



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**Matthew J. Driscoll, Mayor**

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- WHEREAS, in the United States, one in four adults function at the lowest literacy level. Abroad, more than 877 million adults are functionally illiterate. Adults with low literacy skills experience personal, social, and economic hardships which affect their ability to function and provide for themselves and their families; and
- WHEREAS, ProLiteracy Worldwide is the world's oldest and largest global literacy program and it is dedicated to fighting many of the current challenges involving literacy education, and is represented in 45 developing countries as well as in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS, its purpose is to sponsor educational programs and services to empower adults and their families to acquire the necessary literary skills to function more effectively in their daily lives. ProLiteracy Worldwide produces and distributes more than 500 adult education books to libraries and community organizations across the world; and
- WHEREAS, ProLiteracy Worldwide also influences public policy and funding, and is participating in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Decade of Literacy; and
- WHEREAS, ProLiteracy Worldwide's corporate home is in Syracuse and Onondaga County, and it is hosting several major events to celebrate the historic merger of Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America; and
- WHEREAS, we commend ProLiteracy Worldwide on its mission of pragmatic literacy education and its role in making Syracuse and Onondaga County the geographic and metaphoric "heart of literacy."

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NICHOLAS J. PIRRO**, County Executive of the County of Onondaga and **I, MATTHEW J. DRISCOLL**, Mayor of the City of Syracuse, do hereby proclaim the twenty-sixth day of February, Two Thousand Three as

**HEART OF LITERACY DAY**

in the County of Onondaga and the City of Syracuse

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seals of the County of Onondaga and the City of Syracuse to be imprinted this twenty-sixth day of February, Two Thousand Three.

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Nicholas J. Pirro  
County Executive

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Matthew J. Driscoll  
Mayor