

Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults

“Opening Minds — Changing Lives”

The Basic Reader

LVSA Newsletter

Fall 2008

Gearing up for fall classes...

As we look forward to the end of heat waves and the beginning of school, LVSA is gearing up for a fall round of English Language/Civics classes and a new Tutor Training workshop. A non-profit tutoring organization, Literacy Volunteers trains volunteers to work one-on-one with adults who either need to learn basic reading or English as a second language. The tutor training will begin in October at the Aldersgate Methodist Church on Route 202. We are looking forward

to training more volunteers so that we may better serve our student population. In addition, several English Language/Civics classes will be starting in September. These classes are available free of charge for adults in northern New Castle County who take a placement test and score at an intermediate level of English fluency. We will be offering classes at the Woodlawn Library in Wilmington and also classes in Newark for residents of that area.

If you know someone who can't read or speak English, or if you are interested in becoming a tutor, now is the time. We can match a beginning reader or speaker and a volunteer tutor based on availability, so that getting together is as easy as it can be for both parties. Going in to the fall, so many new projects are beginning. With both the classes and the volunteer training coming up, we anticipate placing a large number of adult learners.

PO Box 2083
Wilmington, DE 19899
302-658-5624
www.litvolunteers.org
litvolunteers@aol.com



Race!

The 6th annual Race for Literacy was held on a beautiful Saturday in August. Runners enjoyed home baked goodies after the race, colored T-shirts and finisher prizes. Max White was the overall winner with a time of 17:45. The course is 5 kilometers long.

LVSA Recognized at ICAL

Friday, September 12th at Legislative Hall in Dover, LVSA representatives attended the ICAL (Interagency Council on Adult Literacy) awards presentation. All members of the adult education community

from the Latin American Community Center to the Christina School District were present. Literacy Volunteers programs and personnel were nominated for several awards. Administrative Assistant, Gretchen

Elhassani for outstanding staff; the Adult Literacy Learning Center for program; Mary Cuomo for outstanding volunteer; and Carmen A. Knox for the T. M. Baker Service to Literacy Award.

Greetings from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that those lazy days of summer are over and that it is September already. September to me is a time of new beginnings. A new school year has started for our son, a new school (college) for our daughter, and new opportunities and experiences for me. The pace has already picked up here in the office! We are busy with Volunteer Appreciation, Community awareness activities in Newark and Wilmington, starting EL Civics classes, tutor training, and making plans for a 25th anniversary bash! In the beginning of October I will have the opportunity to attend the ProLiteracy Conference where I will be able to learn about other programs and new ideas and resources to help our learners. I look forward to meeting other folks from around the country that share our mission.

In this time of new beginnings this fall, I am reminded of the 1 in 5 Delawareans who are hoping for a new beginning that being able to read and/or speak English provides. Thank you for supporting LVSA through your time, talents, and finances in order to give someone a chance at a new beginning.



LVSA Executive Director
Cynthia E. Shermeyer

Tutor Receives Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award



Karen Kinsella, recipient of the Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award

Karen first became involved in January of 2006 when she took our tutor training workshop. She began working with two different adult learners, both interested in learning English as a second language. Under Karen's tutelage, her learners achieved goals such as community interaction and enhanced employment. One of Karen's learners was able to go to the grocery store alone, without an interpreter, and speak with a clerk in English. The same learner was

then able to go to the doctor's and understand 90% of what was said to her. Another learner created a flyer to advertise herself as a housecleaner, and won some new clients.

Karen is a member of the volunteer tutor training team, she hosts a small group of learners on Saturday afternoons at the Woodlawn library and has helped out doing administrative tasks in the LVSA office. Karen achieved 100 hours of volunteer service with our organization in November of 2007.

LVSA Attends Community Healthcare Forum

July 31, 2008, LVSA staff attended a forum to discuss community healthcare and access to health care for all individuals. In attendance were representatives from many local churches, AstraZeneca, the Partnership for Prescription Assistance and the Community Healthcare Access Program. Low literate adults may be less able to access healthcare and insurance than their more literate peers. Typically earning less, and less able to complete the

necessary paperwork for insurance companies, low literate adults may be in need of the Community Healthcare Access Program. Individuals may be eligible for the CHAP program if they have been rejected by Medicaid and if they are within the income guidelines. Income guidelines are typically higher than those to qualify for Medicaid. Counselors are available to help talk an interested person through the application process. If you or someone you

know needs medical assistance and has no insurance, call CHAP to see if you qualify. The toll free number is 1-800-996-9969. Please pass along this information to anyone you feel it may help. Only by engaging our entire community can we make sure that every individual has access to the necessary healthcare for their lives.

LVSA To Publish 25th Anniversary Cookbook

Keep an eye out this holiday season for the LVSA 25th Anniversary Cookbook. Culled from the recipes of our learners, tutors and community friends, this cookbook would make a great gift. The book includes recipes from such local names as Jill Biden, wife of Senator and Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Joe

Biden; Martha Carper, wife of Senator Thomas Carper; Dale Wolf, Governor Ruth Ann Minner. That is in addition to all the volunteers, tutors, adult learners, staff, Board members and friends who shared their recipes!

You can find dishes such as Yum Yum Dessert, Moroccan Flatbread and Cheesy Mexican Chicken. Vegetarian dishes,

exotic dishes, main courses, breads, salads and desserts round out this offering of delicious entrees. For the beginner and seasoned chef alike, everyone will be able to find something they love in this cookbook. Order yours from Literacy Volunteers, by calling the office at 302-658-5624 or online at litvolunteers.org.

Letter from Carmen A. Knox



Dear Friends,

In 1988, when I became Program Coordinator for LVA, I was very new to adult literacy. But with mentors like Judi Marshall, Page Bristow, Fran Tracy-Mumford, John Reynolds, Tim Travers, David Burdash and many others, I soon became an avid advocate for Adult Literacy.

During the 20 years I served the organization, there was great growth and many changes. The hundreds of volunteers and students I met during those years were awesome, wonderful, committed, challenging, hard-working - just a few of the adjectives to describe these people who became my friends and family.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Wilmington Library, LVSA Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and students who made my years of service so rewarding and memorable. And, of course my family who supported me. I thank all of you for the parties, dinners, lunches, flowers, letters, cards and notes I received in December upon my retirement. I wish all of you continued success with learning to read, write and speak and raising funds, managing programs and continuing the cause of adult literacy. I hope our paths will cross again soon.

Good luck and Best Wishes, and many thanks. Carmen Knox

Thank You to Our Partners

To all the individuals who have made our programs possible over the year, we would like to extend our most gracious thanks. Many thanks also go out to the following foundations for their support:

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Buying flowers for someone this fall season? Mention LVSA at Boyd's Flowers and Boyd's will donate a portion of your purchase to LVSA.

LVSA is going green!
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issue of the Basic
Reader by email.
Please let us know
your email address, so
we can be sure to
include you. Thanks!



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Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults
 PO Box 2083
 Wilmington, DE 19899
 302-658-5624

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Imagine not being able to read this...



“To empower adults and their families in Northern New Castle County to function more effectively in their daily lives and communities by improving their literacy skills through free, student-oriented, one-to-one and group instruction in basic reading and conversational English.”

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United Way of Delaware