

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

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# The Chalkboard

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

## In this Issue:

**November 2014**

NEW Spanish Posters  
and Phone Line  
Literacy Volunteers  
Joins #Giving  
Tuesday  
Literacy Speaks  
Luncheon Jan. 15th  
Bilingual Family  
Services Specialist  
Kao Lor  
Tutor Training  
Workplace Training  
Offerings  
Thanksgiving Day  
Dinners  
Hmong New New  
Furry Friends  
Calendars  
Need Help?

## **NEW Spanish Posters and Phone Line**

Spanish speakers are the fastest growing immigrant population in the Chippewa Valley. Our latest outreach efforts include creating a dedicated Spanish phone line at LVCV and displaying new posters in Mexican restaurants and grocery stores in Eau Claire. If you know a Spanish speaking adult who wants to learn or improve English, offer our Spanish line (715-456-3155), and a Spanish speaker will return calls promptly. You may also print and distribute the linked [Spanish poster](#) or direct them to our [Facebook page](#). Gracias!

## **Literacy Volunteers Joins #GivingTuesday**

## **Board Members:**

-Paul Kulig, President  
-Laurie Klinkhammer, Vice

President  
-Greta Heike, Treasurer  
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-Karen Jones  
-Marianne Klinkhammer  
-Lori Krings  
-Sue Lane  
-Leah Motschenbacher  
-Pa Thao

### **Closed for Thanksgiving**

Literacy Volunteers will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28 in all of their locations for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Family Literacy Center will also be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 26. *Happy Thanksgiving!*

### **Student Anecdote**

An Hispanic student, Gabby, relayed to her tutor that she can more readily recognize and comprehend TV conversations. Her husband has also noticed her progress. Gabby and her tutor, Cheryl, have been working together for 2 1/2 months, about 3 hours a week. Gabby's willingness to engage in small talk has also been noticed by a Literacy Volunteers staff member. Oh, what some practice can do!

### **Tutor Resources**

Free English and ESL Lessons: Looking for free

Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley has partnered with #GivingTuesday, a first of its kind effort that harnesses the collective power of a unique blend of partners—charities, families, businesses and individuals—to transform how people think about, talk about and participate in the giving season. Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Holiday and the kickoff of the holiday shopping season, #GivingTuesday inspires people to take collaborative action to improve their local communities, give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support, and help create a better world.



Taking place December 2, 2014 – the Tuesday after Thanksgiving – #GivingTuesday will harness the power of social media to create a national movement around the holidays dedicated to giving, similar to how Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become days that are, today, synonymous with holiday shopping.

[Learn how you can get involved.](#)

### **Literacy Speaks Luncheon January 15th**

It's time to plan on attending Literacy Volunteers Annual Literacy Speaks Luncheon. This extraordinary literacy event will be held Thursday, January 15, 2015 at Florian Gardens, Eau Claire.

The festivities begin at 11:30 a.m. with a networking social followed by a luncheon. The

program, which includes inspirational presentations by Literacy Volunteer tutors and students, features special



English tutorials on verb tenses, vocabulary, gerunds, and more? [English Page](#) offers a variety of easy, interactive exercises to use with your adult students.

Help Students Avoid Predatory Lending: The Tennessee Literacy Coalition has created a [two-page English and Spanish pamphlet](#) to inform learners about predatory lending and how to avoid it. The pamphlet also lists several other web-based resources on the topic.

## Annual Report Now Available

Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley's 2013-2014 Annual Report is available now. [Read it online](#). Copies will also be mailed to all financial donors and community partners.

## ScrabbleBee Coming...BZZzzz

Save the Date for the 14th Annual Literacy Volunteers ScrabbleBee. It will be held April 23, 2015 at 29 Pines. Check the website as more details become available.

## Inclimate Weather

With the snowy weather upon us...Remember that the Family Literacy program will be closed if Eau Claire School District closes. The Banbury office will be closed if CVTC closes. Also, if the

guest author John Hildebrand. John is an award-winning author of three nonfiction books, the most recent of which is *A Northern Front*, available for sale at [The Local Store](#). He is an English professor at UW-Eau Claire specializing in nonfiction writing and literature, the short story and American literature. The goal of Literacy Speaks is to create awareness about illiteracy in our community and raise funds to support literacy services in the Chippewa Valley (Eau Claire, Dunn & Chippewa counties).

