

July
August
September
2007



Literacy News

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Literacy Services of Wisconsin
2724 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344 - 5878



Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

With gratitude and anticipation, I begin my term as President of the Board of Literacy Services of Wisconsin. Literacy Services is a vital, effective, vibrant institution today because of the contributions so many have made. During the next two years, we will be working to build on a rich legacy.

Regrettably, the need for our services is immense. The LSW Board has set a goal to double the number of students we are able to reach. With our wonderful tutors, strong financial supporters and our fabulous staff, that goal is achievable with focus and determination. But to achieve that goal, we will need to draw new volunteers and contributors to our cause.

We will be working to better connect with the Milwaukee business community. We will be emphasizing that all Milwaukee has a stake in our success. It is common place to observe that economic development begins with workforce development, and that workforce development begins with education. LSW is an important part of that equation, helping motivated adults become full participants in our social, political and economic community.

One special challenge we have concerns our home. Our lease at 2724 West Wells Street expires on October 31st, 2010. While it is not impossible that we will simply renew our lease at our present location, we will be reviewing all possibilities. In that connection, we will be soliciting input from students, tutors and staff. We want everybody's ideas regarding how our facility can best be configured and where it can best be located.

I look forward to working with everybody, students, tutors, contributors, staff and our Board, as we work to make LSW ever more effective. To all of you, thank you for your contributions making LSW what it is today, and thank you for your continuing support of LSW.

Sincerely,

John Gaebler
President

MISSION

The mission of Literacy Services of Wisconsin is to provide literacy education to motivated adults through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the gifts of private contributors and the use of specialized curriculum to meet individual and community needs.



15th Annual Joe Flanner Memorial Golf Outing
 Proceeds to benefit Literacy Services
 Executive Director Barbara Felix, Helen Flanner, Board
 President John Gaebler and Therese Flanner Propp

Student Comes Full Circle

Charles Smith, a recent GED graduate at Literacy Services of Wisconsin, is continuing his education at MATC. He also volunteers his time to tutor students in LSW's GED program. Smith's goal is to become an architect after finishing school. He shared that he would like to establish a career for himself, not just a job.

Charles Smith, like many of the students who come through the doors of Literacy Services, did not finish high school when his classmates did, but dropped out early to begin working. He felt he needed to work to survive financially and there was not enough time to juggle work and school. His employment included work at various warehouses, with temporary employment agencies, doing bindery and welding work, and telemarketing. He also spent over four years working construction before he injured his back. Although earning his GED had been in the back of his mind for a long time, Smith's injury gave him the motivation to begin seriously focusing on the GED.



Charles Smith (right) receives the Norman Gill Scholarship award from Nick Lyons

Literacy Services' GED program provides tutoring in writing, mathematics, social studies, science, literature, health, and civics. These topics are covered in preparation for the exams required to attain a General Education Development certificate or High School Equivalency Diploma. Along with one-to-one tutoring, practice tests are available for students to help them prepare for the exams. Smith believes he not only gained confidence in his test taking ability as a result of the program, but also gained a family. He shared that, "The people at Literacy Services are all so nice. I liked coming here when I was in the program, and I still like coming here now to help other people."

The welcoming atmosphere at Literacy Services helps to diminish feelings of intimidation that many students experience. This inviting environment, coupled with Smith's motivation, allowed him to progress quickly through the program.

Due to his hard work and dedication to learning, Smith was named this year's recipient of the **Norman Gill Scholarship**. This \$500 scholarship is given once each year to a Literacy Services student who successfully completes the GED process, then enrolls in a university, college or technical school.

Congratulations, Charles!

By Meghan Berger, LSW Intern

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September

- 8th LSW Open House 1 – 5:00 pm
- International Literacy Day
- Tutor Training 9:00am
- 8-22nd LSW Book Sale
- 11th New Tutor Preview 6:00pm

October

- 6th Tutor Training 9:00am
- 16th New Tutor Preview 6:00pm
- 18th LSW Spelling Bee
- 27th Make A Difference Day

November

- 1st National Family Literacy Day
- 3rd Tutor Training 9:00am
- 13-16th Wilson Reading System Tutor Training
- 13th New Tutor Preview 6:00pm
- 21st Thanksgiving break begins at 3:00pm
- 26th Classes resume at 9:00am

Meet Our New Staff



Jill Snider
 Program Manager

Jill joined us as Adult Basic Education Program Manager on July 16th. She holds a B.S. in Adult Education, plus experience teaching in ABE, GED and ESL programs.

