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*Transforming Lives, One Person, One Family, One Job & One Community at a Time.*

# The Chalkboard

A monthly update brought to you by Literacy Volunteers - Chippewa Valley

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## Student Success Story

As a follow-up to June's newsletter, Lanie Thompson's successful CNA state board certification has taken its next step. Lanie accepted a full time position in the rehabilitation area of

## August 2014

### From the Desk of...

MaryJo VanGompel  
Executive Director



Just a note to let you know of some changes coming this fall involving Faith Partners for Literacy. Coordinator Taylor Schaa recently accepted a position at UW-Stout and will begin her new position next week. While this is very exciting for her, it is hard for us to say goodbye.

Literacy Volunteers is grateful for her hard work and dedication to raising awareness within the local faith community. Because of her work, multiple congregations stepped up to help families working towards bettering their lives. Faith Partners announced that they have accomplished their goal of being able to provide the childcare for the LVCV's Family Literacy program for the

Syverson Lutheran Home, Rehab, & Health. She said she likes both the work and her new colleagues!

Lanie's employment is an outcome of her focused study and the support of Bridges2HealthCare, a partnership of Workforce Resource, CVTC, and LVCV.

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### A Literacy Moment

We offered a Parents Sharing Books event at the Dunn Jail in August.

Here is one of the written comments from a participant:

*What was the best part?*

This made my whole day. My daughter is going to be so happy, this is a blessing.

*Any additional comments?*

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I cried at the end of my story. It means the world to me cuz now my little girl can hear her daddy's voice.

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### LVCV Board of Directors:

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- Laurie Klinkhammer, Vice President
- Greta Heike, Treasurer
- Michael Ahrens
- Barbara Anderson
- Tom Giffey
- Denise Hanson-Pabich
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- Lori Krings
- Sue Lane
- Leah Motschenbacher

school year 2014-2015. This means children newborn to three will be cared for onsite while their parents attend adult education classes.

A special thanks to Bishop Jay Lambert, Father Michael Green, Missy Stepanek, Carol Gabler, members and staff of Christ Church Cathedral for their support of LVCV's Family Literacy program. If your faith community is interested in helping LVCV, please contact MaryJo VanGompel @ 715-834-0222 or [by email](#).

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### Literacy Facts

Why do we focus on literacy? Why not focus on world health? Or gender equality? Or poverty relief? To solve these most socioeconomic problems, we must start by building a more literate adult population. When individuals learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they are more likely to lift themselves out of poverty, contribute to improved health and find or keep sustainable employment. [See more at the ProLiteracy website.](#)

The increase in annual health care costs in the United States is due to low literacy skills. Crime, unemployment, and poverty are all linked to low literacy, too. Get the facts about the adult literacy crisis. [Click here to view some startling literacy statistics.](#)

[To view Literacy Facts in Wisconsin click on the Wisconsin Literacy website.](#)

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### September is Literacy Month

September is National Literacy Month. On September 8th, the world will mark the 47th annual International Literacy Day to remind us all that reading, writing, and basic math remain an elusive target for nearly 800 million adults around the globe, including nearly 20,000 here in the Chippewa Valley. Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley (LVCV), with offices in Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn counties, is part of a national network of organizations that work every minute of every day to end the adult literacy crisis.

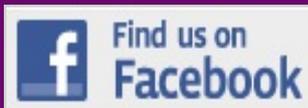
- Stacy Secker
- Pa Thao



We are still looking for a microwave. Does anyone have one to donate?

#### Wish List:

Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley has a wishlist on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



[Read the rest of the story.](#)

### Meet a Staff Member...Linda Bolgren

Which staff member has worked at Literacy Volunteers – Chippewa Valley the longest? If you guessed Linda Bolgren, you are correct. Linda has worked at Literacy Volunteers for 21 years!



