

For Immediate Release

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Adult Learners Fall Further Behind in Unstable Economy

-Adult Literacy Programs Work to Educate Those Often Left Behind-

September 08, 2010, Portland, OR - Pamoja House International is part of a national network of literacy organizations offering adult education programs to help American immigrants and refugees gain the basic literacy skills they need to be employable in today's tough economy.

According to [ProLiteracy](#), the world's largest organization of adult basic education and literacy programs, the literacy crisis in the U.S. costs the nation \$60 billion a year in lost productivity, \$73 billion in unnecessary health care expenses, and contributes to unemployment, crime, drug abuse, and homelessness. Adult education and family literacy programs address these problems at the community level by providing the estimated 30 million adults with low literacy levels with the education they need to participate in the workforce.

"Education remains the most successful tool we have to fight unemployment," said Mike Cook, director of Pamoja House International. "Our adult education and literacy programs match trained volunteers and teachers with adults to help them improve the reading, writing, and language skills they need to take their lives in new directions and to contribute even more to their communities."

"In the U.S., one out of seven adults has below-basic literacy skills," said [David C. Harvey](#), president and CEO of [ProLiteracy](#). "Making an investment in people's education goes a long way in creating a skilled workforce. September 13 through 19 is Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, and we want to use this awareness week to sound the alarm about the growing American literacy crisis."

Pamoja House International is a member of [ProLiteracy](#) and is one of hundreds of community-based organizations that make up the ProLiteracy network.

For more information about Pamoja House International's services, visit www.pamojahouse.com or call 503 597 8540.

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About ProLiteracy

[ProLiteracy](#), based in Syracuse, NY, champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults and their families, communities, and societies. It works with adult new readers and

learners and with local and national organizations to help adults gain the reading, writing, math, computer, and English skills they need to be successful. ProLiteracy advocates on behalf of adult learners and the programs that serve them, provides training and professional development, and publishes materials used in adult literacy instruction. ProLiteracy has member programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and works with 83 nongovernmental international agencies. For more information, please go to www.ProLiteracy.org.