



# CERTIFIED LITERATE COMMUNITY PROGRAM OF GEORGIA LITERACY HONOR ROLL 2018

## BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### ADULT LITERACY BARROW

Bethlehem Elementary School has had several Read-A-Thon fundraisers for Adult Literacy Barrow. A Read-A-Thon allows the children (and teachers!) to wear pajamas to school for the day and go to the gym to read as a treat. This year, the children raised \$1,350. Last year, it was just over \$1,000. The money raised is applied towards the cost of an ESL class held for the students' parents, as well as for employees of the school. This year, the elementary class that raised the most Read-A-Thon money received a \$100 cash prize to spend as they chose. Unanimously, the children voted to give the money back to Adult Literacy Barrow to help pay for the ESL class for the parents.

Additionally, the Bethlehem Elementary School teachers support Adult Literacy Barrow by attending its Literacy Ball fundraiser every year.

Because of Bethlehem's support of the ESL class, and because that class has been quite successful, other elementary schools in the county are beginning to fundraise for Adult Literacy Barrow. This is opening the way to additional ESL classes. We commend Bethlehem Elementary School for its leadership in literacy in Barrow County.

## ROGER JACKSON

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### BIBB COUNTY DREAM TEAM

Roger Jackson volunteers bimonthly to lead the initiative between the Dream Team, Central Georgia Technical College's Adult Education Career and Opportunity Center, and the Macon Futures Partnership. He is an essential support in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of youth and adults who have dropped out of school, are on probation, or are in gangs in the Macon-Bibb County area.

A native of Macon, Roger Jackson excelled both in academics and sports. He graduated from Bethune-Cookman College with a degree in Physical Education and went on to a successful career in the NFL with the Denver Broncos.

Led by the desire to give back to the community and promote education, Roger Jackson founded Motivating Youth Foundation, Inc., an after school program, following the close of several Bibb County programs in 2009 due to lack of funding. Currently, Motivating Youth provides an after school tutorial program, a summer tutorial program, and a football camp. To date, Mr. Jackson has awarded over 118 college scholarships to local high school students. It is clear to see that Roger Jackson's passion is in encouraging youth and adults to receive an education and to be their very best.

## ROTARY CLUB OF BLUE RIDGE

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### FANNIN LITERACY ACTION GROUP

The Rotary Club of Blue Ridge, Georgia, has gone above and beyond in their support of the Fannin Literacy Action Group (FLAG) and the cause of literacy in Fannin County. In the past year, FLAG has gained a dedicated Rotary Club volunteer tutor who has rendered hours of valuable service and tutoring for students. Additionally, throughout 2017, the Rotary Club donated dictionaries to be distributed to students and provided FLAG with grant support, allowing for the continuation of the teaching services that FLAG provides.

## ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF NORTH GEORGIA

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### LITERACY FORSYTH

Altrusa International of North Georgia is a civic organization with a primary focus in supporting childhood literacy needs in the Forsyth County community. In the spring of 2017, the women of Altrusa staffed fundraisers and outreach events on behalf of Literacy Forsyth. Altrusa members have adopted a Lending Library project, to be located on site at the Literacy Forsyth classroom facility. The members have been fully responsible for setting up the library, garnering donations, and planning the space. They are in the process of securing bookcases as well as providing artwork. The Lending Library is a complementary program for the new initiative of Family Literacy nights, to be held quarterly for parents and their school-aged children. Altrusa will be providing snacks and will volunteer time to plan and coordinate the programs.

Altrusa provided children's books for distribution at an early childhood literacy event in December of 2017. Additionally, Altrusa was awarded funding to purchase Reading Horizons curriculum for Literacy Forsyth students. Altrusa members have clearly dedicated their talents and efforts to improve the services and extend the reach of Literacy Forsyth in the community.

