

**NALC**  
Nashville Adult Literacy Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NASHVILLE ADULT LITERACY COUNCIL HONORS LEARNERS AND TUTOR AT 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – November 28, 2014 – *“Volunteers are the reason the Nashville Adult Literacy Council (NALC) is able to teach more than 1,500 adults to read and succeed each year.”* NALC uses this statement to welcome folks to the NALC website at [www.nashvilleliteracy.org](http://www.nashvilleliteracy.org), so it is more than fitting that it served as the predominant theme for a special gathering at the Cohn School on Thursday, November 20, namely the 2014 Annual Student and Tutor Banquet.

**President**  
Nancy DeKalb

**Vice-President**  
Tara Tenorio

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Taryn Foshee, Intern  
Jenn Wade, Intern

**Executive Director**  
Meg Nugent

Said Meg Nugent, NALC Executive Director, about the event, “This banquet is really important because it gives us a chance to emphasize the value of both our wonderful learners and the committed volunteer tutors who often go way past the ‘lines of duty’ to help those individuals reach important milestones in their lives.”

For the 32<sup>nd</sup> year, both learners and tutors were encouraged to bring families and friends to the banquet, planned and coordinated by the NALC staff which included: Sarah Coode, Literacy Specialist; Julie Kramer, ELL Specialist; Patty Swartzbaugh, Program Manager; Yodit Beraki, Program Assistant; Ann Bardone, Program Assistant; Crystal Gimesh, Office Manager and Start Now West Nashville; and Geoff Clark, Tyreca Ewing, and Lisa LeMaster, all of Start Now Antioch.

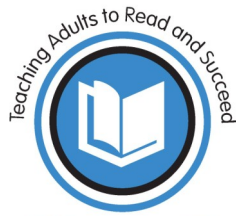
Guest Speaker, Jason Holleman, Metro Councilman for District 24 and a member of the council’s Education Committee, talked about his own personal commitment to adult literacy. “Over the years, I have seen the good work that NALC staff members and tutors do to serve adults in terms of education and literacy, and I am proud to have played a small a part in it.”

Amy Frogge, Metro Nashville Public Schools Board Member for District Nine, joined Nugent in the presentation of awards, with the first honoring the Robert Chandler Ambassador of the Year recipient, Mayor Karl Dean, who promised, “I will be a lifelong supporter of the Nashville Adult Literacy Council, and I’ll tell you why. The NALC provides the learning opportunities to allow adults in Davidson County who do not have the basic reading and comprehension skills to acquire English language proficiency. That, in turn, helps our Greater Nashville area grow and prosper. I am committed to seeing NALC continue to succeed in this mission, even past my term as Mayor.”

The Robert Chandler Ambassador of the Year award is given to an individual who best personifies the attributes of a man (Chandler) who volunteered every day for seven years, eventually taking on the title, name tag and all, of Ambassador of NALC. Regarding Mayor Dean’s like-minded dedication, Nugent said, “You have been the strongest advocate for adult literacy that I have seen in a mayor in all the 25 years I have been around. We are grateful to you. Without your support, our program could not be as strong as it is today.”

Additional awards followed, including: Martha Teschan Volunteer of the Year, Jennie Bowman; Tutor of the Year, Kevin O’Neill; Start New Tutor of the Year (addresses the learners waiting list), Ronnie Phillips; ELL (English Language Learning) Learner of the Year, Hannah Hadi; and Literacy Learner of the Year, Frank Hardy, Jr.

Special recognition was also given to 100 Plus Hours (learners who have worked for more than 100 hours in a year); 5+ Years (tutor/learner pairs who have been together for more than 5 years); Learner Accomplishments (learners who have reached significant goals, academic achievements, and dedication to learning which included these sub-categories: Enrolling in Higher Education; Highest Level of English Proficiency; General Educational Development (GED); Obtaining Citizenship; Voting for the First Time; and Hard Work and Determination; Dedication to Learning.)



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*The Nashville Adult Literacy Council exists as a non-profit organization dedicated to helping adults improve their reading and English skills. Since opening its doors in 1982, the NALC has trained thousands of volunteers, who have, in turn, taught thousands of adults to read and succeed. A recipient of eight national and two regional awards for outstanding programs, staff dedication, and student achievement, plus an Invocation in Action award for volunteerism, the NALC has also been selected as a model of best practices in their administration of a waiting list for tutors to fill spots for learners. Visit the NALC website at [www.nashvilleliteracy.org](http://www.nashvilleliteracy.org) or call (615) 298-8060 to learn more.*

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**Executive Director**

Meg Nugent



Photos included as JPEGs. Photographer: Monique Walhof.

From left: Amy Frogge, Jennie Bowman, Ronnie Phillips, Hannah Hadi, Meg Nugent (Executive Director), Frank Hardy Jr., Kevin O'Neill, Nancy DeKalb (Board President)



From left: Amy Frogge, Meg Nugent, Delores Berry (family of Robert Chandler), and Mayor Karl Dean



From left: Bonnie Myers (tutor), Annie James (learner), and Patty Swartzbaugh (NALC Program Manager)