

The issue looms large... The people are invisible

Literacy



ProLiteracy America

The People

People with low-level literacy skills face challenges daily. Simple tasks like reading product labels, following street signs, understanding instructions, or paying bills can be frustrating and even scary. Their biggest fear, however, is being found out. That is how nearly 90 million Americans become invisible—they hide their problem so that even their best friends or family may not know.

The Issues

Limited literacy skills and fear of being judged prevent people from reaching their full potential as employees, parents, community members, and citizens. People who lack literacy skills come from all social and economic backgrounds.

The Response

ProLiteracy America, the largest volunteer-based adult literacy organization in America, supports more than 1,200 local literacy programs throughout all 50 states and Washington, D.C. ProLiteracy has built a strong and extensive network of volunteers and professionals who work together to provide free help to adults wanting to improve their basic skills.

Volunteers are the key to our success. Each year nearly 130,000 specially trained ProLiteracy tutors work with more than 235,000 adult learners individually or in small groups to help them to develop their reading, writing, English-speaking, or problem-solving skills. Whether a person wants to improve his/her skills to get a better job, or to help a child with homework, ProLiteracy programs meet individualized needs.



90
million Americans

have trouble reading and/or writing.

More than 40 million function at the lowest literacy level. Many cannot complete a simple job application.



The Results

Literacy changes lives. Once people discover they can learn, their self-esteem and capabilities grow. New opportunities open up and the lives of these individuals and their families move forward with new hope and confidence. And, as ProLiteracy tutors will tell you, there is nothing more rewarding than being a part of this wonderful transformation.

Know someone who can't read?



Become a tutor—teach someone to read.

Support your local ProLiteracy America program—volunteer or contribute financially. Literacy organizations need all kinds of help, not just tutors.

Encourage someone who may need help to get it. Help is free and there is no shame in improving skills or acquiring new ones.

Write to your legislators and tell them education is important to everyone, including adults.

Join ProLiteracy America. Your membership strengthens our ability to lobby for legislation and funding; your dollars will help us to support local programs and volunteers.

ProLiteracy America Programs provide free instruction to adults who want to learn to read, write, or improve basic skills. To learn more about volunteering, becoming a tutor, or getting help, please call the local program listed below, call ProLiteracy's national office at 888-528-2224, or visit the ProLiteracy Web site at www.proliteracy.org for information on the literacy program nearest you.

For an orientation course about being a literacy tutor, visit the Verizon Literacy University at www.vluonline.org.



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