



# Keystone Opportunity Center

Providing Help • Offering Hope

## FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

End of Year Newsletter – June 2014

FAMILY  
 AND  
 FRIENDS,  
 INTERESTING  
 LITERACY PROGRAM ALL  
 YEAR.

LIVING  
 IN  
 THIS COUNTRY  
 EVERY DAY

READING, SPEAKING, LISTENING,  
 WRITING

AND WITH OUR  
 CHILDREN, LEARNING ALL  
 YEAR.



By Lansdale B1 - Hanna, Se Young, Lili, Ratan

## Why Keystone's Family Literacy Program is Important to Me

I have been with this program for one year now. I have improved my reading and writing skills. I really appreciate what the family literacy program has done for me. They helped me get ready for my GED. I have learned different cultures in this program. I have found new friends in the program. They taught me how to cook different food like pupusas and tortillas. They have been kind to my daughter, she's 20 months old. She can sing her ABCs and other nursery rhymes. This program has taught me how to be on time. They taught me how to be creative. They taught me how to create a resume. I am happy to find good teachers in this program. They mean everything to us, because it is hard to be in new country without friends. They really help me a lot. - Renee (DR Congo)



I like the Family Literacy program because I read more to my kids. I understand more English when I have school conferences for my kids and I feel more confident when they are talking to me. I recommend people who want to learn English to go the program. My dream is to get the GED. I enjoy going to the program because I like learning and talking to people from different cultures. - Camila (El Salvador)

Keystone is important because I can have more opportunities in my life. If I speak English I can help my children with their homework and I can talk with their teacher. I can have a better job because I understand English better and have learned more about American ways. - Sara (Mexico)



ESL is a goal of my life and Family Literacy Program gave me the opportunity to complete. It is not easy to attend class every day especially when you have kids and work, but I am trying to get a better life learning English. This is the country of the opportunities and it is easier if we know the language. I've been enrolled in the program eight months and I feel so good, more confident when I talk, write and read to my daughters, and in the classroom, work or any place. I know more people of different countries and their culture and traditions. - Iris (Honduras)

The program is very important for me because I need more English. It's a wonderful opportunity for me. I help my kids with homeworks. I meet other people and practice English. I have a better job. When I started a couple years ago, it was too much trouble when I spoke because people didn't understand me. Now it is much better and people can understand me. The people in this program are very friendly. - Sandra (Honduras)



I have so appreciated this program. I have been coming to this program since 2009, almost five years. I thought this program would not be helpful for me, but now I know this school is important to me and what a wonderful school it is. I can speak English without being afraid. I can understand English when they speak it to me. My kids have learned a lot from this program. My youngest daughter, Kailyn, wants to go to school every day!! I'm very happy that I am still here. – Eunmi (Korea)



I came from Bangladesh in 2010. I started Keystone's Family Literacy program ESL class in 2012 in Lansdale. I take three classes: Adult Ed, Workforce and Parenting. I have been learning English and about American culture. My English language skills are better than when I started in the Fall. I am a pharmacist and would like to be one here in America. My English is better now and I hope to go to college here soon. I feel my life is getting better because classes help my plan for get a better job. So I would like to keep coming to class next year. – Ratan (Bangladesh)



My name is Hanaa. I am from Egypt. I am married and I have two children, Pavly and Karas. I am learning English at Keystone Opportunity Center. It is a good school. They are helping me to learn English and they take care of my son Karas. In this school, I am learning about listening, speaking and writing English. All teachers give us good teaching. I am so happy in the school! They offer us a lot of help. They are good, too. – Hanaa (Egypt)

I like Keystone's Family Literacy program because it is most important to be together with them for my children and I'm learning English. I love coming back to this program. I have attended this program for a number of years now. I come with my son and he is learning a lot of activities and A B C. Also my teachers are very good. I am learning more and more that is good for my life. You do a very good job. We appreciate it. – Jyotsna (India)



I really appreciate Keystone Family Literacy. I've never known a program like this. This program has an ESL class for adults and a pre-school program for children. This is very helpful to me. When I moved to America eight years ago, I couldn't speak English and couldn't understand simple conversation. I always worried about new American life, for example, registering for school, visiting the hospital, doctor appointments and so on. Everything was strange to me, even though I used to live in California for five years. I couldn't learn English there because I have four children and they didn't have a system like this. Taking care of children and studying English at the same time was too hard for me.

I heard this program from my friend three years ago. I was so happy and attended immediately. I had a great chance. Now I enjoy American life. - Jade (Korea)



I've come to this program since 2006. At that time, I really wanted to learn how to listen and speak well. But I realized this program provided learning American culture and life as well as language. I've met many friends from all of the world. Meeting new friends and getting to know them is very interesting. The countries and people that I've known in the books or TV, I can feel very close. Furthermore, I can practice my English skill. Teachers teach us realistic expression and correct my broken English. – Sarah (Korea)

Before I came to Keystone's Family Literacy class, I didn't have a chance to meet Americans. So, I had a problem with speaking English with foreigners. All American people are very kind and nice! But, my English speaking was poor, so I was very nervous when I met Americans. Nowadays, I feel good when I meet foreigners because I have spent a lot of time with my teachers. They easily understood my spoken English. So I have gained self-confidence. I'm happy now! – Sun Young Y. (Korea)



