten Thousand Villages offers artisan-crafted home decor, jewelry, personal accessories and gift items from around the world.

The **Jane Ann Krause Trust and Antoinette Parsons Stark Memorial Funds of The Philadelphia Foundation** awarded the Literacy Council a \$20,000 grant to support our adult literacy programs.

Sun East Federal Credit Union presented a series of free Financial Literacy programs at the DCLC office in Chester. Michael Skay of Sun East, pictured below, covered such topics as budgets, debit and credit cards, financial planning and identity theft.



What's on Our Website

Check out www.delcoliteracy.org. Tutors can record and submit tutoring hours by going to the DCLC website and clicking on Resources for Tutors. Visitors to www.delcoliteracy.org can read student writings, find details about training sessions and ways to volunteer. You can even donate through a secure online service.

“Everyone Has A Story to Tell” Premieres at Ridley High School

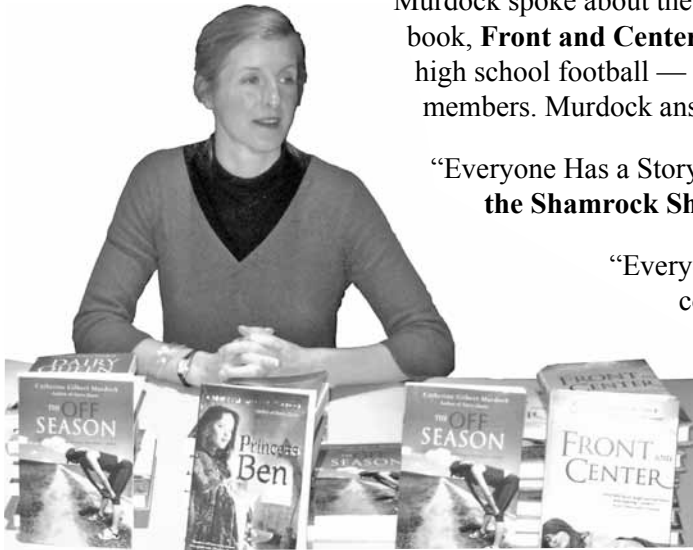
Catherine Gilbert Murdock, author of **Dairy Queen**, **Off Season**, and **Front and Center**, highlighted the importance of literacy skills by sharing her own reading and writing experiences at Ridley High School on December 10, 2009.

Murdock’s appearance kicked off Delaware County Literacy Council’s “Everyone Has a Story to Tell.”

Murdock spoke about the process of writing and revising her books, including her latest book, **Front and Center**. Many of Murdock’s young-adult novels prominently feature high school football — a topic near and dear to Ridley High students and community members. Murdock answered questions and signed books for the enthusiastic audience.

“Everyone Has a Story to Tell” will next present Mick Moloney, author of **Far from the Shamrock Shore**, at a DCLC benefit on November 6, 2010.

“Everyone Has a Story Tell” has prompted members of the DCLC community to enhance their creativity, with generous support from the United Way of Southeastern PA. Charlotte Hobson, a former DCLC student, attended a public-speaking workshop focused on helping people craft their personal stories and present them to an audience. Nicole Krom, a current DCLC tutor, attended a digital-storytelling workshop and is working on a film about DCLC. Thanks to the United Way, Charlotte, and Nicole.



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