Distance Learning
Responding to the Needs of Adult Literacy Programs
Dear supporters, members, advocates, and friends,

We at ProLiteracy know there is no shortage of messages being circulated about the current COVID-19 crisis. This issue of Voices is dedicated to letting you know about the many ways that ProLiteracy is working to provide resources and tools to help instructors and learners continue their learning journeys during this difficult and uncertain time.

A month ago, I didn’t know what “social distancing” was. Now, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it’s become a fact of life that we need to stay six feet away from each other to avoid spreading germs. The employees of ProLiteracy, like so many other organizations across the country, are working remotely. But we continue to be committed to assisting our network of adult literacy programs in any way possible.

We thank you for supporting us as we navigate the challenges of this grave situation. Your compassion for adult literacy has helped literacy programs overcome challenges and open doors of opportunities to learners worldwide. Your support is the driving force for the success of adult learners and our shared communities.

We truly hope that you and yours stay healthy in the days ahead.

Kevin Morgan
President and CEO
ProLiteracy Releases Latest Issue of Adult Education Research Journal

**WE ARE PLEASED** to announce the release of Volume 2, Issue 1, of ProLiteracy’s free research journal *Adult Literacy Education: The International Journal of Literacy, Language, and Numeracy*. This special issue, *Broadening the Lens on Adult Literacy Education Outcomes*, explores research, policy, and practice looking at adult literacy education through a longer-term lens. Visit [https://www.proliteracy.org/ALE-Journal](https://www.proliteracy.org/ALE-Journal) to download the journal.

Adult Literacy Management and Leadership Training Courses

**PROLITERACY’S** Adult Literacy Management and Leadership Training is a series of courses designed to foster and expand the expertise needed to successfully lead an organization. Recently, we launched the Financial Management and the Administrative Management courses. These trainings will prepare literacy program executive directors to meet the many challenges of their roles and help them develop the sound financial management principles and skills they need to keep their organizations operating successfully.

**NEW!** The What, Why, Who, and How of Blended Learning for Adult Basic Skills Learners

**A VALUABLE RESOURCE** for instructors, *The What, Why, Who and How of Blended Learning for Adult Basic Skills Learners*, is a guide for teachers, tutors, and program administrators who provide adult basic skills education and who wish to initiate or improve blended learning for their students. This guide offers valuable tips, information, and case studies to help instructors build a blending learning curriculum that best meets their program needs.

**NEW!** TABE Mastery Product Release

**NEW READERS PRESS** recently released the new *TABE® Mastery* core series for Language, Math, and Reading. *TABE® Mastery* features scaffolded lessons, pretests and posttests, and Teacher’s Manuals to help prepare students for TABE success. Each student book offers: a diagnostic pretest to assess students’ skills, learning goals for every lesson, real-life content, guided practice to facilitate critical thinking skills, and independent practice to help reinforce the concepts taught in the lesson.
THIS HAS BEEN an unprecedented time of turmoil as the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has rocked the world. Schools around the globe are shifting to online learning in an effort to adhere to social distancing measures and slow the spread of the disease. But children are not the only people affected by school closings.

The current health pandemic is also affecting adult literacy programs and adult learners. Most public libraries, public schools, and community-based literacy organizations have had to close their physical locations.

In the U.S., 43 million adults struggle to read or write. Around the country, these adults rely on adult education programs to gain skills in basic education, English language learning, high school equivalency test preparation, and workforce training.

With programs shut down, and many instructors unprepared to provide distance learning through technology, adult literacy students may not have access to educational resources to continue to learn and improve their lives.

In an effort to continue to provide support for programs and learners, ProLiteracy has created a list of educational resources and tools that can help instructors and adult learners utilize distance learning through technology. Visit ProLiteracy’s web page at proliteracy.org/health for information about communications software, broadband access, tips for tutoring from a distance, and digital curriculum available from New Readers Press and others to help learners continue instruction from home.

STUDENT STORIES

PROLITERACY AND LANCÔME USA worked together to develop the Write Her Future Institute, an initiative to empower women with new opportunities and tools to increase their literacy skills and enrich their lives. This letter is from one adult learner that received a free one-year Voxy license.

I like Voxy because it offers a variety of classes about different topics.

It’s very helpful to have scripts and audio at the same time. It gives me practice speaking as I listen to audio file.

I’ve been looking for a way to study TOEFL test. However, I didn’t like to carry a heavy TOEFL prep book. It’s so easy and convenient to study TOEFL with Voxy TOEFL course.
Responding to the Needs of Adult Literacy Programs

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, students’ abilities to continue learning using digital resources is so important. But programs are often operating without the appropriate technology solutions to support their curriculum—proven solutions that are affordable, easy-to-use, and engaging for learners.

