

## **Adult Literacy & ESOL Program Fact Sheet**

### ***The Need for Adult Education in Maryland remains immense***

- Over 20% of Maryland residents function at the lowest literacy level (below fifth grade); 25% are at or below 125% of the poverty level.
- Children of parents with lower educational levels are less likely to succeed in school themselves.
- It is estimated that more than 30% of Baltimore City's adult population lack basic literacy skills.<sup>1</sup>
- In Baltimore City 8.7% of the population speaks a language other than English at home<sup>2</sup>. Hispanic and Asian groups continue to increase and they will continue to seek literacy enrichment.
- High school graduates earn approximately \$7,200 more than non-high school graduates<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Greater Homewood Program Accomplishments***

- The GHCC Literacy Program typically enrolls about 150 adult learners in reading, writing, math and English language skills each class term. We operate 20 classes in each of our 4 terms a year, and more than 100 volunteers a year contribute their time and skills to tutor our learners for 2 hours each week.
- In the last fiscal year, **139 learners** were assisted by **119 volunteer tutors** for **3,405 instructional hours**, while **16 teachers** provided classroom instruction to **442 learners**, for a total of **23,389 hours**. Overall, the Program logged nearly 27,000 instructional hours (FY 2009).
- For those class learners post-testing in FY09, **185**, or **75%**, **increased assessment scores**.
- Population served in FY 2009: 58% female; 39% employed, 33% not in the labor force (retired, disabled, etc); 53% between 25 & 44 years old; 30% Asian, 47% African-American.
- Cost per learner in FY 2009 was approximately \$893 (expenditures of \$508,000 for 569 enrollments<sup>3</sup>). We continue to seek sources of operating funds to keep the doors of the program open.
- Our community partners that host classes include:
  - Marian House in Better Waverly: reading, writing & math
  - Greenmount Senior Center, near Greenmount West: ESOL for Korean seniors
  - The Episcopal Immigrant and Refugee Center Alliance (ERICA), located at the Cathedral of the Incarnate: ESOL/Civics
  - The Franciscan Center, in lower Charles Village: reading, writing & math

<sup>1</sup> From the Maryland Association of Adult, Community, and Continuing Education

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau

<sup>3</sup> Some learners enrolled in more than one class during the year