

**Kleberg County Adult  
Literacy Council**

Spring

**2018 Newsletter**

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## Save the Date...August 3, 2018

The team of Coldwell Banker Homestead Properties, Inc continues to be the reigning SCRABBLE Tournament for Literacy Champion. They will be back in 2018 to defend their title for the eighth time. Save the date and join in on all the fun, and come out and try to dethrone these "Rack Stars"!!!

### Executive Director's Pen

Spring has sprung, and while you are planting your new garden, watching your flowers bloom, welcoming the humming birds, or even suffering from those dreadful spring allergies, keep in mind that we all will bloom where we are planted. As we flourish in our own environment, remember there are many in our community in need of support. Like plants need rain, fertilizer, and sun, so does a cross-section of our population. I am talking about those adults eighteen and older that struggle to function "normally" in every day life, often times struggling with the very things we all take for granted and may even dread. Many are seeking employment, looking for a promotion, striving to get their GED or wanting to learn to speak English in order to help their child with his or her homework. In order to have a beautiful garden, we must tend to it. In order to have a strong, vibrant, community, we must also "tend" to it.

Since 1986, the Kleberg County Adult Literacy Council (KCALC) has made it their mission to support and service those adults in need of "cultivation." We have planted the seeds of education in our adult learners, and we have seen them grow into better informed parents, stronger employees and even high school graduates. We have strengthened families and our community through education, but none of our successes would be possible without the support of our volunteers, donors, local businesses and foundations. As a non-profit, KCALC is so fortunate to be in such a giving and selfless community that believes in investing time and resources to provide opportunities for others. I have included some examples of our recent activities, so I hope you enjoy.

**If you are looking for a great way to make a difference, KCALC might be the place for you, whether looking for a volunteer opportunity, place to make a donation, or become involved in our annual, interactive, fun fund-raiser....call or text 361-595-1010!**



## KCALC's Executive

### Board of Directors

- President-Liisa Hewitt
- Vice-President-Debbie Branstetter
- Secretary-Ann Harrell
- Treasurer-Kim Hamm

### KCALC's Board Members

Judy Anthony  
Dr. Rebecca Davis  
Dianne Leubert  
Sue Waddingham  
Maricela Cisneros  
Connie Womack  
Dr. Cynthia Stinson-Alvarado  
Denise Zimmerman

### KCALC Board Meetings:

KCALC holds monthly meetings on the third Thursday of every month, at 12:00pm in the boardroom of the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce.

We welcome ALL visitors!

Follow us on



Or visit us at  
[www.kcalc.org](http://www.kcalc.org)

Newsletter layout designed by  
TAMUK student: Luis Perez

## Following the American Dream!

What is a dreamer? Growing up I was taught that to follow the "American Dream" was to work hard, find out what you love to do, figure out how to get paid for it and anything was possible. More recently, the news speaks of "DREAMers" or "DACA" individuals. Without getting too political, "DREAMers" is a name given to "DACA" (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients. Basically, these are individuals that entered the United States illegally as minors, and in most cases, very young minors. Some came with family members, while others entered alone. Fast forward, these individuals are now adults, in many cases married with children, that by the way, are Americans because they were born here. That marriage to an American citizen does NOT give the DACA person automatic citizenship, so imagine the fear of being deported after following everything that the U.S. government has asked of you, since the DACA program began. Many ask, "Well why didn't they become citizens if they have been here for years?" Long story short, there is no "legal" path to citizenship in most, if not all cases. There are many "DACA" people here in our own community. Keep in mind, the majority have followed the law as far as paying for their credentials to remain here, attend school, and/or work here.

**Why am I writing this article?** I had a young mother approach me about eighteen months ago, and she taught me about DACA. She felt her children were old enough for her to start educating herself. And while I did not know much about the DACA program eighteen months ago, I can assure you, she has taught me so much more than KCALC could ever teach her. To protect her privacy, I will call her Lisa.

Lisa came to the United States as a young teen from Mexico. She entered the U.S. with her sister, and she had no real, traditional schooling. She and her sister began their journey in Chicago, at a hair salon, where Lisa helped around the salon. Lisa moved to Dallas for a short while before eventually ending up in Kingsville. Lisa met and married her husband, and at the tender age of eighteen, began building her beautiful family.

Just over a decade later, Lisa walked into my world. She was persistent about getting her GED, even though I felt she needed a better grasp of the English Language before attending our GED prep classes, but she was relentless! She called me everyday, begging for a chance to prove me wrong. Against my better judgement, I placed her in the class, with the stipulation that she would continue attending the English Literacy classes in the mornings. She agreed.

