



Literacy News

Winnebago County Literacy Council

We teach ...so others may reach!

Summer 2005

Volume 5, Issue 2

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Director's Corner

Greetings!

We have been keeping ourselves very busy here at the Literacy Council trying to keep up with all of the new clients coming to us in 2005 and balancing that with the number of new tutors we need to recruit and train to work with our clients. Our enrollment is exploding this year! As of the end of July we have served 160 clients, which means we estimate that we will be doubling our enrollment to 200 clients by the year's end. Last year we served a total of 104 for the entire year! We currently have 35 clients on the waiting list which is almost 6 times more on average per month than last year!

In addition to clients coming to us from the Oshkosh area, we anticipate more people enrolling from the Neenah-Menasha area due to us being able to hire a Bilingual Outreach Specialist in that area. We welcome Dani Long-Noriega as part of our team serving the Northern Winnebago County area. This project was made possible through funding providing by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. We hope to enroll an additional 50 new clients matched with tutors by May of 2006.

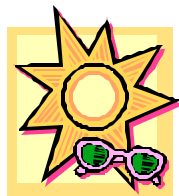
And now for a Wisconsin legislative update. The Joint Finance Committee ruled on providing Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. a total of \$50,000 per year. The Winnebago County Literacy Council is a member agency of the Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. Wisconsin Literacy's vision is to strengthen Wisconsin's workforce, families, and communities through literacy. They pursue that vision by supporting adult, family, and workplace literacy programs statewide through program and resource development, training, information and referral, and advocacy.

Since last fall, Representative Townsend from Fond du Lac, who is a board member of Wisconsin Literacy, has been advocating for funding to set up four regional resource positions to help support and train community-based adult literacy organizations. He originally asked the Governor's Administration for \$240,000 per year. By the time it made it into the Governor's budget it was \$100,000 for one year. The Finance Committee broke that \$100,000 into \$50,000 for each of two years, BUT with no sunset provision (meaning the \$50,000 per year could continue past this biennium into the future). \$50,000 isn't much, but it is something, and it creates a precedent for future funding.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Lisa Schubert, the Executive Director of Wisconsin Literacy, Inc., for all of the hard work she has done over the last few years to build Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. into the fine organization it is today. Lisa will be moving to the Seattle area at the end of August and we wish her much luck in her future endeavors and look forward to meeting and working with the new Director who will take her place.

Sincerely, Lisa Ellis

Enjoy Your



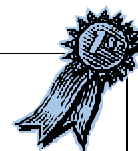
Summer!!

Two Council Volunteers Given Honorary Mention Award at Wisconsin Literacy Awards!!

The Literacy Council was honored to have two of its' tutors, Jean and Dave Conover, presented with Honorable Mention awards for "Tutor of the Year" at the Annual Wisconsin Literacy Awards held in Madison on May 19.

Jean and Dave have been tutors with the Council since its' founding in 1989. They have worked with approximately fifteen students; most of whom have been Hmong. Hand-in-hand they help their students in any way they can, especially in the area of citizenship. They work hard with them to study for their test, lend a hand in getting all their paperwork in order, and personally drive them to Milwaukee to take the test. They have also taught Citizenship classes for our Council, and assisted new citizens in voting for the first time. Jean and Dave also purchase books and give them to their students' families, and help out with household issues, such as arranging childcare, dealing with the phone company, and installing door bells. They are also very quick to help out their fellow tutors and have offered to teach our Council's computer learning programs to others. Jean has also sat on our Board of Directors to give a first-hand view of what our students and tutors experience through their sessions. Their desire to help the greater community understand the Hmong Culture is reflected in their tireless efforts to help improve the lives of their students, and our Council is blessed to have them as tutors.

Congratulations Jean and Dave and thank you for all you do!!





WCLC Welcomes Dani Long Noriega to the Family!

Dani Long Noriega will be working in the Neenah-Menasha area to extend the services of the Winnebago County Literacy Council to the northern part of our county.

She recently completed coursework for an M.S. Ed degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She also speaks and writes Spanish fluently, and will be translating some of the paperwork for the WCLC and working in the Spanish-speaking community to build a better understanding of the services available through the WCLC. She also looks forward to working with the new Hmong and other immigrant families, as well as native English speakers.

She understands the relationship between gaining English literacy skills and improving the economic situation for immigrant and non-immigrant families alike and looks forward to working with local businesses and service organizations to find tutors for the students.

The WCLC outreach activities in the Neenah-Menasha area are a chance to effect families for generations to come. Improving adult and family literacy skills means families will have more opportunities to increase their earning power and job satisfaction, along with growth in confidence as parents and more involvement in the community.

Dani can be reached at (920) 851-0964 or through email at nm-wclc@bluebottle.com. Get in touch with her if you would like to tutor in the Neenah-Menasha area or if you know someone who is interested in becoming a student.

