

## Quarterly Newsletter



- **Raised: \$42,275.76**
- **Goal: \$20,000.00**
- **211% of goal reached**

*The Mary's Movers Team walked a total of 50.6 miles to support BEACON.*

### Walk-A-Thon Huge Success!

From April 10 to April 30, BEACON hosted a Virtual Walk for Literacy. Participants registered to walk, run, or bike as individuals or together with teams. They were then able to choose when, where, and how far they would go. Countless others joined the effort by making a donation or supporting individuals or teams to help meet their fundraising goals. While the pandemic limited our ability to be together physically, it in no way hampered your ability to shower us with your phenomenal support. *Cont. pg. 2*

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## Walk-a-Thon Continued

Our initial goal was to raise \$20,000. We more than doubled that number, finishing with a grand total of \$42,275.76. We had 89 walkers and 13 teams participate. We also welcomed 233 new donors to the BEACON family. Over \$11,000 was raised in corporate sponsorships. Everyone at BEACON for Adult Literacy and the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia wants to express our deepest thanks for the incredible outpouring of love and financial donations. Your support enables us to continue working with adult learners by providing various levels of English literacy and conversation classes that focus on work and life skills as well as U.S. Citizenship exam preparation classes.



## BEACON HONORED



Debbie Jones, President and CEO, Prince William Chamber, presenting the 2021 Agnes. L. Colgan Community Service Award to Jen Mora Zuñiga and Sister Cecilia Dwyer.

In February, BEACON was honored with the Agnes L. Colgan Community Service Award in the Arts and Education Category. This award came from the Prince William Chamber of Commerce. The honor is given to a not-for-profit organization making a demonstrably positive contribution to the quality of life in the Greater Prince William Region. Everyone involved with BEACON for Adult Literacy was humbled and incredibly grateful to receive this distinction. The BEACON staff and its myriad of volunteers are committed to continuing to work towards the empowerment of adult learners as they pursue education and employment goals through literacy.

BEACON teachers and volunteers enjoyed walking together to raise support for the program!

**Michael Gao**  
Teacher



I'm a recent college graduate now working as a biology research associate in Connecticut. I was looking for ways to volunteer my time during the pandemic and came across the BEACON website. I enjoyed reading about BEACON's origins and admired its mission of promoting adult literacy so I decided to reach out. While my teaching/tutoring experience has been mainly with children and young adults, I've always been interested in working with adult learners as well. Last year during the pandemic I spent some time informally teaching my grandmother English. I really enjoyed that and thought it would be fun to try teaching English to other adult learners. It is such a joy interacting with my students. They are all so hardworking and enthusiastic. I am always amazed and inspired by the effort they put into the challenging task of learning a new language as an adult while handling so many other responsibilities.

## SPOTLIGHTS

### New Staff at BEACON

In the last few months, BEACON has welcomed an all-new staff. We were saddened to say goodbye to Jen Mora Zuñiga and Deb Burroughs who had been with us for many years. Their hard work, dedication, and love for BEACON had an impact on everyone around them from volunteers to students. However, we are excited about the future and looking forward to getting to know each of our new staff members.

**Sister Cecilia Dwyer**  
Executive Director



**Debra Brinckley**  
Program Manager



**Meg Kerman**  
Volunteer Coordinator

# Summer at BEACON

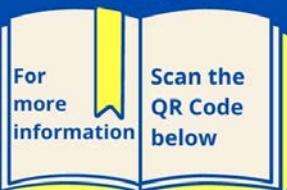


Summer Conversation Classes are set to begin Monday, July 12. They will be held online and will last for three weeks. We currently have 60 students registered and a dozen volunteers prepared to lead eight classes. During the summer classes are a little more informal and focus on conversational skills.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- ESOL Teacher - Online Class
- ESOL Teacher - In-Person Class
- Teacher's Assistant - In-Person Class
- Tech Facilitator - Online Class
- Site Manager - In-Person Class
- One on One Tutoring
- Substitute teacher

Looking for a way to serve your community? Join BEACON as a Volunteer!



**Fall 2021**

**BEACON**  
FOR ADULT LITERACY

**ENGLISH AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSES**

(703) 331-5513  
beaconforadultliteracy@gmail.com

Class Dates: August 23 - November 12  
Morning & Evening Classes Available  
Cost: \$55 (includes textbook)

Scan QR Code below to sign up for a registration appointment time.

## Fall Semester

Classes will be offered as a choice between either all online or all in-person. We are currently scheduling appointments for registration.

As we recruit for volunteers for the Fall Semester, we are especially in need of people to serve as site-managers at our in-person classes. This person will make sure classrooms are open, provide support for teachers and students, and close up at the end of the night. This is a great way to serve BEACON without having to be a classroom teacher.