



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1987, Community Learning Center (CLC) has provided no-cost literacy education to adults in North Philadelphia. Over the years, CLC has served more than 6,300 adult and teen learners. Our mission is to help adults develop literacy, math, and life skills using a supportive and holistic approach so that they can realize their fullest potential at home, in the workplace, and in the community.

CLC provides free classes in General Educational Development (GED), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). CLC also participates in the state's Move Up initiative and is a CareerLink Community Outreach Center. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, CLC enrolled 342 students, 98 of whom were ESOL students from countries throughout the world, including Argentina, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ivory Coast, Panama, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam. We delivered services to 180 ABE/GED, 45 ABE/Beginning Literacy, and 34 Move Up students. Our enrollment of 342 students was 133% of our contract requirement for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, excluding Move Up students, as they are under a contract with Philadelphia's Mayor's Commission on Literacy. Our enrollment of 34 Move Up students was 136% of our contracted requirement.

Part of what makes CLC unique—and helps us build upon our success—is the personal approach we take toward learners. Going beyond state requirements, we provide students with personal counseling and numerous social service referrals. To stimulate learning, we sponsor field trips and provide hands-on experiences that relate to, and enliven, classroom work. We also encourage family involvement, creating programs for adult learners and their children, thus helping to break the cycle of low literacy. The results for the learners are new skills, better employment opportunities, and the ability to move from poverty to economic independence.

We continue to serve a diverse population, with broad representation across age and ethnic lines. All of our learners are low-income.

POPULATION SERVED 2007-2008					
Age	%	Gender	%	Ethnicity	%
16-18	12	Female	72	Asian	2
19-24	18	Male	28	Black	46
25-44	48			Latino	40
45-59	16			White	12
60+	6				

We proudly present this report of our activities, accomplishments, and challenges for 2007-2008.

IN THE CLASSROOM

CLC teachers continue to take the creative approach in the classroom. Using contextualized instruction, hands-on learning, and guest speakers, teachers and social workers engage students in their lessons and improve students' ability to retain information and build skills. Below are examples of classroom lessons and guest speakers.

Curricula

Lost Boys of Sudan

In conjunction with the Philadelphia Free Library's *One Book, One Philadelphia* program (see below in "Outside Support, Partnerships, and Collaborations"), some of our students read Dave Eggers's *What is the What*, while others read Mawi Asgedom's *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard* or Mary Williams's *Brothers in Hope*. These three books concern the "Lost Boys of Sudan," children who were orphaned by ethnic and religious wars in Sudan and forced to trek miles to refugee camps in neighboring countries. CLC teachers used these books to construct interdisciplinary lessons teaching literacy skills, history, and geography. Students viewed documentaries about Sudan and labeled countries on maps of Africa. Those who read *Of Beetles and Angels* sampled Ethiopian food in response to the recurring motif of injera bread, which the author used to signify his longing for home.

Israel

CLC volunteers Ruth Greenberg and her husband, Steve, conducted a lesson about the history, geography, and culture of Israel after returning from a visit to the country, where their daughter was spending a year. Ruth and Steve helped the *Reading, Writing, Math, and Computer Skills for Every Day Life* class find Israel on the world map and provided much fascinating information. The teacher followed up by showing much of the award-winning film *Promises*, which follows the journey of filmmaker B.Z. Goldberg to a Palestinian refugee camp, an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and to various neighborhoods of Jerusalem, where he meets seven Palestinian and Israeli children. Some of the film was in English, while some was in Arabic and Hebrew, with English subtitles. The teacher stopped the film when a subtitle appeared, and students read the subtitles aloud.

Fences

Move Up and other ABE/GED students read August Wilson's play *Fences*, whose main character, Troy Maxson, is an African-American man living in Pittsburgh in the 1950's. The play deals with character strengths and weaknesses, the nature of friendship, the effects of racial discrimination on African-Americans' daily lives, the traditional roles of men and women, and the expectations and rights of husbands, wives, and children within the family. Reading the play enhanced students' reading fluency and comprehension, as well as their understanding of complex relationships in their own lives.

