

# *Seeds Silver Jubilee*

**25 YEARS**

*of Adult Literacy*



*Friday* **MAY 19**

**6PM** STILLWATER PLACE  
at THE CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO



# Cheers to 25 Years!

SEEDS OF LITERACY  
HAS **STRONG ROOTS.**



C A R N E G I E  
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WESTLAKE, OHIO

## Welcome!



BONNIE ENTLER  
PRESIDENT & CEO

Twenty-five years ago, in 1997, Seeds of Literacy was established by the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph, led by Sister Kathleen Kilbane. Dedicated educators, the Sisters recognized adult basic education as a crucial component in helping to eradicate poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and empower people to achieve meaningful, fulfilled lives. Seeds of Literacy was unique from the start, offering one-to-one, individualized instruction and reaching Cleveland communities with the greatest need.

The Sisters' thoughtful approach to adult education continues to make Seeds of Literacy special today. While Seeds of Literacy has grown and evolved over the years, we remain committed to a differentiated, one-to-one model. Seeds of Literacy meets students where they are and welcomes adults at every learning level.

Seeds of Literacy has helped hundreds of students earn their high school equivalency and thousands more achieve life-changing improvements in reading, writing, and math. These gifts last for years to come, creating pathways out of poverty, strengthening multigenerational educational outcomes, and building stronger communities.

Seeds of Literacy is grateful for your presence at the Seeds Silver Jubilee. Tonight, we celebrate and recognize the contributions of those that make Seeds of Literacy truly exceptional. It is the commitment of our founders, volunteer tutors, philanthropic partners, and hardworking students that has gotten us where we are today.

Thank for you for joining us in improving lives through literacy.

With gratitude,

*Bonnie*



# Program

7:15pm

Welcome

## BONNIE ENTLER

President & CEO

*The Importance of  
Seeds of Literacy*

## SHAKEIYA EDWARDS

Student

## ROY HULME

Tutor

## JONATHAN KHOURI

Chairment of the Board

8:00pm

BackTraxx

10:00pm

Thank you for coming,  
Good Night!

# About the Speakers

## ROY HULME Tutor

For 44 years, Roy Hulme was a trial lawyer with Reminger Co. LPA (including 2 years as a law clerk) before finally retiring in May 2021. Roy was born and raised by a family of educators that includes both grandparents, mom, brother, sister-in-law, as well as nieces & nephews. Believing that education is one of the most important industries in our country, he decided it was time “to do something important” with the rest of his life and “join the family business.” Roy is now a regular tutor at Seeds East, as well as a generous donor.

## SHAKEIYA EDWARDS Student

In August 2022, Shakeiya Edwards joined Seeds because she wanted a better lifestyle for herself and her two children. She was selected to be one of Seeds of Literacy’s Student Ambassadors and has attended several community events to help spread the word about our program. Currently, she’s studying for the Math and Science sections of the GED. The next chapter is to graduate and then go to college to get a degree to work in the mental health field.

# About the Band

BackTraxx = Rock and Soul Music, from the Beatles to the Temptations, Aretha Franklin to Van Morrison. They like to say “all the songs you loved from your past.” BackTraxx is an 8-piece, high-energy dance band featuring 4 lead vocalists, tight vocal harmonies, and a song list guaranteed to get you dancing and singing. Follow them on Facebook or visit [BACKTRAXXBAND.COM/BIOS/](https://BACKTRAXXBAND.COM/BIOS/)

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# Special Thanks

ALL ABOUT YOU EVENT PLANNING for providing the 360 Photo Booth

ARAMARK donated tonight’s dessert and coffee table.

CLASSIC TELEPRODUCTIONS is a 79-time Emmy Award winning video production company based in Twinsburg, Ohio. Founded in 1980, Classic has developed a reputation as one of the premiere production companies in the midwest. Seeds is grateful for their donation of services.

PETITI GARDEN CENTER generously donated the flowers you see around you.

# WHY Adult Literacy MATTERS



of Cleveland adults are **functionally illiterate**.

They may have trouble understanding



## x2 IN POVERTY

The percentage of adults without a high school diploma who live in poverty is twice that of those who have a high school diploma.

