

Joan Peterson, Executive Director

Barbara Monteith, Manager of Worksite Instruction



THE RITA WELSH
ADULT
LITERACY
PROGRAM

LITERACY FOR LIFE

RWALP at a Glance

- 33 years serving adult students
- 29 years as United Way agency
- Free, one-on-one tutoring
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Math
 - ESOL



Learner Goals



- earn high school diplomas (GED, EDP)
- improve job performance
- obtain a commercial driver's license
- become a U.S. citizen

Learner Goals



- help children with homework
- read medicine bottles
- follow doctor's instructions
- complete medical, insurance, school forms

Learners

- Original learners were custodians, groundskeepers and food service personnel at W&M who could not read.
- Current learners come from all over the community and reflect changing demographics of Greater Williamsburg.

Learner Profile



- **30% Literacy Learners**

- 1,300 adults in Greater Williamsburg have less than a 9th grade education (2000 census)
- 114 WJCC students dropped out of high school (2007)

- **70% ESOL Students**

- 50 countries
- 32 native languages
- Permanent residents
- H2B and J-1 visa workers

Learner Referrals

- CDR
- College of William and Mary
- Colonial Williamsburg
- Olde Towne Medical Center

Worksite Instruction

Building a better workforce through improved English skills

- Kingsmill Resort
- Ford's Colony
- Avid Medical



Worksite Instruction

**Trained ESOL instructors work
with employees to teach**

- **basic life skills**
- **safety issues**
- **specialized industry
vocabulary**



RWALP'S Future

- Increase presence in community
- Expand number, type, and locations from which instruction is offered
- Relocate to W&M School of Education



Next 5 Years

- Increase presence in community
 - Collaborate with agencies such as Olde Towne Medical Center and CDR
- Expand number, type, and locations from which instruction is offered
 - Expand worksite instruction program
 - Determine other needs in the community
- Relocate to W&M School of Education
 - More parking & accessibility

Comprehensive Plan for James City County

James City County Emphasizes

- Health
- Safety
- Prosperity
- General welfare



Literacy is essential for

- **Health**
- **Safety**
- **Prosperity**
- **General welfare**



Conclusion

Literacy impacts work force development, quality of life, health, safety, and schools. Therefore, it is essential that the Rita Welsh Adult Literacy Program be considered in the 2008 James City County Comprehensive Plan.

Website

<http://www.alpwilliamsburg.org>

