



# The LVSA Landscape

Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults Newsletter: Opening Minds, Changing Lives

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- “No skill is more crucial to the future of a child, or to a democratic and prosperous society, than literacy.” NCL
- The Hispanic population is the largest race/ethnicity without a high school diploma. NCL
- 30% of those without a high school education live at or below poverty. NCL

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## LVSA Annual Dinner: Food, Fun, and Fellowship

On May 17, 2011, the LVSA family gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington for the LVSA annual dinner. Originally in November, the event was switched to May in hopes to encourage more folks to attend. One hundred and thirty learners, tutors, and family members gathered for this celebratory event.

As is tradition, the dinner was a “potluck”, with a myriad of delicious foods from all over the world. After dinner, learners and tutors were recognized for their many accomplishments this year.

Maureen Whelan, Delaware State Director of Adult Education also attended. Whelan briefly spoke about the value of adult education for employment. She also thanked LVSA volunteers for the time and commitment they give each week working with their learner(s).



LVSA tutor Lorraine is all smiles with her learner Gene.



Roberta and her learner Konoh, celebrate her achievement of US citizenship.

LVSA learner Gene Montgomery continued the tradition of a LVSA learner sharing his/her story at the dinner. “Listening to the stories of our learners is so inspiring,” commented LVSA Program Director Alyssa Almond. “I look forward to the dinner each year and celebrating the accomplishments of tutors and learners.”

## We Did It!!!!

In August 2010, tutors met with LVSA staff to learn about new accountability requirements for the program. “Because of our federal grant, we are held to the same accountability standards as larger programs with paid teachers,” reports LVSA Executive Director Cindy Shermeyer. “Some days it feels like an uphill battle and we are that Little Engine from the children’s book The Little Engine That Could.”

The state set high expectations for LVSA this year. We were advised to strengthen the program by increasing the number of instructional hours per learner,

the number of learners pre- or post-tested, and the percentage of learners acquiring gains in reading, math, and English skills.

**We are pleased to report that we did it!!**

Out of 9 target outcomes for educational level gain, we **met AND** exceeded 8. Last year LVSA met only 1 of those 9 targets. Out of 133 learners, 95% were pre- and post-tested compared to 72% last year. Finally, the average number of hours of attendance per learner grew from **43 to 60.**



Shermeyer proudly states “It is evident how hard everyone worked to meet these requirements. I think it says a lot about who we are. Our tutors are well-trained. They take their commitment very seriously. Without their energy and support, we would not have had such an amazing year. I look forward to next year and the many successes it will bring. Our ‘Little Engine’ will climb whatever new hill comes our way!”

# Welcome New Tutors!!



We would like to welcome new tutors from our June Tutor Training class:

**Lisa Becker**  
**Jeannine Carver**  
**Nancy Irwin**  
**Jerome Mathis**  
**Ann Motter**  
**Glenda Myrick**  
**Marty Newell**  
**Judy Nock**  
**Angela Stotz**

**Laurel Strahorn**  
**Ken Stuller**



## HOLA



## Learner & Tutor Accomplishments

### Learner-Tutor Pairs Completing 60+ Hours of Instruction FY 2010-2011:

- \*Rosario Santos & Alden Gibbs
- \*Wade Shearin & Joe Vanella
- \*Pattie Taylor & Judy Crescenzi
- \*Juana Cabrera & Axel Schwendt
- \*Oath Peterson, Gloria Acosta, Marleny Castano & Jack Winn
- \*Jenny Yeh & Dorothy Kalbfus
- \*Konah Harris & Roberta Headley
- \*Margarita Castro & Melanie Andrews
- \*Sema Genc, Haekyung Lee & Sally Steffel
- \*Iryna Montronenko & Tommie Almond

- \*Galdina Cortez & Karen Kinsella
- \*Ahmed Ekhwat & Majed Subh
- \*Yasmin Ortiz & Bridget Kirk
- \*Hamid Meziani & Phil Tissue
- \*Miae Park, Minhee Kim & Megan Johanson
- \*Portia Thornton & Ruth Ansel
- \*Eva Guzman & Sister Bernice Pelczar
- \*Fatima Meziani & Pat Christopher
- \*Ana Nieves & Marj Johnson
- \*Vrendia Ridyolph & Becky Arnold
- \*Diana Ramirez & Patrice Coughain
- \*Ed Dennis & Anne Shelton
- \*Rosa Garcia & Barbara Meierding
- \*Jima Douglas & Steve Rosenfeld

**Thank you for your dedication to teaching and learning!**



### Learner Accomplishments:

- Robert Balaguer**—Received his library card
- Aurora Colin**—Helped organize her son's class graduation
- Clare Kwon**—Completed a TESOL certification program
- Karam Mikhail**—Obtained U.S. Citizenship
- Alexandra Nino**—Received her DE Driver's license
- Nazia Rahman**—Obtained U.S. Citizenship

**Congratulations on your successes!**

## In Memory of Robert A. Darby

In July, 2011, Bob Darby, a dear friend and tutor passed away quite suddenly.