Welcome, Jill!



Shamus Wright
 Program Manager

Shamus joined us as G.E.D. Program Manager on August 6th. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree and is a doctoral student. He is committed to education!

Welcome, Shamus!



What's Happening

LSW now offers help to students in the following areas:

- 1) Driver's license exam preparation
- 2) Resume assistance
- 3) Citizenship exam preparation
- 4) Book Club (Tuesdays)

All programs take place Monday through Thursday from 4:00 - 6:00pm.

Two Retire from Board of Directors



Betsy Lierk



Dwight Ellis

Betsy Lierk and Dwight Ellis joined the Literacy Services of Wisconsin Board of Directors in the early 1980's. Each served over a quarter century before retiring at the end of June 2007.

When Betsy and Dwight joined the board, they found an organization far different from today's. Then the budget was \$65,000. Now the budget is nearly ten times that amount: \$635,000. Then there were three full-time employees. Now there are ten. With such a small staff the board took over much of the work of the organization. It handled all fund raising: developing lists of potential donors, sending invitations to coffees and teas that functioned as information meetings, presiding over the meetings and cleaning up afterwards.

Betsy remembers when board presidents prepared lunches for board meetings. One of Dwight's duties while managing the finances was to write out all the checks to pay bills. Besides serving on every committee and volunteering for every project, both served as board President: Betsy from 1985 to 1987 and Dwight from 1997 to 1999.

Betsy says her association with Literacy Services gave her the chance to meet and know great people. Tutoring was her greatest reward. She is certain that she learned as much from her students as she ever gave back to them.

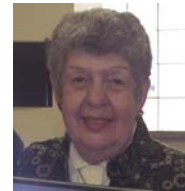
Dwight led a tutoring team from his law firm and brought both daughters to tutor at Literacy Services. He speaks of the excitement on the main floor where tutor and student work side by side to learn new skills. For him literacy is the basis for participation in society and a major determinant for success.

To these exceptional volunteers, LSW is forever indebted. Their leadership guided our organization for nearly 60% of its existence and created an unwavering foundation for an organization dedicated to building a more literate community. We extend heartfelt thanks to Betsy and Dwight for their many years of contributions to Literacy Services.



Randy Lyon, Mary Frankowski, and Henry Williams celebrate receiving the ABE group award at the Student/Tutor recognition event in June.

Congratulations to the 2006 Tutor of the Year



Rocille McConnell

Rocille has been a tutor with LSW since 1991. In the past 16 years she has tutored for more than 800 hours. She has also helped interview prospective students, works with challenging students, and often stays late to help students. She is a model tutor and the 2006 tutor of the year!

Thank you, Rocille, for all your time and services!

Congratulations to the Tutors of the Month:

June

Larry & Micki Letourneau

This couple has tutored since December 2001, combining for over 1,500 hours of tutoring. Thank you, Larry and Micki, for all of your time and services!

August

Julius Adimola

Julius has been a tutor since December 2006. In just over 6 months he has already given over 240 hours of tutoring.

Thank you, Julius, for all your time and services!

Literacy Services of Wisconsin

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Milwaukee, WI 53208

PHONE:
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E-MAIL:
info@literacyservices.org

Please remember
Literacy Services of
Wisconsin
in your will.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.literacyservices.org

Want to join the ranks of
enthusiastic volunteers?
Contact Nick Lyons,
Outreach Coordinator at
nick@literacyservices.org
or 414-344-5878.

Students are
waiting for you!



Development Report

Literacy Services of Wisconsin remains grateful for the generosity of individuals, businesses, foundations, service groups, and religious organizations that contribute to support our services. Since our last newsletter, we have received \$132,177.20 in individual, family, corporate, foundation and religious support. The following donors have contributed to LSW since May 11, 2007:

Assurant Health
AT&T
AXA Foundation
Bartolotta Restaurant Group
Berghammer Construction Corporation
Bibler, Richard & Kay Foundation
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