



# News

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## **LVSA Volunteer Rewarded for “Inspiring Dedication and Commitment”**

Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA) volunteer Janet Saunders has been awarded the Delaware Adult Education and Family Literacy Outstanding Service Award. The honor came at the InterCouncil Agency on Adult Literacy (ICAL) award ceremony at Legislative Hall in Dover on Friday, April 15, 2011.

Saunders was nominated for her many contributions to LVSA as a volunteer. In 2010 she helped a young father from Venezuela receive his American citizenship and secure a better paying job. Currently, she tutors an Armenian woman for four hours a week to help her strengthen her English literacy skills and tutors mothers in a multi-level English class three days a week at Wilmington Head Start. In addition, Saunders travels across northern New Castle County to meet learners for day and evening testing appointments and to conduct tutor and learner orientations.

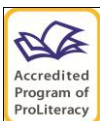
“Volunteers are the heart of LVSA,” said Executive Director Cindy Shermeyer. “Without their commitment and service, we would not be able to function. Janet is an amazing volunteer. Whatever the assignment, she is eager to serve LVSA and adult learners!”

ICAL is a committee of state agency leaders concerned about adult literacy needs in Delaware. Lt. Governor Matt Denn, chair of the committee, handed out the awards for excellence in adult education. “This is my favorite event to attend,” he told adult educators and students. “I look forward to it each year.”

“We are so glad Janet sought us out when she moved from Norristown to Wilmington. She was very involved in a similar program there and was looking to continue. She brings experience, knowledge and insight to LVSA. With a monthly list of 50 waiting for literacy help, we could use many more Janets,” Shermeyer said.

[According to the Independent Sector], a Delaware volunteer’s service is worth \$21 per hour. LVSA currently has 87 volunteers, each tutoring 60 or more hours a year. After 21 hours of training, tutors are matched with a learner or small group of learners to begin tutoring. Tutors and learners meet at a mutually convenient time and place (library or church). LVSA provides curriculum, support and ongoing training.

Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults (LVSA), an independent, nonprofit organization, is an accredited affiliate of ProLiteracy Worldwide. LVSA volunteer tutors work with some of the most vulnerable residents of the community, those adults who are nonreaders or have a literacy level below the fifth grade as well as English language learners with limited education and/or lower oral proficiency. Headquartered in the Wilmington Library for more than 25 years, LVSA serves learners throughout Northern Delaware. The organization is dedicated to helping adults improve their literacy skills and thereby reach their potential to become confident, self-sufficient, and productive employees and community members.



For more information, call 302-658-5624, or visit [www.litvolunteers.org](http://www.litvolunteers.org).