



January 2025

Vita Education Services *Bringing Learning to Life for Over 50 Years*

Happy New Year from Vita!



As we welcome the arrival of 2025, the entire Vita team extends our heartfelt wishes for a Happy New Year to each and every one of you!

We hope this year brings you joy, prosperity, and a wealth of personal and professional growth opportunities.

Thank you for being a part of the Vita community. Here's to a fantastic 2025!

Celebrate the Power of Education!

January 24 was declared the [International Day of Education](#) by a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on December 3, 2018, and the first International Day of Education was celebrated on January 24, 2019.

At Vita, we believe that education is not just a fundamental right, but the key to unlocking opportunities and breaking the cycle of poverty.



We are grateful for the unwavering dedication of Vita's staff and volunteers, who work passionately to educate students through our English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education classes, transforming lives and inspiring hope in every learner. And we celebrate our students today and every day, for their determination and enthusiasm.

Compass Pro Bono Grant

Terrific news! Vita has been selected to receive a pro bono strategic consulting project from [Compass Pro Bono](#). Compass Pro Bono forges lasting ties between nonprofits and business professionals to empower thriving, equitable, resilient communities. Vita will work with a professional volunteer team to



develop a comprehensive market research plan and determine if there is a way to effectively promote and sell our impactful corrections-based *Decisions for Living* cognitive behavior decision making program. We're thrilled to have been selected for this prestigious program, and we look forward to keeping you updated on our work!

A Tree Like Me

Did you know that humans share 40-60% of their DNA with trees? It's true – we're very different organisms, yet we share a significant portion of our genetic code due to common biological processes at the cellular level.

Amy Edenson, one of Vita's Program Facilitators, used this interesting fact as an entry point for a recent *Decisions For Teens* session at the Bucks County Youth Center, the temporary home for youth between the ages of 10 and 18 years in the county's juvenile court system.

Using a craft project consisting of a wooden tree and three connected rings, Amy encouraged the youth to envision the tree as a model for who they perceive themselves to be on the outside, and the three rings as representations of what lies within – their inner strength, stability, and ability to withstand challenges. She asked them to consider where they get their inner strength from, who or what in their lives provides stability, and who or what keeps them standing upright when faced with challenges. Answers ranged from family members, friends, comforting routines, hobbies, even favorite songs.

Amy meets with teens in the Youth Center for two half-hour sessions, once every other week. The program is designed to improve cognitive skills and improve emotional stability. Amy continued the tree analogy by reminding the teens that trees have rings that expand as they grow, the same as the youth. The more they grow, the stronger they will get, and the more they will be able to continue standing tall and strong.



Volunteer Opportunity: Resume Writing

Vita is seeking volunteer resume writers for participants in our Job Readiness program at the Bucks County Correctional Facility. For more information, please visit our [job opportunities webpage](#) and scroll down to the Volunteer Opportunity.

Vita Vibes

Sam Lunney, Vita's Digital Literacy and Assessment Specialist, shares some holiday cheer from his recent trip to the United Kingdom.



This past Christmas was a special experience for my wife and I as we had the opportunity to go back to my hometown of Prospect, West Cumbria in the UK and celebrate the holiday with my parents. It had been five long years since I last spent Christmas there,

so I was super excited to share all the joys of a British Christmas with my American wife!

Prospect Cumbria is a beautiful region located in the north-west of England. It is known for its stunning landscapes, rolling hills, and picturesque villages. The region is home to [Lake District National Park](#), which is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the UK.

Like many cultural similarities between the UK and the United States, Christmas Day is quite similar in both places, featuring eating, drinking, and general merriment. However, there are some unique traditions. One such tradition is the televised Christmas message from King Charles, which occurs every Christmas Day. In this message, the monarch typically shares what he has been doing over the past year, such as opening children's hospitals or hula dancing in Polynesia, among other activities.

The meal is accompanied by the pulling of Christmas crackers—brightly decorated cardboard tubes that are pulled apart by two people at either end, resulting in a small explosion.

Our Christmas dinners differ somewhat from the American tradition. In addition to the traditional turkey, it features Yorkshire puddings, pigs in blankets, and Brussels sprouts, all generously covered in gravy.

To add to the festivities, my father dressed up as Santa Claus. Although this isn't a British Christmas tradition, he got into character anyway, complete with a Santa voice, until he overheated!



Sharing these traditions with my wife added a new layer of joy to the holiday, blending my childhood memories with our growing collection of experiences.

We are excitedly anticipating our next Christmas there, ready to create more joyful memories!

Job Opportunities



Adult Education Ancillary Instructor
Evening ESL Instructor

Adult Education Ancillary Teacher
HSE Math Teacher

Adult Education Ancillary Instructor
ESL Instructor for Corrections

Adult Education Ancillary Instructor
Science and Math Instructor

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