

Brunner Literacy Center needs office supplies

LIFESTYLES By Meredith Moss - Staff Writer

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The Brunner Literacy Center is a welcoming and homey space where adults can achieve success in learning. In the past, our readers have responded generously to the Center's requests for supplies and volunteers.

"Individuals may be interested in improving reading and math skills, preparing for the GED, practicing English language skills or preparing for the test for citizenship," explains Terri Gilbert, a tutor at the facility.

With the help of dozens caring volunteers, the Center offers a one-on-one individualized program at no cost to clients. Anyone can come for help. "It's very flexible — some students come twice a week, some come once a week," Gilbert explains.

Located at 4825 Salem Ave. in Trotwood, the Center is in the Salem Plaza in the former Rex Appliance Store. A St. Vincent Thrift Store is in the other half of the building.

Gilbert, a retired guidance counselor from Brookville schools, tutors a young man who moved to Dayton from Senegal a year ago. "I work with him twice a week and he is so committed," she says. "We have had over 80 sessions and he has never missed one! He takes a bus to get here and has made tremendous progress."

The Literacy Center began in 2011 when two retired educators — Sister Maryann Bremke and Sister Helen Weber — both Sisters of the Precious Blood, became concerned about the level of illiteracy in the area they call the Salem Corridor and Trotwood. They determined to open a center where

reading and basic math could be offered to anyone over the age of 18 who walked through the door with a dream of self-improvement. Since that time, an estimated 600-700 clients have been served.

The cozy space is named after Mother Maria Anna Brunner, the founder of the Sisters of the Precious Blood. Born in Switzerland in 1764, she devoted herself to the needs of the poor.

What they need:

- Coffee (decaf and regular)
- Bottled water
- Wrapped candies
- Copy paper
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies
- Vinegar
- Packs of RTA bus tokens

Items may be dropped off from 8 a.m. until 6 pm. Monday through Thursday.

Monetary gifts are also appreciated and there's always a need for volunteers. No previous experience is necessary; the Center offers a training program.

Here's another way to help: A 5K Run and a 1.6K Fun Run Walk are slated for Saturday, Oct. 31 at Englewood Metro Park. You can register online at www.speedy-feet.com or www.brunnerliteracy.org/events

For more information (937) 567-9600.