



COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER  
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

2010-2011

# ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

We are honored to present Community Learning Center's 2010-2011 Annual Report. As we reflect about our achievements of the past year, Community Learning Center has much to celebrate. We served 696 adults, and 76% of those who post-tested in our community classes increased their reading and/or math skills. 122 students registered for or took at least one of the five GED tests, 52 adults earned their GED, and 48 of these adults transitioned to work, vocational training, or postsecondary education. Seven of our English Language/Civics students became United States citizens. These outcomes are record-breaking for CLC, and they result from continuous program improvement, learner-centered instruction, and our commitment to serve adults who need to improve their reading, writing, math, or English language skills and expand their knowledge.

Additionally, the board of directors reorganized its committee structure to be more efficient and to provide further guidance, support, transparency, accountability, and stability for CLC. Together, the board and executive director evaluate and manage CLC's growth, finances, and operating efficiency.

Of course, none of CLC's work would be possible without funding. Despite the challenging economic times, the government, corporate and family foundations, and individuals have continued to support our program. We extend a profound, heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, whose continuous and generous support enables us to provide education and transition services for more and more adults in need. We always strive to use your contributions wisely; in fact, 92% of last year's funding was spent on programs.

We are excited about the 2011-2012 program year. We have moved into new space at 2701 North Broad Street (at Lehigh Avenue), where we have two classrooms, administrative offices, and a teacher preparation room. Watch for announcements about our open house! We have expanded our tutor based program and our ability to serve beginning literacy adults by integrating St. Vincent's Learning Lab in Germantown into our organization. We have formed new partnerships with the JEVS Northeast EARN Center, Connection Training Services, ShopRite, and the Andrew Jackson Elementary School. We continue seek more partnerships with the local workforce system, employers, training programs, welfare-to-work programs, and Philadelphia communities. We are also looking forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary this year!

Enjoy reading CLC's 2010-2011 Annual Report, and please visit us on our website and Facebook page! Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Daniel V. Johns  
CLC Board President

Rebecca S. Wagner  
CLC Executive Director



John earned his GED in May 2011. He is pursuing a business management degree at Community College of Philadelphia and is working on finishing a novel.



Mei passed her naturalization interview in January 2011 and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on Flag Day at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is from China.



James got his GED in March. He would like to pursue a career in culinary arts.

# Student Achievements

## A New Record Number of GED Graduates



Community Learning Center helped 52 students earn their GED credential in the 2010-2011 program year. This exceeds last 2009-2010's record of 37 GED graduates.

In addition to these 52 GED graduates, 122 other students registered for at least one of the five GED examinations, an increase from the previous year's 86 students.

We are proud of our students' accomplishments thus far, and we look forward to their future achievements.



## New Frontiers: Transitioning to the Next Steps

For CLC students, the GED is simply a step toward higher education, job training, employment, and a fulfilling career. We encourage all of students to focus on achieving these goals so that they can eventually provide better lives for themselves and their families. Twenty-five of our 2010-2011 GED graduates have already applied to or started postsecondary education or job training at the following institutions:

- Anthem Institute
- CHI Institute
- Community College of Philadelphia
- Delaware Community College
- Peirce College
- Strayer University
- Thompson Institute
- University of Phoenix

Other students in our program are also taking steps toward providing more effectively for themselves and their families.

- 44 students entered postsecondary education or job training programs.
- 73 students entered employment.
- 74 students retained employment.

Congratulations to all our students for their achievements!

## Spotlights on Student Achievements

### Catherine Balsley

Cathy was the winner of this year's Jean L. Fleschute Award, which recognizes one student annually who demonstrated dedication, motivation, and service to the community. Cathy attended CLC classes for three years. After much hard work, she finally got her GED in 2011. Elated, she told her final instructor, "You know what? The hard work finally paid off. I did it. I now have my GED." Her priority now is to find work, become self-supporting, and move out of her parents' house, after which she may go to college.



### Layla Khatib

Layla was the winner of this year's University of Pennsylvania Association of Alumnae Book Award, which recognizes outstanding students who exhibit character and high integrity and who garner respect from peers and faculty. As a child, Layla was homeschooled in a state that did not offer a high school credential for homeschooled students. She entered our program in March and finished her GED in just one month with high scores in all subjects. Even after earning her GED, Layla continued coming to class to tutor classmates and begin preparing for the SAT. She is currently applying to four-year colleges and hopes to become a doctor.

