

Winnebago County Literacy Council

Literacy News

**VOLUME 3,
ISSUE 2**

SPRING 2003

Director's Corner

Greetings Everyone,

Spring is in the air and we are all anxiously anticipating its arrival. We are also anxiously waiting to hear if we will be receiving a grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation. We submitted this proposal last year and hope we receive the funding as 2004 is a year that is sure to be a challenge to secure funding for. We are also waiting to hear if we will receive funding from the Green Bay Diocese to help us promote our new programming with our collaborative partner program: Deaf Empowerment. Through this collaborative effort we hope to expand our services to the Deaf population, recruit and train Deaf tutors to work with Deaf students, and help to educate the community about Deaf literacy issues and Deaf culture.

We will also be applying for a Technology Grant through SBC and hopefully we will receive funds to replace staff computer systems to help us remain competitive and update our current computers for student/tutor use. Computers would then be available for student/tutor use in the tutoring rooms and we hope to purchase new ESL and ABE learning software to further support the needs of our

And The Winner Is...

On February 22, Aurora Health Care and WCLC held it's Second Annual Corporate Spelling Bee Fundraiser. Local businesses competed against each other in a fun, old-fashioned spelling bee competition. Keith Miller, Vice-Chancellor of UW-Oshkosh, emceed the event, while Martin Cramer and Jane Van De Hey served as judges.

Last year's winning team, Aurora Health Care, were strong contenders, along with all of the other teams, including:

students. We are really excited about this one so keep your fingers crossed for us!

Spring is also the time of year for us to let our volunteers know how much we truly appreciate their dedication and hard work. This agency would not exist if it weren't for the caring and dedicated work of our volunteers, so thank you for everything! National Volunteer Week is April 27- May 3. Please see the Volunteer Week article for more details.

I would like to thank Wal-Mart for their recent donation of \$1,000, and the Altrusa Club for their donation of \$300. Thanks to all who helped make our 2nd Annual Corporate Spelling Bee a success. We raised over \$4,000 from this event; please see the Bee article for more details. Also, mark your calendars for our upcoming spring fundraiser, the Human Race, on June 14th. We will be mailing out sponsorship forms sometime in May, let's all pray for good weather this year!

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis
Executive Director

the Oshkosh Public Library, WI Public Service with Hoffmaster and Emmeline Cook School, the Oshkosh Northwestern, and this year's champs, the Appleton Post-Crescent.

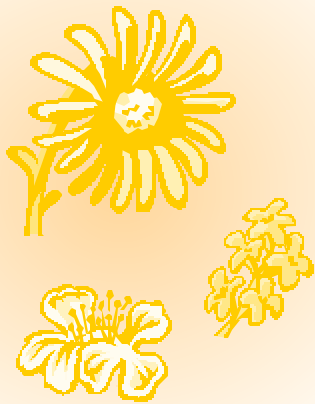
Everyone enjoyed free chocolate samples and a Silent Auction with donations from area businesses. Thank you, teams, volunteers, and donors, for helping WCLC raise funds to continue serving adults and families in Winnebago County!

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Upcoming events at WCLC:

- **Adult Tutor Training** May 5th, 7th, 12th, and 14th from 5:30-8:30 PM. Please call for more info or to register.
- **Child Tutor Training** May 17th from 12:00-4:00 PM. Please call for more info or to register.
- **Human Race Run/Walk Fundraiser** June 14th. Watch your mail soon for more info!
- **Child Tutor In-service** "Using Games for Learning" June 16th from 4:00-6:00 PM. Registration is required.
- **Adult Tutor Training** June 23rd, 25th, 30th, and July 1st from 5:30-8:30 PM. Please call for more info or to register.
- **Child Tutor Training** July 9th from 12:00-4:00 PM. Please call for more info or to register.



WCLC Students Enter Writing Competition!

Two WCLC students recently entered a contest called 'Readers as Writers' as part of The Key newspaper.

