



visions 08

Acknowledgements

Mary-Helen Horne graciously provided funding for printing this year's Visions publication in memory of her student, Sylvia Fisher. We are grateful for her generosity.

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Hillsborough Literacy Council
900 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa FL 33602
813-273-3650
hillsboroughliteracy.org



essays by new adult readers and speakers of English as a second language



HILLSBOROUGH LITERACY COUNCIL

Teaching Adults to Read and to Speak English



welcome

From HLC's President

When you think about it, visions are composed of new thoughts and feelings that liberate an idea or condition that has occupied our attention for a split second or a month of days.

Our ability to describe our visions to others around us is the first step in making them a reality.

In the pages that follow you will read some of the visions our students want to share. They have worked very hard learning to read write and speak English and have taken the time to use this developing ability to write about something that is on their minds.

Take a moment to read and learn what might be important to people who have a whole new world at their disposal to express their thoughts. These first steps are only a glimpse of what their future holds.

Richard Zingale
President, Hillsborough Literacy Council



From the Library Director

As a librarian and longtime book enthusiast, I cannot imagine a skill more important than reading. Reading opens doors for all who make use of it. My sincere thanks to the Hillsborough Literacy Council, its students, dedicated tutors and Board for providing the gift of reading to citizens who seek to improve their skill. It is not an easy task but well worth the effort.

The personal and rewarding stories contained in this new edition of Visions testify to the value and long term benefit of your hard work. Congratulations.

Joe Stines, Director
Tampa-Hillsborough County Library Services



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September 2008

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An affiliate of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public
Libraries

about

The Hillsborough Literacy Council (HLC)

The Hillsborough Literacy Council is a nonprofit affiliate of Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries teaching functionally and marginally illiterate adults to read and write through its Adult Basic Literacy program. In its English for Speakers of Other Languages program, participants learn to read, write and communicate in English.

HLC accepts adults 18 and over into its program. Depending upon the student's level, learning to read can take a year or longer. HLC needs volunteer tutors and funding partners. Tutors receive training and materials and are asked to commit to one year working with their student(s). HLC memberships directly support the program by funding materials and other supplies. For more information, please contact us at: 813-372-3650 or you can also visit our website: hillsboroughliteracy.org

In order to celebrate our students' learning stages, we have not edited their essays.

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Succeeding in Life

Submitted by: Ana R. Vicente
Tutor: Hojung Chong

Hello:

My name is Ana, I was born in Puerto Rico and lived there for several years, I moved to Florida and lived here for 13 years, I have four children living with me. My eldest daughter studies in the University USF, other daughter assisted to Wharton high school at Hillsborough county and other two children who are in Benito middle school. I am studying English to help my children with there homework and my husband doctors appointment and to help me succeed in life being bilingual.

Moving Day 7-11-08

Submitted by:
Michaela Pleasant
Tutor: Michael Pleasant

I and my mom got up at 7:00 a.m. at our old apartment. We had breakfast from McDonald's. We ate bacon, egg and cheese biscuits.

Then we loaded up mom's car with pillows, blankets, clothes and other light items. Mom drove her car to our new apartment a couple of buildings away. We unloaded the things from her car into our new apartment. We made at least 20 trips to move more of our other light items.

In the afternoon, the movers came. They moved all of our heavy furniture, the washer and dryer, and many boxes.

Later, after 6:00 p.m., my dad came from work to our old apartment. He used a step-ladder and a Phillips screwdriver to remove a ceiling fan from the living room. He removed a ceiling fan from my bedroom too.

At 8:00 p.m., my mom, dad and I ate a pepperoni and mushroom pizza delivered from Pizza Hut.

Wow! We were very tired by the end of moving day but we love our new bigger apartment.



Looking Ahead

Submitted by: Victoria Gabriello
Tutor: Debbie Vomero

I am trying to look ahead, not back. I have had a very hard life, with the hurt and pain of losing people I love. I know from past experience that in the midst of life, death can come, so I carry my lost love ones with me, in my heart.

Things happen in life; some things are good and some are bad. So, I will live my life day-to-day and moment-to-moment. I am grateful for the good memories I have. So, I make sure I let people know how I feel about them.

Learning to Read

Submitted by: L. Hemingway
Tutor: Sue Miller

Learning to read is the best thing I could have done. Even though I waited until I was 58 years old, I am proud of myself. I am going to continue to do it. Reading will help me move up at my job and will help me to sing.

No one in my family knows I am learning to read, so I can surprise them one day.

L. Hemingway, Author



Exciting My Life

Submitted by: Young Sean Lee
Tutor: Sadia Ahmed

Hi! My name is Young Sean Lee. I'm from South Korea. I'm married and

I have two sons. I came here about five months ago from Korea with my sons. I can't speak English very well. So, for me, learning in the library is chance to learn English better. I really want to speak English well. I am thankful for offering this opportunity from this library.

