

# Supporting Literacy in BJ's Communities

We all know reading is the basis of education, but it's also essential to enjoying life to the fullest. So when local literacy programs like these two reach out, BJ's Charitable Foundation (BJCF) is happy to support them with grants to help prove the old adage "you're never too old to learn!"



## The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia

***We Believe Literacy Is a "Survival Skill."***

Since 1962, volunteer educators at the LCNV have been teaching the basics of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English to economically challenged adults from 89 countries. The BJCF grant that the LCNV received funded its Family Literacy Program.

Many students have used their new skills as part of their path toward U.S. citizenship.

***"Fatima came out beaming from ear to ear, showing us 'Congratulations! You passed!' It was very gratifying to see after working so hard...helping her obtain her U.S. citizenship has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my entire life!"***

— Carol Schuster, LCNV/ESOL Educator

Learn more about the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia: [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org)

## University Circle of Cleveland, Ohio

***UC Students Opt in for "Op Art"***

UC's Early Learning Initiative (ELI) is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year helping over 500 urban preschool children **build essential literacy and vocabulary skills**. Their unique programs inspire imaginations and creativity while helping to build a love of learning.

In November 2011, ELI received a BJCF grant to help support its focus on Optical Art, with children receiving special Learning Kits filled with a variety of resources chosen to bring the graphics to life — including prisms like the ones shown below. The kids enjoyed dynamic classroom workshops plus field trips to the Op Art Gallery in their local Fine Arts Museum.

***"The children loved using the prisms to discover their own optical illusions and were excited to see their friends and teachers had many heads and bodies instead of just one."***

— Maureen Sords  
ELI Teacher

Learn more about University Circle's ELI Program:  
[www.universitycircle.org](http://www.universitycircle.org)

