



Pictured left to right:

Dana Wachs

Barb Nelson, Coordinator Family Literacy

MaryJo VanGompel, Executive Director

For Immediate Release

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Wisconsin Assembly Representative Wachs Visits with Literacy Organization

Eau Claire, WI – On Tuesday, October 22, The Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley (LVCV), a community-based literacy organization serving Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties was pleased to provide State Assembly Representative Dana Wachs (D) of the 91st Assembly District, with a tour of their Family Literacy program. The program, housed in the Wilson Building on Farwell Street in Eau Claire, is home to four classrooms for adults and three classrooms for children from 8 weeks to 4 years old. While adults study with Literacy instructors or tutors, the children attend YMCA early education funded by Faith Partners or Western Dairyland Headstart.

“I really appreciated the opportunity to visit with Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley,” said Rep. Wachs. “This program provides such an invaluable service to individuals and their families in our community. Literacy is a crucial component of the educational and economic growth of

our citizens and the future of the Chippewa Valley. As a legislator it is extremely helpful to see firsthand the impact of these programs and how they continue to be successful in the face of continuing cuts and diminishing resources. I commend the employees and volunteers of LVCV for the vitally important work that they do, and I will continue to fight for programs like these that better the lives of individuals and families in the Chippewa Valley and throughout Wisconsin.”

Literacy Volunteer Executive Director Mary Jo VanGompel said, “Our Family Literacy program served nearly 90 students last year. We are hoping that the State of Wisconsin will allocate some of the \$400,000 that it has set aside for literacy for our program here in the Chippewa Valley. Several years ago, cuts in the Federal Even Start grant forced us to cut programming for early childhood education. We are really stretched right now. With additional monies from the state, we could increase the number of adults we serve. They are out there and they need help, but we don’t have the resources to bring in additional students.”

Family Literacy Coordinator Barb Nelson said, “It was wonderful that Representative Wachs took time to visit our program and meet our students. We appreciate his interest in adult literacy and our students’ efforts to break the intergenerational cycle of low literacy and poverty.”

About Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley

Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley (LVCV) is a community-based literacy program that trains and supports volunteers to educate adults and their families, helping them acquire the skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency and function effectively in their roles as citizens, workers, and family members. Founded in 1986, LVCV’s mission to help one individual, one family, and one community at a time and is realized through our core programs: Pair or small group tutoring; Family Literacy; Workplace Education; Corrections, and Citizenship. All programs utilize tutoring provided by trained and supported volunteer tutors. With offices in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties, LVCV is classified as a tax exempt, 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

For more information, please visit <http://www.lvcv.org> or contact:

Mary Jo VanGompel
Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley

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