



# Project Light

Summer 2009

Building Lasting Relationships Worldwide for 30 years through Literacy, ESL and GED One-to-One Tutoring Programs and Software

501 W. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Norfolk, VA 23501 ☎ 757-624-1764 🌐 www.projectlight.org 📧 service@projectlight.org

Summer/Fall 2009 has much promise with Learning Centers expanding, lives continuing to be transformed one-to-one. God continues to bless Project Light as we reach the 30-year milestone!

## International Outreach at Home - Testimony of a Homeschool Parent



Pictured above: Durant and Boni Kreider with their children Esperanza, Kristina, Alejandro, Diego, Catalina, and Boaz

*By Durant Kreider, Parent and Pastor of Coastlands Community Church*

Learning English can be a very daunting and sometimes intimidating task for children who are adopted from foreign countries. My wife and I have adopted six precious children from Bogota, Colombia, who needed to learn English in order to live here in their new country. Since neither of us spoke Spanish, we were not able to bridge the language barrier ourselves so we turned to our friends at Project Light for help. In just a few days the team from Project Light had a computer up and running and the New Life Bibles waiting for our children to learn how to read. In 2005 we began using the Project Light system to tutor our first four children (then ages 10,8,6,5) so they would be prepared for entrance into the mainstream school. The system really works and the steady progression is just what they needed as ESL students. In just 6 months of using Project Light as our primary reading software, they were all able to enter school at their appropriate grade level. Shortly after this they started reading their New Life Bibles and all six of them have invited Jesus into their hearts to forgive their sins. We currently are using



Project Light with our 12 year old son who was adopted in 2007. He also reads and journals daily from the New Life Bible as he continues to expand his vocabulary through the Project Light stories on the computer. Our family has been very blessed by the ministry and people of Project Light and we appreciate the "can do" attitude exhibited by the staff and leaders of Project Light as they have worked with our family's unique learning situation. Thank you all!

## Project Light's Website Expanded with an Accountability, Excellence and Sustainability Resource Center for existing Project Light Learning Centers!

With support from the **Virginian-Pilot** and other **Project Light donors**, Project Light has spent significant time understanding and evaluating the needs of Learning Centers to support them as they seek to expand and operate in Accountability, Excellence and Sustainability. Project Light met with several local Learning Centers and their pastors such as the **Life Enrichment Center in Norfolk**, **New Dimension Learning Center in Norfolk**, **Ocean View Baptist Church Learning Center in Norfolk**, **Providence Presbyterian Church Learning Center in Virginia Beach**, **Sanctuary of Hope Learning Center in Portsmouth**, **Try Life Learning Center at Temple Baptist Church in Norfolk**, **Urban Discovery Ministries/Urban Community Church Learning Center of Norfolk**, and **Zion Baptist Church Learning Center of Portsmouth**. They all were interested in Premier Partner opportunities and expansion, and provided valuable feedback of various resource needs. The biggest need was for more tutors!!! After meeting with these Centers, Project Light developed a Resource Center for Learning Centers on our website, where they now have access to the information we have pulled together on funding sources, tutor recruiting and various forms. All Learning Center Directors can click on "Center Resources" on the home page to get these resources. The new portal is located at [www.projectlight.org](http://www.projectlight.org) and click on "Center Resources".



## Project Light Software has been upgraded and is now compatible with Microsoft's latest operating system Vista!

We are excited to announce the release of a new application in **the Project Light Software** that makes it compatible with **Microsoft Windows Vista** version. Project Light has a CD version which not only operates on Microsoft Vista, but also operates on Microsoft Windows XP and Windows 98. Project Light also has an **Internet version** of its Zero-To-Five software in testing which is operating system independent (meaning it can operate on **Linux** and **Mac**). For information on the new release, please contact Jim Harrison, Director of Outreach at Project Light at 757-624-1764 or e-mail [service@projectlight.org](mailto:service@projectlight.org).

