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Winter 2008

Serving Butler County Since 1900

the ywca news

YWCA
244 Dayton St.
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
513-856-9800
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A United Way-Funded Agency

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2007-2008
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The Challenge of Illiteracy: The YWCA Finds Solutions

by Nancy Schwab

Since 1973, the Butler County Literacy Council has been providing one-to-one tutors for adults in the Each-One-Teach-One Program (EOTO). Many wonderful people throughout Butler County have donated their time to serve as tutors or volunteers over the years. Over the past several years, the literacy council has expanded its focus to include families and children. Toward that mission, the Literacy Council has now come to be known as the YWCA Family Literacy Program. Each-One-Teach-One is a major part of our program, but by adding new components, we can serve more people throughout Butler County.

Did you know that the Literacy Program is part of a worldwide literacy network known as ProLiteracy Worldwide? ProLiteracy focuses on literacy related activities, mainly for adults, but Each-One-Teach-One continues to be a very important part of programs all over the world. Locally, the Literacy Program is a member of the family-oriented Literacy Network of Greater Cincinnati. These affiliations give us the opportunity to network with other service providers across the United States as well as the world.

The age range of our students is from three to eighty-three and come from all walks of life and nationalities. Each has a reason for wanting to learn to read or improve reading skills. The adults and children we serve struggle to learn.

THE STATISTICS

According to the International Adult Literacy Survey:

- 1 of 5 people in the United States report having a learning disability
- Of the students with specific learning disabilities:
 - 70-80% have deficits in reading.
 - 14.7% of the population reads at a Level 1
 - 27.3% of the population reads at a Level 2
 - 29% of respondents at prose Level 1 reported

To a non-reading adult, even a simple safety policy can be daunting.

TRY READING THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT:

Az an emploiea uv ovr kumpunee wea ar sinsearlee kunsernd with yur saeftee and helth. Wee wil maik evree efurt tu proevied yu with thu saefest working kundishunz posubul thus frea frum rekugniezd hazirda az weak an maek it.

This is how a simple policy may look to some of our participants. Others may be able to read it but would spend so much time trying to read the words, that they would understand none of it.

- not being able to read.
 - 19% of 9 and 13 year olds who never read for fun scored 50 points lower than those who read for fun
 - 75% of 17 year olds who never read for fun scored 50 points lower
 - Non-reading adults earn 42% less
- For years, the literacy council had a staff of one. We are pleased to announce that the staff has grown to include the following:

Connie Baker, coordinator of the tutoring program for children, is a former Title I teacher working with low-level, at risk children in local school districts. Her education includes certification as an elementary teacher and reading specialist, and she has taken workshops concerning learning disabilities and difficulties in children and adults. She has trained and assigned volunteers to work with children who are struggling with reading in school and well below grade level. Connie is the program's liaison with Fairfield East Elementary, Living Water Ministry, (continued on page 2)

**108 YEARS OF CARING FOR
BUTLER COUNTY WOMEN AND FAMILIES!**

Mad Anthony WRITERS' CONFERENCE & BOOK FESTIVAL

APRIL 25 - 26 • HARRY T. WILKS CONFERENCE CENTER, MIAMI UNIVERSITY HAMILTON

Friday, 1 - 5 pm
Business Writing and More
\$20 per session

Technical Writing; Grant Writing; Business Writing; Gardening and Cooking with Ron Wilson & Rita Heikenfeld; How to Write a Killer Mystery with Hallie Ephron; and Creating Enthusiasm.
(Extra sessions available at the YWCA).

Saturday 1 - 5pm
Shop Barnes & Noble
at the festival.
Authors on site signing books.

Book Festival is sponsored by
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Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Keynote Speakers
HALLIE EPHRON • LORI FOSTER
20 Workshop Selections
Appointments with Agent and
Freelance Manuscript Editor
Fee: \$80 by March 31
\$95 after April 1
\$40 MU students

Register for workshops online at www.madanthonycbf.org
or call 513/856-9800 or email to mail@madanthonycbf.org

Proceeds benefit YWCA Family Literacy Program

To sign up to receive the YWCA Newsletter via e-mail,
please go to www.ywca.org/hamilton

2008 Fantasy Ball

You are invited...
Not to attend on March 25
The Social Event of the Year
that doesn't happen!

Open your heart to the YWCA.
Open your heart to those in need.

Order your "tickets" today
with the enclosed order form.

Computer Class instructor. She provides literacy related programs for parents of young children. She has a certification in chemistry and speech communication.

Millie Kuth is responsible for working with low-level readers at the Butler County Jail and Southwestern Ohio Serenity Hall (SOS), a recovery center for alcohol and chemically dependent men. She, too, has a certification in Secondary Biology 7-12 and Comprehensive Science 7-12. She is currently helping a student study for the Chemical Dependency Certification Exam.

Millie has worked in these programs for twelve years. Her program not only helps the adults become better readers but also helps them become better equipped for the future and all the roles in their lives. She works with the adults on those life-skills they may need to get a job, improve parenting skills, become active participants in our community, and to succeed in life.

Sandra Warren, like the others, started as an EOTO volunteer. She works very closely with Connie and Sylvia with children and adults who have low reading skills. She, too, has been very involved in learning methods to work with those who are learning disabled or have difficulties.