Mayoral Election

During the weeks leading up to November's mayoral election, a class discussed problems the new mayor would need to confront, such as violence, drugs, easy access to guns, poor schools, abandoned houses, and police relationships with private citizens, particularly young black males. The class also discussed the role of mayor and city council, the importance of voting, and candidate Michael Nutter's platform. Michael Nutter's campaign office was in the same building as this class, so some of the students wrote letters inviting him to visit and talk about his plans. Students held strong opinions, both pro and con, about the "stop and frisk" plan that Nutter intended to put into effect. After a lesson on debates, including the format, the rules, and the roles of debaters and the audience, the class held a debate about the proposed "stop and frisk" policy.

Pepperidge Farm Bread Labels

Pepperidge Farm issues up to four \$25 gift certificates per year to nonprofits for use at an outlet store. The basic literacy teacher obtained a certificate and used it to purchase loaves of multigrain bread to give students in her class for the holidays. Volunteer Kenneth Tartof led a lesson on reading the nutrition information on the labels. A scientist, Ken also discussed the elements of a healthy diet. Mark Singer, another volunteer, contributed to the discussion as well.

Healthy Food Party

An ABE/GED class had a healthy food party after a series of lessons about nutrition and its importance in maintaining good health. Everyone brought a healthy food item, for example, cheese, crackers, carrot sticks, raw broccoli and cauliflower with dip, celery stalks with peanut butter or cream cheese, potato salad, raisins, grapes, apple slices, yogurt, cottage cheese, and fruit juices. It was a fun and tasty way for students to see that a healthy diet can also be a delicious one.

Sensory Experiment

ABE/GED students conducted a sensory experiment using jelly beans. The teacher pre-selected three flavors and separated them into brown paper bags. All students were given the same flavors of jelly beans: lime, orange, grape. In the first experiment, students closed their eyes, selected a jelly bean from a brown paper bag, and tasted with their eyes closed. They recorded their findings on a table. In the second experiment, students closed their eyes, selected a jelly bean, and held their noses while chewing a jelly bean. Students recorded their findings. In the final experiment, students selected a jelly bean and ate freely. They recorded their findings. Students discussed their tables with each other and determined that the ability to taste relies heavily on the ability to smell.

Guest Speakers

Breast Cancer Awareness

On two occasions, Betzaida Fernandez from Congreso de Latinos Unidos spoke about breast cancer awareness, prevention, early detection, and self-examination. She provided statistics and community resources for free mammograms, and she distributed breast self-examination reminder cards, courtesy of The Susan G. Komen Foundation. Students found the bilingual waterproof shower cards to be helpful reminders for monthly self breast examinations. Students also used the cards at home as a teaching tool for discussions with their daughters regarding the importance of self breast examinations. One student, age 52, made an appointment through Congreso and was pleased to find the attendants and nurses extremely patient and helpful while she had her first mammogram at a nearby hospital at no cost.

Domestic Violence Awareness

Abigail Adorno of Congreso de Latinos Unidos informed students of different types of domestic abuse, as well as available resources and techniques. Many of our students have experienced some form of domestic violence. The specifics of these incidents are frequently shared through one-on-one counseling sessions with social workers, or with teachers through journals. The presentation served to raise many complex issues related to domestic abuse and opened a conversation among students, the presenter, and social workers in a safe, structured learning environment. Presentations like this help our students look beyond hatred and self-blame, adopt a constructive mindset of empowerment, and consider choices and concrete strategies for change.

Child Abuse Prevention

Trina Brown of Child Abuse Prevention Effort (CAPE) led workshops in two CLC classes on ways to prevent child abuse, particularly through anger management. Ms. Brown presented a number of resources and realistic anger management strategies. The strategies were relevant not only to dealing with children but to interacting appropriately with adult classmates and teachers.

Fair Housing Training

Todd Miller of Lutheran Children and Family Services presented to students about fair housing. He discussed renter discrimination and the importance of reading the fine print before signing contracts. He also provided students with resources for both renters and homeowners facing difficulties keeping their homes.

Weatherizing Homes

In November, Ann Czajka, a weatherization coordinator from New Kensington Community Development Corporation, provided 37 CLC students and local community members with free weatherization materials, resources, and techniques for energy conservation and home winterization. All participants received weatherization supplies, such as caulking guns, caulk, door sealant, and plastic window coverings. Many students agreed that this workshop was

extremely useful, and some reported that the techniques they learned contributed to lower heating bills.

