

Literacy News

Winnebago County Literacy Council

Volume 6 Issue 2

Summer 2006

We teach ...so others may reach!

For Your Summer Reading Enjoyment

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Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

The hardest part of my job at the WCLC is securing funding that will allow us to continue to offer programming focused on the core foundation of what we do: one-on-one tutoring to adults and families. Federal, state, and local grant opportunities are becoming few and far between and when available are highly competitive. In 2005, 45% of our revenue came from grants from local community foundations, corporations, and city and state entities. Twenty-six percent of funding in 2005 came from the Oshkosh Area United Way, and 15% came from special fundraising events. The remainder, 14%, came from private contributions for individuals and corporations supporting general operating costs associated with running our tutoring program. In 2006, our goal is to have 15% of revenue coming from private donations. This means we need to raise a total of \$16,700 by year's end. To date we have only raised \$5,060. We are a little under a third of the way there and the year is about half over! This is a concern that could affect the stability of our programming. We have come a long way and I am sure you would agree that we have shown success over the last few years as a program that has grown in numbers, and has learned to do much more on less dollars. Program highlights include:

- In 2004 enrollment was at 104 students, in 2005 it nearly doubled to 196 students!
- Already in 2006, we have served 154 clients, and estimate serving 225 by year's end!
- We currently have 48 students on a waiting list, waiting to be matched with trained tutors. Two years ago our waiting list averaged 6 students!
- We served students from 18 different ethnic backgrounds in 2005!
- Literacy levels were increased for 26 students in 2005!
- Student's literacy confidence levels were reported to have increased 159 times in 2005!
- Students and tutors worked to successfully complete 70 personal literacy goals in 2005! Some goals include becoming U.S. Citizens, getting jobs, getting driver's licenses, and/or reading a book to their child.

Please consider giving a gift to the Winnebago County Literacy Council so we may continue giving the gift of reading. The gift you make today could cover a lifetime of opportunities made available to someone once they learn to read.

Lisa Ellis, Executive Director

Here are some examples of what a donation can support when you give to the WCLC:

Yes, I want to support the WCLC!

My contribution of:

- \$500- Adopt-A-Student for One Year
- \$250- Training Costs to Train 10 Volunteer Tutors
- \$100- Cost of Books for 8 Basic Literacy Students
- \$50- Cost Teacher Manuals for 3 Tutors
- \$25-Initial Cost of Student Books
- Other: \$ _____

Please make check payable to WCLC.
Donations are tax deductible. The WCLC is a non-profit 501(c)3 agency.

You can mail or drop off your donation to:
106 Washington Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Upcoming Info Sessions & Trainings

Info Sessions (held at 11am and 5:30pm)

July 6th (11:00 only)

July 10th (5:30 only)

July 20th

August 7th

August 17th

September 11th

Adult Tutor Trainings

August

August 14, 15, 16, 17

9:30-12:30 p.m.

(M,T,W,R)

September

September 11, 13, 15, 1

9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

(M, W, F, M)

September 20, 21, 27, 2

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

(W, R, W, R)

October

October 7th and 8th

Sat. 9-5, Sun. 1-5

Weekend

October 16, 18, 20, 25

9:30 - 12:30 p.m.

(M, W, F, W)

Teaching...

Teaching....Taught!!

Please welcome our newest tutors:

Julie Nichols

Bodell Ostertag

Raisa Ramos

Cari Lendrum

Angela Stuewer

Robin Eckstein

Donald Hansen

Jill Thompson

Eric James

Marcia Pockat

Sue Lefevre

Sherri Witowski

Twila Kaspar

Health Literacy Initiative: *Tutors Please Read!

The Winnebago County Literacy Council and Wisconsin Literacy Inc., has partnered in a grant project through the American Academy of Family Physician's Foundation. This Health literacy initiative is entitled, "What are Important Health Issues For Low Literate Adults? A Focus Group Evaluation of Health Literacy Issues." This project hopes to gain a better understanding of what barriers exist among low literate adults that interfere with maintaining health, understanding healthcare instructions, understanding patient education materials and navigating the healthcare system. This project will allow for focus groups of low literate adults to be conducted to develop and prioritize a list of local and universal issues of concern. Focus group subjects will be recruited from adult education students at three community-based literacy councils statewide: Winnebago County Literacy Council, Madison Area Literacy Council and Racine Literacy Council. The subjects in the focus groups made of Literacy Council students will be paid a stipend and child care will be available for them onsite during the focus groups.

