



## From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

This month, Literacy Partners will be 11 years old. Part of this newsletter is devoted to fondest tutors' memories. Although we like to keep an eye on the future, the past has given us a strong foundation and provides tradition. I, too, have many memories that I'd like to share.

Every time I see tutors having class at the Kewaunee and Algoma Libraries, I get goose bumps! I never get tired of seeing that!

I have had the distinct privilege of seeing many of our students' achievements first hand. I've never been prouder than to witness the swearing in of 7 of our 9 new citizens in Milwaukee. Each student and tutor team passed the US Citizenship Test on the first try! If you ever have the chance to witness the citizenship ceremony, please do so. You'll never forget it!

Presently, we have 11 GED graduates (high school equivalency) with possibly 2 more by the end of this year. Getting a GED is no easy task, especially when you've been out of school for a number of years. One of our GED graduates left school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She returned 45 years later and received her diploma! This took hard work and courage.

Lastly, I have many fond memories of working with you—our excellent tutors, exceptional board members and wonderful "Friends of Literacy" who provide us with the places to meet and resources to do the job at hand. Thank you all so much!

*Best Fishes,*

*Bob*

# THE STAR

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Board Members/  
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## Recognition Day 2017



Our Literacy Partners' picnic will be Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at noon in Bruemmer Park, Kewaunee. We will have great food, a short program, books for our students and their children, 2 piñatas, and lovely company provided by old friends and new. You and your student should have received a letter in the mail with all of the details. A return envelope will be included. This is our event of the year! We sincerely hope you will attend.

**This is 2017's  
RSVP!**  
→



## Student Book Deadline

**EXTENDED TO JULY 17, 2017**

This year's student book is, "A Look Into My Future and Other Stories."

If students are not satisfied with this title, they may write about anything they wish. Stories this year are running 4 sentences to 2 pages in length. The last 3 years our student books have been something we have been proud of. Hopefully, with your encouragement, our book will be better than ever!

## Of This and That

1. Thank you to the Kewaunee Lions for a large donation. They have been a long-time supporter and "Friend of Literacy."
2. Thank you to Stodola's IGA in Luxemburg for their donation towards a new *Back to School* project!
3. Thank you to QualiT, Inc for providing us with a great price on t-shirts for the same *Back to School* project. *More to come on this post BTS Day in August...*
4. Thank you to "4 Legged Friends" Veterinary Clinic for their donation to the *Back to School* project, as well!

## Outstanding Student Award

Last year we tried this award and it was a HUGE success. We'd like to try it again. Basically, tutors nominate their student(s) by writing or emailing Bob Garfinkel with a one paragraph nomination due no later than July 25th. Nominations should include the 3 A's-Attendance, Attitude, and Achievement. Outstanding Students will receive their award at Recognition Day. Questions? Please call Bob at (920) 676-2061 or email at garfinkel.bob@gmail.com

## Summer Fundraising & Events

Anne Laurent

### Pig Roast Fundraiser: Saturday, July 29

**Shift 1 (8:30a-12:00p):** 4 volunteers

**Shift 2 (11:30a-3:00p):** 4 volunteers

\*We will also need pie donations for this event!

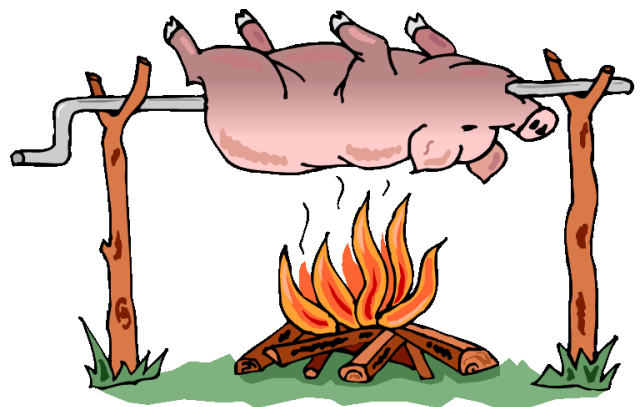
Planning is underway for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Partners/HCE Pig Roast Fundraiser! The event will be **Saturday, July 29** at the Kewaunee Harbor. Pork plates (including baby red potatoes, sauerkraut and rye bread), as well as pork sandwiches a la carte will be available. We will also be selling drinks and homemade pies for dessert!