This event is made possible through a generous donation from BMO Harris Bank. For more information about Literacy Speaks, contact MaryJo at 715-834-0222.



## Bilingual Family Services Specialist Kao Lor



*Kao Lor, right, with his family at Hmong New Year.*

Did you know that the staff of Literacy Volunteers includes a Bilingual Family Services Specialist? Well, it does! Kao Lor, Adult Instructor at Family Literacy, also provides bilingual services as needed.

Kao has worked at Family Lit for 9 years Mondays through Thursdays. He teaches an intermediate group (Group 2) and a Citizenship class. Kao also works with other instructors to develop curriculum and supervises tutors working in pairs, small groups, and classrooms. Kao assists with student intake, which includes identifying

libraries in Chippewa and Dunn counties are closed, then no programs will be offered there.



We are still in need of a microwave. Does anyone have one to donate?

### Wish List:

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

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goals and selecting educational resources. He also delivers computer instruction, refers individuals to community resources, and assists with job application completion.

"My favorite part of my job is teaching U.S. Citizenship class," Kao said. "This gives my students an opportunity to explore U.S. history and become U.S. citizens. When they become US citizens, they can apply for a U.S. passport, have the right to vote, and get an opportunity to get federal jobs."

Kao is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, such as at the recent Hmong New Year, as pictured in the photo above. Thanks, Kao, for all that you do for our bilingual students!

### Tutor Training



*Terry Siebold, Charlene Burns and Jayne Christensen review reading strategies at Tutor Training.*

Literacy Volunteers added 17 new volunteers to our tutor crew on November 1. They completed online mini-courses and met twice as a group with staff for topics spanning from reading components to writing strategies; from survival speaking to computer skills; and goal setting to

curriculum materials.

We welcome Ken Adler, Jennifer Beckerman, Joy Bergstrand, Charlene Burns, Dan Cavegn, Jayne Christensen, Deb Christopherson, Patrick Devereaux, Jim Fortner, Deb Gilbertson, Clete Liedl, Mary Mihajlov, Kelsey Reimann, Terry Siebold, Lois Sharma, Kelly Staniszewski, and Teresa Valenzuela. These people have many varied talents and make great additions to the three-county area we serve. Welcome new tutors!

### **Workplace Training Offerings**

Would your student enjoy earning a workplace certification or increasing a practical skill set? We offer forklift experiences, ServSafe food handling skills, basic keyboarding, and practical math. In all offerings, literacy skills and real life mingle heartily. Some offerings are available immediately and others are in development.

Let's hear from you! Questions are welcome. Ask your supporting staff member or contact Cheryl at 715-834-0429.

### **Thanksgiving Day Dinners**

There are several free Thanksgiving Day dinners in our area. Please help spread the news:

- The Community Table – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 320 Putnam St #2, EC. Questions or to volunteer: | 715-835-4977
- Hope Gospel Mission – Noon-2:00 p.m., 8 S Farwell St, EC. Questions or to volunteer: 715-552-5566 #1303
- Trinity Lutheran Church – 11:00 a.m. and Noon, 1314 E Lexington Blvd, EC. Questions or to volunteer: 715-832-6601

### **Hmong New Year**



Literacy Volunteers participated in the [Hmong New Year Celebration](#) that was held Nov. 8th at Ade Olson Gym, UW-Eau Claire. Pictured above is LVCV staff member Marge Beebe with our display booth. Over 3,000 people attended this annual event.

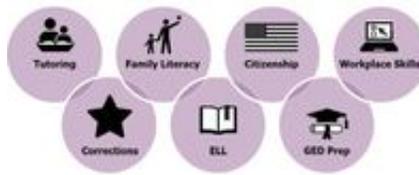
### **Furry Friends of the Library Calendar**

What is better than cute pets? Cute pets in the library! Furry Friends, a calendar featuring L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library employee pets professionally photographed by Dewitz Photography, are now available for sale at various locations, including the Literacy Volunteers office in Eau Claire. Prices are \$10 for one calendar, \$18 for two calendars, or buy three for only \$25. LVCV will receive \$1 for each calendar sold.

The fundraiser is sponsored by The Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. All proceeds from the calendar will go to fund the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. For more information, go to [1000 Books Before Kindergarten](#).

### **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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