

November 2007

Dear Friends:

This is the time of year that TLP submits statistical reports for funders. Every funder wants something different, but generally the information sent includes student ability levels, age, gender, ethnicity, employment status and the percentage of students that made “measurable” educational gains. The information is used to show that funds provided for literacy produced results. What is asked for is impersonal and doesn’t reflect the bigger picture.

Quoting ProLiteracy Worldwide’s new President David C. Harvey, “**...literacy is important because it changes lives of people...our work is about people not percentages.**”

At TLP our volunteer tutors know this. They send our staff updates about how their students are doing. Examples include the following:

- After studying for many months, T passed her citizenship exam.*
- K met his goal of finding employment*
- D is learning to fill out forms and write letters*
- O learned vocabulary needed for a hospital visit*
- T completed assignments on ratio, rate, and percent*
- M has gained confidence in her ability to produce acceptable work independently*
- J aced 3 spelling exams*
- N passed the reading portion of her GED exam.*

The potential impact of these accomplishments on these students is obvious. Yet these accomplishments are hard won and can only be fully understood by knowing who these students are and what barriers they have had to face to meet their literacy goals. They are single mothers, young people, grandmothers, and people with learning disabilities. They are local folks and refugees and immigrants. They are people who have been successful and people who have never before had success. They are not a statistic. They are all individuals seeking a better life for themselves and for their families. They are people who need our help.

Please send a gift to TLP in support and in honor of our students’ work and help us help them reach their goals.

Sincerely,

David H. Smith
Executive Director