

Literacy News

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Upcoming Events:

Please call Amanda to register for any of the following events—

- Tutor Informational Session, Sept. 7th or 16th, offered at 11 AM or 5:30 PM.
- Adult Tutor Training Workshop, Sept. 13, 15, 20, and 22 from 5:30-8:30PM.
- Child Tutor Training Workshop, Sept. 25, from 12-4 PM.
- Resource Open House, Sept. 27, 28, 29, or 30. See times on page 2 of newsletter.
- Tutor Informational Session, Oct. 4 or 21, offered at 11 AM or 5:30 PM.
- Student Recognition Ceremony, Oct. 7, 6-7:30 PM.

Director's Corner

Greetings,

Why do I care about Adult Literacy, and why should you? People are always asking me if I like my job or not. I have been in this position for almost 4 years now, and am becoming more and more aware of the huge influence the Winnebago County Literacy Council can have on its students and their families, the tutors that teach them, our community, and the economy as a whole.

Yes, I like my job. Yes, I like being a part of a project that helps people grow to their fullest potential so they can make well-informed decisions for themselves and their families. Yes, I like working with those of you from Oshkosh and surrounding communities that give effortlessly of your time, on your lunch breaks, in between meetings at work, and where ever you find the time to help others learn to read. Yes, I like working with the many social services agencies that are motivated to work with us simply because it will benefit our mutual clients.

Adult literacy is the single greatest factor affecting our economy. The price of an illiterate community is expensive, not only for the illiterate person, but for their family, and our society. Illiteracy in adults directly affects social issues in our community such as, workplace literacy, health literacy, citizenship, financial literacy

and family literacy which supports efforts to help stop intergenerational illiteracy. Those who cannot read and write are severely impeded from participation in a complex society, without access to the information necessary to make an intelligent decision.

It's a good thing I like my job so much because we certainly have our work cut out for us! Did you know that in Winnebago County alone, 12,000 adults, or 10% of the adult population is at Level 1 literacy, not being able to correctly fill out a simple application, accurately read a road map, or locate two pieces of information in a newspaper article. (Source: National Institute for Literacy, NALS 1998)

Please continue to spread the word out our agency and the services we provide. Please let people who are struggling with low literacy skills know that it is okay to ask for help. Please continue to help us recruit tutors to work with our incoming students, specifically the new Hmong families just beginning to resettle here in Oshkosh. Please consider helping us grow as an agency by sending in the enclosed donation form on page 3 showing your support for the programs we provide to the many that need them.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ellis
Executive Director

Student Achievement Recognition Ceremony

The Literacy Council will be hosting a ceremony honoring our students and their many accomplishments. On October 7th, 2004 at 6:00p.m., the Winnebago County Literacy Council will be recognizing each student's recent accomplishments related to their personal literacy goals.

We hope their tutors will join us

at the library at this celebration highlighting their student's successes.

Please save this date on your calendar now. We will be sending out invitations in September as a reminder. A light snack and beverage will be provided. The event will end promptly at 7:30p.m.



Tutor Resource Open House

Tired of doing the same old lessons with your student? Are you interested in learning more about all of the resources we have for tutors? If you said yes, to either question above then save the following dates on your calendar:

Monday, September 27th 6:30-7:30pm
 Tuesday, September 28th 10-11am
 Wednesday, September 29th 5:30-6:30pm
 Thursday, September 30th 3-4pm

All current tutors will receive a personal invitation in the mail; we encourage you to bring your student too.

At this Open House tutors will receive a copy our Resource Directory and they will learn about new literacy software and what it can do for your student. Tutors will also be able to view activity books which can supplement lesson plans bringing diversity each lesson. Interactive learning websites will also be introduced.

Special Thanks

Green Bay Packers Foundation
 First Presbyterian Church
 Lila Boucher
 Jennifer Huedner
 Wellspent.org
 Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
 Service League Thrift Shop

We hope you can make it! Please call Lisa at 236-5185 to register for a session in advance. The sessions are offered on different days and at different times for your convenience, please register for only one session.