Upcoming Trainings

ADULT TUTOR TRAININGS

Sept. 13, 15, 20 & 22

Oshkosh: 9:30 – 12:30

Menasha: 5:30-8:30

Oct. 18, 20, 25 & 27

Oshkosh: 5:30-8:30

Menasha: 9:30-12:30

Nov. 8, 10, 15 & 17

Oshkosh: 9:30-12:30

Neenah: 5:30-8:30

Dec. 6, 8, 13 & 15

Oshkosh: 9:30-12:30

CHILD TUTOR TRAININGS

October 4 & 6

Oshkosh: 9:30 – 11:30

Menasha: 6:00 – 8:00

November 1 & 3

Oshkosh: 6:00-8:00

Neenah: 9:30-11:30

November 29 & December 1

Oshkosh: 9:30-11:30

All trainings are free and occur at the public library in each town.

Please contact Raissa to register.

\$\$\$ Every Little Bit Counts! \$\$\$

Thanks to the following people, businesses, and organizations that have helped to support the Winnebago County Literacy Council by making a donation:

Individuals

Carol Jones
Sharon Uselman
Sandra Stratz
Dr. Michael Ford
Tammy Weickert
Jane Wypiszynski
Bonnie Last
Mary Kay Dodson
Barbara Boss
Doug Pearson
Judith Seibold
Mara Munroe
Sharon Schwartz
Joan Simmons
Patrick and Regina Daly
Victoria O Rourke
Brenda Reese
James Manske
Peggy Ellis
Dawn Herzig
Laurie Magee
Ronald Firebaugh
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Sally Ann Robl
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David Pizon
Ken Friedman
Judi Weinert
Ann Neitzel
Helen Evans
Raissa Reimer-Phelps
Lisa Ellis
Robert Paffenroth
Mary Cummings
Kari Uselman

Businesses & Organizations

Oshkosh Public Library
Staff Association
4-Imprint
Wisconsin Public Service
Gannett Wisconsin Newspapers
First Congregational Church
Thedacare
Winnebago County Human
Services Wellness Association
Aurora Health Care
Miles Kimball Employee
Sunshine Fund
Service League Thrift Shop

Recent Grants

UW-Oshkosh Greater
Even Start Program: (\$5,000)
Fox Valley Technical
College: (\$3,750)
Community Development
Block Grant: (\$10,000)
Oshkosh Area Community
Foundation: (\$7,500)
Dollar General Literacy
Foundation: (\$10,000)
Menasha Corporation
Foundation: (\$2,000)

Our Mission: To increase literacy skills of adults and families so they can make informed decisions in order to function effectively in society.



Tutoring Tips from our Resident Expert, Kari Uselman, Program Educator!!

BEFORE, DURING, AFTER

~Tips to strengthen reading skills and comprehension during all parts of reading.



Before-Reading Strategies

- Look at the title, chapter headings, pictures, bold type and illustrations before reading the text.
- Make connections between what the student already knows and the text.
- If the material has a summary, have the student read it first and retell it to you in his/her own words.

During-Reading Strategies

- Encourage your student to check constantly for meaning. Do the words make sense?
- Remind your student that when he/she comes to an unknown word while reading silently to skip the word and read on.
- Help students read in phrases, rather than word-by-word.

After-Reading Strategies

- Ask your student to summarize the reading.
- Allow for an emotional response.
- If your student likes to keep records of new words, ask them to recall or look back to find new words from the reading.

SKIP, GUESS, SOUND, ASK

~Provides students with a method of using context clues to decode unknown words.

Procedure: The tutor shares the following strategies with his/her student:

SKIP: “When I come to a word I do not know, I skip it and read to the end of a sentence.”

GUESS: “Sometimes when I get to the end of the sentence, I can guess the word from the rest of the sentence.”

SOUND: “Sometimes I use phonics, the sounds of the letters, to sound out words.”

ASK: “Some words don’t follow any of the rules, then I either ask someone, or look the word up in a dictionary.”

Family Literacy Program Update

We have some new changes to our Family Literacy Program. We are now using a monthly reading log, so that parents can keep track of and (hopefully) continually increase the time they spend each day with their children on literacy activities. Activities such as reading, speaking and even playing educational games all count and are geared towards promoting parents as their children’s first—and best—teacher!

We also have created a monthly calendar specifically for child tutors, as well as a “Child Skill Sets” reference sheet. This sheet identifies literacy milestones that children of different age groups should be learning and mastering. Both the monthly calendar and reading log can be filled in, submitted or printed out on-line at our website, www.winlit.org.

Trained and Raring to Go!!

Congrats to these recently-trained tutors and best of luck in your tutoring adventures:

Lynn Artz	Carol Jeffery
Becky Boucher	Alex Hummel
Ann Cider	Chris Lang
Ruth Dehn	Ruth Schneider-
Ruth Enter	White
Mike Dorsey	Jeff Huppert



Books Here! Get Your Free Books Here!!

The Literacy Council is giving away many of its’ children’s books. They are located on the bookshelf straight across from the elevator and are free for the taking.

Help yourself to books for yourself, your children, or your student. First come, first serve!



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LITERACY COUNCIL**

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