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Clay County Literacy Coalition

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CCLC's Mission Statement

Clay County Literacy Coalition, Inc. enables adults and families to acquire the literacy skills needed to solve the problems of daily living and to participate confidently in society.

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President's Newsletter

March 1, 2010

Dear Tutors, Students and Volunteers,

As a child growing up in the Midwest, I remember being so excited, when in early March, I would see the first robin. Although the bird may have been shivering and standing on one leg in the snow, that little creature was a harbinger of things to come: Spring and all it represented! For me, Spring is a time to brush away all the cobwebs of winter and think about renewal. Tree branches filled with buds that will soon erupt into leaves, tulips and daffodils pushing their way up out of the ground, people buying new/replacement plants at local nurseries and all the many occurrences of March come to mind.

The first day of Spring is March 20th, and don't forget to reset your clocks on March 14th when Daylight Savings Time goes into effect. Even though you may not be Irish, St. Patrick's Day on the 17th might be a time when you wear something green. And the 28th marks Palm Sunday, followed by the first day of Passover on the 30th. Yes, the 31 days of March will pass quickly! My wish for all of you is that you will find renewal and enjoyment in each one.

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS.....VOLUNTEERS.....and MORE VOLUNTEERS!

In the weeks to come, CCLC will be participating in four (4) big Clay County events, and will need many people to assist:

March 6.....RAILROAD DAYS, in Green Cove Springs

March 7.....BARK IN THE PARK, in Town Hall Park, Orange Park

March 20.....CARRIE CLARKE DAY, Clarke Park, Orange Park

April 1-10.....PIONEER VILLAGE, Clay County Agricultural Fair

For ways you can help, please contact LYNN BANKSTON, CCLC EVENTS COORDINATOR, by phone 276-2189 or via email lynnbankston@comcast.net. These events are very enjoyable and provide venues for informing the community about the many programs and services CCLC offers. VOLUNTEER AND BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CCLC!

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

By all standards, the 2010 Annual Awards Banquet was a great success. Not only did the estimated 95 people who attended enjoy a sumptuous meal, they also heard a most inspirational speaker, Douglas Smith. Mr. Smith's life experiences of how he became a different person after he admitted he couldn't read, captured the admiration and praise of the audience. His comments were followed by the presentation of awards to several outstanding individuals: ESL Student of the Year—**Masami Kaoile**; Literacy Student of the Year—**Kenwanya Burns**; Tutor of the Year—**Sandi Wulfeck**; Volunteer of the Year—**Cindy Fuss**; and Business Partner of the Year—**PostNet, Mary and Peter Aveni**, owners.

TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP GRADUATES

CONGRATUATIONS to the following individuals who earned tutor certificates in the Workshop held February 13th: April Redford, Al Tidball, Carol Mendez, Kathryn Saunders, Janel Griffis, Nordeya Lockhart, Louis Benedict, Gina Hinson, Michael Day, Edna Westerwelle, and Dianne Costello.

The next Tutor Training Workshop is scheduled for April 17th. For more information, contact Michelle Hord, by phone (276-5537) or via email: bearclw@bellsouth.net.

TUTORS: You may now submit your tutor hours via our website: www.clayliteracy.org. By clicking on "Submit Volunteer Hours" on the bottom of the home page, you will be directed to the report form—complete it and click on Submit. Your response will come directly to the CCLC office. Easy, Simple and Quick!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Our membership fee is \$20 per year, and it is money well spent. In order to adequately prepare volunteers to teach adults to read, speak and write English, your dues enable CCLC to purchase tutor and student training materials. In addition, dues are used to purchase books for our giveaways to children, fund book events, newsletters and other mailings, and for general organizational expenses.

If you have not already done so, please send in your membership dues today. An addressed envelope is included for your convenience. If you are already a member, we thank you. As you may already know, the Clay County Literacy Coalition is a non-profit organization and exists entirely on membership dues, donations, grants and business donations.

The monthly President's Letter comes to you with the purpose of keeping you informed about the activities of the Clay County Literacy Coalition. I welcome your suggestions and comments.

Virginia Hash
President and the Board of Directors