Dollar General Literacy Foundation
 Winnebago County Democratic Party
 Sue Wallace
 Winnebago County Human Services
 Judy Mehn
 Morton Pharmacy
 Walmart Foundation

Tips for Tutors—Writing

Tutors want their students to write on their own during the week, but many students just don't know how to start or what to write!

Use these creative techniques in your lessons or as extra practice during the week.

Journals: Journaling is a very valuable tool for tutors and students. It can be private (for only the student to read), or shared with the tutor. Dialogue journals are written in by both student and tutor, like a letter going back and forth.

Comics: Try making a copy of the Sunday comics page, and white-out the dialogue. Tell your student to fill in the missing dialogue with what they think the characters might be saying.



Scrabble: Take turns using Scrabble tiles (available at Council office) to spell out words together. Then try to create a story using the words you've generated.

The 'Silent' Game: Start by writing a question on a piece of paper. Then the student writes an answer. Ignore spelling errors—the purpose is just for writing practice! Keep asking questions by passing the note back and forth. The challenge is to keep up the written conversation with a minimum of talking.

Wisconsin is receiving many new Hmong refugees from Thailand. Here are some common myths regarding refugees coming to America:

Myth 1: Refugees come here for economic reasons.
FACT: Refugees have fled their homelands and are unable to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution. Unlike 'immigrants', they had no choice but to leave home.

Myth 2: Refugees do not pay taxes.
FACT: Refugees pay taxes the same as any citizen living in the United States. There are no special rules which give refugees a tax break.

Student Writing

Thank you to all of those who sent us the stories you and your student worked on together, as requested in our last few newsletters! They were all wonderful and we enjoyed reading them. We will be featuring some of the stories in our newsletters, so keep watching the next few editions for more!

And remember, it's not too late if you want to see YOUR story in print! We want tutors and students to submit stories about the Literacy Council and the positive changes it's made on your lives. Please send them to Amanda Wendt at the Council office (address on back page).

A Poem by Diane V. and her tutor Theresa:

In January our years were three
We have sung Free to be You and Me
and read The Giving Tree.
Diane has been at this for a long time
First with Jeannie, then with Mike,
And now she's mine.
We meet most weeks on Saturday
But we finish by noon
so there is still time to play.
We know our letters and phonics now,
We can read how, now, brown, and cow.
We can rhyme most anything,
Like sing, ring, wing, and king.
We plan to keep on reading, so
If you have some good books,
Please let us know!

Gary Likes To Read

by Gary F. and his tutor Karen:

I love reading. I am never going to give up. I enjoy it too much. Before I came to the Literacy Council I couldn't read at all, now I can. I can read books out loud now.

My mother would be disappointed if I stopped learning to read. I really want to get more education and get a better job.

Sue and Jean

by Sue P. and her tutor Jean:

I talked with my DVR worker Theresa about wanting to learn and improve my language. She told me about Deaf Empowerment. They have a program for one on one tutoring. I want to improve my language because I want to be smart. We are working on newspapers, food recipes, thank you notes, workbooks, and library books. Also we read together mail that I bring from home. We do that every Wednesday.

I felt good when my good friend noticed my language skills have improved in my emails sent to her. My daughter liked my thank you note. It made me feel good. Today I feel more confident!

Jean is wonderful, teaching me everything in the library. She is a neat person and also I have fun with her.

Myth 3: Refugees take jobs from Americans.

FACT: Refugees must apply for and compete for jobs the same as any citizen. Many enter the job market at entry level taking less desirable jobs in the service industry and food processing. Refugees also create jobs.

Statistically, they open more new businesses that employ refugees and others living in the community than other groups of people.

Myth 4: The refugees have their way paid to the U.S.

FACT: The refugees borrow money from an account originally created in the 1940's. The fund continues to offer loans to refugees who sign a promissary note to repay the loan.

Give the Gift of Literacy!

- Enclosed is my tax-deductable donation to the Winnebago County Literacy Council in the amount of: \$ _____
- I would like to become a volunteer literacy tutor.
- I would like to volunteer in a non-tutoring capacity.

Name

Address

Phone

Comments



Return to:

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We teach...so others may reach!

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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.