

Our Views: Boost literacy in community

- *Advocate Opinion page staff*
- Published: Dec 2, 2009 - Page: 8B

Literacy Week, which began Tuesday and concludes Monday, is an occasion to remember the special urgency of increasing reading skills in the Baton Rouge area, where up to 20 percent of area residents function at the lowest level of literacy.

That news comes from the Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition, which is sponsoring a number of events this week to promote greater awareness of literacy needs in our community. More information about those events is available at the organization's Web site, <http://www.gbrliteracy.org>

Illiteracy rests at the heart of many problems in our area. Those who cannot read well will have difficulty reaching their economic potential. Illiteracy often goes hand in hand with poverty and increases the chances of ending up in prison or in poor health.

We salute the many volunteers who are working to reduce illiteracy in our area, and we encourage others to get involved. More information about supporting literacy programs through financial contributions and/or volunteering also is available at the coalition's Web site.

In this season of gift-giving, we should remember that one of the greatest gifts we can give is the ability to read and write.

Link to editorial:

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/opinion/78289067.html>