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

# The Chalkboard

A monthly update brought to you by Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley

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## GED Honor Roll

Congratulations to Carrie for receivi

## October 2013

### **From the Desk of the Director**

The other night I was flipping through my new Ina Garten cookbook looking for inspiration. Once again, I was reminded that not everyone has the ability to do that, but not because they don't own the cookbook.

How often do you take for granted your ability to read?

As a young girl growing up in Appleton, WI I read all the books of Laura Ingalls Wilder, and I escaped through the walls to the Secret Garden and down



the rabbit hole with Alice in Wonderland. It is difficult to imagine a world without the ability to read...without the ability to read a recipe from a cookbook or the instructions on a prescription bottle.

Because of your support, we helped 542 adults last year. But the needs in our community continue to grow. Your support

## More Success

Congratulations to 2  
Dunn County  
Vocational Literacy  
participants who  
received job offers this  
month!

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## Little Free Library



Step into fall with a visit to the LVCV Little Free Library! The libraries exist world-wide to promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges. You can find it (and borrow or leave a book) at our Family Literacy location, 510 South Farwell Street.

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has enabled us to teach adults to read so they can:

- \* read to their children; or
- \* read the label on a package at the grocery store; or
- \* complete a job application; or
- \* study for their GED; or
- \* take the American citizenship exam.

Benjamin Franklin said, *“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.”* Eliminating illiteracy in our community is certainly worthwhile. As we move into this busy holiday season, please consider making a financial donation to support Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley so that we can continue to serve adults in Eau Claire, Dunn and Chippewa Counties. The staff, tutors, students and board members thank you for your support.

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## **Representative Dana Wachs Visits Literacy Program**

Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley (LVCV) was pleased to provide State Assembly Representative Dana Wachs (D) of the 91st Assembly District with a tour of our 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 Volunteers 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."

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### **Tutor Training**

LVCV thanks our recent new volunteers for their completion of tutor training in October!

- Elizabeth Dunaway
- Karen Eisenbarth
- Mary Kenosian
- Clare Koopmans
- Julie Laakaniemi
- Shirley Lynn
- Dorothy Miller
- Claudeen Oebser
- Louise Sanders
- Cheryl Sandoval
- Mary Sills
- Janet Fawcett Weld
- Lynn Wilson
- Toni Wilson

Your time and dedication to teaching literacy assists us by reaching our mission of helping one person, one family and one community at a time. Great work!

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## Spotlight on Support

### Jan Goethel: Remembering Shirley Crouse

Jan Goethel started her career in literacy in 1989 when Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley was just getting off the ground in Eau Claire. Initially Jan's involvement was as a tutor, but she progressed to writing news articles and then publishing literacy manuals for



the program. The book with the biggest impact, locally and nationally, was a guidebook for Family Literacy, based on the local program.

Jan introduced her mother, Shirley Crouse, to the program and its volunteer opportunities. A former teacher, Shirley was inspired to tutor and especially enjoyed helping students pursue citizenship. She tutored for more than ten years, with 5 or 6 students, stopping only when she got cancer a year ago. Jan made a gift to the Family Literacy program in remembrance of Shirley and to honor her service to the organization.

Jan's gift will further her passion for literacy by helping Faith Partners for Literacy raise awareness of literacy needs and encourage support for the Literacy Volunteers-Chippewa Valley (LVCV) Family Literacy Program. When federal funding was cut from the family program in 2011, it devastated the program's ability to provide on-site classrooms for preschool-aged children of adult students in the program. A gift like the one from Jan and Shirley will help Faith Partners for Literacy meet this need. Specifically, the gift will help provide on-site early childhood education (EduCare) for infants and toddlers attending the Family Literacy program. In addition, the gift will help Faith Partners for Literacy reach its goal of raising \$30,000 by December 1 to ensure a match gift for the 2014 program year.

In hard economic times, gifts from caring literacy supporters enable the program to continue serving families and inspire Faith Partners for Literacy to continue educating the public about the opportunities to help others in need. Faith Partners for Literacy and LVCV are honored to remember Shirley Crouse for her dedication to literacy. Together, we will do our best to meet

the challenge of funding Family Literacy for years to come.

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## Xcel Energy

LVCV has been awarded a \$3,000 grant by Xcel Energy Foundation in support of Increasing Career Pathways. The grant will provide adults with the opportunity to complete necessary courses to enter into higher education or improve their employability through innovative programs such as ServeSafe Food Handler and Forklift training.



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## Faith Partners

Faith Partners for Literacy is seeking to raise \$30,000 dollars by December 1st to continue the program that provides care and education for children of adults participating in Literacy Volunteers-Chippewa Valley's Family Literacy program. Faith Partners efforts will be matched by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. If you would like to contribute to Faith Partners efforts, you may donate online at [www.faithpartners.us](http://www.faithpartners.us) or send donations to Faith Partners for Literacy, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, WI 54701.

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