

South Baldwin Literacy Council

Opening Minds and Changing Lives



The Little Free Library Program at South Baldwin Literacy Council

Take a Book ~ Donate a Book

In 2009, Todd Bol of Wisconsin built a model of a one room schoolhouse. It was a tribute to his mother, who loved to read. He filled it with books and put it on a post in his front yard. Everyone loved it; so, he built several more and gave them away. Hence, the beginning of the Little Free Library program. As of 2018, 75,000 registered libraries were in 75 countries worldwide. On October 18, 2018, Todd Bol passed away. He remained dedicated to the Little Free Library’s mission in his last days, saying, “I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live.” The SBLC was awarded the grant and now has a Little Free Library at their office adjacent to their sign in Foley. The library features books to be freely taken and kept or returned, as well as a shelf to donate books for others. Monetary donations to buy more books for the library are also welcome. We encourage everyone to come out and visit our Little Free Library!



**Bookshelf
Donation**



**Volunteer
Highlight**



**Springhill
Suites
Service Day**



**Student
Highlight**

New Spanish Class!



According to the 2012 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, Spanish is the primary language spoken at home by 38.3 million people aged five or older, more than twice that of 1990. The benefits of learning Spanish include the following: Spanish is one of the best languages to learn for travel. Learning Spanish makes you more employable. A world of art, literature, and beauty will open up to you. Get a better handle on pop culture. It will not take you too long to learn. Learning a second language sharpens your cognitive skills. Join us at SBLC for our evening Spanish class!!

Cox Business Partners with the SBLC to Support Seniors

The SBLC is committed to the community in south Baldwin County. As a way to display our love for the community, we chose to give back to our seniors during the holidays. SBLC Executive Director, Tammy Vaughn, and Cox Business of Louisiana Marketing Specialist, Katie Teen, partnered to donate a new bookshelf to the Foley Senior Center. Katie and her team each brought a copy of their favorite book and presented on why the book was inspirational in their lives before stocking the new book shelf. Formerly, the seniors at the center had brought in their personal books to share with no place to house them. The SBLC is so proud of the work to spread literacy and to help our partners in serving the community of south Baldwin County!



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: DIANNE STEWART

Ms. Stewart is a retired accountant. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Stewart worked in a Big 8 accounting firm before opening her own successful accounting business. Now that she has retired, she enjoys traveling, as she has been all over the world. She has a daughter in Austin, Tx., and her parents live in Atmore, AL. Thank you Ms. Dianne for your dedication to our ESL classes and all that you do for the SBLC.

Ms. Dianne is pictured with several of her ESL students.



Service Day with Springhill Suites

Springhill Suites at the Wharf has provided much-needed service days to the SBLC over the past year. General Manager, Rizwan Marfani, rallies his team of leaders from the hotel to assist in projects, such as power washing, mulching, and general yard clean up. Rizwan reported that his staff has a commitment to both literacy and the community here in south Baldwin County. SBLC is so grateful for corporate partners like Springhill Suites!



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: BIANCA SANTOS-RIVERA



Bianca Santos-Rivera recently moved here from Connecticut and has come to the Literacy Council seeking help to get her GED. She dropped out of school her senior year to care for her baby and to enter the workforce full-time. She has been working for many years in different jobs, and she has been busy raising kids. She never had the time to get her GED. She started a job a few months ago, which has a requirement that she have a GED within six months. This has given her the motivation to accomplish what she has always wanted to do. When asked what she will do when she passes her final test, Bianca said, "I am already planning my party!"

Happenings in Youth Literacy

SBLC continues to provide literacy services to youth enrolled in 6 south Baldwin County public schools. We are proud to have increased tutors in all of the schools served, as well as sponsor a Family Literacy Night at Magnolia Elementary on Feb. 25 at 6pm. SBLC will be collaborating with Give a Book, and each child will receive a high-quality hard back book at the event. SBLC recently expanded to add literacy services to the Swift Church Preschool and Snook YMCA after-school care programs. We know early exposure to books and reading has many benefits, including but not limited to acquiring reading skills more quickly, exercising the brain, improving concentration and self-control, improving vocabulary and language skills, and developing imagination.

Did you Know?

SBLC offers evening conversational Spanish classes at all levels!

Here are the top 10 reasons to learn a new language:

- 1. Boosts brain power**
- 2. Improves memory**
- 3. Enhances the ability to multi-task**
- 4. Sharpens the mind**
- 5. Keeps the mind sharper for longer**
- 6. Enhances decision-making**
- 7. Improves the first language**
- 8. Improves performance in other academic areas**
- 9. Increases networking skills**
- 10. Provides better career choices**

Important Dates to Remember:

Feb. 8: Mock Interviews at Foley High School at 10:00am
Feb. 25: Family Literacy Night at Magnolia Elementary School

Spring Donor Thank You:

Community Foundation of South Alabama
Men's Group - St. Thomas by the Sea
Baldwin EMC
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Snook Foundation
Columbia Southern University

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