

PALMETTO LITERACY COUNCIL

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY THROUGH LITERACY



A Message From The Director

Hello everyone!

It was a HOT August! We had a lot going on at PLC! We celebrated our 5-Year Anniversary and we moved! Yes, our office is no longer in Surfside Beach! Attorney Dan Selwa and Realtor Jolene Selwa expanded their offices into our old address! We wish them the best and a big congratulations!

Our new address: **1435 Cannon Road, #101, Myrtle Beach SC 29577**
([Click here](#) for a Google Map of this address)



Our 5th Anniversary!

Our 5th Anniversary was a huge success! Thanks to the team, Bonnie Kelley, Sue Walters, Polly Putorti, Joanne Cherry, Chris from Longhorn's, and everyone else who helped!



The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce was impressed with our turnout! Thank you to our speakers Ms. Tory Mackey, Executive Director of the Chapin Foundation, and Dr. Preston McKeever-Floyd, Chair of the Board of Directors for Palmetto Literacy Council. I want to thank the committee for the beautiful corsage and flowers. Bennett, our grandson, had a blast hanging out with all the volunteers who attended the event.

Our BIG MOVE!

A huge thank you to Miller-Motte College who donated thousands of dollars of furniture for our new location! Oh my! It is gorgeous! Thanks to Dublin Construction, and to Jeff O'Brien who made repairs, painted, put in new doors, faucets, and lights, installed a new water heater, and repaired drywall. This was all completed in 10 days! Yarborough Moving picked up and delivered the Miller-Motte furniture on Friday, August 23, and then picked up and delivered the Surfside Beach office boxes and furniture on Saturday, August 24.



We have had quite a crew helping with packing the week of August 19-23 and then unpacking, cleaning, and organizing the next week! We have been without internet and phones since Thursday, August 22. HTC installed phones and the internet on August 29. Whoohoo!



I want you to know how much we appreciate all you do! PLC is growing rapidly because of your positive messages and interactions with our students, families, and the community! Keep smiling and laughing!

Stay safe and healthy!

Dodi

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”***

Dr. Seuss (American children’s author, political cartoonist, illustrator, poet, animator, and filmmaker)

Our Kids Are Making Progress!



With her sweet smile, **Caroline Parks** holds her first certificate for completing a section of her Smart Steps binder. The binder represents a school year's curriculum in reading. Caroline's tutor, Kim Reischling, says that Caroline is a pleasure to teach. "At every lesson, Caroline brings a sunny smile and enthusiasm. She also has a wonderful sense of humor. There's laughter in every tutoring session. Caroline is tutored at the Surfside Library.



Julia Smith has completed *Passages to Comprehensive, Level 3*. Her tutor is Marie Woodward. They meet at the North Myrtle Beach Library.



Nathalia Capuzzi shows her certificate for achieving Smart Steps Reading Grade One Level, Section One. Her tutor is Katie Minehan.

Donations

We are a nonprofit 501c3 and we operate from the grants and donations we receive from our community. We have been open for 5 years on August 1, 2024. Thank you to all who have donated to our organization. Your donations have provided materials for our Volunteer Tutors to use and helped our students learn!

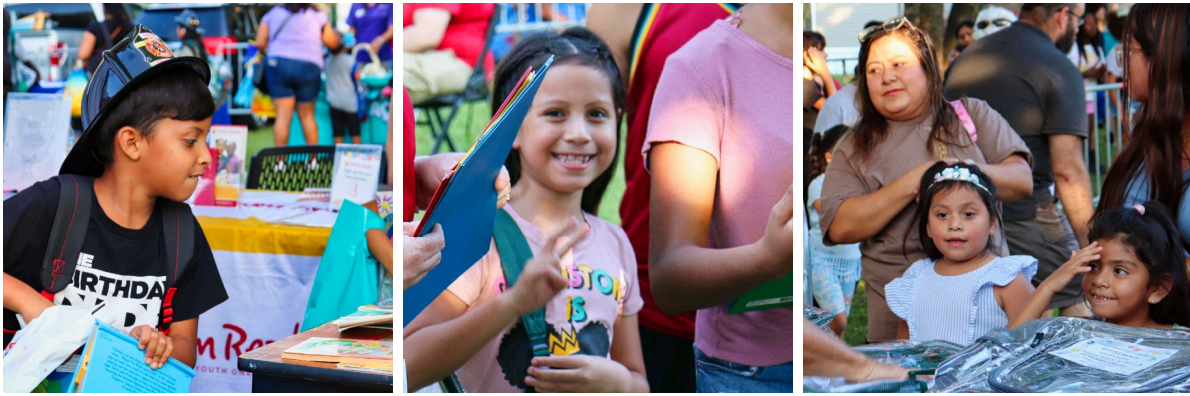
Due to our growth, we need funding to purchase computers, and desks, and to move to a larger office space. If you can, we would appreciate any help you could give us to continue to provide Horry County with high-quality, free tutoring. We are grateful for any donations. You can donate on the PLC website by [clicking here](#), or by clicking on the **Walmart Spark Good** website below.



