



# California Library Literacy Services

Since 1984, California's public libraries have provided services to low-literate adults and their families, helping Californians of all ages reach their literacy goals. Today those services are encompassed under one chapter in the Education Code\* entitled the California Library Literacy and English Acquisition Services Program – or California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) as it's more casually known statewide.

These services include:

- **Adult Literacy Services**
- **Families for Literacy**
- **English Language & Literacy Intensive program**
- **Mobile Library Literacy Services**

In 2004/05 the State allocated \$5 million to support California Library Literacy Services and the CLLS reached over 100,000 low-literate adults and children with one-to-one or small group instruction and family programming; distributed 166,197 free books to these participants; and generated 768,456 volunteer hours.



Tutor & Student Pair –  
San Francisco Public Library

## Impact of the CLLS: Goals Reached By Adult Students - 2004/05\*

What kind of difference are CLLS programs making in the lives of the adults they serve? Adult learners set individualized, practical goals for themselves which are then tracked.

*“Every time I help my [adult] learner reach a specific goal, I reach one also. This has been a learning experience for us both. In many ways she has taught me many things that I will never forget.”*

– Volunteer Tutor  
Tulare Public Library

Of the goals set by adult learners, our data show the following:

- ♦ **72%** were able to share a book with their child for the first time.
- ♦ **65%** were able to pay their own bills for the first time.
- ♦ **60%** were able to vote for the first time.
- ♦ **44%** were able to complete a job application or write a resume; **48%** interviewed for a job; and **30%** actually secured a new job or were promoted at work.
- ♦ **74%** of those who did not use the library at all prior to getting literacy help, began using the library regularly; **87%** of those who had never had a library card, received one; **75%** of those who had never attended a library event did so; and **70%** took their children to storytime at the library for the first time.
- ♦ **59%** were able to read a newspaper for the first time.
- ♦ **47%** became volunteers themselves.



## ***Libraries Change Lives!***

\* Data collected between January 1 and June 30, 2005; 10,637 adult learners reporting.