As always, we will be looking for a few volunteers for the event. Each organization (LP and HCE) will be providing 4 individuals per shift to volunteer. The first round of volunteers will be needed from **8:30 am – Noon**, and the second from **11:45 – close**, plus clean up (when we run out of pork, usually around 2:30/3 pm).

In addition to volunteers, we do need some pies to be made and donated. These pies need to be fruit pies only. **NO CUSTARD** pies can be accepted, due to food laws, and the inability to keep the pies cold.



If you are interested in volunteering or donating a pie, please contact Anne





## Back To School Program

Anne Laurent

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year, Literacy Partners is going to be a part of Kewaunee County's Back to School program! This program focuses on helping low-income families obtain all the necessities they need to begin the school year on the right foot.

I am so thrilled to announce to our entire organization the EXCITING things happening at this year's event:

To begin—I was contacted by Tiffany Turner, the Director of Outreach/Travel Coordinator for Soles4Souls. I have had the opportunity and privilege of working with Tiffany over the past few years, and she has been amazing! She reached out to see if we would be responsive to a visit from a S4S team to our event!

Yes, that is right—Literacy Partners—in little Kewaunee County, Wisconsin, is getting visited by a national organization. Not only do they do *so much* right here in the United States, but they also help provide shoes to those in need all over the world!

Tiffany will be joined by a few others, and it will be their goal to create snippet of what a distribution of their shoes is like. They will interview individuals who will sign a media-release waiver, and be taking large zoomed out group shots, as well as children's backs, etc.

This is an exciting opportunity for Literacy Partners at some national exposure, as well as locally for our event.



In addition to S4S coming, we have also partnered with QualiT, Inc, Stodola's IGA, 4 Legged Friends, Dominion and NEW Plastics on an exciting endeavor!

Many times, poverty can be looked at in different ways. You can look at income, at living spaces, and at clothing and necessities available. While all of these are basic "needs", we sometimes like to be able to take things a step further—trying to bridge the gap

between the "haves" and the "have nots." This is where our exciting new *Back to School Project* comes into play.

Here in Kewaunee County, we are so extremely lucky to have support of local businesses. After making a few calls and sending a few letters and emails, we know that we will now be able to provide a "school spirit" t-shirt to all kids attending *Back To School Day* this year.

While this many not seem as much to you or I—imagine being the only child—or one of a VERY few in the class who has nothing to wear on the day where everyone else is wearing a school spirit t-shirt for an event.

It is our hopes that we help these children feel more confident, as well as help the parents feel a little less pressure with day to day life through doing small things we can—like providing a new pair of shoes to their children, a school t-shirt, dental supplies and books to take home.

This year, our event will be larger than ever. We will need a lot of manpower in the form of volunteers to fill the larger than normal stations.

### Event Information:

Set Up: **Tuesday, August 15 [8-10 needed]**  
Set Up Time: 8:30 am - ? (Usually about 2 hours)

Event: **Wednesday, August 16 [6-8 needed per shift]**  
Event Time: 12:30 pm – 5 pm.

#### Shifts available:

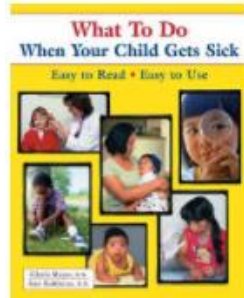
1. Set up 8:30 am – 10:30 am
2. Event: S4S Shoes (4): 12:15 pm – 3 pm
3. Event: Books(1): 12:15 pm – 3 pm
4. Event: Hats/Gloves(1): 12:15 pm – 3 pm
5. Event: S4S Shoes(4): 2:45 pm – 5:30 pm
3. Event: Books(1): 2:45 pm – 5:30 pm
4. Event: Hats/Gloves(1): 2:45 pm – 5:30 pm

Please let Anne ([920-328-5552](tel:920-328-5552) or [annielaurent@gmail.com](mailto:annielaurent@gmail.com)) know if you would like to be a part of this event. It is truly a great event, and we usually have a lot of fun seeing the smiling faces on all of the children! Thank you in advance!