ProLiteracy recently created the Mobile Learning Fund, a grant program that provides free subscriptions and licenses to apps and digital products available from New Readers Press, ProLiteracy’s publishing division. The Mobile Learning Fund allows programs to continue building capacity while giving students flexibility to choose when and where they learn.

ProLiteracy is still accepting applications for the Mobile Learning Fund. Programs can apply for awards of up to $3,000 to help learners continue to learn during this necessary suspension of classes.

If you would like to provide much needed support to adult learners with a gift to the Mobile Learning Fund, or would like to request a grant, please visit https://www.proliteracy.org/MobileLearningFund.

Accelerating Success for Adult Learners

THE PROLITERACY Learning Upgrade Challenge is a competition to see who can log the most adult learner literacy and math progress using the award-winning Learning Upgrade app. The app is a proven and validated education solution. Adults learn basic literacy, English, high school equivalency, math, and newly added digital literacy on their smartphones with over 1,000 musical lessons that are engaging, fun, and effective. Teachers can track and monitor all student activity remotely to keep learners on track. Providers can sign up for the Challenge with each 4-month cycle. Providers that do not have a license and who have never used or piloted Learning Upgrade can request pilot licenses for the 4-month Challenge period. The Challenge will run for two years with new cycles beginning every 4-months. After each cycle, prizes will be awarded to the top program and top instructor based on the percentage of learners who have completed the most hours. The top learner prizes will be awarded for most hours, lessons, and certificates completed.
Celebrating 25 years of the National Book Fund

FOR 25 YEARS, ProLiteracy has been providing adult literacy and basic education programs with educational and instructional materials through grants from the National Book Fund® to help adults gain basic literacy skills and live quality lives.

Before ProLiteracy established the National Book Fund, literacy programs that couldn’t afford to buy books for students and instructors simply did without them. Students shared worn-out books with other students. Instructors used cast-off books, outdated resources, and photocopies during lessons. But for the past 25 years, with the help of the National Book Fund, we’ve been committed to changing all that.

More than 422,000 adults have improved their reading skills as a result of this initiative.

Romance for Literacy

HUNDREDS of Romance writers across the world have joined forces to raise money from the romance community for literacy. Authors are donating personally and starting their own teams to fundraise among their readers and friends. They are more than halfway to their goal of raising enough money to create an online, direct-to-student course that will empower women by teaching necessary skills, such as financial literacy, health literacy, and workplace development, while developing critical foundational reading, writing, and language skills. This will give women the confidence they need to transition into traditional adult education programs and create a better life for themselves and their families.

For more information, visit www.proliteracy.org/romanceforliteracy.
New Changes in the Tax Code that Affect Giving

WHILE THE TAX CODE may change upon publishing this article, this is the latest update on how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) of March 2020 affects giving. Keep in mind that you should always check with your financial advisor/attorney about any major giving decision, or about how this affects your personal situation.

- $300 adjustment to income for charitable giving for non-itemized taxes
- 100% adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for contributions of cash to public charities
- IRA minimum required distribution waived for 2020
- Increase in the charitable deduction limit for cash contributions from corporation

Betty wants to help ProLiteracy change lives and communities through the power of adult literacy. She knows that ProLiteracy is the leading resource and champion for adult learners who struggle with basic reading, writing, and math skills. She established a charitable gift annuity (CGA) that supports ProLiteracy’s mission—and also gives her tax-advantaged lifetime payments.

Betty Anne Keat is a retired school teacher.

CGA Payment Example
This table shows how the CGA might work. Details, payment amounts, and charitable rates will vary based on your circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Age:</th>
<th>70</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Donation amount:</td>
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<td>Annual payment (for life):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax-free portion of payment:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is not legal advice. Please consult a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the particulars of this gift.*

To receive a personal illustration or request a complimentary brochure, contact Wallace Barkins at 315.214.2574 or at wbarkins@proliteracy.org.

Feel free to call Wallace Barkins at 315.214.2574 to discuss how your giving can impact adult literacy during this uncertain but critical time in our history. •
FIND MORE WAYS TO GIVE AT PROLITERACY.ORG

PROLITERACY BELIEVES every adult has a right to literacy. We champion the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults, families, and communities. We envision a world in which everyone can read, write, and use technology to lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives. We can’t do it alone!

Thank you for your continued commitment to changing lives and communities through the power of adult literacy!

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY with ProLiteracy. Planned giving gives you the peace of mind to know that your future is planned and gives ProLiteracy the resources to plan for the future. Contact Wallace Barkins at wbarkins@proliteracy.org to find out how.

ONLINE
Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift using our fast and secure online form. To donate, visit proliteracy.org/donate.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS
Many employers match employee gifts. Find out if yours does at doublethedonation.com/proliteracy.

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101 Wyoming Street, Syracuse, New York 13204

CALL
888-926-READ
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