

I began tutoring at the Literacy Council a number of years ago when I was looking for a volunteering opportunity to work with adults in a one on one situation. During this time, I worked with 4 students and spent several years tutoring with each one. I obviously liked what I was doing, and it was a right fit for me.

My first student was a Hmong mother who had only basic English skills. She wanted to improve those skills so she could be able to communicate with her children's teachers, help them with their homework, and not always have to depend on them to interpret for her. My second student was a Hispanic mother in a similar situation. It was very rewarding to see their continuing improvement in Mexico, but knew she needed to better prepare herself to find a good job and possibly further her education here.

My last student was a Hispanic woman with four children who had goals of getting her driver's license, buying her own car, and becoming a U.S. Citizen – all of which she accomplished while we worked together. She was able to reach a level where she could pursue a GED at NWTC. She was able to take classes for a year-while working a full time job. However, because of family issues and time limitations, she had to put that goal on hold. My hope is that she will some day be able to get her GED and fulfill her dream.

I know all of my students are appreciative of the opportunities they have had to improve their lives because of the services provided by the Literacy Council. Happy Anniversary to all the dedicated people who make it work.

Karen Smith