

Literacy News

Winnebago County Literacy Council

Director's Corner

Greetings,

This summer finds the Winnebago County Literacy Council in dire need of securing general operating funds for 2004. Unfortunately, the outlook for finding grant resources to support our programs is looking bleak. With a National deficit of \$455 billion and a State deficit of over \$4 billion, proposed budget cuts are directly affecting literacy programs throughout the State. State Literacy TANF funding was cut from \$2.8 million in 2001-2 to \$750,000 in 2002-3, to \$0 in 2003-4. There are no adult literacy grants to apply for at this time to replace this funding for 2004. The WCLC received \$60,000 in TANF Literacy money in the last competitive grant cycle which covered an 18-month period, this grant will be ending December 31st, 2003. The TANF Literacy grant provided us with approximately 40% of our operating budget. The grant supported our one-on-one tutoring program for low-income students.

The WCLC did not receive funding from the Green Bay Diocese this year, nor did we receive the \$30,000 family literacy grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation. The

Deaf Empowerment Collaboration

Our effort to expand our services to include those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HH) is moving along quickly. The WCLC and Deaf Empowerment have teamed up to recruit and train volunteer tutors to work with Deaf/HH students. This collaborative effort also includes recruiting, enrolling, assessing and matching Deaf/HH students. This Deaf/HH Literacy Program offers one-on-one tutoring in Sign Language.

Melanie Blechl, from Deaf Empowerment,

Barbara Bush Foundation funding was very competitive. There were over 600 applications and only 10 received grants. We are still waiting to hear if we received our technology grant from the SBC Foundation.

We will continue to educate and inform the public, businesses, and the legislature about the needs of Wisconsin's adult learners and how adult literacy is the single greatest factor affecting our economy. We will continue to strive ahead and search out those funding opportunities not yet discovered. As always, we will continue to depend on the hard work of our volunteers, staff and the generosity of the Oshkosh Public Library so we can continue to do a lot with only a little.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis
Executive Director



has started to train tutors to work with those who are Deaf/HH. She will be offering another training in August. If you would like more information about being a tutor for a Deaf/HH student or know of someone who could benefit from these services, call Melanie at 920-836-3306, or email her at Melanie@deafe.org. You may also wish to check out the Deaf Empowerment web site at www.deafe.org for more information.

Summer 2003

Volume 3, Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Welcome to our new staff member!	2
Web Site Update	2
Internet Resources	2
WCLC Wish List	3
ESL Strategies	3
Staff Contacts	4
Board Members	4

Upcoming Events:

- Adult Tutor Training Workshop - July 28-31, 5:30-8:30 PM. Call Anne to register.
- Tutor In-service on Learning Disabilities - August 11, 6-7:30 PM. Call Anne to register.
- Child Tutor Training Workshop - September 13, 12-4 PM. Call Amanda to register.
- Adult Tutor Training Workshop - September 22-24, 9:30 AM-1:30 PM. Call Anne to register.
- Tutor In-service on ESL Methods for Child Tutors - October 11, 12-2 PM. Call Amanda to register.

Welcome to our new Program Educator!

Dear Friend,

My name is Anne Vang and I am the new Program Educator for Winnebago County Literacy Council. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and tell you about myself.

I have lived in Oshkosh for the past 14 years and have finally decided to continue my higher education. While holding this position as a Program Educator, I am also pursuing my Bachelors of Science in Education and a minor in Bilingual Hmong Education and Sociology. I hope to be an Secondary School teacher after graduating. On the side, I also have my own translation business, which I began in 1990 when I moved to Oshkosh. Then, before I resigned to continue my education, I also worked for the Oshkosh Area School District for six years.

My desire to teach stems from my beliefs in making positive change. Having grown up as a refugee Hmong child, I experienced the struggles of not knowing English and being immersed in an American school system that did not cater to

Hmong students. My childhood as a Hmong girl growing up without other Hmong peers has taught me the valuable lesson of strength and most of all change as a positive concept. Although I came to the United States with nothing but the clothes on my back and the memories of my homeland, I know that without my struggles with learning English and adapting to the American culture I would not understand the positive effects of change. I believe that being literate is an essential survival skill. For these reasons, I have a strong passion for education and teaching those who do not know how to read or write in the English language.

I truly hope you will contact me in the future about any questions, concerns, or comments about Winnebago County Literacy Council, the services we provide, or about any literacy needs. I am available Monday through Thursday from 1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Sincerely,

Anne Vang

Special Thanks To...

Altrusa Club of Oshkosh

Rhonda Eckstein

Service League Thrift Shop

James Genisio

First Congregational Church

Donations to WCLC are tax-deductible. For more information on donating money or materials to WCLC, please call Lisa at 236-5185.

WCLC Website Update

The official website for WCLC is coming along nicely! A new feature added recently is the ability to print off a blank copy of our Monthly Tutoring and Attendance Calendars. This will eliminate the need to make a special trip into the office to pick up new calendars each month.

We are hoping that our website will be a great resource for tutors and students alike. As new additions are made, we will keep you informed to the developments. Please feel free to check out our website at www.winlit.org. If you have comments/questions/ideas, please email Lisa at ellis@winlit.org or call her at 236-5185.

