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Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday
8:30 am-8:00 pm

Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 am-5:00 pm

Friday
8:30 am-1:00 pm

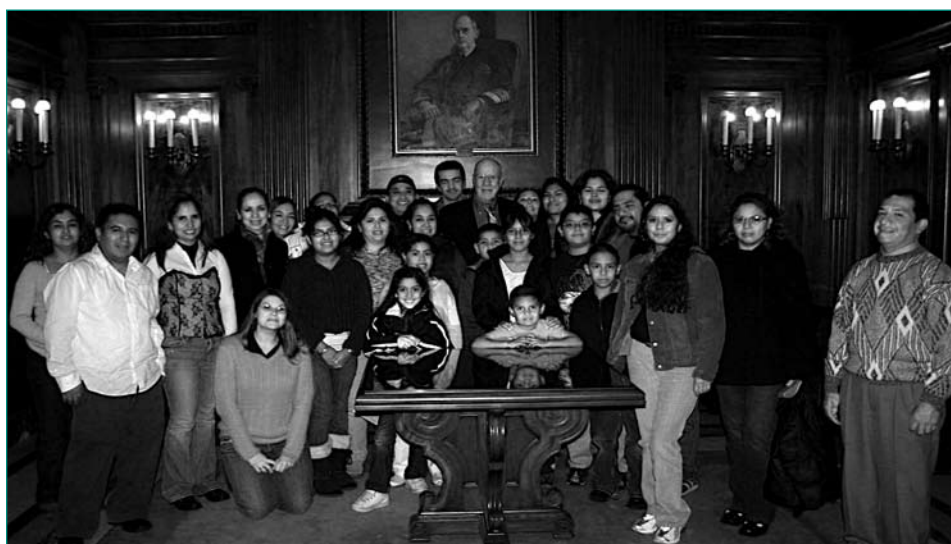
Literacy Network is a not-for-profit organization committed to providing basic literacy services to adults and families in Dane County so they may achieve their employment, education and family goals.

Civics Class visits State Capitol and Senator Risser

By ESL Civics Class

It was very important to study about US Government and laws, because we need to know how they work and it is very important for our children when they have questions about government, we will know the answer. It was very interesting study US Government in class. We went to the Capitol on Thurs-

day, November 11. We met Senator Fred Risser in the Capitol building. The Senator Fred Risser spoke about immigration and driver's licenses. His answers to our questions were very interesting. The most interesting thing he said was he hopes to permit immigrants to go back and forth to their country.



The ESL Civics class and instructor Beth Gleisten visited with Senator Risser at the State Capitol on the day that he was elected Senate President.

Virtual Election in Civics Class

By ESL Civics Class

We wrote information about candidates' program topics divided into different groups. Each group did its own presentation that showed the candidates' programs, like economy, immigration, etc., based on information from the Internet and newspapers. We learned about each candidate's background and how they belong to opposite parties. We knew many things we didn't before, like basic things about the president and what he

can or can't do; like president's term length and presidency power and how he doesn't have so much. An excellent experience to know and familiarize with the American government, especially elections. The majority of the class were interested in Obama's headlines, mostly about immigration. A very attractive point, at least enough to win this small class election (11-3). Hoping that will be brought to reality soon, obviously, the class was very satisfied with the real election results.

Literacy Network Board and Staff

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Jamie Griffin

Printing by Thyssen Printing.

New Volunteer Manager joins staff

By Lynn Pawelski
Volunteer Manager

I began as the Volunteer Manager on December 1.



My educational background is in geography, but my career has included a variety of work at different non-profit organizations over the past 17 years.

My experience includes volunteer coordination, economic development, communications, and marketing. My first job out of college was teaching in the literacy program at the Hope House in Milwaukee. I'm excited to get back to my roots in literacy!

I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the Literacy Network community over the coming months and beyond. Please call or email me with any questions or ideas you have about your Literacy Network volunteer connection.

