

Stirring the Collaboration Cauldron

On October 22nd, Center for Literacy (CFL) hosted its second friendraiser highlighting the excellent work of our volunteer tutors. About 10 percent of our current tutors were present to learn about the different relationships people have with learners and the organization.

Throughout the evening, volunteers consumed pumpkin beer and wine with butternut squash soup, corn, pasta and deviled eggs. They talked about their motivations in life and the values that led people to become involved with an organization like CFL. One of the tutors brought her student, Yvette, who shared her story overcoming obstacles and appreciating the support she receives from her tutor. After that, participants talked about the budget impasse, how CFL can get more people involved in the mission, and the different ways to view and provide literacy.

Notable facts shared at this gathering ranged from the organization as a whole to those specific to the tutoring program. There were 100 volunteer tutors in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Of those, 60 percent made gains with their students while serving collectively over 6,000 hours! Seventeen of our volunteers have been tutoring for over three years.

For the last portion of the event, attendees carved pumpkins. Yvette was so excited to carve her first pumpkin exclaiming it had not been an option for her growing up. She was thrilled to see her masterpiece come to life!

CFL intends to plan several more friendraisers over the years to come. These events will seek out individuals who have expressed an interest in our work as well as the learners we serve. These social events can range anywhere from a BBQ with the staff to a happy hour on South Street. Stay tuned for more information as they are developed. Contact Matthew Nienas at nienas@centerforliteracy.org to ensure you are invited to the next event.

Our thanks to Eastern State Penitentiary for donating tickets for daytime tours of the prison to be incorporated into the program. A special thanks to our tutors for valuing the importance of everyone's education and for sharing their ideas at the cauldron.