

Sioux Falls Area Literacy Council

Did you know...

About 22% of American adults have minimal literacy skills.

That's why...

The Literacy Council provides tutoring for adults in order to improve their reading, writing and living skills. Last year, 1,004 tutoring hours were provided to 62 people.

Which means...

Adults need strong literacy skills to: raise children who have strong literacy skills, be good employees, keep themselves healthy, be active in their communities, advocate for themselves, and avoid crime.

Growing up in Eritrea during a time of war, Maaza did not have the opportunity to attend school. Now, raising her family, Maaza knew her literacy skills were going to be important for her to be active in her children's own education.

"I heard about the Literacy Council on TV," explains Maaza. "I've been coming here for three years."

More than 10 years ago, after arriving in America, Maaza began her love of learning by joining the Job Corps for an education and training to be a nurse assistant. Now along with her weekly tutoring sessions at the Literacy Council, Maaza is completing an online course to achieve her high school diploma.

"I want to help my children with their homework, I want to give them a better life," continues Maaza. "Knowledge gives me confidence."

Her tutor, Carol, agrees. "Maaza used to be shy. She has really grown as a person, she's not afraid to ask questions and advocate for her children."



The volunteer tutors for Literacy Council help clients improve their literacy skills and also living skills. "Our tutoring sessions include lessons on reading, writing, and living skills," explains Carol. "We also spend time talking about how to apply these new skills into all parts of life."

The lessons are appreciated by Maaza. "Learning is important, not just for me, but for my children, so I can help them."