



## Literacy Volunteer Wins Prestigious Jefferson Award

**Eau Claire, WI** – Literacy Volunteers -- Chippewa Valley (LVCV) is pleased to announce that volunteer tutor Jim McConnell is a winner of the 2014 Jefferson Awards of the Chippewa Valley. Jim will be one of the 12 recipients honored at the Jefferson Awards Banquet this spring – one of whom will be chosen to attend the national ceremony in Washington, DC.

Jim has been a Literacy Volunteer tutor the past five years, and is presently tutoring four days a week in various programs at Literacy Volunteers. He has helped more than a dozen individuals take next steps in their literacy goals including tutoring a student the citizenship content to pass her citizenship exam. He has helped others with writing, emailing, conversation, computer, and math skills. “What I like about LVCV is that there is so much variety,” Jim said. He stresses the importance of listening to students and working side-by-side with them, and he added that it is “delightful to watch people grow”.

Jim has sought and found his second calling after retiring from 30 years as an RN. He has helped 10 students in the Bridges2Healthcare Program with studying either medical terminology or Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) content while helping them gain confidence by going back to school. Jim explains that he is happy to pass on what he knew as a nurse and understands the important relationship between RNs and CNAs. “Nurses rely on CNAs every day because of their close interaction with patients. It is important to value their input and suggestions as part of the nursing team,” he said.

“Students appreciate Jim’s care and ability to break learning into meaningful chunks,” said Cheryl Sutter, Tutor Management and Training Coordinator at Literacy Volunteers. “He approaches his opportunities with us as positive challenges and has respected the individual abilities and gifts that each student brings to his/her learning,” Sutter said.

Jim’s efforts in improving the literacy skills of so many individuals have greatly impacted our community. Literacy affects the whole family for better or worse, impacting the job prospects and meaningful engagement within the community available when one has higher literacy skills. In addition to volunteering for Literacy Volunteers, Jim is a hospice worker for St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls and provides hospice relief to area families.

The Jefferson Awards, sometimes called, "The Nobel Peace Prize for Volunteerism" was



pioneered more than 30 years ago. The Jefferson Awards recognize dedication and service of volunteers who transform lives and strengthen communities across the United States. WQOW TV and Marshfield Clinic are proud to bring the Jefferson Awards to the Chippewa Valley. Today, the primary purpose is to serve as a "Call to Action for Volunteers" in local communities.

If someone you know is making a difference in our community and deserves recognition by receiving a Jefferson Award, you can nominate them at <http://www.wqow.com/story/14240370/w>.

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Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley  
800 Wisconsin Street #70  
Banbury Place, Building D02, Suite 301  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703  
US

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