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# Literacy Changes Everything

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## January 2016

### Literacy Speaks Is Feb. 4th!

Literacy Speaks 2016 will be held Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Florian Gardens, Eau Claire. Tickets are available until Monday [on our website](#). The keynote speaker will be best-selling author Nickolas Butler.



Literacy Speaks is an annual event to bring awareness of the issue of illiteracy in our community and to raise fun for Literacy Volunteers. The event features networking, cash bar, and book sales at 5:00 PM, followed by dinner at 6:00. At 6:30 PM, special guest and local author Nickolas Butler will share his thoughts on literacy. This will be followed by students and tutors sharing their inspiring, personal stories. The evening will conclude with book-signing by Mr. Butler.

A special thanks to our sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, CliftonLarsonAllen, Volume One and Wisconsin Public Radio.

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### "What I Get When I Give" Writing Theme

Each year students are given the opportunity to be published in a book of student writings. You and your student(s) will each receive a copy at Celebration of the Stars that will be held on the morning of May 17, 2016. Please encourage your student(s) to participate!

"What I Get When I Give" is the theme for this year's book. Students should write about their experiences volunteering

-Lori Krings  
-Sue Lane  
-Allyson Loomis  
-Keena Mohr  
-Lisa Patrow  
-Pa Thao

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### H&R Block Referral:

Nobody enjoys tax season, but again this year, new clients to H&R Block can feel good knowing they supported LVCV through H&R Block's Nonprofit Referral Program. If you are having your taxes prepared this year, help raise funds for LVCV through H&R Block!

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### AmazonSmile:

Remember that when you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to LVCV. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1657040> and support us every time you shop.

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### Thrivent Choice

LVCV is now listed in Thrivent Choice's charitable grant program. Find us on their website in the searchable [online catalog](#). Thrivent Financial will direct Choice Dollars to us in a particular month.



in the community, their church, or for other agencies. They may also write about caring for young children in their families, sharing their talents (music, sewing, pottery, etc.), performing in exemplary ways at work, raising families, etc. The writing may also be about something intangible that the student does such as giving their smile or their encouragement of others. What feelings do they have about giving of themselves? One story idea is to use "freerice.com" mentioned in the article below.

Our book will include photos with the writings again this year. The photo should be of the student with the person or topic covered in their writing. All students will have their own page, which will include their picture and name. Entries must be submitted by April 1st. Contact your staff support person for more information.

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### Help Students Through freerice.com

We can proactively help our students succeed. Just like we would review vocabulary words before we read an article, we can proactively help our students succeed with the upcoming



Celebrate Writing topic, "What You Get When You Give". Many of our students are not in a good situation to make monetary contributions, but we can help them give in an easy way by using the website freerice.com.

Freerice.com is a non-profit website that is owned by and supports the United Nations World Food Programme. According to their website they have two goals:

- Provide education to everyone for free.
- Help end world hunger by providing rice to hungry people for free.

How It Works:

\*Week One: Go to freerice.com and create an account with your student. By creating the account, your student will be able to track their giving. Start to answer some questions on the website. Encourage your student to use their new account at home or on their smart phones to donate more with each question answered.

Have you "Liked" us on Facebook yet? Go to our page now.



\*Week Two: Answer more questions with your students. Talk about what the student is doing by answering questions. Introduce the creative writing prompt for the Celebrate Writing book.

Continue to spend a few minutes each session answering questions and donating rice, while working on their Celebrate Writing essay.

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### **Eau Claire Ford Becomes Newest ScrabbleBee Sponsor**

A special thank you to Eau Claire Ford for becoming the newest sponsor for the 2016 ScrabbleBee. They join event sponsor CCF Bank, and major sponsors RCU, Xcel Energy and Northwestern Bank. Game and tile sponsors include CVTC, Marshfield Clinic, and Festival Foods. Media sponsors are WQOW TV 18, Volume One, and Wisconsin Public Radio.



The 15th Annual ScrabbleBee, which will be Thursday, April 21, 2016, is at a NEW location, The Lismore Hotel & Conference Center in downtown Eau Claire. The new, larger venue will allow us to expand the fun to 50 teams.

If your business or organization would like to join our growing list of major sponsors or are interested in sponsoring a team, contact Literacy Volunteers now at 715-834-0222 or [info@lvcv.org](mailto:info@lvcv.org). To learn all about the event, including sponsoring, playing, and pledging, visit [www.lvcv.org/scrabble-bee](http://www.lvcv.org/scrabble-bee). All proceeds from the Bee go directly to our literacy programs and services.