## What's New in the Resource Center?

We have a wonderful series of books in our Resource Center called "What To Do..." We have multiple copies of each book with copies in English or in Spanish. Students could read sections on their own and then discuss them with the tutors during class. Books are packed with useable information for parents and were written by two nurses with well over 20 years of experience working with parents and children.



We have a full book case of those fine books in the Resource Center. If you have a problem getting to the Resource Center, contact Bob (920-676-2061) and he'll make sure you get what you want.

Books are written at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. Titles are listed below.

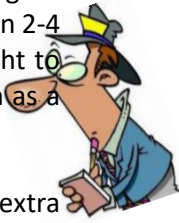
- What To Do for Asthma*
- What To Do for Heavy Kids*
- What To Do for Senior Health*
- What To Do for Healthy Teeth*
- What To Do for Teen Health*
- What To Do When You're Having a Baby*
- What To Do When Your Child is Sick*

## Help Needed!

We are looking for help with our quarterly newsletter! Each of the following tasks is small—and only happens 4 times per year. If you would like to help out, please contact Bob or Anne!

1. Interviewing Tutor of the Season—you would receive a name, number and email address from Bob/Anne and would be responsible for asking a set of interview questions and then writing up a short article for the newsletter.

2. Fascinating Facts About the English Language—an article that would happen 2-4 times per year. This article gives an insight to tutors about how hard learning English as a Second Language really can be!
3. Proof Reader – We would like some extra proof readers for the newsletter. You would receive the newsletter via email and would be expected to return any comments within 2-3 days max.



11 Years. Hundreds of students. Countless Accomplishments.

There is no way to exactly express the gratitude to everyone who has helped Literacy Partners along the way.

The impact you have all had—whether it is as a tutor, donor or supporter in your own way—has been essential to getting this organization off the ground and growing it into one of the most successful literacy organizations in Wisconsin.

Thank you doesn't ever seem like enough—yet it is usually appreciated more than most other things.

Below are words describing Literacy Partners from the minds of our tutors. On the following page are memories written in from the last 11 years. We hope you enjoy them all and realize what a true gift this organization is to our county!



*Life-Changing*

*Ruthie Woodbeck*



*Gratifying*

*Linda Jerabek*

**REWARDING**

*Joanne Lazansky  
Jan Tess*

*Empowering*

*Sr. Mary Anne Albert*



*Humbling*

*John Wagner*



*Inspiring*

*Diane Zastrow*

**11 YEARS  
OF  
LITERACY  
PARTNERS**

*Giftedness*

*Sr. Lorraine Aspenleiter*

**Credible**

*Susan De Marchi*

*Fulfilling*

*Joan Dalebroux*



*Bridge Building*

*Dianne Gordon*

*& Opportunity*

*Nancy Lamack  
Mary West*

**PROGRESSIVE**

*Marge Weichert*



# 11 Years of Memories

*By: Literacy Partners Tutors*

I have so many fond memories of interacting with my student. One of my fondest memories happened just after we started. My student's goal at the time was to be able to read a book to her 4 year old son. After just a few months she did it. She was so proud of her accomplishment. Another fond memory was the day she passed her GED – she was so nervous, but she did it. We'll be having a new memory to add to the list in a couple of months when she passes her citizenship test – right now the studying memories aren't much fun. But I think my fondest memory is the day she called me to wish me Happy Mother's Day and called me mom. I knew then that we would be together for a long time and that I now had another daughter. –Mary Gotstein

My fond memories center on the read aloud my ladies participate in with kindergarten students. The ladies are thrilled to visit the school and the kindergarteners. They enter the classroom confidently and exhibit great social skills in their friendly interactions with students and staff. They enjoy reading to the students. I am proud of them and their willingness to improve their skills. –Marge Weichelt

