

World Literacy Crusade Portland

Opening Doors Through Education

It's not easy for a man to admit he can't read. But Franklyn had reached a point in his life where he simply had to do something. He was in his late forties, working as a maintenance man and trying to attend Portland Community College in the hopes of achieving his GED. Franklyn tried several times, but his functional illiteracy made it seem insurmountable.

Then he visited the World Literacy Crusade of Portland and things began to change. He was one of the first students to walk through the doors after the center opened. In the year and a half since then, his ability to read has turned around dramatically.

"Results like Franklyn's are not uncommon here," says WLC Portland Executive Director, Hillary Larson. "L. Ron Hubbard's study methods make it possible for anyone to learn. And reading is like any other subject—if one can recognize the barriers to understanding, and knows how to overcome them, then anything can be achieved. And that's just what we do here—teach people how to learn."

When Hillary is asked why she opened the Portland chapter, she admits, "I never really paid much attention to illiteracy, and didn't think that it would impact people's lives so heavily."

"I didn't think then it could be the root of crime and drug abuse. I had been working in the area of drug rehabilitation, and was exposed to some of the stories coming out of the founding chapter of the World Literacy Crusade in Compton, California, and was so moved to see how these gang members found they could learn, and just quit the gangs. It was miraculous."

Within one week, Hillary had WLC tutors come to the Portland area and help her establish the program. They trained volunteers and helped raise local support.

"The fact that we didn't have the Study Technology here was unacceptable to me," says Hillary. "It's so uncomplicated. When I first tell people about how Hubbard's method works, they are surprised—it's so simple. But then they see how well it works, how it just strips away the false ideas they had



World Literacy Crusade tutor Dave McKeitt and two of his young students.



about education and learning."

Currently, the World Literacy Crusade Portland literacy center is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on the weekend. A group of tutors delivers the literacy courses free of charge. The center has a wide range of people coming in for help. The ages range from six years old to one lady who's over seventy. "And not only that," adds Hillary, "we have people here from every walk of life: Caucasians, African-Americans, Vietnamese, Hispanics. And it's like a big family." Word of mouth has served the program well, and they now deliver to dozens of people every week.

The literacy center has also formed a collaboration with the California-based Hollywood Education and Literacy Project (H.E.L.P.) which has been training tutors and trainers from Portland. The successful H.E.L.P. model specializes in study skills, job readiness training and remedial literacy tutoring.

According to Dorothy Nagy, a volunteer tutor, "It's hard to find words to describe how it feels to help out here, but when you can change conditions in a person's life you've made an enormous contribution, not only to that person but to yourself as well."

She mentions how one of her students came in to the center not long ago. "She was terribly shy, and had difficulty with her reading and speaking because she was so introverted. But during a section of a course which deals with com-

munication, she changed. Her shyness started to disappear right before my eyes. Ever since then, she's been able to walk up to anyone and talk without feeling embarrassed or withdrawn. It's a moment I'll never forget."

Then there's the story of Wesley, who had been told he had ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) by a school psychiatrist, and was ordered to start taking Ritalin. His mother didn't want him on the drug, and so took him to the WLC center. After only six months of tutoring in Mr. Hubbard's method, his mother reported that she'd gotten a letter from his teacher saying that he was doing very well. And he was spared from taking Ritalin.

Wesley's mother wrote in that "Wes is a lot calmer now. He's not frustrated like he was before. He's more secure and at ease. He's more eager to read."

"Our target now," says Larson, "is to expand our hours and the number of volunteers. We want to get parents and people from other groups to come in and train so they too can use the Study Technology. We would love to develop a coalition with other organizations that are active in the community and start working together to really handle the problems of illiteracy in Portland."

"People need to realize that they can actually help another human being find a way to a better life through literacy. And we need to take more responsibility for the people around us. That's how society gets better."



What I Think of Study Technology

There's been a lot of talk lately about research that L. Ron Hubbard did on the subject of study and books he wrote to help students do better in school—something called Study Technology.

Study Technology—an educational approach which teaches one HOW TO LEARN—is something that I hold very dear to my heart, which is why I have supported it (and used it!) for many years.

As a parent, I want my child, and all children, to leave school with a real chance to make it in the world. Anything that can contribute to that deserves a close look.

But the problem runs much deeper than that. Kids who don't understand the world around them, how it works and how they can contribute to it, are easily overwhelmed. They make bad choices. The links between illiteracy, crime and drug abuse have been demonstrated again and again.

Study Technology has been in use all over the world for a quarter of a century. It was this exact

method that enabled me, someone who never finished high school, to achieve one of my greatest goals—to be a jet pilot. And not just that but a jet pilot licensed to fly six different types of jet aircraft. I have also personally seen this miraculous mentoring tool bring hope and joy to the lives of many children whether in inner-city communities, schools or at home.

I think Study Technology is something worth getting excited about. It's a tool, and it works. But it doesn't work on its own. Parents, teachers and students have to do two things first: learn how to use it and then decide to use it.

I hope you'll take the time to find out more about Study Technology and Applied Scholastics. It might change your mind about the kind of future we can create for all our children.

John Travolta,
Spokesman,
Applied Scholastics

High Standards Achieved by Delphian School

Founded in 1974 on a wooded 700 acre campus in Sheridan, Oregon at the juncture of the Willamette Valley and the Coast Range, the Delphian School is a private K-12 day and boarding school with a local, national and international student body. It is the founding school of the Delphi Schools Network, a seven-member (and growing) group of schools around the country where the educational breakthroughs of L. Ron Hubbard are fully utilized.

Many students and parents arrive at the Delphian School interested in its unique and thorough way of preparing students for life. By empowering students with Study Technology the school often takes



The Delphian School in Sheridan, Oregon.

students beyond a normal college prep education to preparation for the finest universities in the country or for direct access to the professional world or professional training.

Because the school's approach is to achieve flawless competence with the basics, students become prepared to master Delphi's rigorous, applica-

tion-oriented set of graduation requirements.

Per Mark Siegel, Assistant to the Headmaster and Executive Director of the Oregon Federation of Independent Schools, "The key to achieving these high standards has been the Study Technology of Mr. Hubbard. Our students consistently

tell us that it gives them an unmistakable advantage. Two graduates in particular, who have founded multi-million dollar companies in their first five years, have singled out Study Technology as the most important tool they gained for learning new, technical subjects quickly and independently."

The Sheridan campus prides itself on providing a showcase for Mr. Hubbard's educational writings in action. Over the last twenty years it has delivered Study Technology training to thousands of students during its summer sessions and students report using these techniques successfully in many educational settings. During the school year the school has hosted national speakers and numerous educational officials at the secondary and

university level speaking highly of the results possible with these new methods. Among the visitors was Michelle Doyle, Director of the Office of Non-Public Education, US Department of Education. She remarked to students after touring the classrooms and seeing their independent skills: "Knowing how to learn is important. You interact with teachers as mentors. You can research directly with source material. That's impressive to me!"

Career apprenticeships and a challenging practical program also play a key role in any full application of Study Tech, says Mitch Neuhauser, Director of Professional Development at the school. "My department focuses on balancing academics with tough, real life projects. This helps students connect education to their own purposes and we bypass many of the motivational problems often seen today. Instead we see aggressive students who know how to study and why they are doing it."