



Pemi-Baker Literacy  
258 Highland Street  
Plymouth, NH 03264

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A newsletter for the volunteers and friends of Pemi-Baker Literacy

# READINGS



## Board of Directors

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*Director*

## Pemi-Baker Literacy

at the Whole Village Family

Resource Center

258 Highland Street

Plymouth, NH 03264

603-536-2998

**PemiBakerLiteracy.org**

## From the Director

After almost three long years, it feels good to say we are back to normal operating conditions. While many things in the world remain uncertain, our program is certainly bustling once again. Student demand has been consistent and volunteers are more comfortable coming out to help our students in person. We are looking forward to 2023 as another fresh start without any unforeseen road blocks (fingers crossed!).

## New ESL Teacher

Our longtime ESL teacher, Janet Englund, stepped away last spring to take more time to travel and pursue other opportunities. We appreciate all that Janet has done to grow our ESL program into the successful entity it has become.



To fill Janet's shoes, we were extremely lucky to have Angie Miller answer our call for help this fall. She comes to us with 20 years of teaching experience, a passion for helping students achieve their goals, and an interest in cultures around the world. Owning and operating Plymouth Soapworks and her own AirBnB keeps her busy, but she missed being in the classroom and was able to carve out time to spend with our English language learners on a weekly basis. We currently have two ESL classes: one beginner and one advanced level. Angie is already planning some fun learning adventures for our students. Welcome Angie!



*Pemi-Baker Literacy is thankful for this very supportive community! More than half of our funding comes directly from YOU! There are many ways throughout the year to support us.*

## How to Support Pemi-Baker Literacy

- Click "DONATE" on our website PemiBakerLiteracy.org
- Start a Facebook Fundraiser. Find "Fundraisers" on the Facebook menu and click "Select nonprofit" to get started.
- We are on PayPal (PemiBakerLiteracy@gmail.com) and Venmo (@pbliteracy)

- Shop at Smile.Amazon.com. When you do your online shopping at Amazon.com, just start at smile.amazon.com. When you choose to support Pemi-Baker Literacy .5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to us. It's that easy!
- Remember Pemi-Baker Literacy in your estate planning. Contact us for more information about making a bequest to PBL in your will, trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy.
- Mail your checks to support our program to 258 Highland Street, Plymouth, NH 03264.

All of us at PBL are grateful for the support we receive from you, our donors: your financial support, your time, telling your friends about us, providing tutoring space or materials. Thank you!

You can see the latest news by "liking" our Facebook page, Facebook.com/pbliteracy, or follow us on Instagram @pbliteracy.

# High lights

## Over the past year...

56 people contacted PBL for assistance with literacy

21 people worked on learning English as a Second Language

One student passed the HiSET and another passed two parts of the test

One student passed the U.S. citizenship test, two others obtained a Green Card

Three students improved their digital literacy

PBL Students received 866 hours of instruction from our volunteers and teachers

## End of an Era

We thought this was the year we could finally hold our beloved Community Spelling Bee again, but when team registration opened we quickly realized that the uncertainty and concerns surrounding Covid would make it impossible to hold the event.



We have been blessed with eight memorable Bees thanks to our wonderfully supportive community, our incredible seven-time host, AJ Coppola, and our hard-working board. We would like to thank the many sponsors who supported us even after we cancelled the actual event: Bank of New Hampshire, Bridgewater Power Company, KPinC Consulting, NH Electric Coop, Off Campus Rentals, Plymouth Rotary Club, Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, The Common Man Family, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Minuteman Press, M'n'M Scoops, Noyes Insurance, Patty Stewart & Associates, 3 Lakes Landscaping. But don't go away! We plan to bring you another exciting fundraiser soon.

## Tutor in the Spotlight!



Terry Downs has been a tutor with us since January of 2020. He spent much of his career teaching Art and General Education at Plymouth State University where he enjoyed his time with international students. This position also allowed him to travel the world and immerse himself in many different cultures. In

his retirement, Terry has helped out at local schools and wanted to rekindle his work with English Language Learners. Terry was one of our first tutors to step up as soon as we reopened our doors in September 2020. He is currently working with two students: one from Peru and one from Italy. Terry says, "My favorite thing about being a volunteer tutor is that it allows me to reconnect to the many cultures I was exposed to when my career allowed me to travel the world. I love getting to know students and their different backgrounds and values."

## Catching up with former students!

### Tann

Tann came to our program in 2017 when she was newly married and had just arrived from Thailand. Although she had learned some English in school, she lacked the confidence she needed to feel comfortable in her new community. Tann worked hard with us for two years and gained the confidence to take and pass the LNA exam. She was hired almost immediately upon graduation and is now working in a state run medical facility enjoying the benefits working for the state can provide. Her employer offered classes in MNA and LPN before Covid. She's hoping to join one of those classes to further her career once they are offered again. Currently she and her husband are working hard to buy their first house.



### Dannae

Dannae diligently worked with Pemi-Baker Literacy throughout 2017 to eventually earn her HiSET. After earning her diploma in early 2018, Dannae was promoted to supervisor in her job at the time and now owns her own small business. She is starting to think about taking online classes as well. Dannae says, "I think getting my HiSET has definitely improved my confidence. I am no longer embarrassed when people ask me when I graduated. I tell them how proud I am that I was able to start and complete the classes with you! It shows my son that you can absolutely fail and pick yourself back up, no matter how late in life. I can only hope that other people who were in the same boat as me take that chance as well." We are so proud of Dannae and her success!



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

## Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a few hours a week and want to help an adult improve their literacy? We are always looking for tutors in HiSET (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language, and basic digital literacy. No special skills are required; you just need to have graduated high school yourself. You do not need to speak any language other than English. Please call 603-536-2998 or email us at [PemiBakerLiteracy@gmail.com](mailto:PemiBakerLiteracy@gmail.com) to set up time for a short orientation.