Looking Forward to a Future with Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT)

Looking Forward to a Future with Aberg Center for Literacy
We are excited to announce that Literacy Instruction for Texas (LIFT) and the Aberg Center for Literacy are joining forces.

For the past year both organizations have worked together with a national consulting firm that specializes in nonprofit mergers. We are grateful for generous funding received from the Better Together Fund in support of this critical work.

**Cradle to Career Continuum**

The merger of ACL and LIFT brings together 65 years of organizational experience and leadership in the field of literacy to:

- Provide adults and their families a robust continuum of literacy experiences - from early childhood education to workforce training - to lift families out of poverty
- Build a foundation of educational success to ensure smooth transition to formal (for children) and further education (for adults)
- Strengthen life skills to enhance navigation of daily life challenges
- Empower full participation in the community to advance careers in the workforce and increase civic engagement
The Merger Process Focused on Community Needs
Throughout the merger process the focus was on the literacy needs of our community where one in four adults qualifies for literacy instruction and one in three children lives in poverty. Both organizations underwent a thorough due diligence process facilitated by La Piana Consulting in order to create a robust and viable new organization.

Governance Structure
Both Boards of Directors met several times to approve the new governance structure. The officers and directors of the new organization represent both agencies. LIFT President and CEO Dr. Linda Johnson will serve in the same role for the new organization and Aberg Center Executive Director Shana Harrison will serve as the Chief Program Officer.

Maury Purnell – Chair
James Plantes – Vice Chair
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Mary Gano
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David Sirna
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New Brand Identity Announced Summer 2020
In order to best represent the expanded services offered by the merged organization we have contracted with a national nonprofit marketing firm, Mission Minded, to assist us in planning and creating a new identity package and related collateral. Stay tuned as we announce the new name and look this summer!
New Headquarters and Satellite Locations
In order to best serve the community’s literacy needs we are relocating the new organization’s headquarters to the Mockingbird/I-35 area in summer 2020. Called the “Caring Corridor” because several nonprofit organizations have moved to this area in the past few years, this move also provides the opportunity for us to broaden our partnerships with neighboring institutions as well as serve the burgeoning literacy needs of Oak Cliff and west Dallas.

As planned, the Aberg Center for Literacy will relocate its programs from St. Matthew’s UMC to Owenwood Farm and Neighbor Space in June 2020. The new organization plans to continue to offer satellite literacy programs in the Casa Linda, Irving, and south Dallas areas in partnership with neighborhood churches.

Consider the Advocate Council
Are you interested in becoming more involved in our mission to expand literacy education in the community? We invite you to consider joining the Advocate Council. It’s a wonderful opportunity to volunteer, get involved in planning special events, learn more about strategic efforts to reduce poverty...and enjoy the company of like-minded community members. Contact beckyclontz@gmail.com for more information.

Ashley Shultz  
Andrew Aberg  
Rita Brooks  
David Carter  
Mary Carter  
Mike Carter  
Holly Greef  
Mignon Jones

Chris McDanald  
Kiley McGuire  
Ann Parrish  
Monica Ramirez  
Doug Reed  
Lindsay Robin  
Betty Rosenthal  
Cathy Saxon

Sue Schell  
MaryBeth Shapiro  
Ashley Shultz  
Sara Starks  
Evan Stone  
Paul Thibodeaux  
Amy Ward-Meier
Support our Efforts
Joining forces makes us stronger, and serving more adults and families increases the need for funding. We continue to depend on the generosity of our volunteers and donors to fulfill our mission and we need your help to launch the new organization. We are seeking funding to support the new branding efforts, including a new digital strategy to reach additional students and volunteers, as well as relocating two campuses and outfitting additional classrooms.

Please donate today:

$160  Sponsors a student for one month
$250  Provides 80 bus passes for students
$500  Trains ten new volunteers
$1,000 Provides furniture for a classroom
$2,500 Supports relocating two new campuses

Choose a level and go to www.liftabergmerger.org to contribute!

If you would like to make a designated capital gift, please contact Shana Harrison sharrison@abergcenter.org or 214.826.6501, ext. 105.