### Peter B.

Peter grew up in a verbally abusive home and entered CLC in January lacking confidence and convinced he would never get his GED. With the help of CLC staff, Peter developed his skills and, more importantly, his belief in himself. He made quick progress, got his GED in April, and entered Community College of Philadelphia in May. As a dedicated single parent of a special needs child, Peter is studying behavioral health and hopes to one day work in special education.

## New U.S. Citizens from the Citizenship Class



Minkang Xu (left) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer who swore him in as an American citizen.

This year CLC began a class dedicated to helping immigrants develop the English skills and knowledge of American history and government they need to pass the naturalization interview and become U.S. citizens. Individuals applying for U.S. citizenship must demonstrate English speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, in addition to answering up to ten questions about the history and government of the United States.

Our citizenship class students worked extremely hard to ready themselves for their interviews. Out of the 11 students who were able to apply\*, seven had their interviews, and all seven of those students passed! Each of these students has been or will be sworn in as a new citizen of the United States.

Congratulations to all our new American citizens!

*\*Only immigrants who have been permanent residents for at least five years (or three years for those married to U.S. citizens) are eligible for citizenship. Additionally, the application fee is \$680, which is challenging for most individuals to gather.*

# Organizational Achievements

## Establishing and Growing Partnerships

Building successful partnerships is a mainstay of CLC's strategy. Through these partnerships, CLC supports the literacy development of individuals who are simultaneously receiving support in other areas from the partner organization. Some of the partnerships CLC engaged in this year are described below.



Sakila Rai from Bhutan in one of our refugee classes. She spent most of her life at a refugee camp in Nepal before coming to the U.S.

### Refugee Programs

As part of the Move Up program, CLC provided English language classes at Nationalities Services Center (NSC) and JEVS Center for New Americans. These classes served refugees and political asylum seekers from countries such as Iraq, Bhutan, and Burma. The students entered CLC's classes with a range of English skills; some were nearly fluent while others were not literate in their own languages. CLC's teachers helped students develop their English while NSC and JEVS helped them find employment. Out of the 44 students in these two classes, 29 demonstrated increased English proficiency scores, and 32 got jobs.

### CareerLink

CLC continues to provide assessment services and literacy classes at CareerLink's Suburban Station office. This year, we added a pre-GED class to serve CareerLink clients who need GEDs but lack the reading skills needed for the GED class. Additionally, CLC's workforce competency clinic helped 60 clients attain the math and reading skills needed to enter job training programs, and 29 of those clients increased their skills and enrolled in such programs. This is a dramatic increase from last year's results for the clinic; in 2009-10, 41 clients successfully attained the skills necessary to enter job training, and 18 actually entered training.

### EARN Centers

CLC taught classes at two EARN Centers— AmericaWorks and JEVS Northeast EARN. EARN Centers support welfare recipients in their efforts to obtain employment, become self-sufficient, and leave the welfare rolls. CLC provided the literacy services to make employment possible for clients lacking the appropriate skills and/or credentials. Though the classes only started in January, two students got their GEDs and nine more began the GED registration and testing process.

### CCAP and SkillsBooster

CLC continued partnerships with the city of Philadelphia's College and Career Advancement Program (CCAP) for city workers and SkillsBooster program for non-educational staff of the School District of Philadelphia and community members. The CCAP class was designed to help city workers get promotions or go to college. By the end of the class, four students entered college and one got a promotion. Additionally, CLC helped 45 out of the 47 students in the SkillsBooster class make a gain in reading, math, or life skills.

## CLC as a Leader in the Literacy Community

### PAACE Conference Presentations

Each year, PAACE (Pennsylvania Association For Adult Continuing Education) holds a statewide conference for adult educators throughout Pennsylvania. CLC staff delivered four different presentations on the collaborative relationship between a GED teacher and career coach, individualized learning plans, program administration tips, and using focus groups to inform program improvement.