## Join us in Celebrating our 30 year Anniversary!

This year, Project Light is celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was in 1979 that **Project Light Founder Jim Crawford** and his wife **Maria** established the non-profit organization that we know today as "Project Light" to reach individuals in need around the world so they could learn to read the Bible. Many churches, ministries, and individuals partnered with Project Light over the years to establish several hundred Learning Centers. Thousands have learned to read, learned ESL or obtained their GED. And lives have been radically transformed as many have come to discover a loving God through knowing Jesus personally. Stay tuned for more upcoming events related to our **30-year anniversary!**

## Project Light Partners with Opportunity Inc. Supporting Work Readiness for Youth

Project Light has partnered with Opportunity Inc. to facilitate Youth Employment and Success ("YES"). The YES Program works with high school youth throughout the school year with classroom training in workforce development, and then places them in local companies and non-profits where they work and gain experience during the summer. This Program has been designed to decrease the drop out rate among high school youth by providing youth with valuable workplace readiness skills. Project Light was provided two local high school students to help us with graphics arts and administrative work for 35 hours per week for 8 weeks. The youth are paid through a Federal Grant through Opportunity Inc. Project Light is appreciative of these valuable resources!

## Google Inc. Matching Grant

Project Light is pleased to announce that it received a matching grant from **Google!** The match plus an individual donation totaled **\$8,000**.

Special thanks to a **private donor** for giving the funds that allowed for the matching grant!

If your business offers matching grants, please consider contributing to Project Light.

## Project Light Goes to Washington

Project Light's **President Sherri Crawford** was invited to speak by the **White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives** for our work in reaching the English As a Second Language (ESL) immigrant population in Learning Centers throughout the U.S.

Sherri was asked to be a panelist and was honored with the opportunity to share with government officials and the public and private sector about our efforts in ESL outreach. Project Light was quoted in World Magazine. The article can be found at [www.projectlight.org/news/press.html](http://www.projectlight.org/news/press.html)

## Fundraising News

Project Light is a part of the **United Way Network**. If your business is partnered with United Way, just let your office know that you would like to designate your gifts to Project Light! You can also check us out at [www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com) which is a website dedicated to connecting people with non-profit organizations. From there, you can see information about Project Light and even make online donations!

## Volunteers and Supporters

Project Light will be participating again this year in the **Rock'n'Roll Half Marathon** in Virginia Beach, VA. Last year was a significant fund-raising event for our organization.

The half marathon is set to take place on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you are a runner and would like to participate to help Project Light raise funds, or if you would like to support our runners, please contact Jim Harrison at (757) 624-1764.

*"With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise His holy name! With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind He has been." Psalm 103: 1-2*

Tax Deductible Gifts may be sent to Project Light – PO Box 508 Norfolk, VA 23501

# Learning Center Corner

## A Story of Perseverance- Ocean View Baptist Church Learning Center in Norfolk, VA

By Anne Madsen, Learning Center Director



Our center began as a vision of Mary Lou Roode, the Director of our Women’s Missionary Union. At the time, the church budget had no funds to establish such a project, so she and our pastor, Jim McLendon, prayed about it which resulted in a donation from a church member. The monies were sufficient to purchase the software and licensing, as well as the initial training. We were fortunate to already have a computer lab in the church which was used by the students in our Academy. Mary Lou and I attended the training at Project Light. Eagerly, we began our work! We trained tutors and devised student flyers in both English and Spanish to be distributed in neighborhoods and schools. The need for the program throughout the community was apparent, however, no students came. We prayed and wondered what we were doing wrong. My lesson in all of this was that God’s timing and my timing are not the same. He knows immeasurably more than I and knew what was coming down the pike for us. Shortly after our training, Mary Lou’s husband suffered a long session of bad health that required much care. Every tutor we trained had critical health issues and had to drop out of the program. My elderly mother also took a sharp decline in health. It was very difficult to devote the time it takes to grow a Learning Center. However, I stepped in as the Learning Center Director. One day I received a call from a young man from Ghana, Africa. He was eager to

learn. I immediately took him on as a student. He has been with us for quite some time now. Soon, the students starting coming at such a rate that I was concerned about finding enough tutors. We do not need to advertise, anymore. As each student came, a tutor from our church appeared. I trained each one and set him/her to work. Our pastor insisted that the tutors be members of our church since this was a church ministry. I wondered if we would ever get enough tutors from our congregation, but God has met the need.