Waseng V. (with tutor Ulla) and Skender R. (with tutor Lynette) both submitted journal entries and articles to the newspaper's student writing competition in March. Skender received an honorable mention for his writing.

The winners of 2003's Readers as Writers competition will have their writings published in The Key's literary publication "Memories and Images". A reception will be held for the winners at the Milwaukee Public Library on April 24th.

The Key is published and distributed to adult reading programs throughout Wisconsin by Milwaukee Area Technical College. The articles in The Key are stories from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and are adapted to a lower reading level to make them easier to understand for ABE and ESL students.

WCLC provides free copies of The Key in both of the tutor rooms at the Council office. Next time you come for a lesson, take a minute to look at this month's issue of The Key and use it in your lessons.

We are very proud of you, Waseng and Skender! Keep up the good work!

WCLC Wishlist:

Please contact Lisa or Amanda if you would be willing to donate any of the following items—

- Blank reams of white computer/printer paper (8.5"x11")
- Small metal/wooden bookshelves
- Construction paper
- Disposable cameras

All donations are tax deductible.

Please contact us for more information.

WCLC Unveils a New Website: www.winlit.org

WCLC has been working together with Joy Schwarz of Winnefox Library Systems to develop our very first official WCLC website! We are excited to offer this as a resource to our tutors, students, volunteers, and others in the community.

The website is currently up and running, however, improvements and additions are still being made, so please be patient so that we are able to make it the best website we can offer!

Feel free to check out the WCLC website at www.winlit.org. Eventually we will offer links to helpful websites for students and tutors, resources, and other valuable information for everyone we serve.

If you have comments and/or suggestions for our new website, please contact a WCLC staff member and share! We would like to hear what you think about this exciting new addition to the Council's services.

Special Thanks To...

General Thanks:

First Congregational Church
 Morton Pharmacy Jan Wallig
 Mary Mueller Suzanne Werner
 Wal-mart Foundation
 Altrusa Club of Oshkosh

Literacy Tea Fundraiser:

Curtis and Lori Fuller Sandy Stratz
 Marianne Chaudoir Thomas Williams
 Marilyn Meyer Potter
 Night Owl Industries, LLC

2003 Corporate Spelling Bee:

Aurora Health Care	Oshkosh Public Library	
Wisconsin Public Service	Hoffmaster Co.	
Emmeline Cook School	Oshkosh Northwestern	
Appleton Post-Crescent	The Oshkosh Shoppe	
Fox Valley Cheesecake	Lara's Tortilla Flats	
Ever-Green Floral	Service Litho Print	
Pepsi Americas	Dale Fischer, E.A.	
Karniby's	Scandia Spa	Courtney Frank
Art Haus	La Sure's	Water City Grill
Heidel House	Mary Young	Monk-Reising
Lang Oil, Inc.	Menasha Corp.	Anchor Bank
US Bank	Deborah Toussaint	Leon and Susan Hoffmann
Lea Kitz	Mara Munroe	Amelia Crane
Joan Mueller	Stacy Walter	Rita Lee
Claire Kleinschmit	Keith Miller	Martin and Susan Cramer

Questions and Answers (Part Two!!)

Last quarter, we featured some typical questions that the WCLC staff members receive from our volunteers. Because we hear such a variety of concerns, we will again address some of the most common questions:

Q: Do I need to know another language to work with an ESL student?

A: No! During the tutor training workshop, methods are discussed for working with someone who doesn't speak the same language. Pictures and other visual materials are important during this type of tutoring. Staff are always available to assist ESL tutors and students as needed.

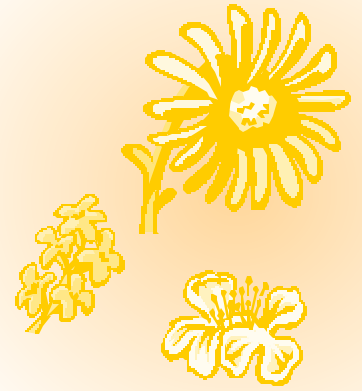
Q: What if I don't think the book we have is right for us? Can we switch?

