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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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September 2014

From the Desk of...

MaryJo VanGompel
Executive Director



You can make a difference in someone's life. Literacy is the bridge from poverty to self-sufficiency. Consider for a moment that you cannot read a book or the instructions on your prescription bottle, are not able to drive a vehicle, or can't communicate in English. According to the 2010 U.S. Census Reports, there are over 10,000 adults in the Chippewa Valley without a high school diploma. Imagine trying to find a job without that important piece of paper. This year Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley helped over 500 adults in Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties with GED prep, math, reading, writing, speaking and computer skills. That means we have the capacity to help 1 out of 20 people in

-Tom Carey
-Denise Hanson-Pabich
-Terri Hoepner
-Larry Jolivette
-Karen Jones
-Marianne Klinkhammer
-Lori Krings
-Sue Lane
-Leah Motschenbacher
-Pa Thao

CNA Student Successes

Congratulations to another state board certified CNA student! Mariceli Werner completed her CNA course through CVTC and has successfully passed both the state's written and practical skills exam. She was mentored by tutor and retired nurse Jim McConnell. Along with Mariceli's knowledge and skills, she will bring great compassion and thoughtful communication to the people she serves in the future. Well done, Mariceli!

Tutor Resources

At the recent Workplace Literacy Conference, bilingual educator Jo Gusman provided a link to resources on her website. [Click here](#) to view her list of free resources that tutors and instructors may find helpful.

Painters Wanted

Do you like to paint? We are looking for volunteers to paint our tutor rooms in Eau Claire. We have all the materials, so just let us know when you are available. Thanks!

need of basic skills. We know that there are people in our community that need our expertise. Won't you help us reach them and provide them with the skills they need to improve their lives?

Each year, Literacy Volunteers holds our Annual Fund Campaign, reaching out to our close supporters in the community that share our commitment to help adults succeed now and in the future. We thank you for supporting this effort in recent years or are considering it now. Please make a gift today that is significant and meaningful to you. With your financial support, we can reach our goal and continue making a difference. Remember your contribution stays in our community and each dollar donated to literacy returns \$33 to our community. The gift of literacy is one that may be taken for granted, but without it life is a struggle. For your convenience, you can [make your donation online](#), or consider Leaving a Legacy.

Leaving a Legacy

Generous annual gifts from our donors help LVCV to continue to educate and empower our community members. As a donor, you may also consider helping LVCV by making a contribution through your estate plan, either directly to LVCV or to the Legacy for Literacy Fund which will help support literacy in the Chippewa Valley into the future.

There are several options for making an estate gift:

- Leave a percentage or a specific dollar amount to LVCV or the Legacy for Literacy Fund through your Will or Trust documents. You can retain the benefit of your assets during your lifetime



and then provide a benefit to LVCV through your estate. You may wish to contact your attorney to add this bequest to your plan.

- Designate LVCV or the Legacy for Literacy Fund as a



We are still in need of a microwave. Does anyone have one to donate?

Wish List:

Literacy Volunteers
Chippewa Valley has a wish list on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



beneficiary for your IRA, 401k, or other qualified retirement account. LVCV and your heirs may receive a significant tax benefit using this method. You should discuss this plan with your tax professional.

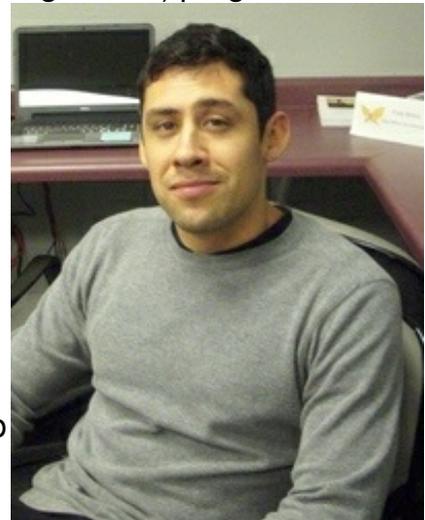
- Designate LVCV or the Legacy for Literacy Fund as a full or partial beneficiary on your investment accounts, bank accounts, or life insurance policies. This change is easy to make by contacting your bank, broker, or other financial representative.

By making a gift to LVCV through your estate plan, you are helping to ensure that literacy services in our community continue to be available to meet the needs.

