

# TUTOR TALK NEWSLETTER

Laura Gross, Executive Director | (301) 739-4208 | [office@literacyofwcmd.org](mailto:office@literacyofwcmd.org)

## UPFRONT WITH LAURA GROSS ●●●●●●●●

As a kid, being hauled by my parents to Sam's Club or Costco wasn't exactly a treat. BUT racing my brother through the store to seek and conquer every last taste test booth in record time WAS pretty fun. Were the portioned out morsels THAT delicious? Maybe, maybe not. But visiting the vendor's table, picking the best specimen from their array, and savoring that single bite was a childhood memory I won't forget. THIS is the low-pressure, fun atmosphere we want to create for potential tutors at our "Taste of Tutoring" recruitment event. YOUR insight and stories about the impact of tutoring are the best marketing tools at the Literacy Council's disposal. Currently we have 18 students waiting to be matched with tutors; 8 other potential students are waiting for their skill assessment intake before they can be moved to LCWC's waiting list. Bluntly put, we need to double our number of active tutors to meet this demand. So, back to the "Taste of Tutoring" event happening on Monday, January 27th from 5-7pm at the Smithsburg Branch Library. We still need 4-6 more "chef" volunteers to show up that evening with an engaging demeanor and simple bite-sized snacks. Please contact [office@literacyofwcmd.org](mailto:office@literacyofwcmd.org) with your interest. Let's start 2025 with some palatable progress towards increased literacy!!



LITERACY COUNCIL OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

**A TASTE OF  
TUTORING**

MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH | 5PM-7PM

SMITHSBURG LIBRARY (COMMUNITY ROOM)  
66 W WATER ST, SMITHSBURG, MD

**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!**

The LCWC is looking for 8-10 volunteers to assist at our upcoming tutor recruitment event! Volunteers will take on the exciting role of "chefs/salespeople," engaging with prospective tutors and sharing the rewarding experience of volunteering with LCWC. In addition to your enthusiastic participation, volunteers are asked to bring single-serving food items, either homemade or store-bought, to share with attendees. Join us and help make this event a success!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL [OFFICE@LITERACYOFWCMD.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@LITERACYOFWCMD.ORG)

## TUTOR SPOTLIGHT ●●●●●●●●

"If you can speak, read, and write, you can help someone else acquire and improve their communication skills." That's Karen Post's advice to new tutors, and a good explanation of why she's been a literacy tutor since 2011. "Along the way, I took some breaks, when I would finish up with one student, and request no new referrals for a few months or maybe longer. I was always welcomed back with open arms when I contacted LCWC and said I was ready for a new referral." "The best part of being a tutor is the joy of seeing people make progress. Most students have been very enthusiastic and grateful for the help. At the end of every session, I always feel good! I have had a few students who did not meet their original goal of completing their GED or getting into college; but they all felt better about themselves because they did make some progress." Karen serves on the LCWC Board and many of you have met her at new tutor training. Why such a deep commitment to LCWC? Karen says, "I grew up in Syracuse New York where Ruth Collins started ProLiteracy. It seems like 'kismet' to volunteer with a Literacy Council." And a stroke of good luck for us!



Board Member, Karen Post

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## ●●● LCWC CALENDAR - SAVE THE DATE! ●●●



### Taste of Tutoring

Monday, January 27, 2025

5:00pm-7:00pm

Smithsburg Library



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## ●●●●●●●●●● DEAR TUTOR TALK

**LAST MONTH'S QUESTION:** My student only shows up to about half of our scheduled sessions, but he seems to value my help. How can I help him be more consistent?

### YOUR ANSWERS (THANKS):

- Ask your student to suggest a reminder system that works for them: calls, texts, or emails? How far in advance?
- Talk with them about your schedule - is this still a good time and place to meet?
- If you have the flexibility, ask them to reschedule each missed lesson at a time that works best for both of you.
- Understand where you fit in their life priorities - they may really want the lessons but are struggling to keep basic necessities in place at the same time.

**NEW QUESTION:** My low-beginning student is a native English-speaker. She thinks the Laubach curriculum is too basic for her. I want to add something that has more appeal, like a fashion magazine. How do I do this when it's far beyond their reading ability?



**Help Tutor Talk answer this question!**

**Send us your suggestions and we'll publish them in our next newsletter.**

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## RESOURCE CENTER ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●



ProLiteracy is a national nonprofit that supports organizations like LCWC. You may have heard about them at new tutor training. Check out their resources – online and print – at [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org). You'll find that your work as a tutor is part of a huge movement to advance literacy!

**Have a great resource to share? Send it to Tutor Talk!**

IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS? EMAIL JUDY CHAMBERS AT [JANDSCHAMBERS@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:jandschambers@outlook.com)  
OR LAURA GROSS AT [OFFICE@LITERACYOFWCMD.ORG](mailto:office@literacyofwcmd.org)