Volunteers Power Literacy Network

At this time of the year, as we all reflect on the past year and look forward to the new one, we at Literacy Network want to take a moment to thank our dedicated volunteers. We rely very heavily on community volunteers to fulfill our mission and know that we could not survive without you. Thank you all! While all of our volunteers are important to us, we want to recognize some of our outstanding volunteers.

One of our volunteers is on several committees, and seems to show up, almost magically, whenever we need a little extra help: **David Breyer**.

David has been a volunteer at Literacy Network for about six years. In that time, he has tutored three people, and for a while was involved in our Community Literacy program. He has been working with a Korean learner for the past three years, and is always very responsible about providing his monthly feedback form. In addition, David has been a great help with the annual Run/Walk for Literacy in each of the six years since he began volunteering. David has been our main volunteer coordinator for the Run/Walk for Literacy, even hauling scaffolding, tables and cups from the basement at the Canterbury Apartments. He also is active as a marketing and development committee

member. David is always there whenever we need him, even helping us out for three hours one day before Thanksgiving when he stopped by and we were working on putting stamps on envelopes for our end-of-year mailing.

Why does David volunteer with us? "When you see people learning, it's a feeling of satisfaction, of accomplishment. It's a good feeling," said David.

Irene Meyer has been a tutor with Literacy Network since 2002. Here at the Literacy Network office, we always see Irene and her English language learner come out of their meeting room with a smile. Over the years, Irene has worked with four learners. One of her previous learners recently achieved U.S. citizenship and showed her gratitude to Irene by inviting her to a party. We thank Irene for her ongoing commitment to our learners.

Jeff Roquen tutored a 39 year-old man in basic literacy in over the last two years. When their match ended because of a schedule change, Jeff made the effort to ensure continuity in his learning. Jeff created a CD filled with exercises and worksheets that he used with his learner and wrote a seven page summary of their lessons to help the next person who works with him. For his zeal and thoroughness, we thank Jeff.

Literacy Network's 17th Run/Walk

By Karen George-Friedman
Development Director

On a nearly perfect fall day on October 12, more than 1,000 literacy supporters gathered together along State St. to run, walk, and cheer while helping to raise \$35,000 for Literacy Network's year-round programming. "It's really inspiring to see so many people out supporting this cause," said Jeff Burkhart, Literacy Network's new Executive Director.

Dozens of teams from area schools, local businesses, and a variety of social groups participated in the event. This year, for the first time in Run/Walk history, one of those teams was made up of learners and families from a Literacy Network class. Staff member Beth Gleisten and the majority of her new Integrated Civics and English Language class were

among those walking for literacy.

Literacy Network would like to extend a "thank you" to the following sponsors of the 2008 Run/Walk presented by Covance: UW Health, DEMCO, APEX, Greater State St. Business Association, Avol's Books, Triple M Radio, Hausmann-Johnson Insurance, Placon, University Bookstore, Anchor Bank, Badger Herald, Thyse Printing, Webcrafters, and Akuba Studios.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Run/Walk!



Hundreds wait to get started at the Run/Walk for Literacy on October 12.

Tutor Recruitment Campaign a Success

Wisconsin Literacy received funding from Verizon again this year for its sixth annual "Twelve Hundred Tutors in Twelve Weeks" campaign in order to meet the rising demand for services among adult literacy programs in Wisconsin.

This statewide recruitment effort challenges Wisconsin Literacy member organizations such as Literacy Network to pledge to recruit and train a specific number of tutors during twelve weeks. The campaign began on September 8, International Literacy Day, and ended on December 1.

Upon completion of this campaign, Wisconsin Literacy will reimburse members a dollar amount for each tutor recruited and trained.

Literacy Network recruited and trained 65 tutors during this campaign! Congratulations and thank you to those who helped out with the campaign and to all our new wonderful tutors! If you are interested in tutoring or would like more information, please contact Lynn Pawelski at 244-3911 or lynn@litnetwork.org.

Twelve Hundred Tutors in Twelve Weeks is made possible through a grant from Verizon.

Thank you, donors and sponsors!