Meet the New Work Study Students

Literacy Volunteers is fortunate to have two Chippewa Valley Technical College Work Study Students on our staff this semester: Mary Lou Stanley and Joshua Barbosa.

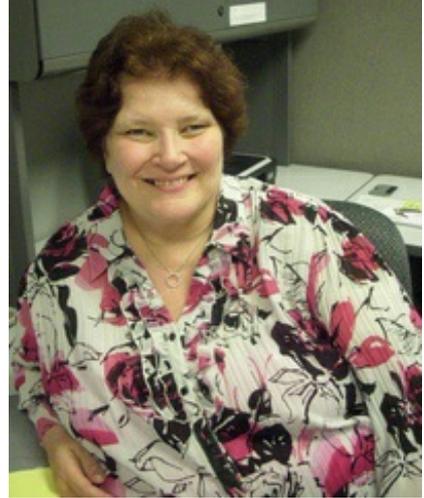
Joshua Barbosa is in his second year of school in the A.O.D.A. (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) program. He graduates in 2016. His job duties at Literacy Volunteers include maintaining computer programs and overall systems, entering data, answering phones, greeting guests and other office projects as needed. Joshua said that these duties will help prepare him for working in an office environment in the A.O.D.A. field.



“I really like the people I work with and for here at Literacy Volunteers,” he said. “Everyone is easy to get along with and easy to communicate with, which makes the work experience that much more worthwhile.”

Mary Lou Stanley is in her fifth semester at CVTC. She also has a job so attends school part-time. Mary Lou is in

the Administrative Professional program with a Small Business Certificate in Accounting and will graduate within a year. She is the front desk receptionist at Literacy Volunteers. Her duties include greeting guests, answering the phone, updating data in Donorsnap, mail merge projects, research, copying, sending out mailings, and general upkeep of the office. She said that her duties directly relate to her program and future career goals.



“Everyone is so nice and the job is fun,” Mary Lou said, “Every day is different and seems to fly by; I can’t believe it when the end of the day is here.”

Welcome Mary Lou and Joshua!

Student Successes

A new web page has been added to our website in the Drop Down menu under "About Us". We know you will enjoy reading this first touching story as much as we did.

[Read it now.](#)

Free GED Practice Tests

Are you working with a student who is preparing for the GED tests? Did you know that Literacy Volunteers has vouchers for free online practice tests?

The practice tests are a great predictor of how well the student will do on the real GED test. It provides specific feedback on the areas that the student should study more in order to improve their score. Thanks to the generosity of a District Rotary grant, we were able to purchase \$2,000 worth of vouchers.

Please contact your staff support person if you are interested in having your student take a practice test, and

they will get you the necessary information.

Age of Opportunity Job & Volunteer Fair Held



Tutor Kris Phillips helped run our booth at the Age of Opportunity Job & Volunteer Fair that was held at the Oakwood Mall recently. Learn more about the event through the [WEAU story](#).

Tutor Training Coming Soon

If you are not already a literacy tutor, your opportunity to receive tutor training is coming soon! Sessions will be held Oct. 21 and Nov. 1 at 29 Pines Conference Center, Hwy. 29 and Co. T, Eau Claire. There will also be some independent online segments and computer pre-work. [Click here for more information](#). In order to participate, you must register by Oct. 11th, so [register now](#). Please also complete a [Tutor Data Form](#).

Check Out Display of New Materials



Cindy Tate, our receptionist from Citizens Employment and Training, designed the display of new student materials available at our Eau Claire office. Come check them out. Thanks, Cindy, for your diligent work!

Voter Registration Guide

Election season is upon us—the midterm elections are November 4, 2014. To help you and your students learn more about how and why to vote, [ProLiteracy](#) has created an [Easy Voter Registration Guide](#).

The Easy Voter Registration Guide provides new voters and busy voters with nonpartisan information for the nationwide midterm elections, including:

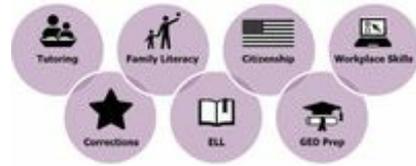
- How and when to register
- Details about political parties
- What to do after registering to vote

The Easy Voter Registration Guide is a great starting point for teaching adult learners the importance of civic engagement. We hope you find it useful! Thanks for all you do for adult literacy and basic education from ProLiteracy and all of us here at LVCV.

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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