

Get Reading Oklahoma: Helping adults “learn to earn”

Shawn is married and the mother of two. The Edmond resident works but wants to apply for a better-paying job so she can contribute more to her family's income. There is one thing holding her back: Shawn is one of more than 460,000 Oklahoma adults without a high school diploma.

To remedy this hurdle, Shawn is studying for the GED exam and is utilizing GED Connection, a 39-episode TV series that is part of Get Reading Oklahoma, the adult literacy project of the

Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Through Get Reading Oklahoma, adults across the state are able to access free programming to help them strengthen their literacy skills or prepare for the GED exam.

Get Reading Oklahoma also offers TV411, a 30-episode series that uses every day situations such as filling out job applications, writing letters and understanding recipes as opportunities to learn. Both GED Connection and TV411 episodes are 30 minutes in length and are available to view online at

www.getreadingoklahoma.org; via Cox Cable's On Demand FreeZone Channel 1, Cox Cable Channel 18 and OETA Okla channel. For a second year, OETA is broadcasting the episodes between 10 a.m. and 12 noon each weekday

during June and July. Cox is also providing a toll-free telephone line through which callers can find out more about literacy service providers in their communities. The number is 1-888-652-7323.

“An important advantage with Get Reading Oklahoma is that it is accessible and free to anyone like Shawn who wants to improve themselves,” says Nancy B. Anthony, executive director of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. “Someone can watch the programs in the privacy of their home at a time that is convenient for them. No transportation is required and they don't have to worry about childcare, two obstacles that often keep adults from seeking assistance.”

In addition to the television broadcasts, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries has provided DVDs of both series and workbooks to more than 80 literacy programs across the state.

“It is our hope that we're not only bringing the serious issue of adult literacy to the public's attention but also making a difference in people's lives and the lives of their families,” Anthony adds. “The more Oklahomans who can read and function at a proficient level the better the future for our state.”

For more information on Get Reading Oklahoma, please visit www.getreadingoklahoma.org or call Mary Surbeck at 405/606-2917.





Helping Our Community

Through a Great Grant.

More than 460,000 Oklahomans age 18 or older do not have their high school diploma.

Children of parents who are unemployed or did not complete high school are five times more likely to drop out than children of employed parents.

Low literacy results in higher hospitalization rates as well as medication and treatment errors that lead to an estimated \$73 billion each year in unnecessary health care expenses across the country.

Twenty-five percent of high school dropouts receive public assistance compared to only 10 percent of high school graduates.

Adult literacy affects us all. In 2009, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation teamed with OETA and Cox Communications to provide access to free television programming for adults seeking to improve their reading, writing and math skills or preparing to take the GED exam. Get Reading Oklahoma is funded by a Great Grant from the Literacy Is For Everyone (LIFE) Initiative.

Find out more about Get Reading Oklahoma and the broadcast schedule at www.getreadingoklahoma.org or call Mary Surbeck at 405/606-2917.



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