Free HIV Testing

Marilyn Torres from ActionAIDS discussed safe sex and the importance of personal responsibility. She provided useful resources relating to free HIV testing, counseling, and birth control.

CLC Students Visit Community College of Philadelphia

On April 15, 13 students and three staff members met with Michael Harry, recruitment coordinator for Community College of Philadelphia for a question and answer session and tour. Students experienced CCP's atmosphere first-hand as they walked with Mr. Harry and entered a nursing classroom where students were having their lunch and talking. Students later remarked that they would like to attend CCP and would use this experience as a starting point for the application process.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Educational field trips and special events bring Community Learning Center's curriculum to life. Activities are free of charge or provided at a greatly reduced cost to our students. We frequently extend these opportunities to students' family members. Below is a synopsis of some of the major 2007-2008 extracurricular activities.

Field Trips

Final Dress Rehearsal of the Pennsylvania Ballet's *Dracula*

On October 26, 2007, 42 CLC students, family members, and teachers attended the final dress rehearsal of the Pennsylvania Ballet's production of *Dracula*. Featuring Franz Liszt's score and set in 19th Century Transylvania, the ballet conveys the story of Dracula and two beautiful victims—Flora and Svetlana—whom he wishes to add to his bevy of prior brides. The audience was captivated by the dance, story, costumes, and set. CLC student Adrienn Crosby was thrilled to receive a door prize of two free tickets, which he used to take his girlfriend to the ballet's performance of *Dracula* on Saturday, November 3.

Philadelphia Mint

On November 7, 2007, a lovely autumn day, 18 CLC students and staff took the El from Center City and North Philadelphia to visit the Philadelphia Mint. Manufacturing 25-40 million coins daily, the Philadelphia Mint is the world's largest. Tim Grant, public affairs manager, conducted a 90-minute tour for CLC's group, explaining how U.S. coins and medals have been made over the years. Besides visiting the mint's museum, students and staff watched transfer engravers,

factory floor workers, and automation create coins. Students and staff very much enjoyed learning more about U.S. history and money. Another group of students visited the mint in June.

Final Dress Rehearsal of the Opera Company of Philadelphia's *Cyrano*

On February 6, 2008, 40 students, family members, volunteers, and staff members attended the Opera Company of Philadelphia's final dress rehearsal of *Cyrano*, a new opera making its East Coast premiere. The opera is based on Edmond Rostand's classic play about a swashbuckling, witty French soldier and swordsman, Cyrano, who, like his shy friend Christian, is in love with Roxane. Cyrano believes that his large nose would prevent Roxane from returning his love. He therefore agrees to write love letters to help Christian express his feelings to Roxane. Roxane falls in love with the writer, not knowing that he is actually Cyrano, not Christian. Christian dies in battle, and Roxane enters a convent, where Cyrano continues to visit her for 14 years. When Roxane finally learns the truth, it is too late. As Cyrano dies, Roxane realizes that she has twice lost the only man she ever loved.

New Jersey Adventure Aquarium

On Monday, February 18, 2008, 200 enthusiastic Community Learning Center students, family members, friends, and staff participated in a field trip to the New Jersey Adventure Aquarium. As with all field trips, staff used the opportunity to reinforce concepts studied in class, such as reading road signs and interpreting directions, and to inspire a love of learning. At the aquarium, students attended shows and saw a wide array of marine life—from an African hippopotamus to a seahorse disguised as seaweed. Participants learned many fascinating facts about the marine world and were delighted by the diversity of creatures. Consistent with our Family Literacy Initiative, we gave new books related to marine life to all children in attendance.

The Composer is Dead

On April 14, 2008, Community Learning Center sponsored a field trip to the Kimmel Center, where about 40 students, their family members, friends, and staff attended the Philadelphia Orchestra's performance of *The Composer is Dead*. This new work, composed by Nathaniel Stookey and narrated by author Lemony Snicket, is a murder mystery in which the composer has been murdered, and every member of the orchestra is under suspicion. The music and narration investigate each section of the orchestra and interrogate the members while they play their instruments. The performance included musical quotations from various composers, including Berlioz, Beethoven, and Stravinsky. The students greatly enjoyed the concert and hoped to attend another one.