I majored Oriental Art from university in Korea. In high school, I spent my free time drawing pictures and I think this is one of the biggest reasons that made me to Major Art in university. I think this was a useful way to spend my free time. I did was painting, drawing and coloring. I did this because I can create something beautiful. Those experiences made me as an art teacher in my 20's.

My Trip I Took

Submitted by: D.N.B.

I was so glad to see some of my friend from last years. And I mate a lot of new friend. The first night I was there it was meet and greet. One of the managers asked if I would I be a sponsor for next years. The gospel group was very

inspiring to all of us. We had a buffet. I had a chance to see Foxy Brown. Someone sent me a dozen of roses. I was there for nine day and the weather was good. I bought a lovely dress for myself it was black and gray. My godson mother gave me a 200.00 gift card. I was so happy for it. I can't wait for next years. It will be in April next years and it will be longer next years.

I Am Blessed

Submitted by: Lilibeth Carleo
Tutor: Sadia Ahmed

I am blessed because I have the most valuable and precious treasure: my kids. My little girl is 13 years old, her name is Michelle Angely and she is the best daughter that a mom could desire, she is my little angel. My baby boy is 3 years old and his name is Carlos Daniel, he is the sweetest and kindest boy of his age that you can find anywhere; they are both the reason I am blessed for.

Nowadays life is hard and complicated and frequently I have this kind of days that make me forget how blessed I am; but then come my kids and is

essays



incredible how with only a sweet glance of them I can feel happy and thankful with God for giving me those precious gifts. Michelle with her beautiful smile can make bright any dark day and Carlos Daniel can heal my soul with only one "I love you Mommy". Everyday I tried to enjoy them and spend quality time, but also I tried to teach them how to be a good person, to have principles, respect to other people, treat others like they would like be treated, to study a lot, to take care of themselves so that way they may have a better future than I did and most important how to take care of others, help other people if they can.

At this time I think I have doing very well job with my little angel Michelle,

she is sweet, respectful, clever, I feel very proud of her, I love to hear when she plays the flute it sounds like angel, She and I enjoy a lot reading together and listening music just before go to bed while we talking about what was going during the day. Between my children there is a difference of 10 years! Yes is a lot, but my boy is a gift from heaven and however he is still a little boy I am sure he will be as marvelous and clever as Michelle is right now.

So, as you see, they are the reason for my being blessed because of Michelle and Carlos Daniel.

4th of July Weekend

Submitted by:
Gloria E. Medina (Liz)
Tutor: Catalina Chen

4TH of July was a Friday. My daughter and I left the house at 7:30 a.m. My sister and her friends planned for us to meet at Yasmin's house.

I planned with my sister a menu of fried beans, scrambled eggs, cheese, and tortilla snacks. From Yasmin's house we drove to the beach.

Pedro's big, white boat has capacity for 50 people. We rode the boat to an island off Pinellas' shore where we swam, ate, and listened to music.

We were forced to stay on the boat till 10:00 p.m. on the way home because the captain ran the boat till it was out of fuel. While on the boat going home, we saw the fireworks.

I felt happy and tired when we arrived home.

Moving

Submitted by:
Angela Maria Godoy
Tutor: Catalina Chan

Last week I moved to my new house.

It is an apartment in the Beacon Island community. It's a small apartment, it has only one bedroom and one bath. My brother and my friend helped me move.

We got about 8 boxes from some stores before I moved. It was hard work because my new apartment is on the second floor. On this day, rain was forecasted for 3 p.m. So we decided to move before the rain came. My brother's

car was too small for the move; we had to make 5 trips.

The move lasted till 5:30 p.m. After that, suddenly it rained very heavily. We were hungry and went to the Chinese restaurant while it rained. Finally my daughter and I returned to our new home and we organized some more till 11 p.m.

I went to bed tired but happy.

A Little Story About Us

Submitted by: Federico Garcia and Marlene Saenz
Tutor: Allen Macchavello

We came to the United States in June 14th 2003. We came from Canada.

We lived in Canada for 6 months. We were born in Costa Rica. We have been married 16 years and we have a daughter and three grandchildren.

We came to the United States because we like the weather in Florida. We work in a delivery company. We deliver pharmaceutical supplies

What we like about Florida is the beaches and the weather and we like the people.

Our English was very bad when we came to Florida but our English is better now.

We would like to see our grandchildren grow.

Thank God for the Trip

Submitted by: Elisabeth Etchene
Tutor: Carmen Mattei

If you come from Africa and you don't know how to read, in this country you get the opportunity to learn. If others have learned, you too can do it! We are working hard to help our family back home, but once I learn how to read better I will be able to improve my family's life here and in Africa.

Thank you, America!