We offer tutoring when the student is available. Four student/tutor teams come during the day and ten teams come two evenings a week. We have found that there is much support for each other in these larger gatherings. The students have gotten to know each other and even help with giving rides home when needed. They are all so eager to be there and to learn.

We now have three African students from Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger. Two of them are Muslim. One of the Muslim students is eager to learn about Jesus.

We have a student from Korea and a student from Burma is expecting to begin classes very soon. Our Vietnamese student is now working in another city, so we are praying to be able to work out a schedule that fits everyone.

We now have two literacy students, and even though they have reached middle age, they have not given up their dream to be able to read. Gregory’s biggest dream is to be able to read Scripture in his church. The other literacy student is the brother of one of our tutors. With one-on-one tutoring, each is progressing.

You can see that our center is now flourishing. God continues to provide and we continue to pray and work. This ministry has brought light into the lives of the students as well as the tutors. We are passionate about this program. We have learned to depend on God to provide. He is truly good!

## Learning Centers Are Growing & Expanding!

**Providence Presbyterian Church Learning Center** in Virginia Beach, Virginia has been operating for over **9 years** using the Project Light software and has been working with the **BLS TutorSystems** GED software to supplement work for its students. It now will be expanding its **GED offering through BLS using the Internet**. Sandra Rushton, the Learning Center’s Director is excited to get students started on the Internet version of BLS TutorSystems GED software because of its increased capabilities. Students can now work from home as well!

Several Learning Centers around the U.S. integrate the BLS TutorSystems GED software in their already successful programs using Project Light.

Project Light’s comprehensive program takes a non-reader up to a fifth reading grade level. This fits perfectly with BLS TutorSystems program, which takes them to getting their high school diploma! Project Light is in partnership with BLS TutorSystems and is an authorized distributor of their CD and Internet programs.

**UDM/UCCON Learning Center** located in **Park Place** in Norfolk, VA offers adult GED classes during the school year and offers summer reading camps for children. This Center has been **operating for over 16 years**. **Learning Center Director Kerry Ann Sylvester** (who is a former student) oversees the program. This year 35 students were training to get their GED. They have served over 500 people since the Learning Center started!

**Open Heart Ministries Learning Center in Lancaster, PA** has decided to expand and in addition to offering literacy classes using Project Light literacy software, it will offer GED software in partnership with Project Light which is available over the Internet. Learning Center Director, **Marilyn Rodriguez** is eager to begin. Other Project Light Learning Centers that offer GED software in partnership with Project Light are **Fill My Cup Learning Center** located in **Charlotte, NC**, **Love Baptist Church Learning Center** located in **Phoenix, AZ**, **A Second Beginning Learning Center** located in **Dumas, Texas**, **Learning by Faith Learning Center** located in **Anniston, Alabama**, and **Riverchase UMC Learning and Training Center** located in **Birmingham, AL**.

Other noteworthy Learning Center expansions are **The Life Enrichment Center (LEC)**. In addition to **servng at Richard Bowling Elementary School** in Norfolk, Virginia, they are now expanding the Project Light program into **Jacox Elementary** and **Covenant Place**. The LEC has served 140 students since they started with Project Light at the end of 2004, including a few adult literacy students each year!

To learn more about the GED program Project Light offers, please contact **Jim Harrison, Project Light Outreach Director** at (757) 624-1764.



### A note from our President

**Project Light** is an exciting place to serve. It provides folks the opportunity to reach others in need by teaching students to read and allowing for that one-tutor to one-student relationship. God is a God of Relationship, Grace and Love. We are honored that He allowed us to develop and provide a Tool that empowers others to share the gift of reading, education and a relationship with God. I thank all the **Project Light Learning Centers** who tirelessly serve to reach others in need!

**Sherri Crawford, Project Light President**

Please Tear Here and Return to Project Light

I will Pray for Project Light	<input type="checkbox"/>	Update me by E-Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to donate a one-time gift of
As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving	\$ _____	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
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