

Learn About...

Goodwill Literacy Initiative Program

What is the Program?

Goodwill Literacy Initiative (GLI) helps people meet their individualized goals of obtaining work, moving into post-secondary education, or earning a GED® through career pathway classes. GLI has expanded this year to offer classes at seven sites within Allegheny County, as well as a site in Fayette County. Instruction is offered in the medical or trades fields, customer service, or career exploration for those who are unsure of their next steps.

Who Does the Program Serve?

GLI serves individuals from the community who wish to hone their academic skills for a job, to enter post-secondary education, or to earn their GED®. Classes are broken down by career interest and ability level so learners can work with those of similar interest and ability.

How Does the Program Benefit Participants and the Community?

GLI provides holistic services to assist learners reach their goals. The program offers a range of classes to help learners achieve their goals; beginning literacy, high adult secondary, ESL, and medical pathways. Case management services are provided to help learners overcome their barriers to success.

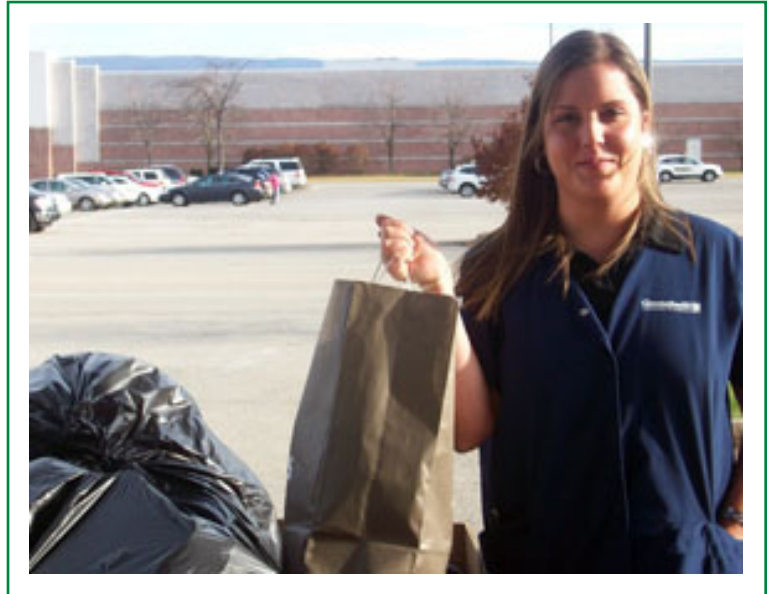
A Personal Story:

Jennifer was a 29-year-old woman from Fayette County who was unable to complete her high school education. Since her teen-age years, she went from job to job, not holding down a steady position for any great length of time.

But when Jennifer found full-time work at the Goodwill store in Uniontown, things began to turn around.

In October of 2011, Jennifer received her GED with the help of Goodwill personnel at the Uniontown store, and the GLI program with Goodwill. While working at Goodwill, Jennifer saw a flyer about the GED classes and exam. She passed the GED exam on the first try!

Jennifer has been at the Uniontown store for two years, and, after earning her GED, she was promoted to cashier and lead supervisor.



Special Program Accomplishments:

GLI reached a significant milestone in October, 25 years of providing adult literacy services. GLI started as Pittsburgh Literacy Initiative (PLI) in 1986 with funds from city council, the first council in the country to do so. PLI facilitated relationships between students, service providers, employers, and social services and provided workplace literacy, assessment, and supportive services, much like the model in place today.