All of us at Literacy Network would like to thank our donors and supporters, for making it possible for us to continue to offer no-cost literacy services to more than a thousand people this year. Every time one of our tutor-learner pairs celebrates the learner's accomplishment, whether it be a first book, filling out forms for school or work, or getting citizenship, it is you who has made it possible. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you for supporting literacy and for strengthening our community!

Learn Spanish at Literacy Network!

Literacy Network will be offering a 10-week beginning Spanish course starting in Feb-March of 2009. Times and dates of this class are being developed and will be posted on our website. If you are interested in attending, please contact Bailey at bailey@litnetwork.org or 244-3911.

Get involved with us

Attention book group members, book worms, and other friends of the Literacy Network! Would you or your group like to support the Literacy Network with a short-term commitment? We would love your help with our Literacy 24/7 event next year on April 18, 2009. If you enjoy planning events, getting donations, helping with event logistics, or handling food, let us know. For more information contact Lynn Pawelski at lynn@litnetwork.org or 244-3911.

A Learner's Story: School and Moving

By Tamelo

Literacy Network Learner

I went to elementary school in Chicago. I had a nice 4th grade teacher, but I can't remember her name. I had two good friends Kim and Julie. All three of us were in the same class and also lived in the same neighborhood. Before school started we would meet up by a big tree and walk to school. Once we got to school we had about 15 min. to play before the bell rang. There was about three weeks of school left. We were so ...happy because we wanted to be out for the summer. My mom told me, my sister and brother that we will be moving once school was out. I was the one to say, "Mom where are we moving to?" She said "Madison, Wisconsin." I asked how

far is Madison? She said about two or three hours away.

We moved back and forth so much. I didn't like moving because it was too much hassle, plus I would miss my friends and my school. Once we had moved for the last time, I was happy. The town house that we moved into was big. It had two bathrooms, one up stairs and one down stairs, and three bedrooms. My sister and I had to share a room but that was fine with me because it was a big room. My brother had his own room and so did my mom. Once we moved all our furniture in, it looked very nice.

Special thanks to Tamelo's tutor, Heather Johnson for encouraging her to write her story.

Wishlist for Literacy

These items will help to improve our programs in tutoring English as a Second Language and basic literacy, small group classes and other literacy programs:

- Digital video or still camera
- Laptop computers
- Software and hardware for converting videotapes to DVD or audio cassettes to CD
- Up-to-date Rosetta Stone software
- Passenger van (2000 or newer)
- Tables, cafeteria style (6' to 8')
- Journal books
- Small English-Spanish dictionaries

Please call us at 244-3911 if you would like to donate any of these items.

How you can double the hours you tutor in 2009

By Jennifer Sell

Group Instruction Director

"I will double the hours I tutor at Literacy Network in 2009!"

Volunteer four hours instead of two every week? Log 200 hours next year instead of 100?

"Impossible!" you say. As much as I love tutoring, I'm a busy woman! I'm the kind of guy who's in demand!

But wait...before you conclude that we here at Literacy Network expect the impossible, there is a way you can pull this one off. Let us challenge you to re-word that resolution to double the service hours our learners receive with minimal effort on your part:

"I will recruit one person to become a volunteer tutor in 2009!"

Just imagine...another neighbor in need developing language skills to get a better job or help a child

with homework. All because you encouraged a new tutor to take the first step!

Yes, by sharing your enthusiasm for tutoring with just one other friend or family member, you could help us provide up to 100 more hours of tutoring assistance. Don't

you wish it were just that easy to slam dunk ALL your resolutions? ("I will recruit one person to quit smoking for me in 2009").

If every current tutor resolved to bring one other on board, together we could make a real difference in more than 500 lives in 2009.



Miguel Martinez, Myrine Tambe, instructor Julie Cherney, Oyntugs Dagua and Oliver Flores at the end of their class.

Community Literacy Tutor Profile: Tony Voss

By Gregg Williard,
ESL Instructor

For the past three years **Tony Voss** hasn't slept late on Saturday morning. Instead he's up, rain or shine, snow or sleet to tutor in the Community Literacy program here at Literacy Network from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Tony is from Cologne, Germany and has a degree in French Literature and Linguistics.

