



## **LITERACY VOLUNTEERS – CHIPPEWA VALLEY RECEIVES EBAY FOUNDATION GRANT FOR EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS PROGRAM**

**Eau Claire, WI November 5, 2015**– Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley (LVCV), an organization committed to providing flexible literacy programs to help adults and their families reach their education, employment and life goals, announced today that it has been awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from the eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The grant was recommended by eBay Foundation’s employee-volunteer led Wisconsin Global Impact Team.

Funds will be used to support employability skills education for our adult students. Employability skills lessons provide adults the opportunity to improve their basic literacy skills in the context of developing the skills necessary to find and retain employment. Instructors will collaborate with agencies and individuals that can provide job training and will adapt materials and develop additional lessons that allow students to succeed in classes that would otherwise be too difficult for them. The teachers will train and support volunteers who will provide individual tutoring sessions to help students succeed. The employability classes are offered within our free half-day classes for adults to improve their reading, writing, speaking, math, and computer skills. The Program’s ultimate goal is to help these families develop the skills they need to become economically independent and to sustain stable employment and housing.

LVCV Executive Director MaryJo VanGompel said, “Employability skills are a crucial component of college and career readiness. Some of the topics that will be covered include business speech, computer literacy, CPR, customer service, forklift driving, resume and job interview skills and ServSafe Food Handler certificates.”

The Employability Skills program was made possible in part through eBay Foundation’s Global Impact Team program, which empowers employees of eBay to support their communities through volunteerism and employee-sponsored grants. In 2014 alone, Global Impact Teams worldwide recommended over 250 nonprofits to receive grants totaling more than \$1,200,000.

“eBay Foundation was established to reach beyond the boundaries of eBay’s virtual village to develop strong communities that bring people together,” said Amy Millington, President of eBay Foundation. “Through our Global Impact Teams, we’ve been able to identify and support a wide variety of outstanding programs, that feed families in the San Francisco Bay Area, educate children in India, assist seniors in Germany, mentor at-risk youth in Omaha, and serve the homeless in Austin – to name only a few. We couldn’t be happier to add to our list of beneficiaries by supporting Literacy Volunteers in its efforts to eliminate illiteracy in the Chippewa Valley.

### **ABOUT LITERACY VOLUNTEERS – CHIPPEWA VALLEY**

LVCV is a community-based literacy organization that offers adults the opportunity to gain the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their families. We do this by taking the time to understand the unique needs of each learner and tailoring 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

### **ABOUT EBAY FOUNDATION**

eBay Foundation was established by eBay in 1998 and, reflecting eBay innovation, was the first corporate foundation to be endowed with pre-IPO stock. Since inception, the Foundation has contributed more than \$30 million to nonprofit organizations worldwide. The Foundation engages eBay employees and supports their pursuit of charitable giving and volunteerism through its Global Impact Team program. In addition, using a unique combination of foundation funding, employee volunteerism, and other resources, eBay foundation has created The Opportunity Project to extend the



company's commitment to global citizenship. By scaling social innovations that create economic opportunity, The Opportunity Project gives people in need the chance to participate in the global economy, provide for their families, and build stronger communities. For more information: [www.theopportunityproject.org](http://www.theopportunityproject.org). eBay Foundation Global Impact Team grants are awarded by the eBay Foundation Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

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