

The Chalkboard...A monthly update from LVCV!

1 message

Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley

<Literacy_Volunteers_Chippewa_Val@mail.vresp.com>

Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 7:09

PM

Reply-To: Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley <reply-38f48e6181-161163899c-6a31@u.cts.vresp.com>

To: lbentley@lvcv.org



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Transforming Lives, One Person, One Family, One Job & One Community at a Time.



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United Way Funding Update

*By Paul Kulig
Board President*

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As you may have read in a recent [newspaper article](#), United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley has changed their funding model. This change has resulted in funding cuts to several agencies in their 2015-

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Family Literacy on TODAY on WEAU

Our Family Literacy
Coordinator Barb Nelson was
a featured guest on TODAY
on WEAU TV. She and
Brook Berg of UW-Extension
were interviewed by Judy
Clark on the importance of
early childhood education
Feb. 24th.

18 budget. At the top of that
list is Literacy Volunteers
Chippewa Valley. We will lose
\$57,667 per year in United
Way funding; this is 14% of
our annual budget.

As we reflect on the reasons
for this decision and the
impact the cuts will have on
Literacy Volunteers, it reminds

us of the misconceptions about Literacy Volunteers that,
not only United Way, but other members of the public may
have about us.

Misconceptions about Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley:

- Misconception 1: Literacy Volunteers is an all-volunteer organization.
- Fact 1: Our name can be misleading. Literacy Volunteers has 13 paid well-educated staff members (two full-time and 11 part-time) who, like you, rely on their salaries to support their families. This staff trains and manages the 200+ tutors who work with our 500+ students each year. The staff also oversees the day-to-day operations; teaches at the Family Literacy Center; teaches in the jails in Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn counties; manages the open learning labs; markets our organization and coordinates our special events such as the upcoming ScrabbleBee; writes grants and explores other fundraising options that allow us to continue to serve; and the list goes on.

- Misconception 2: Our students aren't smart, don't work and are mostly illegal immigrants.
- Fact 2: Our students come from a variety of backgrounds and educational levels. Yes, some read at a 4th grade level, but others are college graduates. Many of our



H&R Block's Referral Program

Nobody enjoys tax season, but this year, new clients to H&R Block can feel good knowing they supported LVCV through H&R Block's Nonprofit Referral Program. Just follow the easy instructions on the form to get started. If you are having your taxes prepared this year, help raise funds for LVCV through H&R Block!

Celebration of the Stars May 19th

Mark your calendars for Celebration of the Stars on May 19th. This event honors the successes of students and tutors. In conjunction with Celebration of the Stars is the Celebrate Writing book. Tutors can learn more about the Celebrate Writing book [here](#).

ESL Resource Guide

We received an email recently from someone who thanked us for the resources available to tutors on our

students work two or three entry level jobs in order to survive economically; they take care of children, and still find the time to commit to their education. Fifty two percent of our students are white, and some students have obtained citizenship by studying with a Literacy Volunteers tutor. About 80% of our students read at or below the 8th grade reading level and are not eligible for services at a higher learning institution. They still want to reach their literacy goals and through us they receive services that are not available ANYWHERE ELSE. These services not only raise their literacy levels, but their self-confidence and independence as well.

- Misconception 3: "Why bother? I did it, why can't they?"
- Fact 3: According to 2010 U.S. Census data, there are over 10,000 individuals in the Chippewa Valley that do not have a high school diploma. There are many reasons why someone never finished high school, but does that mean that they should not have the opportunity to learn skills like getting a driver's license, reading a book to their child or filling out a job application?

Literacy Volunteers is changing lives one student at a time. We do this by taking the time to understand the unique needs of each learner and tailor our services specifically to them. Using real-world applications to teach our students, we help them better retain their skills, empowering them to achieve their personal goals. Our free services not only help the learners and their families, they enrich the entire Chippewa Valley community.

We would like to thank United Way of Dunn County for continuing to fund Literacy Volunteers. We will continue to work with the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and are optimistic that we will receive future funding. In the meantime, please send contributions to Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley directly or [via our website](#).

website. She then shared a link to an ESL Resource Guide entitled "Become proficient in English with these tips and tricks". Click here to read them. Thanks, Kelly!



Wish List:

Literacy Volunteers
Chippewa Valley has a wish list on Amazon.com.

Have you "liked" us on Facebook yet? Go to our page now.



Literacy changes everything. Thank you for your support.

Are You Ready for ScrabbleBee?

Have you signed up your ScrabbleBee team yet? Has your business let us know that you will "bee" a major sponsor or donate a prize for the raffle? Have you signed up to volunteer as a word waiter?



The 14th Annual ScrabbleBee will buzz in before you know it. It is less than two months away on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 29 Pines Conference Center, Eau Claire. Team check in is at 5:15 p.m. and competition begins at 6 p.m.

Get your team together and register now. Here is how it works: Teams of up to six players work together to build words. Three games are played throughout the evening, and the team achieving the highest total for all three games is the winner. We will have prizes for best costumes and for raising the most money. There are both a Tortoise (more traditional Scrabble) and a Hare (speed Scrabble) division. The Visit Eau Claire Fun Patrol will be there with a photo booth, and we will have a 50/50 Raffle and Baskets Raffle.

