

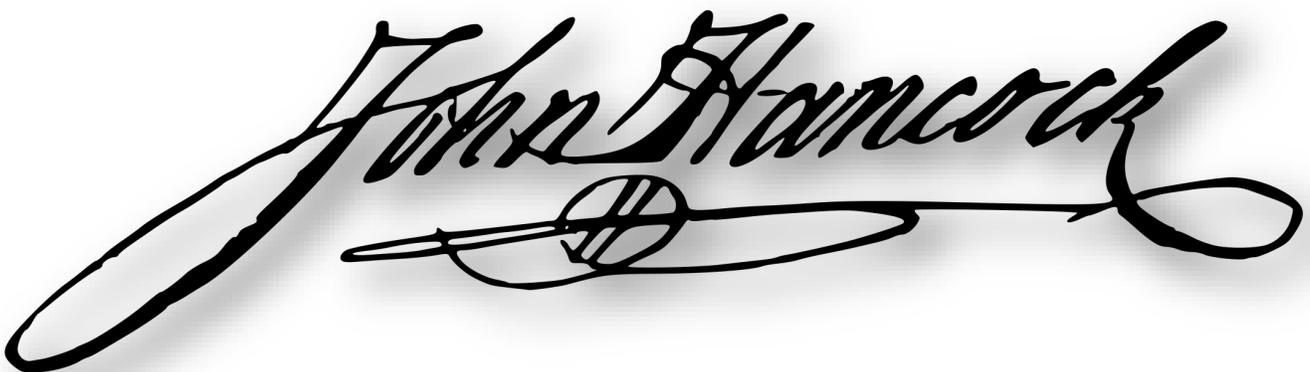
HANCOCK'S STORY

The Literacy Council

Hancock was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois where he lives with his daughter and granddaughter. Reading is sometimes difficult for Hancock because he struggles with the definition and meaning of words, which is why he made the decision to go to The Literacy Council for help. Getting his GED and finding a better paying job motivate Hancock to continue pushing himself and working to improve his literacy. He likes the challenge of learning new things in class. Incidentally, he also happens to love new shoes, new shirts, and good food!

Hancock completed a test, and based on his scores, he was referred to The Literacy Council. At The Literacy Council, Hancock's class consists of taking turns with his tutor reading books aloud and discussing them with each other. If they are not reading books together, they are reading articles and going over homework. They also write new words down and look them up in the dictionary. His struggles with reading and writing English fluently have impacted him in a negative way. He feels embarrassed and shy not being able to fill out a job application and working factory jobs, which are not what he hoped to be doing. This was the only type of job he could get because he did not have his diploma or GED, but with the help of The Literacy Council, he hopes to move on from this part of his life and into a better future. And the prospect of increasing his employment opportunities isn't the only way The Literacy Council has positively impacted Hancock. He feels more confident and outgoing since joining The Literacy Council and uses what he has learned outside of The Council to talk with people he would usually try to avoid.

Since joining The Literacy Council, Hancock now finds more enjoyment in reading and says it makes him happy. Hancock states that as a child he could not pronounce words, and his spelling was really bad. Hancock feels that he is now at the right place and that The Literacy Council knows the level he needs to be at. His concentration is getting better and he knows that the best time to do the homework is when he gets home from his lessons, continuing to work while the skills are still fresh. Hancock says it takes lots of patience and dedication to keep working to get better at reading. He says his goals are to be proficient in his reading and to go forward with his life as a better reader. The Literacy Council plays a profoundly influential role in his life because the skills he learns working with his tutor open up new doors for him. He believes the Council is a beacon of light for the community because it offers adults a second chance at learning and success. **Sponsor a runner today, and your contribution will make more stories like Hancock's possible!**

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.