Now that you've met the staff, let me introduce myself. I'm Nancy Schwab. I have been the Literacy Program Director since 1990. I began as a YWCA volunteer in 1978 and an EOTO tutor in 1989. I have a certification in English 7-12, reading, and volunteer management. I am an Orton Gillingham trained tutor and like many of my staff members, continue to learn as much as I can about reading. In 2003, I received the Sharon Davis-Stubbe award for Outstanding Teacher in the state of Ohio. The award is given annually by the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education to adult education teachers.

The Literacy Program has a long history of service and a dedicated staff. Our volunteer base is critical to our success. We have many wonderful, dedicated volunteers, and we continue to need volunteers. The Literacy Program recently became a part of Oprah's Angel network to aid us in our quest for volunteers. Mentoring is an important part of our program. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please call Nancy at 856-9800. ▲

Literacy (continued from page 1)

Madison Elementary, and New Miami Elementary.

Faye Earls keeps our paperwork in order and tracks statistics for all reports and grants. She came to us from Mature Services, a program that places elderly individuals in places of employment.

Sylvia Glazier, a past EOTO volunteer, works with Connie and Sandra to provide reading programs at elementary schools throughout Butler County. Sylvia's certification is in library science. She brings the quiet patience of a librarian to her work with students. She helps with Fairfield East, New Miami, and Living Water Ministry programs.

Karen Grantz, also a past EOTO volunteer, is now the instructor for those with learning disabilities or difficulties. The class uses a variety of different reading methods which help gives structure to the English language. Adults who struggle with reading see no structure in our language. These classes use repetition and provide students with a system on which they can depend. Karen also teaches a class for those foreign born students who want to learn English.

Patti Hixson came to us through the EOTO Program. She is currently an instructor in our Computer Class and in the low-level reading class. She provides literacy related programs for parents with young children using fun activities parents can do with their children.

Patti's qualifications are in business, accounting, and banking. Her business background is a bonus for our computer classes. The goal of the classes is to help those individuals become computer literate and find employment.

Kitti Hykes came to us as a volunteer for EOTO and is a

YWCA Annual Meeting & Dinner

A dynamic speaker/dinner
will be part of the celebration for 2008!

Tues., April 22, 2008 • 6:00 p.m.

Members and friends are invited to
attend the event, which is free of charge.

Please call to RSVP at 856-9800.
Reservations are necessary.

YWCA & The Antenen Family: AN ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

HISTORIC MOMENTS
YWCA
CHARTERED IN 1902

Submitted by Jim Irwin

Our YWCA has been blessed for more than a century with the friendship and support of thousands of people from our community giving of their time, talents, and treasure.

Some families have been closely involved for generations - one is the Antenen family.

In the 1920s, the YWCA trustees decided to construct a new building to provide a safe home for young women and a space for the many programs. Antenen Engineering Company was selected as the general contractor for this vital project.

The building fund drive commenced in 1929 and fell just short of its \$300,000 goal as the great depression struck. Antenen Engineering Co. confidently moved forward to support the YWCA in many ways from planning and building design to site preparation and construction.

The cornerstone laying ceremony, attended by a thousand people, took place in April 1931. Many YWCA historical records were placed in a "treasure chest" and sealed in the cornerstone. The personnel of the Antenen Engineering Co. took special care in every detail to construct a masterpiece - and they succeeded.

A series of public celebrations over a five day period culminated in the formal dedication of the building on Sunday, October 11, 1931. The local newspaper proclaimed: "Dream of many years fulfilled with one of the finest structures in the country... something that is spiritual has been built as well as that which is material."

The Antenen Engineering Co. was led by four Antenen family members,

each with different special talents: Edward (engineer), Harry (architect), Carl (attorney), and Clare (office manager). They and their families not only provided professional expertise but also financial support and volunteer services. Ruby Antenen, wife of Harry, helped the YWCA in many capacities, including president of the Board of Trustees in the 1930s.

The tradition of professional and volunteer service to the YWCA continued with the next generation. Antenen Construction Co. was formed by Jay and Dan Antenen, sons of Edward Antenen. They installed the first elevator in the YWCA in 1951. Spouses of the brothers also continued the tradition of volunteer services. Marilyn Antenen, wife of Dan, served for ten years on the Board of Trustees, including a term as president of the Board. Marilyn also had the singular honor of serving as our delegate to the World Conference where YWCA chapters from many nations convened in Jamaica in 1960.

Ann Antenen, wife of Jay, has volunteered in many capacities, including art teacher and, as a noted historic preservationist, she greatly assisted in the recently completed historic renovation of the building. Ann was honored as the "YWCA Woman of the Year" in 2001.

The family presented to the YWCA a beautiful photograph, taken by Jay Antenen, of the exquisite entrance to the building. The picture is on the wall in the Board Room and serves as a visual reminder of the enduring friendship between the YWCA and the Antenen Family. ▲

2007 Outstanding Women of Achievement



Left: clockwise, OWOA 2007: Auria Biebelhausen, Portia Hudson, Julie Joyce Smith, Teresa Durbin, Sarah James.

Below: Members of the Academy in attendance

