

## PROGRAM PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults/Northern Delaware, Inc. is to reduce adult illiteracy in Northern New Castle County, Delaware. The program trains volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading and/or conversational English skills. This free tutorial service is provided to adults who read below the fifth grade level, or are foreign-born. LVSA depends on the active interest of public and private sources who provide funding, in-kind donations, and tutoring spaces.

Volunteer tutors receive 21 hours of training in which they learn a variety of techniques for teaching beginning reading, survival skills, and oral drills. After training, the tutors are matched with learners and each pair meets at least twice a week for at least one hour. Tutors and learners meet at a mutually convenient time and location such as a library, community center, school or church. A tutor commits to 100 hours of tutoring time. The organization provides ongoing support and guidance to trained tutors through in-service workshops, assistance from the Student/Tutor Coordinator and from the overall coordination between the LVSA staff and Board of Directors.

Six standing committees make up the volunteer Board of Directors, serving the program in a variety of areas (external affairs, finance, fund development, program, nominating and personnel). Many other volunteers assist the affiliate with office work, learner evaluation and tutor training. An Advisory Board of prominent community leaders continues to serve the organization.

In 2001, LVSA became an independent non-profit organization with an office located at the Wilmington Library. An Adult Literacy Learning Center is housed at the Woodlawn Library. In 2003, LVSA changed its name from Literacy Volunteers of America/Wilmington Library Affiliate, Inc. to Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults/Northern Delaware, Inc.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the program's beginning in 1983, over 2000 functionally illiterate adults have received tutorial assistance from volunteer tutors on a one-to-one basis. Over one hundred volunteers are trained annually. Many of the tutors have continued long after completing the 100 hours of their initial commitment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Visit the LVSA website at [www.litvolunteers.org](http://www.litvolunteers.org).