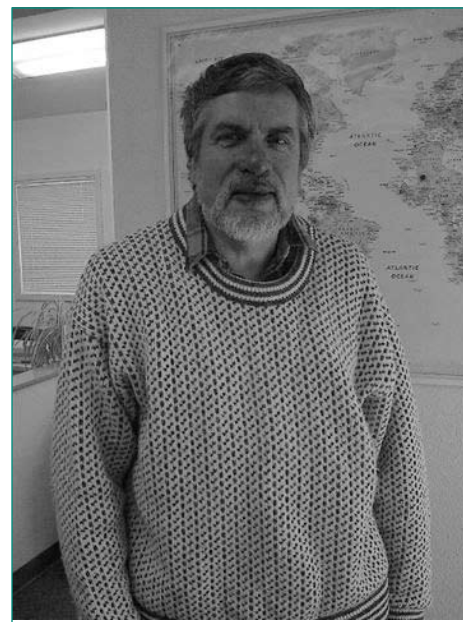
"I always learn a lot about teaching, language and other cultures from tutoring."

He's multi-lingual and can speak English, German, Dutch, French and Spanish, though he rarely uses anything but English in his tutoring. "Knowing other languages is good, but it's not necessary to be a good tutor," Tony says. "For most people, gaining mastery of your native language happens naturally as

you grow up. You just don't think about it, but it's a tremendous gift, especially if your native language is English."

Clearly, Tony enjoys working with learners. "I really enjoy tutoring at Community Literacy, because I get to work with different learners every week. I always learn a lot about teaching, language and other cultures from tutoring."

Tony's work history is in education, but he stresses that good, effective tutoring is done by all kinds of people from many different backgrounds. "I think what helps people learn English most is the opportunity to talk to a patient, interested native speaker. I like the text books we use too, but it's important for me to adapt the lessons to the needs of the learner. That's pretty easy with the textbooks we use. And if I need other ideas I can always talk to the other tutors and the Literacy Network staff." What's the worst thing about tutoring? "When the learner doesn't show up." Thanks for your hard work and dedication, Tony!



Tony Voss has been a tutor for the last three years, volunteering his time every Saturday morning.

**Make change -
be a tutor!
Call 244-3911**



Constantino Martinez is making great progress in the Community Literacy sessions at Literacy Network.

Community Literacy Learner Profile: Constantino Martinez

By Gregg Williard,
ESL Instructor

Constantino Martinez, like many of our learners, manages to work two jobs and be a father to two young children while regularly attending classes and Community Literacy sessions here at Literacy Network. He came to Madison in 1999 from Tehuacan, Puebla Mexico where he was a seminary student. He completed three years of philosophy and three years of theology, but did not study English until moving here. He's been coming to Literacy Network for a little over one year, and likes the Satur-

day sessions because it fits in with his packed schedule. Even with limited classroom and tutor time, Constantino has progressed from a beginning level English speaker to an upper-intermediate (Level 3) speaker, reader and writer. What's the hardest thing about English? "Oh my god," Constantino laughs. "Listening, pronunciation, verbs, idioms...everything!" Despite the enormous challenges of English, Constantino's effort and dedication are really paying off. Great work, Constantino! See you in Level 4!

Early 2009 Volunteer Training Schedule

January 2009

Thurs, Jan 8: Volunteer Information Session at Literacy Network (1118 South Park St), 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Tues, Jan 13: ABE Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3) at the Catholic Multicultural Center (CMC), 1862 Beld St, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Thurs, Jan 15: ABE Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3) at the Catholic Multicultural Center, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Sat, Jan 17: ABE Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3) at Literacy Network, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Sat, Jan 17: Volunteer Information Session, Location to be announced, 9:00am - 10:00am

Tues, Jan 27: ESL Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3) at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Thurs, Jan 29: ESL Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3) at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Sat, Jan 31: ESL Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3) at Literacy Network, 9:00am - 1:00pm