Visit to Judge Mary A. McLaughlin's Courtroom

On May 7, 2008, a group of students and teachers visited the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Mary A. McLaughlin, where they were captivated by the emotional testimony of a former Philadelphia policeman alleging that he and two other Caucasian officers had suffered retaliation for having stood up for African-American police who had been subjected to discrimination. During the morning's courtroom break, Judge McLaughlin welcomed the CLC group in her

chambers, where she answered questions about the difference between civil and criminal cases, the admissibility of types of evidence, the courthouse and detention center, the responsibilities of her staff members, and what kinds of cases are tried in federal, as opposed to state or city, courts. After the visit, students commented that it was a real privilege to meet Judge McLaughlin. One teacher and several students returned to the courtroom the following week to observe another morning of testimony in the eight-day trial. After the jury rendered its verdict in favor of the plaintiffs, students read and discussed newspaper articles about the decision and the case. Student commented that they would love to observe another trial.

Special Events

CLC Graduate Honored

On May 6, 2008, the Pennsylvania Department of Education honored CLC's Celinette Olmo with a 2008 Outstanding Adult Student Award. Along with 11 other adult learners, Ms. Olmo was presented with the award by Secretary of Education Gerald L. Zahorchak. The award acknowledges Ms. Olmo's tenacity and persistence in pursuing her education and personal goals.

In addition, the Lutheran Settlement House chose Ms. Olmo to receive its Outstanding Returning Adult Student Award. At the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony on May 22, 2008, Ms. Olmo shared the spotlight with several others, including Lisa Nutter, wife of Mayor Michael Nutter.

Ms. Olmo dropped out of school at the age of 16 and found work in a factory. She then married and began to raise a family. Over time, she realized the limitations she faced in achieving independence and financial stability. Ms. Olmo decided to go back to school, despite her husband's objections. She attended class at CLC, earned her GED, and enrolled in Esperanza College of Eastern University. Ms. Olmo also serves on Community Learning Center's Board of Directors.

Multicultural Holiday Party

CLC's annual holiday celebration was held at the Mann Older Adult Center on December 5, 2007. It was an evening of learning, sharing, and laughing for students, their families and friends, staff members, board members, and volunteers. The evening began with participants rotating through six holiday arts and crafts stations. A delicious ethnic potluck dinner provided by the participants themselves accompanied the celebration, and attendees also enjoyed singing and dancing to music provided by Dave Posmontier. This holiday event increased community and family interaction and incorporated learning and literacy into people's lives. Each child received two new books.

Celebration Honoring Jean L. Fleschute

On May 29, 2008, Community Learning Center held a celebration in honor of Jean L. Fleschute, founder and executive director, who left CLC on June 30, 2008, after 21 years of service. Although it was a difficult decision, Ms. Fleschute decided to step down in order to spend more

time with her family. Students, friends, and staff attended the event, which featured a tribute video, speeches, and presentations by students, board members, and friends, as well as a silent auction. Chief Education Officer Lori Shorr of Mayor Michael Nutter's Office presented Ms. Fleschute with a citation recognizing her "invaluable contributions to improving literacy standards in our city and for helping to improve the quality of life for so many of her students."

Awards and Graduation Ceremony

More than 200 students, friends, family members, board members, and staff attended our Awards and Graduation Ceremony on June 4, 2008. We celebrated all students' accomplishments, including 15 students' achievement of the GED between July 1, 2007, and June 4, 2008: Migdalia Aponte, Darnell Bennett, Robert Berg, Maurice Carter, Jeanette Figueroa, Evita Gomez, Nelson Hernandez, Jose Marrero, Kayla McNally, Rick Nelson, Celinette Olmo, Donna Opalka, Kizzy Rollins, Anthony Smith, and Alan Wildonger. Evita Gomez was a student at CLC in 2002-2003 and in 2004-2005. Kayla McNally, Rick Nelson, and Alan Wildonger were students in 2006-2007; Celinette Olmo and Jose Marrero attended classes in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Jeanette Figueroa was enrolled at CLC in 2003-2004, 2005-2006, and 2007-2008. Migdalia Aponte, Darnell Bennett, Robert Berg, Maurice Carter, Jeanette Figueroa, Donna Opalka, Kizzy Rollins, and Anthony Smith were students in 2007-2008. In the month following the ceremony, one more CLC student, Sharnice Coward, earned her GED. David Negron and Elizabeth Polkowski tied for first prize in CLC's annual essay contest, and Janet Wesley won first prize in the paragraph contest. Tamika Watson received an Association of Alumnae University of Pennsylvania Book Award. Book Awards are awarded nationally to outstanding high school students—usually juniors—who exemplify the characteristics of Penn's founder, Benjamin Franklin. Mouhamed Niang was honored with the first annual Jean L. Fleschute Student of the Year Award.