How My Life Has Changed

Submitted by: Maria Trujillo
Tutor: James McNeil

My husband and I decided to live with our children in America because we wanted to get a better education for our children, find a safe place to live, and have opportunities for better jobs. At this moment my life has changed. My husband came to the United States in the year 2000, and worked very hard to support his family. I stayed at home in Colombia with the children, living in a small apartment, working as a lawyer in a private law office and taking care of my children, Danny who is 19 years old, Juan who is ten years old, and Andres who is eight years old.

I came to Tampa on July 17th, 2005 with my children except my oldest, Danny who decided to live with his father in Bogota. Now I am living in a big house, working as a busser in a restaurant, and studying English.

I remember when I went to register my children for school. This day was terrible because the Principal talked to me and I did not understand half

essays

or maybe less than half of what he was saying. I just cried and felt so embarrassed that my English was so limited. At this moment I decided that it was time for me to learn to speak the language of my new country and communicate better with people.

I took an English class at the Brewster Technical Center, followed by studying Legal Administrative Specials at this school. Finding that I still could not work in a legal office because I needed to improve my second language.

I am still improving my English skills by learning through the Hillsborough Literacy Council with my tutor, Mr. James McNeil. I am so happy to have the opportunity to study under such an excellent tutor as Mr. McNeil.

Shopping

Submitted by: Marie Ipote
Tutor: Marjorie Nesman

I like to go shopping. I like to dress. I like skirts and pants. I want to be a dress maker. I want to make some dresses, and be happy about that.

I remember when I started at the library. I was happy to learn English.

I wanted to know about God and read his Bible. I am happy now because I know how to speak English and read. I thank God for my teacher. She is very nice to me. God will make her happy, and I love her.

I Try

Submitted by: Edgar Rubiano
Tutor: Sister Mary Gregoria Rush

After living in Tampa four years, learning the English language is slow for me. Watching, listening and speaking is very complex. However, with the help of instructors, teachers and friends I try. In my opinion the better way to learn is to exercise every day, with the family and community and to have a lot of time for reading out loud for one hour to get new vocabulary.



Kenny's Story

Submitted by: Kenny
Tutor: Audrey Quiniou

I am from Venezuela. My name is Kenny. I don't know English. I need English classes now. My birthday is October 19th. I have been here for a long time, and I am learning English now with Audrey.

Edina's Story

Submitted by: Edina Bautista Vidaña
Tutor: Audrey Quiniou

I am Edina. I have a son; he is 12. I have four children. Two are in Mexico. My son and one daughter are with me. I have been in the United States for nine years. I am very happy to be in the United States. I want to learn English, because I have been here for a long

time, and I did not learn English, until now with Miss Audrey.

I Am My Own Boss

Submitted by: Denis Diaz
Tutor: Stephen Langa

I am Denis Diaz.
I went to school for many years.
I am a system engineer.
I born in the Dominican Republic.
I have about 2 years in USA.
I have a pretty family.
I like the job that I make now because I am my own boss.
I have my own business. I make 4 life and I get good money.
I will try to learn English for get better life here.

They Were OK

Submitted by: Ricardo Mendieta
Tutor: Stephen Langa

I came to USA in 2001 After 9-11 I was supposed to fly on Sept.12 but all fly were stop because that were the weapon terrorist used to atack America so couldn't fly that day I was worry for my family in USA I didn't know if they were OK I try to reach them but was

very hard until finaly I contact them and I was happy because they were OK but sad for all those people have lost their family I went every day to the airport until finaly Sept 19 I fly to USA and meet my family again.

What Can I Write About?

Submitted by: Maria Pilar Campos
Tutor: Ray Guistina

I was thinking "What can I write about?" to share something about my life, then I remembered the words from my children: "You are the best mom in the world". My name is Pilar and I am the mother of two lovely children. Vanessa is a girl that is very intelligent, studies hard, she's 10 years old, loves to dance, sing, and likes to play mom. She also wants to be a pediatrician when she grows up.

My other child is named Luis. He is a wonderful boy, handsome, strong, really full of energy, and always wants to help. He is 6 years old, he loves to ride on his bike, loves to skate and both of my children practice karate every evening.

I am really lucky because I have the best mother also, she was a great role model for all of her 14 children. To be a good child and a good sister taught me how to be a good parent. I respect, admire, and love my mom with all my heart. If I can get my children to feel the same about me, I will feel like the best mother and I will have the best children in the world. Like my mother, I try not to over protect my children. I only guide them but I don't do things for them that they can do for themselves. I show them what is right and wrong. I listen to what they are telling me. I am interested in my childrens school and I participate in what happens to my kids every day. Material things don't replace the time and the love that I give them.