We are registered for the Walmart SparkGood donation hub. Donors can purchase gift cards or other items we have listed to donate to our organization. This is the donation link on the Walmart website:

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/RR/36fa7082-9cde-489a-a5e8-4d31844ea9a1>

Back to School Events



We participated in three Back To School events. We gave away pencils, pens, candy, and bookmarks and enjoyed seeing all of the families. Thank you to the Volunteers who “manned” those events. We now have 67 students being tutored, 33 on the waitlist, and 72 potential students to be screened and paired.

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”

Stephen King (American author of horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, crime, science-fiction, and fantasy novels)

Our Kids Are Making Progress!



Kelsey Smith has completed her reading binder. Kelsey enjoys reading about nature and the outdoors. She is excited to move on to the next binder.

Volunteers

Want to give back to your community? It only takes 2 hours each week to tutor a child or adult who struggles with basic reading, writing, or math. We provide materials and training which are designed to meet the individual student’s needs. We also provide training and opportunities to learn from other tutors (Tutor Talks).

If you can help, please attend one of our **Volunteer Orientation and Training** sessions or give the office a call (843) 945-9278. You can check when the Volunteer Orientation and Training sessions are scheduled on our [Calendar](#) on our website. We welcome you to bring friends to these sessions.

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”

Walt Disney (American entrepreneur, animator, writer, voice actor and film producer.)

The Palmetto Literacy Council Goes Mobile



For the Palmetto Literacy Council, that means packing some supplies (including candy for the kids) and bringing to the community the opportunity to sign up your students for free tutoring in reading, writing or math. If your students don't need services, please consider becoming a volunteer.

It only takes a two-hour weekly commitment (two one-hour sessions per week) to help raise the literacy rates in Horry County and possibly change your life – and the life of the child you are paired with. PLC is desperately seeking volunteers – there are several children on a waiting list.

PLC has named this effort, “The Palmetto Literacy Council Traveling Show.” This title is sung to the tune of that old Neil Diamond song, “Brother Love’s Travelling Show. You can Google it if you’re unfamiliar with the song – it’s almost guaranteed to remain in your head. You might have to change a few syllables to replace Brother Love with PLC.

Humor aside, PLC’s goal is to reach as many people as possible. Thus far we’ve been to most Horry County libraries. This just a way to make it easier for you to learn about our services. PLC will travel to your business, your community and your service organization. For example, veterans organizations. We think that men and women who have served our country would make wonderful tutors.

On Thursday, September 12, a few PLC volunteers will be at the Chapin Memorial Library from about 9:35 AM to noon. Please consider visiting. We’ll post upcoming visits on the PLC Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/palmettoliteracy>.

For more information or location ideas call (337) 424-9724.

Chapin Memorial Library Goes “Wheels Up”

The love of reading is a priceless gift a parent or caregiver can give a child. It’s a gift that can last a lifetime, but it needs encouragement and guidance to flourish and grow. A book can take a child to faraway places. A book can introduce a child to magical kingdoms and fire-breathing dragons. A book can take a little girl to a land of unicorns and rainbows where pink-cloaked fairies sprinkle pixie dust to spread the love of literature. To paraphrase Theodore Geissel, also known as Dr. Seuss, “Oh the places you’ll go.”

But statistics are frightening. Only 32 percent of the U.S. reads books for pleasure, and 60 percent of U.S. public school students read below grade level.



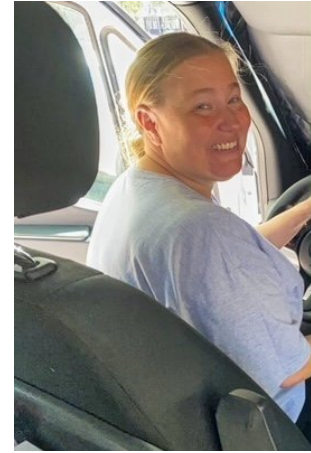


What can a parent do to ensure their child doesn't become one of those statistics, especially when resources may be limited?

It's simple. Let the books come to you on the Chapin Mobile Library. The Mobile Library is a library on wheels that will make regularly scheduled stops throughout various locations inside the city limits of Myrtle Beach.

