

Local Foundation's Big Boost For Literacy

\$300,000 gift will bring English skills to hundreds more

BY ANTON NEWS STAFF

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The John & Janet Kornreich Charitable Foundation is donating \$300,000 to Literacy Nassau. This Freeport-based not-for-profit provides one-on-one tutoring and small-group instruction in reading, writing and speaking English to functionally illiterate adults. Its work has been underway since 1968.

Literacy Nassau's program uses a combination of trained adult literacy volunteers and professional instructors to help adults reach lifelong goals, such as obtaining meaningful employment, becoming a U.S. Citizen, or simply becoming less isolated as a parent by participating in children's educational and extra-curricular activities.

"With this generous donation, we expect to eliminate the large waiting list for our teaching services as well as eventually double the number of students served per year," said Literacy Nassau's Executive Director Karen Micciche.

"Students come to us from varied backgrounds," she continued. "Some are immigrants who come to America in search of a better life for themselves and their families, but without the necessary language skills. Without our help, they may end up unemployed or underemployed and unable to realize that dream. Others are native-born English speakers who struggle with reading and writing, often due to undiagnosed learning disabilities. Our free services target those who are hardest to reach, those who can't easily assimilate into a large group classroom setting."

Foundation Trustee John Kornreich of Old Westbury said he sees a great deal to like in the organization and its work.

"We are impressed with the literacy mission, Nassau County localism, efficient economics, and strong leadership," said Kornreich. "And that's why we're making this significant commitment to Literacy Nassau."

To learn more about Literacy Nassau, call 516-867-3580 or visit www.literacynassau.org



One of the organization's groups, led by Michela Haber (center), meets at the Great Neck Library once a week to work on conversational English.



One of the organization's small classes, which teaches English Language skills, U.S. Civics and Citizenship Test Preparation.

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