OUTSIDE SUPPORT, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATIONS

We thank our many partners and collaborators for supporting CLC's work. Dozens of organizations have helped us grow and remain strong. They have enhanced Community Learning Center's programming, bolstered our fundraising capability, and contributed resources and services to our organization. We appreciate their generosity.

Book Drive

The generosity of local communities has contributed to our success. Eleven schools, churches, and other organizations participated in our 13th annual Book Drive, donating 600-700 new children's books, which we distributed to our students to give to the youngsters in their families. Helping us to have a successful book drive were the AAUW of Eastern Delaware County, Bethel Springs Elementary School, CCP Education Club, CLC board members, Congregation Beth Israel, Covenant Methodist Church Nursery School, HealthPlex of Springfield, Jewish Children's Folkshul, Swarthmore Rutledge School, Thin Book Club, and Trinity Cooperative Day Nursery School. The book drive encourages families to read together.

One Book, One Philadelphia

As mentioned above (“In the Classroom: Curricula”), our students participated in the *One Book, One Philadelphia* program again this year. This program was introduced by the Free Library of Philadelphia and the mayor in 2003 to promote literacy by bringing the Greater Philadelphia area together to read and discuss a common book. The 2008 selection, *What Is the What*, and the two companion books provided CLC students with the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, and knowledge of Sudan. The program culminated with a special event at the Free Library, where the author of *Of Beetles and Angels*, Mawi Asgedom, spoke. A number of CLC students attended this event and met Mr. Asgedom, who in his speech quoted some of their writing in response to his book.

First Book

Community Learning Center receives First Book grants, which we use to purchase books for our students’ children. In 2007-2008, we bought \$3,000 worth of children’s books, which we distributed in classes and at the Multicultural Holiday Party and the Awards and Graduation Ceremony. First Book’s generous donation supports our initiative of helping our students build libraries in their homes.

Community College of Philadelphia Education Club

The Education Club of Community College of Philadelphia raised \$200, which they donated for the purchase of children’s books to be distributed at our Awards and Graduation Ceremony in June 2008. CLC graduate and board member Mary Anderson—president of CCP’s student government and Education Club—has been instrumental in organizing a collaboration between this club and CLC. The CCP Education Club plans to set up: 1) tutoring for CLC students; 2) visits for CLC students to CCP; and 3) gifts of backpack/ student supplies for CLC students.

Volunteers

Another factor leading to success is the collaboration that staff member Martha Bowditch has continued with Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders), a national service-learning organization dedicated to helping older immigrants. Project SHINE provides tutors for our ESOL classes. Staff member Carol Miller worked hard to recruit additional volunteer tutors from other sources for our ABE and GED classes.

LEADERSHIP Philadelphia

Through collaboration with LEADERSHIP Philadelphia, Inc., a nonprofit organization that trains professionals in the many aspects of nonprofit board service and then matches nonprofits with these trained participants, Community Learning Center succeeded again in gaining a new, committed board member with the prospect for still more to join. Three other members of this year’s LEADERSHIP class expressed interested in joining CLC’s board, and we are developing those relationships.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CLC STAFF AND BOARD

We believe that the best way to maintain excellence is to contribute to the continual professional development of our staff and board. In 2007-2008, staff and board members participated in over 100 hours of professional development activities, which brought fresh ideas and energy to our organization. The professional development activities included:

