

# *From the Back of the Boat*

By: Bob Garfinkel

There was a highly respected instructor in college who told our class of prospective teachers that our future students were more than just numbers, they were individuals, they were people. Over the years, I taught 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades and kept his advice. I took care of my students, and you know what? They took care of me! They gave me 100% effort and, not only made me look good, but fulfilled many of my goals and aspirations.

In the last 7 years, working with adults in the Literacy Partners organization, I've had the honor to work with 12 adult learners either as a part-time tutor filling in for a tutor on hold, or as a tutor. Never before instructing an adult, except to demonstrate fishing techniques, at first the experience was new, different, and at times a bit awkward. I found this experience just as rewarding as working with youngsters. I found out very quickly that the skills my adult students were learning were the same skills we worked on in elementary school (boy, does that date me!). There were several important differences. When I taught kids, I had a captive audience—by law they had to be there. Many come to school, as a social event and they'd look ahead to perhaps the weekend or, at this time of the year, summer vacation. Many of our students work at hard labor jobs 10-14 hours per day before meeting with a tutor and meet by personal choice. Also, most are filled with hope, aspirations, and dreams that would be rare for a 10-12 year old child. Some of our students want to be able to help their children with homework or be able to talk to salespeople in stores, or even just be able to deal with everyday situations. Others have set goals such as passing the US Citizenship Test, getting their GED or passing a state certification test. The bottom line is that adults are driven (motivated) far more by their goals and dreams than most children. They are trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. I have never forgotten this, but sometimes, in the hustle and bustle of today's fast life, it gets lost. At this year's Recognition Day, the reality check for me was Elvira's reading of her essay consisting of her goals, hopes, and dreams. I don't know if you saw several of the attendees wipe tears from their eyes during her presentation? Elvira will be starting her GED with her tutor soon. She is smart, has the motivation to succeed, and will achieve whatever she sets out to do.

Yes, we are working with literacy skills, but we are also working with adults that have hopes, dreams, and yes, fears. We've had at least 13 students accomplish major goals in our short existence, with hundreds of short term goals accomplished as well (no goal is too minor). Both long and short-term dreams are great things to think about, but unless they are accompanied by hard work, they will not become reality and will remain just a dream.

Dreaming is healthy for all of us. It keeps us young. Try it sometime! Right now I'm sitting in a chair overlooking a lake and dreaming of a fish I'll catch this summer that is so big, *I won't have to lie about it!*



# THE STAR

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## Features:

From the Back of the Boat  
Board Members  
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New Textbook Series

Recognition Day  
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Summer Fundraising

## **New Textbooks Are Here!**

Last summer, a committee comprised of Maureen Kinnard, Mary Anne Albert, Lorraine Aspenleiter, Jackie Yon, Barb Baldwin, Jan Zenner, Kate Phillips, JoAnn Werner and Bob Garfinkel set out to find an up-to-date, exciting and colorful new textbook for Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County, Inc.

After getting input from other literacy programs online, the committee obtained samples of 8 highly recommended series. After viewing them, the committee selected the two best texts. Our pilot tutors (8 total) agreed to try each series for a period of 8 months. At that point, the committee and pilots completed book evaluations sheets, met and decided that "Ventures" would be our choice. During this process, Anne Laurent, our outstanding Coordinator, wrote grants that covered the expenses of the project. The donors were The Lary Swoboda Memorial Fund, WPS, and the Green Bay Packer Foundation.

Last, but not least, the committee discovered early in their search that the new series are very light on phonics, especially in the early levels. Laubach's level 3 & 4 are old stories and not interesting, yet Levels 1 & 2 are especially effective with beginning English Language Learners. The committee's plan is to test new students. If they test at Level 1 or 2, they will start in Laubach. After Level 2, the student will take the Venture's placement test and will enter the program at his/her level. Like-wise, present students on Level 3 and above will begin Ventures. Tutors of GED students and post Level 4 Laubach students will have their choice of Ventures or the direction they are currently working on.