A: Yes! If we place you and your student in a text that you just don't think is a

good fit for you, please let us know! We have several different curriculum plans to choose from, and we will work with you to find one that is a good match for your needs.

Q: Why is it so important that I turn in my calendar every single month?

A: We cannot stress to you how incredibly important it is that we receive attendance calendars in a timely manner. They help us continue to provide services in many ways. Our funding sources want to see proof that the money they generously give us is really helping people to learn. Our only proof of that is what is documented on the calendars! We also can help you remedy concerns, track your total volunteer hours, and celebrate your student's successes. Calendars are due in on the 10th of each month for the previous month.



It's Tornado Season!

Tutors and Students, please review the tornado/fire procedures posted in each of the tutoring rooms in the Council office. It is important to know what to do in these situations. If you have questions, please ask a WCLC staff member today.

Introducing Our Newest Members!

To give freely of yourself for the benefit of another person is one of the most precious gifts that you could ever give. Our agency would not be able to operate without the selfless dedication of our pool of volunteers. Thank you and welcome to the newest members of the WCLC family:

Joseph Manske
Michelle Gaffney
Janis Wallig

Brenda Scofield
Suzanne Werner
Francine Kalous

WCLC currently has a growing waiting list of students who need our services. If you or someone you know is interested in training to be a literacy volunteer, please see the 'Upcoming Events' calendar on page 1 for dates, or call Amanda for more information.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 21—25 is the annual Volunteer Appreciation Week. The WCLC staff wants to take time to express our sincere thanks to all of our volunteers. This organization depends strongly on volunteer service; in fact, we wouldn't be able to provide services to our students without volunteers there to help them!

Even from its roots, WCLC has always centered around volunteers. We currently have over 50 volunteer literacy tutors, 4 volunteer reading assessors,

and countless other volunteers who help out with office projects, translation services, publicity, and special events. Our small staff wouldn't be able to do this work alone!

The work that you do as a volunteer touches people in ways that you will never know. Take the time to pat yourselves on the back this week for a job well done, volunteers! We look forward to continuing to work with all of you in the future.

Active Tutors:

Please review and complete the insert in this quarter's newsletter on volunteer satisfaction. Your opinions and concerns are important to us, and will help us shape our programming. Thank you in advance for your time!

**WINNEBAGO
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WCLC has a
new website!
www.winlit.org



We teach...so others may reach!

Our Mission: To help adults and their families develop and improve skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and mathematics; so that they may be empowered to become active and informed community members and citizens.

WCLC Board of Directors

President: John Zarbano

Vice President: Margaret Genisio

Secretary: Joan Simmons

Treasurer: Bill Kitz

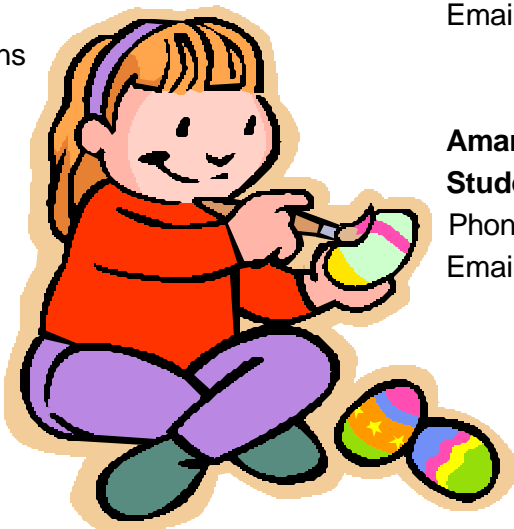
Members:

Kristen Krasny

Ed Lowe

Martin Cramer

Yolanda Delaney



WCLC Staff—How to Reach Us

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