- PA Adult and Continuing Education (PAACE) Conference
- Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Administrator Workshops
- Coalition Workshops
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) Workshops
- Learning Differences Workshop and In-Residence Training with Dr. Richard Cooper
- Math Workshops
- Philadelphia PDC and Southeast PDC Fall Institute
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Conference
- Move Up Network Meetings and Training
- Transition Workshops
- Reading Workshops
- Teaching Adults Workshop
- Teacher Training for One Book, One Philadelphia Program
- Workforce Investment Board Meetings and Workshops
- Town Watch Anti-Crime Conference
- Orientation to Foundation and Corporate Research
- CCAT Workshop with Nonprofit Finance Fund
- Community College of Philadelphia Policy Summit
- Social Entrepreneurship Presentation with Mr. Peter Brinckerhoff
- LaSalle Nonprofit Center Grant-Writing Workshop

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

In 2006-2007, Community Learning Center created a set of quantifiable goals and measures with the help of Dr. Laura Otten of the LaSalle Nonprofit Center. We continued to refine these goals and measures in 2007-2008. If you wish to receive a complete document that details our measurements and outcomes, please contact CLC. Below is a summary of the quantitative and qualitative highlights in each of our established programs.

Education Program

We measured success by tracking our performance data and students' learning gains, assessed by pre- and post-tests. We selected the pre- and post-test pair that showed the most progress (or the least regression, if there was no progress) and entered it in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's E-Data system, which allows us to report only one pre- and post-test pair for each student. In some cases, we reported reading test scores, and in other cases we reported math scores.

There are six National Reporting System educational functioning levels for Adult Basic Education and GED students: Beginning Literacy ABE, Beginning ABE, Low Intermediate ABE, High Intermediate ABE, Low Adult Secondary Education, and High Adult Secondary Education. There are also six educational functioning levels for ESOL students: Beginning Literacy ESL, Low Beginning ESL, High Beginning ESL, Low Intermediate ESL, High Intermediate ESL, and Advanced ESL.

For non-Move Up students having CASAS or TABE pre- and post-tests, we reported the following educational functioning level gains in E-Data. The table below highlights learning gains at the various education levels for our 342 enrolled students. The chart does not include all educational functioning level advances achieved by our students, since we could report only one pre- and post-test pair in E-Data. Some of our students advanced an educational functioning level in both reading and math, but we could report only one gain.

Entering Educational Functioning Level (EFL)	Total Number Pre- and Post-Tested	Number Completed Level	Percentage Completing a Level	Standard Set by ABLE, PA Department of Education
Beginning Literacy ABE	14	10	71.43	31
Beginning ABE	17	10	58.82	40
Low Intermediate ABE	18	12	66.67	38
High Intermediate ABE	36	12	33	33
Low Adult Secondary Ed	11	8	72.73	35
High Adult Secondary Ed	1	0	0	NA
Beginning Literacy ESL	1	1	100	35
Low Beginning ESL	4	4	100	28
High Beginning ESL	17	14	82.35	37

Low Intermediate ESL	13	6	46.15	38
High Intermediate ESL	6	2	33.33	39
Advanced ESL	12	2	16.67	18

Student Support Services Department

In FY 2007-2008, social workers performed a total of 2882 interventions with our ABE, GED, and ESOL students. This was accomplished in addition to conducting regular classroom group lessons. (One student might require multiple interventions in a single meeting with a social worker.) The breakdown of the 2882 interventions, including emergencies, follows:

595	Personal
684	Family
157	Housing
330	Job Related
862	Academic Related
84	Community Involvements
170	Educational and/or Citizenship

CLC IN THE NEWS

CLC's work continues to be recognized by the community at large. Below is a list of news articles that have spotlighted CLC in the past year:

- "Need Help With Your Job Search?" *Juniata News*, July 24, 2007 and *Community Focus/Enfoque Comunal*, August 2, 2007
- "Community Learning Center receives grant from PNC Foundation to support adult learners," *NewsGleaner.com*, August 1, 2007
- "CLC holds Annual Multicultural Holiday Event," *Community Focus/Enfoque Comunal*, December 27, 2007
- "An Aquarium Adventure!" *Juniata News*, February 26, 2008, and *The Olney Times*, March 5, 2008
- "Illiteracy Robs Us All," *Juniata News*, March 11, 2008
- "People in the News," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 23, 2008
- "People on the Move," *Philadelphia Business Journal*, June 30, 2008

