



Literacy is...Possibility

When Daniel came to the Nashville Adult Literacy Council (NALC), he read at a third-grade reading level and didn't have a high school diploma. He'd never been able to read a book or even a newspaper article. When he went out for dinner with his wife, he'd have to ask her to read the menu for him.

Three years later, things look a lot different for Daniel.

"Through hard work and the help of NALC, I've brought my reading up to a seventh-grade level. I've earned my high school diploma. I have more self-confidence. I'm even thinking about continuing my education."

Daniel, NALC Learner



Who We Are

Founded in 1982, NALC teaches reading, writing and English-speaking skills. Annually, with the help of nearly 600 volunteers, more than 1,700 adult learners like Daniel get a chance to transform their lives through literacy.

The Challenge

One in eight people in Nashville can't read. Literacy and language can change *everything*. It is the difference between employment and unemployment, prosperity and poverty, connection and isolation. Of adults with the lowest literacy levels in the United States, 43% live in poverty, and children born to these adults have a 72% chance of scoring at the lowest literacy levels themselves.

For many people, taking the first step toward getting help can be scary. Some have spent their whole lives believing they were "stupid." Many go to great lengths to hide their literacy troubles from those closest to them.



"I would never let you know that I couldn't read.... I turned down job promotions. My kids would ask me to read books to them, and I wouldn't be able to. Even my wife didn't know."

Joe, NALC Learner

Our Solution

We provide our learners with a safe place to learn and grow. We recognize that not everyone learns in the same way or wants the same things. That's why we offer free one-on-one tutoring in addition to classroom instruction, so each learner gets the attention needed for success. Our lesson plans and materials are adapted to each person's goals so they can feel the difference in their day-to-day lives. Whether it's working toward getting a driver's license, earning U.S. citizenship, or simply writing a love letter to a spouse for the first time, we value and prioritize each individual's learning needs. As a result, we help people become more independent, increase income and participate in civic duties.



"I fled Iraq and my life as a teacher when my husband was killed. I wasn't sure what I would do. I came to NALC to improve my English, but I got so much more. I got a job, became a citizen and now volunteer at Catholic Charities."

Siham, NALC Learner

What Our Solution Costs

A dollar invested in adult literacy is a dollar multiplied throughout our community. No one comes to NALC with just one need. Because of the personal relationships learners form with their tutors, NALC is a trusted advisor and partner in Nashville's collective impact. We regularly make referrals to other services for healthcare, financial advice and engagement in public schools.

Average Cost Per Student Per Year	Average Cost Per Hour of Instruction	Annual Number of Learners Served	Annual Number of Goals Achieved
\$560	\$22	1,700	700

Why You'll Want to Help

If you care about poverty, healthcare, finances, crime rates, unemployment, taxes, employee productivity, human rights, academic success for children, or the healing power of snuggling up with a good book on a rainy day, then you care about adult literacy. There is a direct correlation for each. To further brighten Nashville's future, we must embrace the basics.

The need for NALC services is huge. One in eight adults in Nashville can't read. In addition, more than 100,000 don't speak English proficiently. We have perpetual waiting lists of people who are asking for our help. We are committed to helping adult learners in Nashville, but we can't do it without you.

Your gift would mean **more than words**. Please donate now at nashvilleliteracy.org/donate.