We are looking for two groups of 10 students. One 10-student group will be English speaking and one will be more advanced ESL (English as a Second Language) students. The ESL focus groups will be conducted in English as students have many different primary languages. Focus group meetings will be held at the local literacy council facilities. Child care, transportation costs and a meal will be provided to students to encourage participation. Subjects will be paid \$25 at the completion of the focus group meeting. A trained research specialist will conduct the focus groups of low literate adult students with a note-taker present. The session will be audio-taped and transcribed, removing identifiers. A semi-structured interview guide will be used to stimulate interactive discussion. Sample questions might include: 1. How does not reading (English) well make it harder to find health care? 2. How does not reading (English) well make it harder to understand what to do to treat a health problem? 3. How does not reading (English) well make it harder to stay healthy? 4. What problems have happened to you or members of your family because you do not read (English) very well?

*Tutors, please discuss this with your student and let us know if they are interested.

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

Thanks to the following people & businesses for making a donation:

Individuals

Mark Harris

Rose Lowery

Joseph Manske

Ross & Michelle Bielema

Stephanie Tesch & Robert Molony

Lillian & Lucille Cowling

Michael & Shannon Powers

Robin & Jeff Patzlaff

Mary Kay & Charles Dodson

Barry & Stepheny Mulholland

Donald Vajgrt

Douglas & Sharon Pearson

Barbara Granzow

Debra Cooley

Rachel Stowe

Businesses

ADVOCAP

M&I Bank (Combined Federal Campaign)

Theda Care

Oshkosh Rotary Club

US Bank

Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

Service League Thrift Shop

BEMIS

Fox Valley Technical College

Webster Stanley Elementary

Women's Club of Oshkosh

Affinity Health System

University of WI Oshkosh

St. John's Evangelical Church

Gannett Foundation, Inc.

Refer a New Tutor & Win!

Attention tutors: We are in need of more wonderful volunteers such as yourself! Our waiting list keeps growing (currently at 48 students) and we need good tutors to teach them. We figured our best publicity is you, so we've started a contest. This is how it will work:

For every prospective tutor you refer who attends an info session - your name goes in a monthly drawing (August-November) for a gift certificate

For every referral that actually goes through tutor training - your name goes into a final drawing in November to win a much larger prize.

If you have a friend, family member or co-worker who you think may be interested in our program, please give their name(s) to Raissa. Thank you!!

Parking at the Library

Many of you have brought up concerns with the parking situation at the library. We are working on negotiating with the City of Oshkosh to allow for you to have sufficient (& uninterrupted) time to meet with your student, however the City of Oshkosh has authority over the 90-minute parking limit and the main library lot.

We do currently have "Volunteer Parking Permits" that you can use. They are issued for a three month period, and allow you to park on the southeast side of the parking lot without having to move after 90 minutes.

You should only use the permit when you are here volunteering, not as a general patron. If you would like a permit, please see Raissa or Lisa.

Remember that parking time is not restricted after 6:00 pm and on Sundays. Tutors and students may park at metered stalls for 25 cents per hour. These stalls are available around the outside of the library lot, and in the lot north of the AnchorBank lot.

Please know that we are working with both the library and the city to see what may be done to further alleviate this situation and will let you know what happens.

Exercise Your Mind: Walk for Literacy

The Winnebago County Literacy Council is planning a new fundraising event this year, and you are invited to participate by walking in this great family-fun event! Mark the date on your calendar now! This event engages walkers of all ages that will be on the lookout for business-sponsored signs displaying words or phrases and when combined, form a sentence that is an eye-opening fact about literacy in our community! Refreshments will be provided to participants prior to registration and after the walk. Walkers will be

eligible to receive a t-shirt if they raise \$25 for the event. After the event there will be goody bags with coupons for book sales at the Oshkosh Public Library. Participants will also be invited to choose from a selection of new books donated by Book Warehouse as a memento for the day. Walk registration forms will go out in the mail to all tutors and students in mid-August. Hope to see you there!

Date:	Saturday, September 23rd	
Timeline:	9:00 a.m.	Registration
	10:00 a.m.	Walk begins
	10:30-11:00	Walk ends
	11:00-11:30	Book give-away and reception

Learning Disability Tool Kits Available

Learning disability tool kits are now available in Neenah and Menasha. The kits were developed to help tutors assist their students with various learning disabilities.

You can find them at the 2nd floor reference desk at the Neenah Library and at the 1st floor reference desk in

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

Vision Statement: To increase the number of individuals served annually by 500% to 500 individuals throughout Winnebago County within 5 years.

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
LITERACY COUNCIL**

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