



Student and Tutor Newsletter

July 2009 Edition

Building a literate community and transforming lives by strengthening reading and language skills.

Tutor Legacy Circle Gives a Generous Gift

In May, the Tutor Legacy Circle donated a generous amount to the Adult Tutoring Program. ATP will use the fund to host a breakfast called Each One Reach One, an event designed to recruit tutors. Thank you for your support and generosity!

The Tutor Legacy Circle is a fellowship of all past and present tutors who choose to make a financial contribution to the work of the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

The vision of the Tutor Legacy Circle is to keep tutors connected to the Literacy Center, to promote the work of the center by providing funding to special projects that move the mission forward, and to serve the long term good of the organization

by increasing the endowment and annual support.

The Tutor Legacy Circle is open to all Literacy Center tutors, past and present. This group is for tutors who want to:

- Join with others to make charitable dollars go further.
- Network with other tutors who are making a difference.
- Invest in the Literacy Center and ensure its future.
- Learn more about literacy in our community.

If you would like to join the Tutor Legacy Circle, please contact Linda Krombeen, Development Director, at 459-5151.

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LCWM is Now on Facebook and Twitter

The Literacy Center of West Michigan is proud to announce its pages on Facebook and Twitter.

Keep yourself updated on the latest news, events, and

services by becoming a fan on Facebook and following our tweets on Twitter!

www.facebook.com/pages/Literacy-Center-of-West-Michigan/72989787633

www.twitter.com/LCWM





Summer Calendar

WMAIA Golf Outing
July 13

Group Testing
August 12,
13, 17, 18

Summer Picnic
August 27

Each One Reach One
September 9

Literacy Center Summer Picnic

Celebrate the summer with us at the John Ball Park Zoo. The Literacy Center of West Michigan hosts its annual Summer Picnic on August 27, 2009 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. We look forward to trying food from all around the world! Beef hotdogs, soda, plates, cups, and

utensils will be provided.

The food and fun includes free parking, a play area for kids, and live music by Hugo Claudin and Friends.

Please RSVP by August 20, 2009.

Contact Lindsay McHolme at 616.459.5151 ext. 20
lmcholme@literacycenterwm.org

We hope you and your family will join us!



Motorcycles

By Gerald Nester

I like to ride motorcycles with my friends and by myself. I have two Honda motorcycles. They both have windshields and side bags. One is a larger bike for longer rides, and the other I ride for shorter trips. I ride to work lots of the time. Sometimes I ride to church or to the coffee shop. I like the fresh air feeling.

Friends and I rode to Baldwin for the Blessing of the Bikes. This is a gathering every May. There is a Priest who blesses all those who ride bikes. This year there were 37,000

bikes. The blessing is done at the airport. The streets are full of bikes, and are shut off to the traffic.

In 2006, five couples went with motor homes to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. My brother and I trailed our motorcycles with us. We stayed in an R.V. park there and rode in the Smokey Mountains. We were there for two weeks. It was in October, so we saw the leaves change colors. We had bon fires and cookouts at night. It was a nice vacation.

This August, my friends, my brother and I, are riding to the Big Mac bridge. There are 2,000 or more bikes riding together. It is called the Midnight Ride. We leave at midnight, and get to Big Mac at 7:30 A.M. I have done this two other times, and it is beautiful.

Riding with friends and family, we meet lots of people and see the country differently, and can smell different smells. I love the open air and free space.

Tutor: Gloria Piccard



Gerald Nester

Student Spotlight

Life is So Good

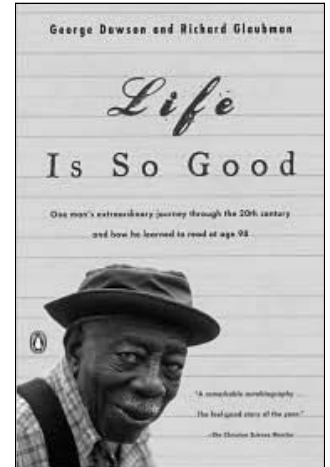
By Janet Thompson

"Life Is So Good" is a book about a man named George Dawson who learned how to read at the age of 98. The reason I decided to do a book report on this particular life story is that George and I went through some of the same struggles in life, not knowing how to read was one of them. George was born in Texas in 1898, the first of five children. During this period of time, it was so very hard for black people. His family was very poor by the time George reached school age he could not go. He needed to help his family. George was a very hard worker. He never complained about anything. At the age of twelve he was sent away to work on a farm. George made about \$1.50 a week. He knew it was not much, but it would help his

family. His father would visit him from time to time. One day his father came but this time it was not a visit. Because of the death of his aunt and uncle he had to go back and work on his family farm. Now there were fourteen children. Nine from his aunt and uncle who passed, George worked on his family farm for the next four years. At this time he was sixteen and never went to school. By the time he was eighteen the dream of going to school had long been faded. At this time in George's life he needed to go away to experience life. He had never been outside the little town of Marshall before. With the blessing of his parents George took off. On his journey he traveled to many different places like Memphis, New Orleans, Mexico, Cleveland and Canada, to name a few. In 1928 he returned back to Texas.

George never thought about reading again. Soon after returning he met his first wife named Elzenia, he loved her very much. They had four children and all of them graduated from college. George was married four times and outlived them all. In 1996 George got a knock on the door that would change his life forever. A man was recruiting people for the adult education class at the high school. George always dreamed of learning how to read but never thought he had the chances. But now that he was 98, all of his wives had died, his kids were grown up and he was retired. The time was right for George to go to school. Now that he has learned how to read, life has gotten better.

Tutor: Susan Hengstebeck



Life is So Good

By George Dawson

I Like to Learn English in the Historic Library

By José Anleu

I arrived in the U.S.A on March 23, 2003. I was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala on March 16, 1959. My first city was Chicago but I moved to Grand Rapids soon after. I moved to the U.S.A. because I wanted a better life for my wife, my six

kids and myself.

When I came to the U.S.A. in 2003 I understood about 20% of what people said in English and I spoke 10%. In 2009 I understand 80% and speak 60%.

When I first arrived in the U.S.A. I could only read and write English a lit-

tle. At this time I read and write English much more and hope to keep improving.

I am thankful to all the friends who have helped me to learn to speak, read and write English. I like to learn English in the historic library.



José Anleu and Valerie Richardson enjoy meeting at the Grand Rapids Public Library each week.

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Publish Your Work in the *Student and Tutor Newsletter!*

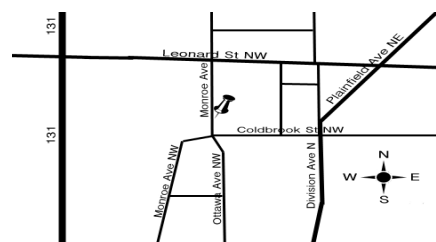
Have you been working
on your writing with your
tutor? If so, we would
love to publish your
work!



Send your
submissions to Lindsay
by September 25, 2009.

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Visit our website at
www.literacycenterwm.org

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