February 2009

Tues, Feb 10: Volunteer Information Session at Literacy Network, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Tues, Feb 17: ABE Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3), at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Thurs, Feb 19: ABE Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3), at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Sat, Feb 21: ABE Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3), at Literacy Network, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Thurs, Feb 26: Volunteer Information Session at Sun Prairie Library (1350 Linnerud Dr, Sun Prairie), 6:00 - 7:00pm

March 2009

Tues, Mar 3: ESL Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3) at Sun Prairie Library, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Thurs, Mar 5: ESL Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3) at Sun Prairie Library, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Sat, Mar 7: ESL Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3) at Sun Prairie Library, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Tues, Mar 30: Volunteer Information Session at Literacy Network, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

April 2009

Mon, Apr 6: ESL Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3) at Madison Senior Center (330 W. Mifflin St), 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Wed, Apr 8: ESL Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3) at Madison Senior Center, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Fri, Apr 10: ESL Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3) at Madison Senior Center, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Tues, Apr 14: Volunteer Information Session at Literacy Network (1118 South Park St), 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sat, Apr 18: Literacy 24/7 Event at Border's Books

Tues, Apr 21: ABE Tutor Training (Day 1 of 3) at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Thurs, Apr 23: ABE Tutor Training (Day 2 of 3) at CMC, 5:45pm - 8:45pm

Sat, Apr 25: ABE Tutor Training (Day 3 of 3), at Literacy Network (1118 South Park St), 9:00am - 1:00pm

ESL Class Schedule

Classes at Literacy Network:

Morning Level 1

January 5-May 13
Mondays/Wednesdays
10:30 am-12:00 noon

Level 2

January 3-May 16
Saturdays
11:30-1:00 *Register for childcare

Night Level 1

January 6-May 14
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00-8:30 pm

Night Level 2

January 6-May 14
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00-8:30 pm

Afternoon Level 3

January 5-May 13
Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays
1:00-2:30 pm

Classes at the Catholic Multicultural Center, 1862 Beld Street, #255-8471:

Morning Level 3

January 5-May 15
Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays
9:30-11:00 am

Morning Levels 1 and 2,

January 6-May 14
Tuesdays/Thursdays
9:30-11:30 am, limited childcare.
Registration required: call 244-3911.

Early 2009 Community Literacy schedule

Volunteers are needed for the 2009 series of Community Literacy meetings. We currently have 61 students and 57 tutors among six different programs. We are looking for tutors who are willing to commit to at least one meeting each week to tutor at the following times:

Literacy Network office (beginning January 12) .

Mondays 6:00pm-8:00pm

Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

Saturdays 9:00am-11:00am

Lussier Community Education Center (beginning January 12) at 55 S. Gammon Road

Mondays 9:00am-11:00am

Glendale Elementary School (beginning February 3) at 1201 Tompkins Dr.
Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm

Boys and Girls Club Allied Family Center (beginning January 13) at 4705 Jenewein Dr
Tuesdays 6:00pm-8:00pm

¡Los 9 consejos más útiles para aprender inglés!

1. *Usa lo que ya sabes.* No te preocupes si cometes errores. Ya has aprendido muchas palabras y frases, di lo que puedes. Vas a ver que los norteamericanos agradecen el esfuerzo que haces para hablar su idioma y normalmente son muy agradables.

2. *Pasa tiempo con hablantes nativos.* Para practicar, ponte en muchas situaciones en que tienes que hablar inglés. Los lugares que te ayudan a aprender el inglés son: el supermercado, el trabajo, la escuela de tus hijos, tiendas, y el transporte público.

3. *Escucha a los niños.* Si tienes la oportunidad, escucha a los niños.

Hablan más claro, despacio, y sencillo.

4. *Lee el periódico.* Compra el periódico y saca las frases que has aprendido. Los periódicos de los estados unidos te ayudarán a interesarte más en la vida de aquí y entender más la cultura.

5. *Mira los carteles.* Lee los anuncios y mira bien los carteles y letreros. Te ayudará a aprender inglés si prestas atención en las palabras más usadas.

6. *Escucha la radio en inglés.* Escucha la radio local, vas a absorber más de lo que piensas.