Within fifteen months, Lisa passed all four sections of the GED. In fact, she scored at almost a college-ready level on one of the portions. This is a huge accomplishment. Remember, she had limited traditional learning! Not only did she pass her GED, but she passed her GED in a language that was not her own. She taught me about perseverance. She taught me about dedication. She taught me about going all in on your dreams.

Lisa's husband has a very good job, and he is extremely proud of her for chasing her dreams. She currently volunteers at the school where her daughters are attending. Lisa also volunteers at KCALC, giving back to the program that helped her accomplish her goal. Lisa even went in to visit with the new group of GED participants, telling them her story and encouraging them to chase their dreams.

As friends now, we are working on new goals to further her education. Lisa wants to work as a teacher, helping those who need to learn the English language. She is so appreciative and ready to reach that next set of goals, while volunteering at KCALC helping others realize their dreams. I see her doing great things. She is extremely bright, and I am so grateful that she was so persistent.

**If you were moved by this story, feel free to text or call me at 361-595-1010, we have many more students yearning to learn. You could change someone's life, and that life could be yours!**



## SCRABBLE for Literacy Tournament Nets close to \$18,000... and Just Check Out Some of the Winners!!!



Our top winning school district was Ricardo ISD. Pictured are members of the Ricardo ISD Literacy Supporters. Just look at the amount of fun they are having!



St. Gertrude Parish came out of nowhere to take second place school. They definitely were 1st in having the most fun, but look at the intensity!



Ultra Screen Printing and More came dressed in team fashion! They were in the top four business scores, but they were number one in sponsoring all of our wonderful and witty t-shirts for the team winners, as well as all of the volunteer t-shirts.



Not to be out done...Coldwell Banker Homestead Properties, Inc. are the reigning champions. They outscored all the teams, schools and businesses with a score well over 4000 points for two games. They are ready to defend their title for 2018.

## Thanks to KCALC's Supporters for 2017!

KCALC depends solely on the kindness of the community. We utilize three paid instructors and volunteers for tutoring our adult learners, and financially, we depend on the community as well. Our largest contributor is the King Ranch Family Trust. They have been our greatest supporter for almost two decades. We are an agency of United Way of the Coastal Bend, and we receive designations, as well as allocations annually. In 2017, we received funds from the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, L'Aiglon

Foundation, Coldwell Banker Homestead Properties Inc, Kingsville Nursing and Rehab, Dollar General, Young's, FLAIR and the supporters of our annual SCRABBLE Tournament for Literacy fund raiser.

We have also received funds from families in honor of their loved ones that supported KCALC, such as Lynn Adams in honor of her mother, longtime volunteer tutor, Dottie Adams.

We receive in-kind donations from Hahn

& Oldham and the city and county through the use of the RJ Kleberg Library, and its dedicated staff. They provide a space, maintenance of the space, and a support staff member to assist learners when the Executive Director is unavailable.

Our group classes are held at Coastal Bend College-Kingsville, Riviera ISD

**Being Literate Makes Great Cents!!!**

**Business Name:** Kleberg County Adult  
Literacy Council

**Primary Business Address:**  
220 North Fourth Street  
Kingsville, TX 78363

**Phone:** (361) 595-1010  
**E-mail:** director@kcalc.org

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www.kcalc.org

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**Motto:** Being Literate Makes Great Cents!

## Mission

The Kleberg County Adult Literacy Council is a non-profit organization that believes that all adults should be able to read, write and speak the English language. To that end, KCALC provides FREE individualized and/or group instruction to those adults eighteen and older with limited reading, writing and /or English speaking skills.

KCALC feels that all learning should be learner-centered, relevant and immediately applicable.

KCALC provides services FREE of charge and does not discriminate based on religion, age, gender, ethnicity, national origin, physical ability, or sexual orientation.

**Organization:** Kleberg County  
Adult Literacy Council (KCALC)

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## Volunteering Opportunities



We are always looking for new volunteers. This program has so many opportunities. Call or text 361-595-1010 or print this form and mail to

RJ Kleberg Library  
220 North Fourth Street  
Kingsville, TX 78363



I would like to become a volunteer for KCALC. I would like to:

☐ Tutor    ☐ Board Member    ☐ Babysit    ☐ Data Entry    ☐ Office work    ☐ Assist with Fundraising

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Education level: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_