We owe the committee and tutor pilots a great deal of thanks for their hard work and dedication. The result is the selection of a top-notch textbook series.



## Health Literacy Website Addition

Anne Laurent

You may notice something new when you log into the Literacy Partners website to do your tutor reports. A NEW Health Literacy section!

Our health literacy committee has taken everything we have compiled over the last two years and put it into an online resource for you and your students.

Inside this section you will find information and links to resources from Kewaunee County Public Health, quick care clinics, BadgerCare, free/reduced dental and vision

resources, as well as other health literacy resources we thought may be valuable to you and your student.



### To Access the Health Literacy Page:

1. Go to Literacy Partners website ([www.literacykewaunee.org](http://www.literacykewaunee.org))
2. Click on “[Tutor Login](#)”
3. Type in Password “teach”
4. Under Tutor Menu, the first item is listed as “NEW” [Health Literacy](#). Click on [Health Literacy](#).
5. Please take a minute to look over the Health Literacy homepage. Then, click on [View Health Literacy Information](#).
6. Enjoy all the resources that our Health Literacy Committee has been gathering for the past two years. These resources will be updated and added to, so feel free to check back from time to time. If you have any suggestions or additions, don’t hesitate to call or email Anne or Bob.

Please take some time to look through it so that you know what is available in the event you or your student would need this information. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact Anne or Bob.

*Also, we are hoping to have check in papers available for all area clinics/hospitals. This way, your student can prepare ahead of time before going to their healthcare provider. We will let you know as soon as these are available.*

Please take a minute to also notice the sponsors that made this portion of the website possible: [Greater Green Bay Community Foundation](#), [Shopko Foundation](#) and [United Funds of Kewaunee County](#).

## Brat Fry

Anne Laurent

It’s almost summer again—wait, is it? The weather sure doesn’t indicate it, but our annual Festival Foods Brat Fry is almost here!

The brat fry will be held on Friday, June 7. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to our Board of Directors, who filled all the spots for the Brat Fry volunteers this year already. They do an amazing job helping us make things happen in this organization. Most of them are tutors, as well. They never hesitate jumping in to volunteer to do all the crazy things I plan for us.

We will be at the Festival Foods East (Bellevue) next to Menards. Please stop by, say hi and grab a brat!



## Computer Class

The first beginning computer class Literacy Partners has ever attempted was a huge success! Theresa and Scott Savage, along with Sandy Ehren, taught a three session class to a mixture of 14 adult students and tutors. Participants had an opportunity to evaluate the class. Comments were extremely positive with some very good suggestions for future classes.

Topics covered included computer terminology, software, web surfing & safety, and emailing.

Thanks Theresa, Scott and Sandy!

## Welcome New Tutors!

Literacy Partners is thrilled to welcome Sue Colle and Robin Nelson to our tutoring program. Both tutors have been matched with excited students. Welcome aboard!



## Back To School Event-August

Anne Laurent

The Literacy Partners' Health Literacy Committee has once again chosen to participate in the Kewaunee County Back to School program. This program helps low income families in our area get the necessary supplies for their children to return for another school year. Last year we saw almost

300 children and about 130 adults. We expect the numbers to be the same or higher this year.

Literacy Partners will again have a dental booth, filled with goodies to help the children keep a healthy mouth, and educate them on its importance. We are happy to announce that we will also be able to provide each child with a new pair of shoes, again!

This program is of particular importance to us in a variety of ways. First of all, many of these families are our students and their children. It is another way for us to continue to help them in all aspects of their lives. Another reason we strive to be a part of the Back To School program each year is to advertise our organization to the people that may possibly benefit from it. Believe it or not, there are many people in Kewaunee County that still do not know what we do, and the different ways we can help them make better lives for themselves, as well as their families.