7. *Ve la televisión en inglés.* En los programas de televisión hay mucho lenguaje muy útil para muchas situaciones de la vida: la escuela, el trabajo, el médico, etc.

8. *Simplifica el proceso.* No trates de traducir una oración muy complicada del español al inglés. Trata de simplificar la oración o idea para comunicarla mejor.

9. *¡Ten ganas!* Tienes que tener muchas ganas de aprender. No es muy natural hablar otro idioma, por eso hay que enfrentarlo con una actitud determinada y positiva.

Top ten tips for tutors who work with English learners

1. *Don't be afraid to use dialogues.* A very helpful dialogue to write has the learner taking a phone message. This gives the learner the opportunity to learn to ask a native speaker to help them out, e.g. "I'm sorry, please say that again?...Please slow down... How do you spell Joe Shlabotnik?"

2. *Don't fear repetition.* Your learners can stand more of it than you think they can. Really.

3. *Bring photos.* Personal photos shared between tutor and learner are very helpful to establish relationships and start conversation.

4. *Use the internet.* The LitNet blog has an entry about how to use VOA's "Special English" programs to let ESL learners hear slower, clearer than normal broadcasts on line, when schedules permit.

5. *Write.* Give your learner unstructured assignments between your actual meetings. Letters or e-mails with casual conversation about the day's events can help him/her get practice. Not all writing has to be academic and corrected. Writing for communication helps a learner get practice, and teaches tutors where a learner's weaknesses and strengths lie.

6. *Find ways for your learner to get practice between lessons.* Practice can be anything that lets the learner hear, read, write or speak English. Any kind of exposure can be considered homework. Use the radio, t.v. and even U.S. Mail.

7. *Try singing songs.* "This Land Is Your Land" is repetitive, leisurely and pretty easy to understand. It has been considered an alternative Na-

tional Anthem.

8. *Try graphic novels*—comic books for grownups. Find them in the public library.

9. *Visit www.DavesESLcafe.com* for games and activities that work in the one-on-one setting.

10. *Play games.* Games you might consider far too corny may be refreshing and new to your learner. Simple games like Eye spy, 20 Questions, Simon Says and even Go Fish give a new speaker chances to form questions, listen for accuracy, make negative statements and so on. And it's a chance to use these language structures in a safe, predictable environment.

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Director's Notes

By Jeff Burkhart
Executive Director



As we all know, the past three months have been a time of great change. Here at the Literacy Network, we've seen changes as well. In mid-

September, I was fortunate to join the Literacy Network, just in time to work on our successful 17th Annual Run/Walk for Literacy. This year, we raised more than \$35,000 for our programming. In partnership with Wisconsin Literacy, we were able to recruit and train 65 tutors between September 8 and December 1. We've also heard some good news about potential continued funding over the next two years

for our English in the Schools program from the Madison Metropolitan School District.

I'd like to share a bit about my background, and reflect on why it is so exciting for me to be leading the Literacy Network. In 1995, after completing a bachelor's degree at Indiana University, I began volunteering at a literacy program in Bloomington, IN, tutoring adults who wanted to improve their English skills. Being a literacy volunteer was challenging, eye-opening and rewarding. I admired the determination and drive that I saw in my learners, and became motivated to develop strategies for improved learning. I later worked at the literacy council in Durham, NC, where I developed curriculum guides and taught adult basic education courses. Here in Madison, I have worked with the W-2 program, helping educate people to get their GEDs and better careers.

I feel fortunate to have been selected

as the Executive Director, and plan to help the organization continue what it has done well for nearly 35 years. To serve our mission, we rely on approximately 300 volunteer tutors who dedicate their time to helping adult learners. I appreciate the support that we get from so many people in our community. I also appreciate the hard work of the Literacy Network staff members on a daily basis, and the commitment that they have all shown to the cause of improving the lives of adults and families in our community.

While the economic downturn has affected us, our community has shown its support for literacy education. In times of economic trouble, the families we serve are most at risk. If you have the opportunity to make a financial contribution to Literacy Network, I can assure you that your donation will be used wisely and will help to make a big difference in our community.