

Board of Directors: Joan Clay, Eileen Curran-Kondrad, Kate Donahue, Carole Elliott, Janet Englund, Inge Jacobs, Vicki Kelly, Sue Kling, Maureen Patti, Marilyn Pomerantz  
Staff: Darci McCarthy

### **From the Director**

March 13, 2020 is a day that most of us will never forget. Every aspect of our lives and standard practices changed instantly and with no true end in sight. Our program had to adapt to these unprecedented circumstances brought on by Covid-19 quickly and safely. We immediately closed our doors and pivoted as many students as possible to a remote environment. This brought on many new challenges, but most of our students and tutors adapted quickly to overcome another huge obstacle on their road to improved literacy. The fall brought us back to in-person learning with safety precautions in place and once again students and tutors readjusted. Classes and tutoring look a little bit different these days, but where there's a will there's a way! Thank you to our many dedicated students and tutors willing to stick it out through these uncertain and constantly changing times.

### **Learning in the Time of Covid (insert ESL photo and one more to be sent 11/12/20)**

Whole Village, our home for many years, has been closed to the public since the pandemic began in March, but opened to some with restrictions. We split our group of English language learners into two smaller groups to allow for social distancing in the classroom. Students have their temperatures checked and follow strict guidelines for attending in person. They've acclimated with ease and are just so happy to see each other's faces, under their masks anyway, again! We still have many dedicated tutors who are comfortable meeting students in person with precautions in place as well.

### **8 years of Community Spelling Bees! (insert pics as space allows board & winners most important)**

Unfortunately, this year's Community Spelling Bee had to be postponed. We've made some fantastic memories through the years and had so much fun raising money and awareness for adult education in our community. Thanks to photographer Beth Smarse, who has captured these moments from the beginning, we can look back on all of this. We've also been fortunate to have A.J. Coppola as our host for seven years. Our Bee would not be the same without him!

We also have so much gratitude for our many local business sponsors who have supported this event throughout the years. It would not be possible without your loyal support!

While we sit back and wait for 2021 and whatever it may bring, let's take a look at some of our favorite moments from the first eight Bees...

### **Highlights**

Over the past year....

- 38 individuals contacted PBL for help with literacy
- 17 students worked on learning English as a Second Language
- 3 individuals came to PBL for basic computer instruction
- 5 students worked on preparing for the HiSET (GED)

- Students received 832 hours of instruction from our caring volunteers and teachers
- Students who completed more than 12 hours with the program spent an average of 44 hours with a tutor

### **Volunteers Needed! (insert volunteers graphic)**

Do you have a few hours a week and a desire to help an adult in our community either virtually or in person? We are looking for tutors in HiSET (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language, and basic digital literacy. Please call **536-2998** or email us at **PemiBakerLiteracy@gmail.com** to set up a time for a short orientation.

### **How to Support Pemi-Baker Literacy (insert thank you graphic)**

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.

- Click “DONATE” on our website PemiBakerLiteracy.org
- Start a Facebook Fundraiser. Find “Fundraisers” on the Facebook menu and click “Raise Money” to get started.
- 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 appreciate the support we receive in so many ways. Whether it’s financial support, your time, telling your friends about us, providing tutoring space or materials, we are grateful to all our donors. Thank you! 😊

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