



Althea Notson

Fashion was a large part of Althea Notson's life. After graduating from college, she was hired by the owner of Balliet's in Oklahoma City. During her nearly 50-year tenure at the fashion specialty store, Miss Notson worked as a couture buyer and was the store's general manager when she retired in 1990. A community volunteer and a communicant at St. John's Episcopal Church, Miss Notson was charitably minded. Through a bequest in her will, she established an advised fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation in 1997 and named two close friends as advisors. She further instructed that once her friends were no longer available to serve as advisors, the fund should be used at the Trustees' discretion to support the community. Ten years following her death, Althea Notson continues to show that giving is always in fashion.



Literacy with Lunch

"If every time I come here I learn one word, two word[s], it's better," says Mwaura, a 60-year-old custodial worker at Oklahoma Christian University who is taking part in a free literacy class for non-English speaking employees. "Practice makes perfect," he adds.

Thanks to a grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's Literacy Is For Everyone (LIFE) program, the university was able to start its Literacy Lunches program in 2006. Coordinated through the school's Language and Literature Department, the program trains students and community volunteers to teach English in small class settings several times a week. Initially started as an on-campus program, it is expanding its outreach to include employees of several area businesses and nonprofit organizations, that allow staff members to attend the hour-long classes during the workday.

Great Grants

In 2006, the Trustees established the LIFE Initiative to assist organizations provide opportunities for all children and adults in central Oklahoma to read, write and speak English at a functional level. Programs like Literacy Lunches are making a difference for people like Maria, a 45-year-old school employee who depended upon her children to teach her English. "For 21 years I lived here and never was in class," she says. "I never understood [English]. Now I've been in class for six months."

LIFE activities are possible thanks to the many donors who have made unrestricted gifts to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. These gifts allow the Trustees to respond to our community's needs and address issues such as literacy. If you are interested in helping your community, please contact us at 405/235-5603.



Helping Our Community

Through a Great Grant.

Nearly 150,000 adults in central Oklahoma are illiterate. To address this issue, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and its LIFE Initiative is working with area organizations to strengthen their ability to meet this need. The Oklahoma Christian University's Literacy Lunches program illustrates a step in the right direction to helping adults gain skills that allow them to become self sufficient and improves the quality of life for them and their families.

Thanks to thousands of donors such as Althea Notson, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is making a difference in our community and we all benefit. We make charitable giving simple, flexible and forever. For more information on how we can help you make a difference, please visit www.occf.org or call us at 405/235-5603.



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