Fondest Memory.....Tutoring my student for 7 years! The entire experience and time spent has been memorable. It is rewarding to see the progression in English learning from our first day together to today. The friendship is special. –Beth Fox

The fondest memory I have was when my student was honored last summer at the picnic for her accomplishments. She works so hard and she inspires me. I look forward to each week and the strides she takes along with me. –Mary Jadin

One of my fondest memories is attending the US citizenship naturalization ceremony in Milwaukee and watching my student take the oath of allegiance. –Renee Koenig

The most memorable time with my previous student was when she saw her article printed in one of the booklets given to her at the Recognition Day. Another was with a present student when she was able to form her own question to me that began a simple dialogue. –Sr. Lorraine Aspenleiter

I think the most memorable experiences of tutoring takes place when a student initiates a conversation in English about something they want to share. –Sr. Mary Anne Albert

Tutoring was a great experience. Mostly because I got to pass on to someone else what I learned taking the citizenship test and going through the whole experience. I also made great friendships and given me opportunity to learn about other cultures, music and food. It has opened my mind and heart more to all immigrants and refugees of all religions as we all want the same striving for a better life and future. –Ingrid Weitzel

I have so many great memories of the students who have come here for TOEFL preparation and the TOEFL test. Great group of people with the potential to make a difference in their families and their home country. I have hosted eight from Guatemala over the recent years, in addition to nine from other nations.

When the first student came and we met at the airport - he knew almost no English and I almost no Spanish - we stood at the baggage claim area and I talked and talked and he kept saying "yes", "ah yes", "sure", years later he told me he had no idea what I was saying but kept saying "yes". He thought that is what he was suppose to do. If people would have seen us and how nervous each of us was as we met for the first time - they would have laughed. Both of us were nervous - like - what are we doing - strangers who will be living together and not knowing anything about the other. I think both of us were really scared!

I tell all of the students when I interview them before coming to the USA that they are to participate as full family members. That means, helping with the cooking, cleaning, washing, shopping, yard work, etc. They find it strange and difficult that we do not have servants. They think all Americans have servants - it is a reality shock to them that Americans do all this "house work" - surprise!!! My general overall memory is trying to show them how to cook, wash dishes, etc. It is so funny watching them make a meal - they have no idea how the food is cooked - mother does all that for them. It is a different world for them once they hit the ground at the airport! I have laughed so many times as they try and try to understand how to do the things we take for granted. Many smile in my heart for these experiences. And - I have photos to prove it!

When they leave - a part of my heart goes with them, sometimes very difficult for me. They do become an important part of my life that now moves on to creating a future for themselves and their families' years after I am gone. –John Wagner

The fond memories I have from the client I tutored is watching this man, with diagnosis of Downs Syndrome, shine when he saw a printed word and could pronounce it. During the three years working with him, he was reading at the fourth grade level. I also was teaching him the elements of playing the piano. With the piano, I concentrated on teaching him some of the basic chords. He was able to play several pieces and committed one or two to memory. Unfortunately, the Door County system, stopped providing him with these services over a year ago. We do hope that he retained some of the successes in reading and can use what he learned to read signs and continues to thrive in his excitement for reading. –Tom Mall

Over the last 11 years that I have been working with students, I have been witness to many memorable experiences: completing two GEDs, watching the citizenship swearing in at that fabulous Milwaukee building, seeing my students children graduate from high school, hearing that several TOEFL students passed and can now get their university degree....But even more memorable is getting to know another person, helping them out with their goals in life and simply sharing times together during lessons. One of the funnest times every year is the Recognition Day picnic because I get to see who else is involved in the tutoring/student process. It expands my life and helps me to feel a sense of gratitude for being part of such a vibrant caring organization such as Literacy Partners. –Kate Phillips





A special “Thank You” to all of our officers, Board of Directors, advisors, and supporters. Without your hard work, dedication and generosity, Literacy Partners would not be the successful non-profit organization that it is today. We appreciate you all very much!

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