Linda started in 1993 as a preschool teacher with the Family Literacy program. She worked in the Early Childhood Education program for several years before becoming an adult instructor. She now teaches a class every Monday-Thursday. Her duties vary from day to day and include teaching English Language Learners (ELL) reading, writing, speaking, math and computer skills. She also teaches GED students on Mondays while tutors work individually with her ELL students.

The demographics in Linda's class vary greatly. She teaches adults of all ages but tends to have more female than male students. Her adult learners come from a variety of countries and include Hmong, Hispanic, Japanese and Lebanese students.

When asked what the favorite part of her job is, Linda emphatically says, "The students! I learn so much from them." Thanks, Linda, for empowering so many students for so many years.

[Click here to learn more about the Family Literacy Program.](#)

**New Books Are Here!**



We just received a new series of high interest, low level reading chapter books at our Banbury Place location. They are written at the second grade level with lots of pictures and illustrations, but are appropriate for readers at any level. These are biographies of people who have made a difference.

We have the following titles:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Eleanor Roosevelt | Muhammad Ali           |
| Oskar Schindler   | Martin Luther King Jr. |
| Mother Teresa     | Cesar Chavez           |
| Harriet Tubman    | Nelson Mandela         |
| Mahatma Gandhi    | Rosa Parks             |

The publisher also has free workbooks for each book that can be downloaded at [Grassroots Books](#). Simply type the name of the book title in their search box at the top of the page and click Go. Then click on the picture of the book (not the audio pack). *Do not click on Add to Cart unless you wish to purchase the book!* After you click on the picture of the book, it will take you to a description page, and under the picture of the book click Free Workbook for a free workbook to download and print.

Plan to try these out with your student. Email Laura Reisinger ([lreisinger@lvcv.org](mailto:lreisinger@lvcv.org)) to let us know how you like them.

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## English Forward Training

Literacy Volunteers is excited to offer English Forward training on Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Water, coffee, snacks and lunch will be provided each day.

While the curriculum works well with group instruction, we will focus on ideas for 1-1 tutoring needs also. The training includes a copy of the curriculum with 60-100 hours of instruction and a free Instructor's Guide.

The workshop will be offered in the Gillette Room (third floor) at Banbury Place, 800 Wisconsin St., Building D2, Eau Claire. We ask that you bring 1 - 1 inch 3 ring binder and 1 - 1.5 inch 3 ring binder to class for the materials.

Registration deadline is September 12, 2014. To Register, Click [HERE](#). [You can also view a sample lesson from the curriculum.](#) Please contact Marge Beebe (LVCV) at [mbeebe@lvcv.org](mailto:mbeebe@lvcv.org) or 715-834-7206 or Margarete Cook (Wisconsin Literacy) at [margarete@wisconsinliteracy.org](mailto:margarete@wisconsinliteracy.org) or 715-967-2532 if you have any questions.

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### **Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?**

WANTED: Your Friendly Presence at One of these Events!

#1: We will have a booth at Sept. 23rd's Age of Opportunity Job and Volunteer Fair in Oakwood Mall, Eau Claire. People will be milling around to see the great options available in our area. Can you help by answering questions about volunteering with LVCV? Partial or full coverage from 9 a.m. until Noon is welcome. You may also refer someone there to check the possibilities. Please contact Cheryl at (715) 834-0429 or [csutter@lvcv.org](mailto:csutter@lvcv.org) to help or ask questions.

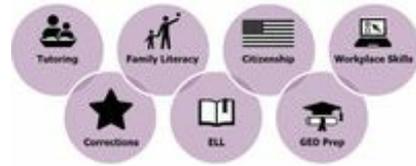
#2: The Community Table invites agencies to have a booth once a month (or every other month) during an evening meal. This lets diners learn about services and agencies get referrals. Want a great meal and help staff our booth? We'll make it easy. Please contact Cheryl.

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### **Need Help?**

We have a variety of programs to help you acquire the necessary skills to achieve economic self-

sufficiency. [Click Here](#) to see services that we provide.



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