

# Contra Costa Literacy Coalition Directory

## Introduction

The basis of human achievement is literacy. The goal of this directory is to make local literacy services more accessible to the community. The following statistics are staggering:

- \$73 billion is the estimated annual cost of unnecessary medical expenses incurred because of low literacy skills (National Academy on an Aging Society)
- 2 million native English speakers in California are functionally illiterate (National Adult Literacy Survey)
- 24% of adults in California are at the lowest literacy level (National Adult Literacy Survey).
- 33% of children in California will not finish high school (CA Department of Education)
- 65% of adult prisoners are functionally illiterate (Correctional Education Association)

This directory lists contact information for literacy professionals, volunteers, school district representatives and non-profit agencies that are collaborating to deliver literacy services to a broad spectrum of our community. It is a reference tool to spread the word about what is available in Central Contra Costa County for those looking for literacy services.

This directory also includes information for residents who want to become involved as volunteers. Volunteer opportunities abound and many service providers in this directory are eager to train and mobilize literacy volunteers. People who need assistance are found in all age groups, from children to older adults. We hope many will take up the challenge and become trained literacy volunteers to assist the people of our community.

Reading is a doorway to many opportunities and we want that door to be open to every resident. A community that reads is a community that makes opportunity available to everyone.

## Agencies

Note: For more information about each program, please contact the individual organizations directly by going to their websites.

### Cambridge Community Center

Website: [www.cambridgecom.org](http://www.cambridgecom.org)

**Brief Description:** An enhanced Head Start program, this organization promotes attainment of English language skills through workshops and other training opportunities. The majority of parents involved in this organization are Hispanic.

#### **Concord Public Library - Toddler Time, Picture Book Time**

**Website:** <http://ccclib.org/locations/concord.html>

**Brief Description:** Toddler Time and Picture Book Time are programs that provide a pre-school early literacy experience to children through the presentation of stories and movement games that help young children develop reading and language skills in preparation for beginning Kindergarten. Children also learn group socialization skills.

#### **Concord Public Library - Teen Reading Program**

**Website:** <http://ccclib.org/locations/concord.html>

**Brief Description:** Once a year in the fall, the Contra Costa Library offers a county wide program to encourage teen reading for recreation and pleasure. The Library offers incentive prizes to teens for reading a total of 15 hours over a six-week period. Teens are asked to write short "book reviews" which they can submit at any Contra Costa County Library or on a special "Teen Reading Web Site" created by the Contra Costa County Library.

#### **Concord Community Library - Summer Reading Program**

**Website:** <http://ccclib.org/locations/concord.html>

**Brief Description:** This program "bridges the reading gap" between school semesters by encouraging children of all ages to keep up and continue to develop their reading skills throughout the summer months. The library provides participating children with a reading game board to track 15 hours of reading and the library also provides reading incentive prizes.

#### **Diablo Valley Literacy Council**

**Website:** <http://dvlc.tripod.com>

**Brief Description:** The agency trains tutors to teach people to speak and read English. Clients are adults who use English as a second language. DVLC provides training, teaching materials, lesson plans, and support for our tutors. Follow-up training and a mentor program help to keep tutors fresh and motivated. Lessons are held in the student's home or in another suitable location, like a library or church.

#### **First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission**

**Website:** [www.firstfivecc.org](http://www.firstfivecc.org)

**Brief Description:** READY SET READ project offers grants to preschools and family child care homes to create lending libraries, grants to libraries and CBO's to put on literacy activities and to put on literacy activities and events, and book giveaways which put books in the hands of young children across the county.

#### **Head Start Program - Community Services Department**

**Website:** <http://ca-contracostacounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=2537>

**Brief Description:** Community Services Department (CSD) provides a comprehensive family literacy program, which supports reading readiness in children while improving literacy rates in parents. CSD encourages family-school partnership by implementing: Raising a Reader Program-

This lending library program allows parents to take children's books home to read. Books are available in the languages reflective of our families.

#### **Jewish Coalition For Literacy (JCL)**

Website: [www.jclread.org](http://www.jclread.org)

**Brief Description:** JCL recruits, trains, places, and supports volunteers from the community as one-on-one literacy tutors for public elementary school children. Tutors commit to at least one hour a week for the duration of the school year and work with the same student(s) all year towards improving literacy skills to grade level.

#### **Monument Community Partnership**

##### **Children's Literacy Program**

##### **Literacy Program - Senior Action Team**

Website: [www.monumentcommunity.org](http://www.monumentcommunity.org)

**Brief description:** The Monument Community Partnership builds a community of residents, service agencies and local businesses who care about and want to influence what happens in the Monument Corridor. Our focus areas are resident capacity building, economic development, education, health and social services and housing. We provide a wide array of literacy programs including Story Time for children, training in Spanish literacy, ESL classes and the creation of local library extension centers throughout the neighborhood.

