



# About the Coalition

**Mission:** to improve the quality and increase the quantity of adult literacy programs through collaboration with organized adult literacy providers and community partners in Tarrant and surrounding counties.

**Vision:** to make appropriate and accessible services available to every adult who wants to become literate.

## What We Do

The Tarrant Literacy Coalition works to reverse the effects of adult low literacy. As a community, we have the opportunity to educate the **1/5th of adults in the Tarrant County area** who lack literacy skills and to lay the foundation for regional growth. Adult low literacy feeds unemployment, increases the number of families on the welfare rolls, and significantly increases the population in our correctional institutions. It also weakens an individual's ability to reach his or her goals, a family's ability to provide for its children, and can decimate an entire generation.

## Brief History

The Coalition was created because a diverse group of people in the Tarrant County area recognized that in order to address the growing need for additional literacy services, a coalition must be established to bring together the entire community. Through the leadership of the United Way, led by the efforts of Sue Matkin, the Coalition was established and a Board of Directors was recruited in early 2009. The organization received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status in March 2009.

Since that time, the Coalition has continued to grow and build the capacity of literacy programs in and around Tarrant County. As a result of the progress toward its mission, the Coalition was named a United Way agency in January 2010.

## How We Address Low Literacy

1. **Provider Support:** by assisting community and faith based literacy programs to increase the quantity of classes and the quality of services.
2. **Training:** by providing training and technical support (including books and supplies) for literacy volunteers and professionals.
3. **Partnerships:** by fostering collaboration with and between existing literacy providers and community partners to encourage improved service delivery.
4. **Workforce Readiness:** by educating literacy providers on the importance of workplace literacy as a key component of adult education in order to engage employers in literacy instruction.
5. **Advocacy:** by working to increase the awareness of the impact of low literacy on our community.
6. **Funding:** by providing financial support and resources to partner literacy programs.

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### Board of Directors

- Marilyn Ackman, *Atmos Energy*
- Sally Burt, *Community Volunteer*
- Tahita Fulkerson, Ph.D., *Tarrant County College/ Trinity River Campus*
- Daniel "Red" Goldstein, *Teak Tree Capital*
- Jill "J.R." Labbe, *The Star-Telegram*
- Linda Low, CPA, *Rylander, Clay, and Opitz*
- Jane Nober, *Community Volunteer*
- Terri Rios, *The Women's Center of Tarrant County*
- Norman Robbins, *Lockheed Martin Aeronautics*
- Daniel Scroggins, *Riverside Middle School*
- Leslie Thompson, *The Community Enrichment Center*

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