An increase in education leads to an increase in ↑ employment and a decrease in ↓ poverty.

## \$ DIPLOMAS = 3x EARNINGS

Adults without a high school diploma or equivalent earn 42% **less** than those with a diploma .



## #1 FACTOR



A mother's reading skill is the **SINGLE STRONGEST DETERMINANT** of her child's future academic success



## 110,000+

Adults in Cuyahoga County LACK a diploma or high school equivalency

## HOW SEEDS IS DIFFERENT



### 100% FREE FOR STUDENTS

We provide the materials, official practice tests, and tutors at **NO COST**.



### WEEKLY IN-PERSON ENROLLMENT

No waiting until next month/quarter/semester. Students can come to Seeds for orientation, **ANY WEEK**, without an appointment.



### "CLASS" TIME IS REALLY TUTORING TIME

There's no teacher at the front of the room teaching everyone the same thing at the same time. Students work one-to-one with a tutor.

**TUTORING TIMES MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
9AM - 11AM • 1PM - 3PM • 6PM - 8PM



### LEARN AT INDIVIDUAL SPEED

Students won't fall behind. At Seeds, each student works at HIS or HER own skill level, at HIS or HER own pace.



### SEEDS DOES NOT HAVE A STRICT ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE

because life gets in the way of even the most dedicated students. Students can come as **OFTEN** as they like, at **WHATEVER TIME** works best for them — even if it's not the same time each day.



### THERE IS NO SET TIME FRAME TO GRADUATE

The Seeds program is **ONGOING**. Most students need at least a few months of tutoring but it's not uncommon for students to be with us a year or more.



### *I'm not an educator.*

You don't have to be a classroom teacher! Training and ongoing professional development are provided. We have tutors from all walks of life: nurses, college students, writers, beauticians, and yes, a few teachers, too. As long as you have a high school diploma, **YOU** can tutor.

### *I don't have time. My schedule is unpredictable.*

The commitment is **minimal**. A tutoring session is just 2 hours — which is only 1% of your entire week! Sessions are offered 3 times a day, 4 days a week. You can tutor as often as you like, whatever days fit your schedule.

### *I don't remember the Quadratic Equation...or much else from high school.*

Most of our adult learners have been out of school for a long time, too. They understand and appreciate when you are learning along side of them. (Plus, the answer keys are on the back!)

### *I don't know how to make lesson plans.*

Seeds provides the study materials for each student each day.

### *I am so not a "math person."*

If you aren't comfortable tutoring math, that's ok. You tutor only the subjects you want, at the levels in your comfort zone.

### *The tech is intimidating.*

The Virtual Classroom is just one internet connection and a few clicks away. Plus, Zoom training is offered as part of Virtual Tutor Training.



Tutor Training is offered every 6 weeks. Scan the QR code or visit [www.seedsofliteracy.org/tutor](http://www.seedsofliteracy.org/tutor) to sign up.

# David and Inez Myers Foundation

A Supporting Foundation of the  
Jewish Federation of Cleveland

**We celebrate Seeds of Literacy**

Thank you for a quarter century of  
empowering adults in Cleveland  
by providing the critical literacy skills they need  
to thrive as individuals, parents, professionals,  
and vital members of our community.

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Jones Day proudly supports Seeds of Literacy and its mission to provide free, personalized education to empower adults to thrive in our community.

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**It's all about better lives and more opportunities.**

Programs that strengthen families strengthen our community. That's why we support programs that focus on families. We recognize their tireless efforts and thank them for helping to improve the lives of parents and children in so many ways.

KeyBank thanks Seeds of Literacy for making a difference.

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Family is where it starts.

We are dedicated to partners who help families get through troubled times and back to a **brighter future.**

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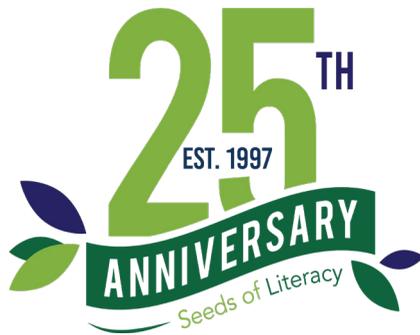
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Virtual Classroom: Everywhere in the world

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