

## For Immediate Release



### Pictured from left to right:

- James Hanke, Economic Development & Community Services Manager, Xcel Energy
- Laura Reisinger, Education Coordinator
- MaryJo VanGompel, Executive Director
- Barb Nelson, Family Literacy Coordinator
- Cheryl Sutter, Training Coordinator

October 13, 2013

## Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley Receive Xcel Energy Grant

**Eau Claire, WI** – Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley (LVCV), a community-based literacy organization serving Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties, announced today that it has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Xcel Energy Foundation in support of *Increasing Career Pathways*. This grant will provide adults with the opportunity to complete the necessary course to enter into higher education or to improve their employability through innovative programs such as ServeSafe Food Handler and Forklift training.

“The design of *Increasing Career Pathways* is to provide classroom instructions, weekly one-to-one tutor interaction, job training and certification to adults with low literacy skills. This model has been recognized nationally for its innovativeness; it enables our students to become self-sufficient. A majority of our students currently live in poverty,” said MaryJo VanGompel, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers-Chippewa Valley. “This grant will allow us to provide these services to our student for no-cost.”

### About Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley

Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley (LVCV) is a community-based literacy program that trains and supports volunteers to educate adults and their families, helping them acquire the skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency and function effectively in their roles as citizens, workers, and family members. Founded in 1986, LVCV’s mission to help one individual, one family, and one community at a time and is realized through our core programs: Pair or small group tutoring; Family Literacy; Workplace Education; Corrections, and Citizenship. All programs utilize tutoring provided by trained and supported volunteer tutors. With offices in

Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire counties, LVCV is classified as a tax exempt, 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

### **About Xcel Energy**

Xcel Energy is a major U.S. electricity and natural gas company operating in eight Western and Midwestern states. The company is committed to providing cost-effective, clean, responsible energy delivered with the highest standards for safety, reliability and responsiveness. Xcel Energy supports communities in four important focus areas: math and science education; environmental stewardship; job training, placement and creation; and access to arts and culture. In 2012, Xcel Energy invested \$8 million in support of communities across its service territory.

### **Contacts:**

Mary Jo VanGompel  
Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley  
[mjvangompel@lvcv.org](mailto:mjvangompel@lvcv.org)  
(715) 833-5315

Brian Elwood or Liz Wolf Green, Xcel Energy  
(715) 737-2565

###