My name is Shereen and I'm from Egypt. This is the first time I attended Keystone's Family Literacy program. I'm so happy with this family and I have learned a lot of things that help me and my kids. Now I speak and understand English better than before. My teachers work hard to teach me more. Now I have a lot of friends from a lot of countries. I love everyone in this family and I thank everyone in this family. – Shereen (Egypt)



My name is Miriam. I'm from Egypt. I started the family literacy program in September 2013. My daughter Marve was three years old. The problem with my daughter when I came here, is that she would not stop crying. She didn't like to stay in the children's room by herself, but Miss Jen helped me a lot. She encouraged her to stop crying. Now, Marve loves her teacher, she talks about her with her dad and her sister. She never cries, having fun with her friends and loves to come every day. Miss Joanne also offered a great help. I love my teachers upstairs because they always help me for everything I need and I am happy to be a member in this program. Family Literacy helps me a lot and I'm improving my English too. Now I know new friends and different cultures every day. – Miriam (Egypt)

Joining Keystone's Family Literacy program is a changing point in my life. First, I'm not lazy anymore. Now, I have to get up early in the morning to get the kids ready to come to the club and make my grocery shopping and after that returning home to prepare dinner or enjoying the rest of the day outside.

Second, being a member in the club affects me morally and makes me happier and active because I like to communicate with other moms and learn something new each day.

Finally, my relationships with my kids are improving little by little. My daughter tells me what she does with her friends and the other activities they do, so I'm learning listening to her.

Overall, joining the club is something that I advise the moms that I know to do. – Josra (Tunisia)

# WE DID IT !!!

**Assia** has learned more English and can write a paragraph by herself. She's very comfortable now to go talk with her son's teacher.

**Bernice** learned how to use flash cards and practices with her kids. She can read English books better.

**Camila** is speaking more English with her children; she helps them with homework. She went to parent-teacher conference and understood more than last year.

**Hanaa** learned how to talk to her child's teacher and what to say on job interviews.

**Iris** started volunteering on the policy council for Head Start and represents Souderton center at monthly meetings.

**Juana** had a baby boy and is learning more English.

**Lili** can fill out applications more quickly now.

**Lilian** is learning more English.

**Luna** reads to her son every night and practices what he learned in class. Now he knows all his letters and numbers.

**Nathalie** got her driver's license, got a new job as a resident aide in a nursing home, and passed the Medical Technician certification exam.

**Ratan's** daughter was Artist of the Month in her class.

**Renee** got her driver's permit, a new job, and moved to a new house.

**Sandra** can speak more English at work and can talk with people at the tables she waits on.

**Sarah** has learned the alphabet, is learning how to read, and practices English when she goes to the store with her husband.

**Se Young** volunteered at her son's school, helps him with his homework and diary, and registered him for summer VBS program.

**Shereen** learned what to say and ask in a parent-teacher conference and understood more than before.

**Soma** can understand her daughter's report card better.

**Suhyun** helps her daughter with school work and speaks English one by one with her little son.

**Yosra** is learning more about her kids' needs. They always sing and learn on the way to school.

## We Need Famlit!

Napoleon once said: "A mother, who can rattle the cradle with her right hand, can rattle the world with her left one".

Why did I start my article with this quote by Napoleon? It is simply because this program is built, not only around our children, but also around us, the immigrant mothers.

All of us have decided to move to the USA for a better life. Bringing up our children in this "strange" country requires all the parents to be familiar with its culture, language and social behaviors and that is exactly what this program has done for me and my child, Sly.

I owe it to this program for meeting new people, improving my English skills and passing my Citizenship exam, even for learning the "little things" which are taken for granted by the US born mothers, these "little things" could be as simple as the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" lyric so I can share them with my son at home.

Sly has greatly benefited from this program! Not only his vocabulary has improved, also his communication, drawing skills and the ability to receive and execute instructions from his teachers.

We as immigrants need to be active MEMBERS of this society, not only NUMBERS. This is simply accomplished by becoming part of it. I strongly believe that this program can help us to begin this long journey.

I am very concerned that this program will be eliminated, most likely due to financial reasons. It is our duty, we the parents, to scream loud and ask the "Authority" not to take this opportunity away from the future immigrant parents and children.

My sincere thanks to the entire staff of this program, teachers, executives and others, you have made it very enjoyable for all of us. Please continue your awesome journey by preparing the next generation for this awesome country. – Serene (Lebanon)

### Goodbye Miss Jen

Miss Jen is the best  
I love her, that's no jest!  
When I'm sad and I cry  
She hugs me and makes my tears go bye.  
No matter how big the craze  
She always laughs and plays.  
I know she will always love me  
No matter how far she will be;  
Good luck Miss Jen, this isn't a goodbye  
This is a see you soon from your friend Sly.





# SO MUCH FUN THIS YEAR!





The Keystone Family Literacy staff say thank you to all of our students for your hard work, enthusiasm and persistence this year. Well done!



Front: Wagnecy, Hanaa, Silvia  
Middle: Janet, Szilvi, Sue, Kate, Kathie  
Back: Sam, Jay, Joanne, Tamara

Join us for our **4 week Summer Family Literacy Program** if you can!

July 22 – August 14

9:30 – 12:30

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays  
Indian Valley Public Library, Telford

**HAVE A SAFE AND FABULOUS SUMMER!**

And remember: **YOU** are your child's **FIRST** and **MOST**  
**IMPORTANT TEACHER!**