Internet Resources for Tutors

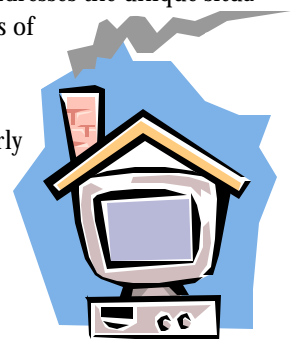
There is a wealth of knowledge available on the Internet, and we try to choose the best websites to share with you each quarter. Here are some we have found to be useful:

www.cal.org/ncl—The National Center for ESL Literacy Education. A great resource for anyone working with an ESL student. Includes great lesson ideas, reference material, and links to other useful ESL sites.

www.vluonline.org—Verizon Literacy University. Tons of info for volunteer tutors—including self-paced online courses on such topics as 'Writing Without Fear' and 'Volunteers in Parent Education'.

www.womeninliteracy.org—Women In Literacy (part of Pro-Literacy Worldwide). A site that addresses the unique situation that women learners face. Lots of great info.

Do you have a website that you or your student have found particularly helpful? Call Amanda so that it may be included in an upcoming newsletter. Thanks!



Newly Trained Tutors

Welcome and thank you to our newest members of the WCLC family! Volunteers are essential to the success of our organization, and the services they provide are amazing! For more information on how you can become a literacy tutor, call Anne at 236-5219 ext. 4830.

Janis Wallig

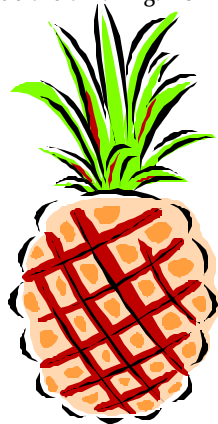
Karen Seifert

John Seifert

Barbara Spellman

Yvonne Fritz

Kelly Darmody



WCLC Wish List

Construction paper

4-drawer filing cabinet

Blank white printer/copier paper

'Gently used' VCR

Cassette tape player/recorder

Empty journals and composition books

Please Note: Staff email addresses have changed! Please make a note of our new email addresses, listed on the back page of this newsletter. Thank you!

Tips and Hints—ESL Strategies

Tutors, please remember to take and use some of these steps when you are trying to achieve the most with your adult learners. If you have any questions regarding these tips please feel free to call Anne at 236-5219 ext. 4830. Thank you for all of your hard work!

Modeling English

1. Don't over articulate—words can become distorted if you over-emphasize certain sounds (ex: waaa-king for walking, sss-treet for street). The exception would be words that are normally heavily articulated, such as 'starving!' or 'Watch Out!'.
2. Don't speak too slowly—people who become accustomed to a speaking rate geared to the lowest level will find it difficult to converse or to understand normal speech.
3. Don't speak too loudly—speaking loudly does not facilitate understanding.
4. Do be aware of correct intonation—the meaning can be changed, for example, if the voice rises at the end of a sentence.
5. Do be aware of correct stress—avoid the use of unnatural emphasis on certain words.
6. Do be natural—use phrases and contractions as you normally would in regular speech.

Speaking Skills

If most people spend an average of 45% of their communica-

tion time listening and 30% of their communication time speaking, much teaching time should be given to those two areas.

Gestures/Commands/Questions

You may want to establish some useful gestures needed for nonverbal communication with your student.

1. Listen—Often the student will repeat whatever you say. If you want them to only listen, you can indicate for them to be quiet and listen by cupping your hand next to your ear, putting your finger on your lips, or saying 'Listen' or 'Shhh'.
2. Respond—If you want your student to imitate you or respond or answer a question, open your hand, palm up, or toward the student.
3. Repeat—When you want your student to repeat what you said, point to the student and use the charade gesture meaning 'Come on' (hand open, palm up, fingers moving).
4. Tutor responds—When you expect to respond to yourself, point to yourself as you start talking.
5. Speak together—When you want your student to say something with you, point one hand at yourself and gesture with the other hand in a circular motion to include your student, as in charades.

From "I Speak English", LVA

**Winnebago County
Literacy Council**

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PERMIT #90
OSHKOSH, WI 54901

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



*We teach...
so others may reach!*

We're on the web!
www.winlit.org

WCLC Staff - How to Reach Us:

Lisa Ellis

Executive Director
Phone: 920-236-5185
Email: ellis@winlit.org

Amanda Wendt

Student Services Coordinator
Phone: 920-236-5219 ext. 4802
Email: wendt@winlit.org

Anne Vang

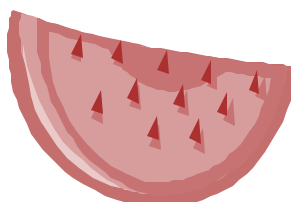
Program Educator
Phone: 920-236-5219 ext. 4830
Email: vang@winlit.org

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 2003:

President: John Zarbano
Secretary: Joan Simmons

Kristen Krasny
Ed Lowe



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