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A New Friend

Submitted by: Jean Hee
Tutor: Kathy O'Connell

Last December, I came from S. Korea to live in Tampa with my husband who is assigned to USCENTCOM Coalition Team at MacDill AFB. I am a housewife and have two children attending Plant HS.

I used to stay at home all day but I soon became too bored. I asked my daughter to help me find a teacher who would volunteer to teach English to me. Through the Hillsborough Literacy Council, we found Kathy who has been working with me for five months. I am also taking formal English classes so that I can pass the TOEFL and enroll in college.

For the past five months we have been meeting at the library once a week. I have learned a lot from Kathy and improved my English speaking ability. I am fortunate to have the chance to work with such a good person. My feeling to her is like my elder sister at home in S. Korea. So, while I am learning English I have also found a

new friend. I really appreciate that GOD always helps.
Thank you Kathy.

Smart and Beautiful

Submitted by: Nubia Guzman
Tutor: C. Sue Miller

My name is Nubia Guzman. I was born in Colombia many years ago. I married early. I have three grown children, 2 grandsons, 2 granddaughters and, now, one more grandchild on the way. I am very happy for my family. I am worried for them, too, because of the economy. I'm concerned because my son doesn't have a job. Hopefully, this situation will improve.

My oldest son, Alex, lives with me in Tampa. He has 2 children. His son, Isaac, is 7 years old. His daughter, Hanna, is 2 years old. Alex's wife is Karen. She was born in America, but her parents came from Israel. I wish my son would speak Spanish with Isaac and Hanna, so they can be trilingual.

My oldest daughter is Katy. She, too, lives in Tampa with us. She has a son,

Felipe. He is 10 years old. He speaks English and Spanish, too. Felipe was born in Colombia. They came to the United States 8 years ago.

My youngest daughter is Johanna. She is going to be 21 years old. She got married to Chaz when she was 18 years old. Johanna and Chaz have a daughter, Hailey, she is 1 year old. They live in Fort Myers, Florida. Johanna works in a bank. She also goes to college. She is studying nursing. I am very proud of her. Chaz's father comes from Italy. His mother is from America. Chaz has a new job. He works in a hotel, as a server. He is also trying to learn Spanish.

I love all of my grandchildren. They are all very smart and beautiful!

I came to the United States 8 years ago from Colombia. In Colombia, I worked for the Department of Defense as a Secretary, for 21 years. When I came to America, I moved to Fort Myers and started taking English classes in a community school. When I lived in Fort Myers, I worked as a server in a hotel. I moved to Tampa 5 years ago.

Thanks to my God, I found a job as a housekeeper and nanny. I work for a wonderful family. Mike and Lisa have given me and my family lots of love and support. I take care of their twins; Lili and Gianni. They are 5 years old. They are beautiful kids. They call me "Nona." I love Lili and Gianni like they are my own grandchildren.

I'm studying English at the library two days a week. I want to say, "Thank you to my God, for sending me an excellent teacher." She is very nice and patient.

Story

Submitted by: Tania Ramirez
Tutor: Paula Kuhl

My name is Tania. You can spell it like T-A-N-I-A. I'm from Cuba. I have a son and his name is Oscar. He is 12 years old, and start going to 7th grade. I'm married. My husband's name is Juan. he is an engineer. We are living in Tampa since 2006. In my neighborhood is a supermarket. There is a drugstore too. Now I start study English. because is important in my live in this country.

Me and my family are very happy here.

I Am Missing My Profession

Submitted by: Yolanda Forero
Tutor: Sister Mary Gregoria Rush

I was a lawyer in Colombia, but when I came here I dedicated my life to my family. It is very hard to bring up the children alone. The time pass and now my son and my daughter are teenagers and they don't need too much of my care.

I would like to studying for my Masters degree in law, because if I don't do it now, I might not be able to do it later. On the other side the University is very expensive, and so far and have not found financial aid to pursue this dreams. I have always been thinking about my profession, because with it I can help the people in a lot ways, like Immigration or community services, I know I can do it, and now is my time for my successful and complete my goals. I want to feel proud about my family and myself too. I hope in three years, I will be talking in front of some groups of people about my success and my dreams .

Dedication

The 2008 Edition of Visions is Dedicated to the Memory of Ann Sylvia Fisher 1962 - 2008



Sylvia Fisher contacted the Hillsborough Literacy Council in September of 2006. She had to wait 5 ½ months before she was matched with her tutor, Mary-Helen Horne. The pair worked together in the Basic program for almost one year. During that year Sylvia and Mary-Helen worked through three out of the four Laubach Way to Reading books. Sylvia was committed to her goal of reading. She wrote a moving essay for the 2007 edition of Visions about gathering her nerve to successfully read in public for the first time at her church. Sylvia received a "Student of the Year" award at the 2007 Appreciation Assembly.

Sylvia passed away suddenly in early 2008. We remember her and honor her with this year's edition of Visions.