If you would like to come and work the day, or part of the day, with us, please contact Bob or Anne. We will need volunteers for the following times:

August 13: Set up (morning)

August 14: Morning shift (Shoe booth & Dental)

August 14: Afternoon shift (Shoe booth & Dental)





## Recognition Day 2013

Bob Garfinkel

This year's Recognition Day, at least for me, was our most successful celebration ever. We celebrated many tutor and student successes and set up a kid's table with artwork and suckers to keep them interested and occupied. Many books were taken home, and the food was sensational. There was something for everyone!

Instead of going further, our story will be shown in Recognition Day pictures. Thank you for everyone who helped us pull off such an exciting afternoon!



*Barb Baldwin  
receives the Frank  
Bernard Award for  
Tutor Excellence*

*Elvira reads her  
essay entitled  
"My Hopes and  
Dreams"*



**GED Achievements**  
Mary (tutor), Josie, Jerry (tutor)  
*Not pictured: Raymond*



**New US Citizens!**  
Mina, JoAnn Werner (tutor), Nellie  
*Not pictured: Lorenzo, Michele (tutor), Chris*



**250 Hours of Tutoring**

Left to Right:  
Muriel Seidl, Beth Fox,  
Bob Garfinkel (President), Joan Dalebroux,  
Suzanne Luft, Mary Browne

**500 Hours of Tutoring**

Left to Right:  
Marietta Kenzik, Sue Hingst, Mary Gostein,  
Bob Garfinkel (President)



**750 Hours of Tutoring**

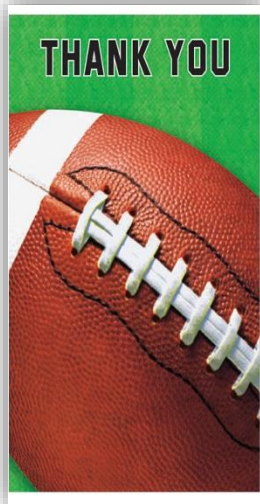
Left to Right:  
Bob Garfinkel, Mary Anne Albert,  
and Barb Baldwin





## A Letter from the Green Bay Packers

*Shortly after Recognition Day, we received a letter in the mail from Bobbi Jo Eisenrich. She was the attendee at Recognition Day from the Green Bay Packer Foundation. It touched us so much that we asked her if we could print her letter in our newsletter, to be shared with our entire organization. She agreed, and the letter reads as follows:*



Bob, Students and Tutors,

It was an honor to spend time with all of you at the Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County Recognition Day! You all are doing so many wonderful things and everyone should be very proud of themselves.

Literacy opens so many doors as I would imagine the students realize. It is my hope they continue working toward their goals.

I was humbled by the gift of the signed football! You are all truly the super stars!

Best wishes to everyone in the coming year!  
*Bobbi Jo Eisenrich-Green Bay Packers*



## Tutor of the Season *Kate Phillips*

I was born in a small Iowa town, the third child and oldest daughter of 15 children. I loved the small town, full of siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and other friendly people. After graduation from high school I went to Mankato, MN to attend college studying French and Spanish. I started teaching in St. Paul, MN in 1968 and continued doing so in Catholic Schools in and around the twin cities until I went to Kentucky in the Spring of 1982 where I met and married my dear husband, Ross Schilling.



Kate Phillips

I knew it was time for a break from teaching and Ross needed a receptionist/helper, so I started working with him in the Vetmobile. This provided lots of new experiences in Kewaunee and Door Counties getting to know many appreciative pet owners. After Julia was born I continued working, but took a break when Olivia was born. I missed teaching, the interaction with the students so I did some subbing, and later started up a Spanish program at Kewaunee Middle School. After that I decided to go back to the Catholic Schools and started Spanish K-8 programs at Holy Rosary and St Mary's Schools. It was great to be back working with younger students again and teaching them for several years consecutively, watching them and their Spanish skills grow.

