

Vision LITERACY

Partners Creating Opportunities

408.262.1349

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, 540 Valley Way, Milpitas CA, 95035

www.visionliteracy.org

Tutor & Volunteer Newsletter

April 2010

NEWS OF AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

TUTOR HONORED BY JUNIOR LEAGUE

Shalabh Goyal will be awarded the Junior League of San Jose's prestigious Crystal Bowl Award on May 7 at the League's Volunteer Recognition Lunch. One of just 12 people honored this year, Goyal will be recognized for exceptional service in creating a basic skills computer workshop. A Vision Literacy volunteer since 2007 and an engineer at National Semiconductor, Goyal understands the centrality of computers in contemporary life – and that for low-literacy adults, computers can also be a barrier to accessing opportunity and success in our community.

During 2009, Goyal implemented his vision of offering computer training – raising money, organizing logistics, planning curriculum and, ultimately, teaching several sessions of his new class. He single-handedly raised \$1,100 – \$250 from himself, \$100 from colleagues, and \$750 from National Semiconductor in order to purchase three laptops with software; he also lent two of his own laptops for use. The Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, where Vision Literacy's headquarters are located, offered a conference room for free. Finally, Goyal developed a basics-only curriculum based on the needs and skill-level of his students, and later added one for more advanced students. A number of students have needed language translation, so Goyal recruited and managed several multilingual volunteers to assist him. His efforts have had an impact on the lives of his learners. "The smile on the face of a lady who learned to email always reminds me how even basic knowledge of computers can make a difference in a person's life," he remarked.

THANKS, GILROY FOUNDATION

The Gilroy Foundation has awarded Vision Literacy \$1,755 for computer and software to support computer instruction in the Gilroy area.

MACY'S HELPS VISION LITERACY

Call now to support Vision Literacy and get great discounts during Macy's Day on May 15. Vision Literacy is one of 19 community organizations participating in the Community Shopping Day at Valley Fair. A \$10 ticket provides a shopping pass to great discounts -- and a \$10 (100%) direct donation to Vision Literacy. We have 100 tickets for sale – call 408. 262-1349 to help us sell them all and support the work of Vision Literacy.

NEWS FROM GILROY

Frank Hernandez is the new South County Associate Manager. A computer instructor for the past two years in Gilroy, Hernandez has an extensive background working with community organizations and businesses in the Gilroy area. He has already redesigned the Gilroy office to create a very inviting environment and user friendly computer lab. Hernandez will work closely with Elvia Hernandez (no relation) to offer literacy services to people in the Gilroy area.

COMING EVENTS

Twenty-five people are attending the tutor training sessions on April 17 and 24.

Volunteers Shalabh Goyal, Minita Choudary and Greg Sickal are offering computer classes for tutors and learners at the Milpitas Library on May 1,8,15,22 and June 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those interested can call the Milpitas office at 408.262.1349 to register.

Tutors: Please submit your monthly progress report by May 3. Thank you!

Vision Literacy is a service of the Santa Clara County Library