## HELEN O'BRIEN

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### VOLUNTEERS FOR LITERACY OF HABERSHAM COUNTY

Helen O'Brien has served on the Volunteers For Literacy (VFL) Board of Directors for six years. During that time she has given countless hours to improving literacy in Habersham County. In 2014, Helen came up with the idea of having people across the county come together by reading the same book. The result was One Book Habersham – Together We Read. This year she is leading the effort for the fourth annual event, bringing together the Habersham County Schools, the Habersham Library System, and Piedmont College School of Education to collaborate with VFL on the project. Each year, Helen plans a One Book kick-off, working with children in her school to dress as characters in the book and act out the story. It's estimated that at least 5,000 people of all ages read the book during the three-month period before a visit by the book's author. This visit lasts for three days, during which time the author speaks to elementary school classes about writing and the importance of reading. On the last evening there is a community-wide reception, speech, and book signing.

In addition to One Book Habersham, Helen headed the establishment the first Little Free Library. Currently, there are six Little Free Libraries in Habersham. Helen worked with the Cornelia Library to establish a summer reading program in one of the county's low income areas and led the effort to establish a Book Bank where hundreds of books are kept for distribution to the Little Free Libraries. Each Christmas, books from the bank are also given to low income children in the community.

## DR. MARTHA T. NESBITT

### GAINESVILLE/HALL COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR LITERACY

Education has always been a passion for Martha Nesbitt, both her own and helping others pursue theirs. After completing her doctorate in history at Georgia State University, she taught and moved into administration at DeKalb Community College (now Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia State University).

In 1997 she was appointed as president of Gainesville College, which she led to become a state college (now the University of North Georgia). While president, she served on several boards, including the American Council on Education and the Hall County Alliance for Literacy.

Retiring in 2012, Dr. Nesbitt has remained active in the community, supporting both public and private education, including the Alliance for Literacy. She serves on several boards, remains active in the Gainesville Rotary, is a Wisdom Keeper and finds time to exercise, have lunch with her husband, Pete, and travel. Martha has always loved to dance, especially the jitterbug. She participated in our 2015 Dancing for a Cause event, helping to raise money and literacy awareness. She also won the Community Star award for her outstanding Jitterbug.

She is an inspiring community leader, winning many awards, including being recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Community Quality of Life Award. The Gainesville/Hall County Alliance for Literacy is truly blessed to have Martha as an advocate.

## LIZ CARSON KEITH

### LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF TIFTON-TIFT COUNTY

Liz Carson Keith began working with adult literacy 25 years ago. In her involvement, she observed the profound change that Adult Education students experience as they study. She became convinced that the empowerment these students achieved was life-changing and generational, impacting the lives of their entire family.

She was named to the board of Literacy Volunteers of America, Tifton-Tift County, which later became Literacy Volunteers of Tifton-Tift County. She helped to spearhead Literacy Volunteers' designation in 2010 as a Certified Literate Community Program.

During this time, she was hired by Moultrie Technical College (now Southern Regional Technical College). When an opening became available in Tift County, she was transferred to Tifton and served at the main campus as lead teacher. During her tenure, she improved the attendance and enrollment of the Adult Education student body by 100 percent.

After several years, Liz was promoted to Director of Adult Education for Moultrie Tech. She continued her close association with Literacy Volunteers, growing its influence and helping it achieve grants and funding as a collaborative partner with the technical college.

After her retirement and until recently, she gave many hours of valuable fundraising, administrative, and grant-writing assistance. She has gone above and beyond the typical duties of president, vice president, and secretary. She has organized and hosted the Literacy Volunteers' longstanding Carnival of Knowledge and Choc-It-Up for Literacy events. Each year, she donates her own vacation home in the mountains of North Georgia as a prize in both events. She has organized, coordinated, and promoted a fundraising concert with an internationally renowned opera singer. She also donates jewelry and luxurious coats to silent auctions and continually encourages support from board members and her friends on social media. Her dedication to literacy in Tift County knows no bounds.