#### **Monument Crisis Center**

Website: [www.monumentcrisiscenter.org](http://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org)

<http://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org/programs/englishClasses.html>

**Brief Description of ESL:** The Center provides FREE Conversational English classes three times a week, Monday and Tuesday, 9a.m.-11 a.m. and Tuesday's 5-6:30 p.m. The sessions are held in our classroom where volunteer tutors help students one on one. Our dedicated tutors are available for individualized instruction and assist at any level.

#### **Michael Chavez Center - Concord Community Economic Development Organization, Inc.**

Website: [www.chavezcenter.org](http://www.chavezcenter.org)

**Brief Description:** Our literacy program includes basic to advanced ESL classes with a vocational focus for adults. We also incorporate English instruction into our technology classes.

#### **Mount Diablo Adult Education - Loma Vista Adult Center (Mount Diablo Unified School District)**

Website: [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/elcivics](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/elcivics)

**Brief Description:** Provides instruction to improve English language and literacy skills. Classes are especially designed for adults who want to speak, read, and write English to improve their skills to get a job, progress at work, and participate in their community.

### **Mount Diablo Adult Education - Community-Based English Tutoring Program (CBET)**

**Website:** [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted)

**Brief Description:** Provides instruction to improve English language and literacy skills. Classes are especially designed for parents and other adult community members who want to speak, read, and write English better and learn how to prepare and support their children in school. Preschool classes are provided for the children of adult students at some sites.

### **Mount Diablo Unified School District CARES After School Program**

**Website:** <http://www.mdusd.org/alternativeed/Pages/CARES.aspx>

**Brief Description:** Mt. Diablo CARES After School Program is a collaborative of the Concord Community & Recreation Services Department, The Mount Diablo Unified School District, Bay Area Community Resources and the Ambrose Recreation and Park District to provide enrichment, academic and support services for children and their families beyond the traditional school day. Elementary and Middle School Programs run a minimum of three hours a day, five days a week throughout the school year and summer session. High school hours vary. Activities include homework club, reading and math tutorial, interest-based classes, sports and games, computers, cooking, dance, drama, arts and crafts, music, science, gardening, expanded learning opportunities, Junior Achievement, violence prevention curriculum, teambuilding, conflict mediation, counseling, parent education, family nights and special events.

### **Mount Diablo Unified School District - K-5 Language Arts**

**Website:** <http://www.mdusd.org/Departments/sass/Pages/K12EnglishLanguageArts.aspx>

**Brief Description:** The Mount Diablo Unified School District K-12 librarians have been hosting a Young Author's Gala for the past 24 years. All students are encouraged to write books, which are then displayed at the gala. Students receive medals for their efforts. Nationally renowned authors are featured as speakers, as well as district officials and community members. The librarians and literacy coaches act as the literacy leaders in the district. Schools and parents are supported through Literacy Nights, training, and the annual MDUSD Leadership Conference, where raising achievement for all students and closing the achievement gap are the primary goals.

### **Project Second Chance: Adult Literacy Program - Contra Costa County Library**

**Website:** <http://ccclib.org/psc/>

**Brief Description:** Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library Adult Literacy Program, offers free, one-on-one tutoring to people who are over 16, not enrolled in school. It is designed for those who speak English and want to improve their basic reading, writing and spelling skills. Trained volunteers provide instruction. Student/tutor pairs meet twice a week, for an hour and a half each time, at public locations throughout the county. For information about how to train to be a volunteer tutor call Laura Seaholm.

### **Reach Out and Read - Contra Costa County Library**

**Website** <http://guides.ccclib.org/earlyliteracy>

**Brief Description:** Reach Out & Read is a pediatric literacy program for parents and children that use Contra Costa County's pediatric clinics. Parents, with their children are given advice and encouragement to share books together, use the library, and make reading an important and healthy part of childhood. Free books and information are given at annual well child visits for the first five years of a child's life. Clinics in Richmond, Concord, and Pittsburg participate in the program. The program is part of a partnership between county health service, libraries and the national Reach Out & Read Organization.

### **Stories To Go - Contra Costa County Library**

**Website** <http://guides.ccclib.org/content.php?pid=79312&sid=587693>

**Brief Description:** The Stories to Go trains volunteers to read to children in local preschools. The library provides materials, training and ongoing support. The program works closely with school staff and readers to ensure children from low income families develop early literacy skills and a love of stories and books.