

What People Have Said About Mission: Literacy

Carla Brandt

Director, The Salvation Army of Kalispell, MT

Mission: Literacy is a really good program, and we have had parents that were really happy with how well their children did in school after going through the lessons!

Taylor Santos

Corps Officer, The Salvation Army of Madolenihmw, HI

Before only a few kids could read and now most of them can read about a paragraph. Mission: Literacy is very good material and a good fit for our kids at the Madolenihmw Corps because English is very slow here. Thank you for the materials, and God bless you all and the ministry you are doing.

Captain Rutendo Masango Corps Officer & Tutor

The Salvation Army of El Cajon, CA

There are 4 new kids joining us. One has moved up, his name is Xavier. He really amazed me. Last year he had tested very low, and this year when I did his post test, he read all the way to number 26! I was very proud of him.....I love and believe in Mission: Literacy!

Major Sybil Smith

Anchorage Corps Community Center Officer

We have a wonderful staff that has seen the value in this program. They have done a great job implementing Mission: Literacy with our kids. We are very appreciative for our great staff and such a helpful program. Thank you for all you do to promote not just excellent reading skills but the message of God's presence and love!

Alexandria Delgado, Tutor, Los Angeles Central Community Center

We use Mission Literacy which the children love to read. I have gotten back very good results from parents that their children have improved their grades and are doing a lot better in school. I as well love the part while I am helping them learn to read I get a chance to tell them about Jesus through those books.

Lt Minnie Cleveland

Corps Officer at The Salvation Army of Pittsburgh PA.*Our Mission: Literacy program is enhanced with the addition of a Healthy Eating Program and a Fine Arts Program. The design is educational – to help children sharpen their minds through reading, strengthen their bodies through good eating habits and allow them to express themselves through fine arts.*

Ruth Thomas

Director of the After School Program at The Salvation Army of Waxahachie, TX

Several children are volunteering to repeat the Mission: Literacy program in order to serve as Jr. Staff. They will have special assignments as Bible Orators – teaching the younger children.

Mission: Literacy Stimulates More Than Just Questions About Reading

Dawn Sharp Tutor, Child Care Consultant, New Jersey Division

Carlos' second grade teacher had referred him to the after school program at the New Brunswick Salvation Army because she had previously seen two of her other students significantly improve their reading proficiency after they had been part of a TSA *Mission: Literacy* tutoring group. Concerned about Carlos' struggle with reading, the teacher suggested to his parents that they enroll him with us.

Carlos tested as barely reading at a 1st grade level. He was very shy and quietly told me, "I can't read very well." Our first lesson went quietly along with Carlos showing some spark when playing games with word cards. We talked about our first bible story, *In the Beginning*, and I explained that the stories we would be talking about were all from the bible. He asked, "What is a bible?" I explained but there was not one in the room where we were so I said I would get one to show him the next time we met.

Carlos' first question at our next lesson was, "Did you find one of those books – the one all of these stories are in?" I went across the hall to the sanctuary with him and we found a bible there. He wanted to see where *In the Beginning* was in the bible. I showed him, pointing to the words as I read and he smiled with each part of the story he recognized as being the same as our story book. He smiled like this was really a blast then picked up the storybook and looked up each "day" as I read its creative act from the bible.

Then, Carlos launched into a string of questions: Where are all of the other stories in the bible? Who is God? God was before people and everything? Pointing to the blankly dark picture representing the time before creation, he asked, "Was God there? Is God in this picture? Did God make houses and clothes and everything we can see? Where is God? Would we call God "invisible?" He can see us all of the time? Remembering the sanctuary we had gone into to look for a bible, Carlos asked, "What is a church?" We talked about how we could talk to God anytime and he will listen – like in the prayer one of his classmates had just said thanking God for their snack.

Carlos accepted each simple answer, his mind quickly moving onto another question. His shyness was set aside for awhile as he was intrigued by an invisible God who knew him, whom he could talk to anytime, who could help him, who had a bible full of his stories and who was so powerful he could create something brand new by just saying a word.

I was intrigued too – by the power of the written word of God speaking into the heart and curiosity of a little boy.

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