THE FIRST TIME – Nellie Louviere, a resident of Iberia Parish, learns to read for the first time in her life with the help of her tutor, Bill Chambers. Chambers is a volunteer with the Plantation Education Program, Inc. — a program which works closely with Lafayette's VITA program in teaching illiterate adults to read and write.

VITA Program Helps Teach Illiterate Adults

There are thousands of adults in Lafayette Parish who cannot read or write. Many cannot learn with conventional classroom instruction. VITA volunteers assist teachers in Adult Basic Education classrooms and, also, provide individual tutoring to those men and women who cannot take advantage of Adult Basic Education learning centers. For many, the unique experience of having a personal tutor to work only with them, at their rate of learning, is a vital force in solving the mysteries of the written word.

Volunteer Instructors Teaching Adults, Inc., is a non-profit, adult basic literacy program designed to combat illiteracy in Lafayette Parish. This year, VITA has become a member of the United Givers Fund.

VITA recruits, trains and utilizes volunteers as tutors to teach basic reading and writing skills on a one-to-one basis to adults, 16 years of age and older, who read and write below the 6th grade level. Any illiterate person willing to attend a tutor training workshop can qualify as a tutor. No prior educational experience or training is required.

Support is being sought from individuals and organizations willing to assist in areas of recruiting students and tutors, assisting with publicity and public relations, serving on the board of directors, tutoring and donating facilities for tutoring.

A documentary on adult education programs such as VITA will be shown on Channel 15 this Thursday at 8 p.m. Segments of the documentary were shot in New Iberia where a sister program to VITA, the Plantation Education Program, Inc., operates.

For further information, please call Donna Groth at 235-5541.

This year, your gift to the United Givers Fund benefits VITA and 22 other human service agencies that are helping the people of Lafayette.

The United Givers Fund agencies aid people who need many kinds of assistance: from the young to the elderly, from the handicapped to the poor. To get more information about tax-deductible donations to the United Givers Fund, call 224-8364.