

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**For more information, contact:**

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## **A New Chapter for the Brunner Literacy Center**

Dayton, Ohio - International Literacy Day is celebrated around the world on September 8th every year, and here in Dayton we have a lot to celebrate in adult literacy.

1. **The BLC welcomed a new Executive Director, Ashley Lackovich, in July.**

With a PhD in Leadership and Change from Antioch University, Ashley has worked in the U.S. and abroad - most notably in Jordan and Ethiopia - to advance educational opportunities for people who have historically been denied them. Closer to home, Ashley has taught at Antioch College and Sinclair Community College. She is thrilled to be back serving the Dayton community.

2. **Bridget Hutt serves the BLC in a new position - Community Engagement Manager.**

Bridget first joined the BLC's team in February 2016 and has held several positions since then. "This is the title I'm most excited about," says Bridget. "Our mission reaches far beyond our four walls, so we are doing what we encourage our students to do: focusing on goals, not tasks, and connecting with our community to advance educational opportunities for adults in Dayton."

3. **The 7th Annual 5k Walk/Run for Literacy is only a month away!**

Join the staff, volunteers, and supporters of the BLC on Saturday, October 5th in Englewood MetroPark to share the joys of literacy, health, and community. The 5k is the BLC's biggest fundraiser every year, and we are fortunate to have many generous and loyal sponsors who help to elevate the cause, especially the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who are the headlining sponsors for the second year running. Registration and more details available at <https://www.brunnerliteracy.org/5k-2019.html>

4. **New Volunteer Orientation is offered Thursday, 9/12.**

Volunteers and tutors are needed in all disciplines, especially math. Those interested are encouraged to call 937-567-9600 or email Kathy Reed at [kreed@brunnerliteracy.org](mailto:kreed@brunnerliteracy.org) to register for the 9/12 orientation, which takes place at the BLC (4825 Salem Ave) from 3:30-5:30. No previous experience necessary. Next training is on 11/14 at the same time.

## Supplemental Information

### **About the Brunner Literacy Center**

The Brunner Literacy Center was founded in July 2011 to provide educational opportunities to adults in Trotwood and throughout Dayton. Between then and now the BLC has served more than 1700 individuals. All tutoring and materials are provided free of charge. Since 2016 the BLC has worked in partnership with Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas and offers tutoring to residents of the Bennett J. Cooper Reentry Center. Over the course of the partnership, more than 120 GEDs have been awarded.

### **About Ashley's vision for the BLC**

"The Brunner Literacy Center will be the literacy leader in Dayton. Through the efforts of our staff, tutors, volunteers, and board members, we will create a more just, inclusive, and equitable community by empowering adults through education," Ashley says.

"We will share the experience of our students with leaders, lawmakers, donors, and community members, raising our organizational voice to advocate for literacy as a human right in our city, state, nation, and world. We will embody student-centered learning and advocacy as we use the power of literacy to advance toward a society where every human being lives a life of dignity."

### **About International Literacy Day**

International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on 8 September, is an opportunity for governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges. **International Literacy Day 2019 will focus on 'Literacy and Multilingualism.'** Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, distributed unevenly across countries and populations. Embracing linguistic diversity in education and literacy development is central to addressing these literacy challenges and to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. <https://www.un.org/en/events/literacyday/>

### **About the importance of literacy**

Stats from [www.proliteracy.org](http://www.proliteracy.org)

- More than 30 million adults struggle to read at or above a third-grade level.
- Of adults with the lowest literacy levels, 43% live in poverty.
- Every year more than 1 in 6 young adults drops out of high school.
- A 1% increase in literacy rates leads to a permanent 1.5% increase in the GDP, which means approximately a \$2.3 billion increase in the United States GDP.
- Children of parents with low literacy have a 72% chance of having low literacy skills themselves.