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

At the end of June 2008, Jean L. Fleschute stepped down from her position of executive director, which she had held for 21 years. The new executive director, Rebecca S. Wagner, began working with Ms. Fleschute on May 1, 2008, which allowed for a transition and training period. During this time, the *Employee Handbook* was updated, financial systems were streamlined, and additional funding opportunities were explored. Dr. Wagner has an extensive background in professional development and systems management, and she will use this experience to further develop CLC's teachers, curricula, and management systems. We received two grants, one from The Philadelphia Foundation and the other from The Pew Charitable Trusts, to help us with the transition.

There is a possibility that responsibility for funding basic adult education will be transferred from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to the Department of Labor and Industry. This would likely shift the focus of adult education from literacy (reading, writing, math, and other basic skills) to workforce development (workplace foundation skills, job placement, etc.), resulting in significant changes in CLC curricula.

Site issues continue to be a challenge, and we are in the process of finding new and better space for our classes.

In the next year, we hope to begin a program aimed specifically at serving out-of-school youth, ages 16-21, and a program to serve ex-offenders. The two programs will provide these populations with intensive literacy instruction and job training, as well as work experience and case management. CLC is building partnerships with complementary organizations, which will expand our range of resources and help us serve special populations. Such partnerships include the Pennsylvania Prison Society, PA Workforce Improvement Network, and the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board. Further, CLC will focus on supporting our students to transition smoothly to post-secondary education, training, and/or sustainable employment.

SUMMARY

CLC continues to learn and grow, and is looking ahead to an exciting period of expansion. Our holistic approach to teaching, which honors the life experiences of our students and emphasizes contextualized learning, has proven to be an effective way to help students achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals. At the same time, our staff and board consistently seek new opportunities to reflect on the quality of our work, and to continually enhance CLC's programs and services. We look forward to building new partnerships, collaborating with other organizations, and diversifying funding streams to support new programming. We believe that CLC's success will be strengthened through such continued improvement and that our students will be even better supported in their efforts to become self-sufficient.

CLC STAFF

Theresa M. Banford-Dietzel, Director Student Support Services Department
Martha Bowditch, Teacher
Stephanie Chuang, Administrative Assistant
Susanne Czarnecki, Teacher
Jean L. Fleschute, Executive Director
Chaquilla Lancaster, Program Aide
Carol S. Miller, Associate Director/Teacher
Leigh Anne Scarborough, Teacher
Rebecca S. Wagner, Executive Director
Barbara Wilcox, Move-Up Teacher
Jennifer Williamson, Teacher

CLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The board and staff are very grateful to the following volunteers:

Christopher Allen, Mariah Barstow, Jacqui Bruestle, Ashley Capelle, Erin Davis, Ashley Dencsy, Ruth Greenberg, Steven Greenberg, Jonathan Guinto, Peter Hayakawa, Jessica Irondi, Kaylette Jenkins, Rebekah Klein, Mel McKelly, Ryan Meyer, Naida Montes, Lauren Parker, Priyanka Patel, Evan Perry-Giblin, Mark Pohlman, Cassandra Powell, Arlene Reyes, Leah Rossi, Jeremy Samsoe, Jasmine Schley, Deepti Sheladia, Pnina Siegler, Katie Simpson, Mark Singer, Erika Studer, Gregorio Sykes, Kenneth Tartof, Susan Trindle, Alvaro Watson, Laura Wienick, Arlene Wolf

CLC thanks its many generous supporters:

We would like to thank individual donors too numerous to list and many organizations, such as those listed below, which provide generous funding. This financial support enables CLC to offer its classes and other services free of charge to adult learners. We deeply appreciate their support.

Major funding is provided by:*

Claneil Foundation, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Douty Foundation, The Fourjay Foundation, First Book, Genuardi Family Foundation, IBM, The Patricia Kind Family Foundation, The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation, Pennsylvania Department of Education, The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Philadelphia Foundation, Siemens Medical Solutions, Joseph Kennard Skilling Foundation, United Way of SEPA Donor Choice

** Please note, this is a partial list, as some foundations have requested anonymity.*