Bob had been an active tutor with LVSA since 2006. He worked with two learners, both language learners. He was quite proud (rightly so) of his first learner achieving US citizenship due to his efforts.

Bob was very conscientious about his tutoring. He planned

each lesson carefully despite the lack of updated materials that were missing. A memorial fund for Bob has been established to buy updated materials and resources. To date over \$1,200 has been donated in memory of this gracious man.

We will miss his charming personality and quick wit. The office was always a bit brighter when he stopped by to chat.



If you knew Bob and would like to contribute to the memorial fund, you can donate on line at [www.litvolunteers.org](http://www.litvolunteers.org) or mail your donation, marked "in memory of Bob Darby" to the LVSA office—PO Box 2083, Wilmington, DE 19899-2083.

# SCRABBLE Help

October 29th and SCRABBLE® Spellebration will roll around before we know it! We still need lots of help for this, our signature fundraising event. Below is a suggested list of items to use as Door Prizes. You can drop the item off at the office, or give us a call. We would be happy to meet you to retrieve the donation.

\*Prize donations: photo album, picture frame, can cozies, windshield scrapers, pair

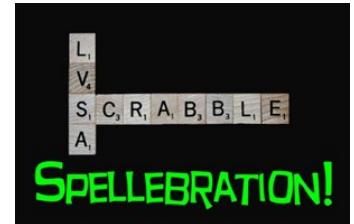
of movie tickets, gift cards (\$10 limit), book light, nail care products, baked goods, coffee mug ...

The above are just some ideas of good door prizes. Try to keep a \$10 limit per prize. We are also looking for any donations of bottled water, cans of soda—Coke, Diet Coke, Ginger Ale, etc...

Lastly, we could use any help for set up, clean up and during the event.

Drink servers during game play are also needed. Last year we made \$12,000. We hope to increase that number this year!

Thank you everyone!



Thank You **Christ Church Christiana Hundred** for a grant of \$2,500 to support our program with Wilmington Head Start at the West End Neighborhood House Child Care Center.

Thank you also to the **Speer Trust** for their generous support of the same program with a \$20,000 grant!



# Happy Anniversary!

September 1, 2011 Administrative Assistant Cathy Opdenaker will celebrate her one year anniversary with LVSA!

Both Alyssa and I feel lucky to work with Cathy. She has so many skills and talents that have helped us become more organized. She is a big part of

the team and is involved in many different aspects of the organization. She definitely does not just answer phones. She is responsible for keeping track of the finances, and data management. She shares ideas and opinions to help build a stronger LVSA. Just recently she became trained in giving

the standardized tests we use. Her sunny personality, and friendliness fills our office with laughter and brightness! Thank you Cathy!!! You are the BEST!!!!!!





## Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults

*Opening Minds ... Changing Lives*

### **LVSA Headquarters and Administrative Offices**

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*The purpose of Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults is to help adults improve literacy skills and thereby realize their potential to be confident, self sufficient, and productive employees and community members. We deliver services and programs in reading, writing, English language, math, workplace, and computer skills. LVSA works to create public understanding of the impact of illiteracy and advocates for literacy solutions.*

## LVSA Horizon: Upcoming Events and Info

### **Upcoming Events**

**Sept. 13th**—Back to School Night

**Sept. 19th** -Tutor Training I begins

**Oct. 17th**—Tutor Training II Begins

**Oct. 29th-** SCRABBLE® Spellebration, Widener University's Barristers Club 11:30a.m. -4:30p.m.

### **Keep Informed, Get Involved, Get in Touch!**

Donate at:

**[www.litvolunteers.org/donate](http://www.litvolunteers.org/donate)**

Interested in tutoring, volunteering, or learning more? Contact us at:

(302) 658-5624

[litvolunteers@verizon.net](mailto:litvolunteers@verizon.net)

## Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

September 12-18, 2011