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### **Board Profile: Tom Giffey**

Board Member Tom Giffey is managing editor of *Volume One* magazine, a biweekly culture, arts, and entertainment publication based in Eau Claire. He has served on the board of Literacy Volunteers Chip-pewa Valley since 2010, but his real claim to fame is his participation in every

single ScrabbleBee that LVCV has ever held!

Tom is consistently in awe of the hard work done by LVCV's tutors and staff and the incredible strides made by clients as they build their literacy skills. He is also involved in the Putnam Heights Neighborhood



Association, the Friends of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, and the Western Wisconsin Press Club. Prior to working at *Volume One*, he spent 13 years in various positions in the newsroom at the Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire's daily newspaper.

Tom, a native of Dodgeville, Wis., holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from UW-Madison. He and his wife, Tiffany, a speech-language pathologist in the Eau Claire Area School District, have two children: 4-year-old Graham, and Gloria, who was born in March 2015.

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### **LVCV Offers Family Cooking Class**

Are you a mom with young children? Do you have picky eaters or want to encourage good eating on a tight budget? Sign up for LVCV's series on Family Cooking and



Learning Together to be held in Eau Claire's Banbury Place. Dates are Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, and 29 plus April 5 and 12 from 4:30-6:30pm.

Nancy Coffey from UW Extension will provide her expertise to families to create six weekly suppers. The kids will help make a snack before the adults have a lesson to make the meal. Dinner is included. Learn a few new ideas and how to encourage "table talk" as a family. Children

and adult partners are welcome to join Mom. Mom's LVCV tutor may also attend. Sign up at [info@lvcv.org](mailto:info@lvcv.org) or call Cheryl at 715-834-0429 by February 26th. Funding support is provided by the Women's Giving Circle of the Eau Claire Community Foundation.

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### **Staff Profile: Marge Beebe**

Marge Beebe graduated from the University Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a degree in Elementary Education (K-8) and Learning Disabilities (K-8). She taught in the area of Learning Disabilities for 2 years, but teaching children wasn't as rewarding as she thought it would be. She moved on to working with



adults with developmental disabilities at Reach, Inc, was a trainer at Hutchinson Technology, was a shift lead and worked with large lasers at 3M, and worked in broadcast/advertising at Menards. Finally, the perfect fit was with LVCV. While employed at LVCV for the last 10 years, she has worked with and converted several databases, computer coordination, donations and newsletters, and has found her match as an English as a Second Language Teacher at Family Literacy. She taught the beginners for three years, and will divide her time between the beginning group and the advanced group.

Personally, she is the step-mom to two adult daughters, mom to a son (18) and a daughter (8); and has four grandchildren (8, 7, 5 and 3). She enjoys fishing and camping with her family, and partaking in a variety of hobbies including reading, jewelry making, and mosaic making. Marge loves the fact that her house will never be an empty nest!

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**Jevne Earns Tanks of Thanks**



Congratulations to student Joel Jevne for being awarded the River Country Co-op Tanks of Thanks. Joel received the award for going the extra mile for Literacy Volunteers. Pictured above are Joel and his tutor Dave Rasmussen.

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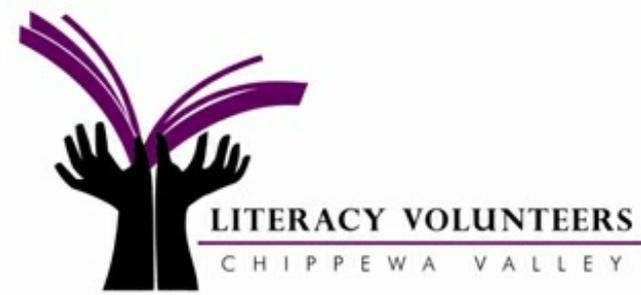
### **Family Lit Project: E-Cigarettes**

Exciting things are happening in Family Literacy's English as a Second Language Group 4. In order to promote vocabulary acquisition, general science and social studies knowledge, as well as the ability to defend one's opinion in English, the class has been looking at the issue of electronic cigarettes.

We started with the question: "Should warning labels be on electronic cigarettes?". Group 4 was divided into two different teams, with one group being for warning labels while the other group was against warning labels. Each group read an article related to their ideas, took notes, and defined vocabulary. We then held a "discussion" about the topic. Our discussion/debate was very informative and both sides made very good points.

If you would like to have your own discussion with your student on current topics, go to <https://newsela.com>. This website has many articles on current topics. Each article can be printed at different reading levels to accommodate most students. If you would like some assistance with the

website or topics, let Marge know at [mbeebe@lvcv.org](mailto:mbeebe@lvcv.org).



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