The Mobile Library provides patrons with many of the services you would find at the main library — browse the shelves, pick up holds, join community events, participate in activities, get help with the digital library collection, and much more.

Jerilynn Derhammer drives the book mobile and serves as its “librarian at large.” She is passionate about increasing the community’s access to books. “The book mobile is for ages zero to a million,” she said laughingly. Also responsible for the idea and execution of the book mobile is Jennifer Nassar, Chapin Library director, and the Chapin Foundation, a group dedicated to improving the lives of the people of Myrtle Beach.



Services offered by the Mobile Library include:

- Get a library card
- Check out books, audiobooks, and movies for all ages
- Request and pick up holds placed online or in person
- Return items originally borrowed from the main library
- Access to free Wi-Fi
- Assistance with digital library resources

All materials have a 30-day loan period. There are no late fees on materials checked out from the mobile library. Fees do apply for lost or damaged materials.

As a special incentive, Jerilynn said, random children’s books may contain a “Golden Ticket. Children who have a golden ticket in their book get a prize,” she said. (That sounds like something out of the movie, “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory). “We don’t leave out the adults either. They may find a “staff pics” ticket in their chosen book. And if for some reason a patron doesn’t yet have a library card, we keep several bins of free books on the Book Mobile. We also accept book donations,” she said.



“I am so excited about the Book Mobile, but its success is going to take the help of everyone in the community. Unfortunately, two of our routes were cancelled due to lack of participation. That hurt my heart, Jerilynn said.

“I’m a people person and I enjoy talking with members of the community and listening to the ideas they have about the services offered by the Book Mobile.”

The Mobile Library stops at places like the YMCA rec centers. The full list of stops can be found at the Chapin Memorial Library web site at <https://www.chapinlibrary.org/mobile-library>. On the site you can request a stop or just talk to Jerilynn when you visit the Book Mobile to check out a book.

Other ways to contact the library:

Main: 843-918-1277 Cell: 843-685-3688

Email: otg@chapinlibrary.org

Jerilynn stressed that the Book Mobile costs nothing – it’s just an extension of the larger library. “We want to emphasize that people shouldn’t hesitate about checking out the Mobile Library. We’re not selling anything.”

Rather, the Mobile Library – any library – aims to give you and your children the ability to reduce stress, improve concentration, creativity and so much more: An infinite number of doors to open and new worlds to explore.

“If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”

J.K. Rowling (Joanne Rowling) CH, OBE (British author and philanthropist – Harry Potter Fame)

The Spoken Word

The spoken word...how often do we take for granted our ability to use our voices? We delight our parents with those first baby words. We learn to fight with our siblings using harsh words and unkind cuts in a sort of contest – the most cruel comment gets the prize. We tell our families we love them, sometimes automatically, when we leave our homes. We sing in the shower, lifting our voices in song, belting out those show tunes, even if they’re off-key.

The words we use are precious. With spoken words we can share a story; we can whisper words of endearment in our lovers’ ears. We use words to express who we are and what we stand for. What a marvelous gift that is! With our words we can offer feedback to others – or share with them something they will never forget. Our words and how we use them are what makes us different than any other animal on earth.



Jennifer Wingerter, PLC Tutor

But what would you do if you were robbed of your voice; if you could no longer express yourself, if the timbre and tone of your voice was silenced, except in your own frightened mind?

You do what Palmetto Literacy Council volunteer **Jennifer Wingerter** did. You fight.

While watching a football game with her husband, Cliff, Jennifer said the left side of her body went numb. “I couldn’t speak,” she said. Cliff picked me up and we drove to the hospital.”

Jennifer said that she was terrified. “In my head I was aware, but I was trapped in my mind,” she said. Trapped in her mind with no voice – what an absolutely terrifying feeling that must have been.

Myriad medical tests ensued. “I was so scared, but the tests revealed nothing.” Jennifer was given a clot-busting medication. After a five-day stay in the hospital, doctors told her that her stroke was “probably caused” by a blocked carotid artery. Jennifer considered herself “blessed.” ‘Except for being unable to talk, I was fine physically. There was no paralysis.’

Jennifer’s daughter, Stephanie, quit her job to care for her mom. “I felt comforted that she was with me. We’ve always been close, but the stroke brought us even closer.

“I couldn’t do much of anything – even lifting a spoon to my mouth was difficult. I used a mirror to watch myself say vowels and consonants over and over again,” she said. Communication between Jennifer and her loved ones took place with pen and paper.