Participate in our signature event and have a honey of a good time doing it! For general information, to become a sponsor, register a team, or volunteer, [go to our website](#) or call [715-834-0222](tel:715-834-0222).

A special thanks to our major sponsors who have already committed to ScrabbleBee: Citizens Community Federal, Manpower, Northwestern Bank, Royal Construction, Volume One, WQOW TV 18, and Xcel Energy. All

proceeds from this event go directly to Literacy Volunteers programs and services.

Celebrate Writing 2015: "What Are You Reading?"

Each year students are given the opportunity to be published in a book of student writings. Tutors and their student(s) will each receive a copy at "Celebration of the Stars" on May 19, 2015. Tutors are urged to encourage their student(s) to participate!

"What Are You Reading?" is the theme for this year's book. It provides students with an opportunity to have their photo taken holding one of their favorite books, magazines or newspapers. Then they answer a few questions: What is the book about? Why did you pick this book? How does it relate to you? Why is reading important to you? Tutors should help students print their answers on the [Submission Form](#).

All students will have their own page, which will include a photo of them holding their book and their name. Tutors will work with students to answer the questions. Answers can be as short as one or two sentences or a more expanded paragraph. Each of these questions could become a lesson in itself. Contact your staff support person for additional resources.

[Continue to read about Celebrate Writing.](#)

Basic Computer Skills Class

Attention Tutors! Are you or your student interested in gaining some basic computer skills? We are exploring offering free classes on



computer skills that you, your student, or the two of you could attend together.

We are considering offering the following four different classes that would last one hour per week for 2-3 weeks depending on the course:

Class 1: Computer Basics

- Turning on/off the Computer
- How to use the mouse
- Basic computer vocabulary
- Creating secure passwords

Class 2: Email

- Setting up a G-Mail Account
- Sending/Receiving messages
- Attaching a file to an email message
- Email Etiquette

Class 3: Internet Basics

- What is a browser?
- Conducting effective internet searches
- Using the internet for job searches, social media, directions, checking the weather

Class 4: File Management

- Creating, deleting and renaming folders and documents
- Cutting, copying, pasting and move folders and documents
- Using a flash drive
- Searching for documents or folders
- Creating Screen Prints

If you or your student is interested in attending, please either email Stephanie at sbvobornik@lvcv.org or call 715-834-2451 by March 13th to talk about the class that interests you and dates and times that would work best. Let Literacy Volunteers help improve computer skills for you or your student!

Thank you Mary Gresser-Burns

Literacy Volunteers would like to recognize and thank Mary Gresser-Burns for her 10 years as a tutor.

Unfortunately, Mary and her husband will be moving to Seattle, Washington in March. On a positive note, she has contacted ProLiteracy in that area to determine where she can tutor.



Mary currently meets weekly for one-to-one tutoring with three women; they are from China, Iran and Thailand. She works with them on such areas as their English speaking and vocabulary skills, reading comprehension and, in one case, citizenship. All of the women speak their native language at home, so it can be challenging from them to practice their English.

“Sister Diane (Boehm) and Mary Ward have been great at pairing me with my students,” Mary said. She and her students have become friends over the years. “I have benefited just as much or more from the relationships as the students have. It is humbling,” she said, “to see how hard they have to work in order to succeed in our society. I believe in them and empower them to question things.”

Mary found out about Literacy Volunteers through her church. She is a microbiologist but enjoys the English language and literature. She holds a Teaching English as Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate from Hamlin University and even used LVCV for a lesson plan. She is also halfway through a master’s program in Adult Basic ESL. We know that Mary will continue to do good work in Seattle, but all of us here will miss her, especially her students. Thanks, Mary, we wish you the best.

Reading Workshops Coming This Spring

Ever wish you could unlock better reading? Save any or all of these afternoons: April 7, April 15, May 5, and May 13. Literacy Volunteers will offer four special training sessions in Eau Claire for tutors that focus specifically on skills in reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and phonics.



Thanks to a generous grant from Eau Claire Community Foundation, these workshops allow staff to tailor and share up-to-date approaches that fundamentally affect reading success. Plan to join us for any or all the workshops.

Don't be left out! Save the dates now and then watch for newsletter updates in March and April. Registration will be required, and look for further details soon.

In Gratitude for Toni Wilson

A basement turned play school room for her grandchildren, 30+ years professional teaching, adult literacy tutoring in retirement...Toni Wilson was a lifelong educator, and sadly she passed away on February 6, 2015.

A few weeks earlier Toni spoke with Literacy Volunteers' staff member Mary Ward about how much she enjoyed tutoring and working with her student. She thanked Mary for the opportunity to be a tutor! The thanks is all ours and we will miss her for sure.

“She was a bigger gem than we could have known, and

she inspired her grandchildren to become educators and be who they are,” said staff member Cheryl Sutter, who attended Toni’s funeral.

Toni's family designated LVCV as a donation recipient. To make a donation in memory of Toni, [go to our website](#). To her daughter Lynn, who co-tutored with Toni, and to Toni's entire family, thank you for sharing Toni's gifts with Literacy Volunteers.

Need Help?

We have a variety of programs to help you acquire the necessary skills to achieve economic self-sufficiency. [Click Here](#) to see services that we provide.



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