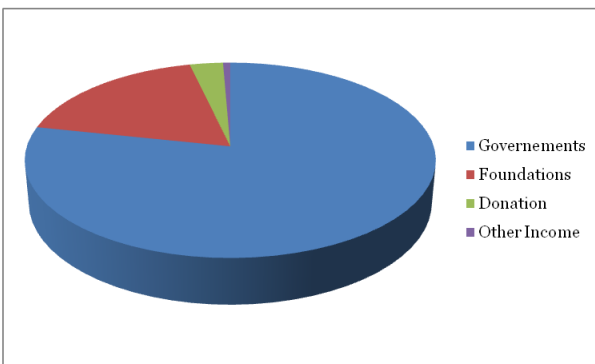
### COABE Conference Presentation

CLC's executive director presented at the 2011 COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education) national conference on adult education for a global economy. Her presentations focused on building partnerships between literacy agencies and career one-stops and using data to improve program performance. The latter was selected as a featured presentation of the conference.

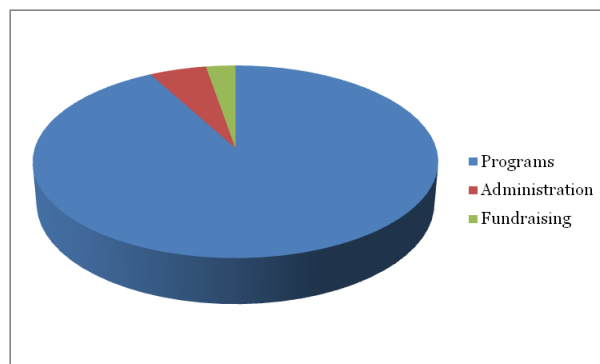
### Professional Development Consulting

CLC's executive director serves as a professional development consultant in Philadelphia. This year, she conducted trainings on assessment and linking assessment to classroom instruction.

# Financials



| <u>Income</u> |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Government    | 622,161          |
| Foundations   | 143,377          |
| Donations     | 23,897           |
| Other         | 5,181            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$794,616</b> |



| <u>Expenses</u> |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Programs        | 672,675          |
| Administration  | 38,210           |
| Fundraising     | 19,685           |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>\$730,570</b> |

This year's successes were made possible by generous support from the government; private and corporate foundations, including the Lincoln Financial Foundation and PNC Community Development Banking; and **generous supporters like you.**

**Thank you.**

Community Learning Center's 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.

**Many thanks to our staff and board of directors for their hard work this year!**

10-11 CLC Board of Directors  
Fred Baumert, treasurer  
Jeffrey Bodle  
Matthew Ciesinski  
Jeffrey Damann  
Mary Flounoy, past president  
Daniel Johns, president  
Ronald Kim  
Dale Mezzacappa  
Karen Michael, vice president  
Christine Rogers-Raetsch  
Kerry Rowe  
Anita Scott, secretary

10-11 CLC Staff  
Kinaya Ade, teacher  
Sandra Aldana, program aide  
Danyelle Austin, workforce education coordinator and teacher  
Nancy Cunningham, teacher  
Susanne Czarniecki, adjunct faculty  
Stephanie Fahringer, development coordinator and teacher  
Peter Ford, teacher  
Jeremy Goldberg, teacher  
Patty Haggerty, teacher  
Mary McKenna, teacher  
Ellen Mason, teacher  
Carol Miller, associate director and teacher  
Abigail Orenstein, adjunct faculty  
Rebecca Wagner, executive director

**"You are never too old to achieve your goals": Excerpts from Graduation Speeches**



I wanted my children to know that you are never too old to achieve your goals.  
Getting my GED made me proud of myself. I did this not only for me, but for my mother and children and for people who think they can't achieve a diploma. It is not that hard if your heart is in it.  
- Joseph Connor

The gift of tenacity was paying off. We were all getting closer to our objective, and the rest is history. Most of us walked through these doors full of self-doubt and fear. We walk out [now] with a new-found confidence and the courage to pursue our dreams. Our smiles are a tiny reflection of the way we feel inside. Nothing monetary can do that and keep its value. This feeling is priceless.  
- Peggy Cunningham



Joseph got his GED in August 2010 and is now working

After 47 years of working and raising a family, Peggy got her GED in October 2010.