“I felt frustrated. I knew what I wanted to say, but what I wanted, and the reality of my condition were two different things.” Jennifer also felt depressed as would anyone giving up a

much-loved profession: teaching. “I taught elementary school for more than 30 years. I loved being a teacher. Giving that up was very painful.”

Add to that fact was the frustration Jennifer felt while trying to get her mouth to mirror what was in her mind. She graduated from voicing consonants and vowels to three-word sentences. Next came flashcards, then more critical comprehension words and concepts. It took Jennifer almost three years of speech therapy – three times a week.

“Eventually words like ‘water’ came back to me, but it was a slow and gradual process,” she said.

In 2022, Jennifer suffered her second stroke. “It felt like an out-of-body experience as if I was looking down upon myself, but I wasn’t afraid. I had an angel with me.”

Again, after a gamut of tests, doctors could find no cause for Jennifer’s stroke. “My speech was somewhat impacted, but I was only in the hospital for two days. Within a week I felt fine physically. I did have a lot of fear, just waiting for the other shoe to drop. Doctors diagnosed me with post-traumatic stress disorder. I was afraid to be alone, afraid I’d have another stroke, and my nightmares reflected those fears.”

In 2023, Jennifer suffered yet another stroke --a “mini-stroke.” “I was at home in bed, and I had the worst headache I had ever experienced. This time an ambulance came to the house and brought me to Grand Strand Hospital.” Again, there was no apparent reason for her stroke.

Jennifer has learned to take each day as it comes. “I live moment to moment and try to enjoy each of those moments.”

Jennifer feels she was saved from her strokes for a reason. “I don’t know the reason. My faith is important to me, so that, along with Cliff and Stephanie, kept me going.

With life-changing events come changes to a person’s psyche. Where once she was extroverted Jennifer is now much quieter. She also worries about her speech—that those little slips will cause others to judge her. She was fearful that she was no longer “good enough” when the idea to tutor was brought up by a friend. That fear has gone unfounded because the children she tutors through PLC don’t judge – they accept her unstintingly.

Jennifer has a voice now, and she uses it well. It’s loud and clear and rings with the conviction that she is good enough. She uses her voice to volunteer at the school where she once taught: Burgess Elementary.

And she uses that wonderful voice to tutor not one, but two children from the Palmetto Literacy Council.

And best – and most important of all – Jennifer uses her voice to tell her husband and daughter she loves them. Always.

Speaking Engagements

If you have a service organization and need speakers, we would be happy to provide your organization with information about the Palmetto Literacy Council. Contact us here:

Email: info@palmettoliteracy.org

Office Phone: [\(843\) 945-9278](tel:(843)945-9278)

“The man who does not read good books is no better than the man who can’t.”

Mark Twain (American writer, humorist, entrepreneur, publisher, and lecturer)

2025 Golf Scramble Announcement!



At our 2024 golf scramble, one of Kenny's foursome won the Grand Dunes free golf raffle. They enjoyed their free game! Left to Right: Rich, Ed, Kenny, & Paul.

The **2025 PLC Golf Scramble** will take place at **Shaftesbury Glen Golf & Fish Club on June 14**. Much more information will be coming over the next few months.

Dates to Note

You can always check the Calendar on the PLC website. [Click Here](#). These events (except the Spelling Bee) take place at the office, **1435 Cannon Road, #101, Myrtle Beach SC**.

Volunteer Orientation and Training

- Tuesday, September 10, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Monday, September 23, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 9, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 22, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Tutor Talks

Tutors share ideas, ask for ideas, and get to know each other! Light refreshments.

- Tuesday, September 24, 6 pm
- Friday, September 27, 10 am
- Friday, October 25, 10 am
- Monday, October 28, 6 pm

Always a lot to learn and you get to meet fellow Tutors!

1st Annual Adult Team Spelling Bee

When: Saturday, November 2, 2024, 7:00 pm

Where: St Michael's Catholic School Duffy Center

This event is for adults only and adult beverages will be available (cash bar). Teams are up to four (4) members (\$250/team) and you are competing for the honor of being the Champion Spellers of Horry County. There will be raffles, 50/50, a silent auction, and so much more fun.

2025 Golf Scramble at Shaftesbury Glen

June 14, 2025

This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. June seems like a long way off, but the organizing committee will be meeting soon to start planning.

Our Mission:

The Palmetto Literacy Council's mission is to improve the literacy of youth and adults in our community by tutoring literacy skills for those who struggle with basic Reading, Writing and/or Math.

Donate Now!

If you've read this far, you're obviously interested in what we do. Your donation helps pay for student binders, office space, copy machines, paper, and much more. Please donate what you can today!

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

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