At this time, I also taught ELL for NWTC and, although I loved interacting with adult Spanish speakers, I found the experience to be frustrating due to irregular student attendance. There had to be a better way of serving these people! I was totally in favor of a literacy organization as I could see the

possibility of meeting many individuals' needs for literacy. I was part of the steering committee, have been on the board and had a student since we started and believe more than ever that we are helping many people with far more aspects of their life than just literacy. There are more than 60 people doing what a couple of us were previously trying to do. I feel very privileged and excited to work with so many dedicated individuals, tutors, board members and students. My GED student is fun to work with, consistently full of energy and very positive attitudes. He and his family add a very positive focus to my life.

## State of Health in Kewaunee County

Anne Laurent

Recently, a few publications have been released regarding Kewaunee County's state of health. I'd like to take a minute to just point out a few facts that pertain to each of us, being Kewaunee County residents. Although all 3 of these publications are elaborate "books" of statistics, I am only going to go over two in particular that I feel are of special importance to our students, as well as every resident of Kewaunee County, WI.

According to the 2012 Kewaunee County Quality of Life Report, *published by the Center for Community and Economic Development/University of Wisconsin Extension*, our population without health insurance is one of the lowest in the region (northeast Wisconsin) and below the state average (this is a *good thing!*). But, the cost of healthcare continues to rise. In a study published in 2012 by the *Annals of Family Medicine*, it was found that "with current trends, the cost of health insurance will exceed household income by 2033. In just 50 years from 1960-2010, the average annual cost per person for healthcare increased from \$147 to \$8402, a 57 fold increase."

With numbers like I just stated, it is no wonder a lot of our students are not insured. Even though we are one of the best counties in the region, this subject is still of particular importance to Literacy Partners as an organization, because it most likely pertains to a good number of our students. This is one aspect that, with our Healthy Communities Initiative, we are trying to fix, if not help cure. We feel it is our job to educate our students on the importance of their health, healthy living, and maintaining a medical home (keeping all doctor visits within one provider). These topics are in need of special attention if the individual does not carry insurance.

The second topic I'd like to quickly cover comes from *The Burden of Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin*, which was a collaboration between the University of WI Population Health Institute, Health First Wisconsin and UW Family Medicine & Public Health.

There are so many relevant statistics that should be shared with every resident in Kewaunee County. To begin with, in 2011, excessive drinking in WI resulted in approximately 1529 deaths, 48,578 hospitalizations, 46,583 treatment admissions, 60,221 arrests and 5,751 motor vehicle crashes. Wisconsin rates number 1 in both binge drinking rates and intensity of drinking rates. That is not something we should be proud of, at all.

It should be made clear that even if you are not a drinker, you are paying for it! Higher insurance rates, diverted government spending to address substance abuse related crimes, lost economic output and higher healthcare costs are just some of the consequences to having such disturbing numbers coming from our residents. It is estimated that the total annual economic cost of excessive drinking in Wisconsin is \$6.8 BILLION in 2011. Of this \$2.8 billion was borne by government (federal, state, and local government agencies), \$2.8 billion by the excessive drinkers *and their family members*, and \$1.1 billion was sucked up by others in society (employers, private health insurers, and others).

So, what do we do now? How do we fix this, or at least start to minimize it? It is something that everyone is asking, and there is not a clear solution as of yet. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with our Health Literacy committee members, please contact us (Bob Garfinkel or Anne Laurent). If you would like to join our Health Literacy Committee and get more involved, please speak up! We always would welcome fresh ideas and participants.

If you would like to read any of these studies, we do have them available. You could probably also search online for them. They are titled as follows:

***Kewaunee County Rankings & Roadmaps: A Healthier Nation, County by County***, provided by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Univ of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

***Kewaunee County Quality of Life Report 2012***, provided by UW Extension

***The Burden of Excessive Alcohol Use in Wisconsin***, provided by UW Population Health Institute





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