

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” This quotation by Margaret Mead was thoughtfully placed on our Recognition Day brochure for 2011 and also will be found on our tutor and donor certificates for this year’s celebration. In several sentences, this quotation summarizes a lot of my thoughts and feelings about many of our great non-profit organizations in Kewaunee County such as the Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Optimists, United Fund, and Chambers of Commerce among many others. Kewaunee County organizations, in general, are relatively small, but their impact on our residents is huge!

Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County’s impact in our five year history has been impressive. Not to list all of our students’ accomplishments, our students and tutors have been recognized and honored both locally and state wide. Speaking for our board of directors, we are very proud of our students, tutors and organization as a whole.

THE STAR

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Back of the Boat, continued.

Individually, every tutor is making a difference in the lives of their students and families. For a moment, think about the number of people that made a great difference in your life. It is probably a very small number. In my case, it was three people – my grandmother, my sixth grade teacher, and my dear friend, Ray Liebl who passed away last month. All three gave me the encouragement and confidence to achieve many of my goals in spite of seemingly overwhelming odds. Whether you are a tutor, board member, or friend of literacy, you are reaching out to our students and giving them an opportunity that was either once lost or at some point seemed out of reach. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the challenges of 2012. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your time and energy.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

FUNDRAISING

Anne Laurent

The Advantage Card 2011

Have you picked up your 2011 Advantage Card yet? I have, and it is wonderful! There are more deals on it than last year, and all of the saving is better than ever! At only \$10/card, the card will pay for itself in only a couple of uses! Do you need Holliday gifts for co-workers or friends? The Advantage Card would be a perfect gift that will keep on giving all the way until September 1, 2012. Each “deal” can be used an **UNLIMITED** amount of times – ***you can't go wrong!***

If you would like to purchase an Advantage Card, you can find them for sale at the Bank of Luxemburg, Baylake Bank in Algoma, and Union State Bank in Kewaunee. You can also call or email Bob, or send him \$10 and he will send you a card back. It's a great fundraiser, and we really would appreciate you supporting our outstanding organization! Thank you in advance!!!

Run/Walk Event and the Fall 50

Anne Laurent

On a brisk Saturday morning at Fireman's Park in Luxemburg, a group of intrigued individuals gathered to hear a master speak of his trade. Russell Flemming, a retired Army Colonel, and avid runner and coach, talked about his passion for exercise, health, and creating programs designed specifically for the individual using them. His talk focused on realistic goals, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and not over exerting oneself. All participants ended the gathering by going up to the Ahnapee Trail in Luxemburg and going for a short half hour walk. Russ was both an amazing teacher and an inspiring individual. His presentation was very basic, yet thorough, and I know he helped guide me in my current exercise routine, as I am sure he did others.

Russ is new to the area, but since moving to Luxemburg, has been an avid Literacy Partners supporter. He ran the Fall 50 Ultra Marathon in Door County this past October, raising over \$450 for Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County. While others ran in teams of 5 (each running 10 mile stints), Russ took on the challenge of running all 50 miles solo! He did an outstanding job, finishing 3rd in his age group.

Literacy Partners would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to Russ for all he has done in helping us promote our wonderful organization. We hope that he continues to be involved with literacy Partners in the future. If you see Russ running, give him a shout. He loves to meet new people, and we sure want to make it known to him how much we appreciate him!



Russ as he crosses the finish line completing the Fall 50 Ultra Marathon.

Health Literacy

Anne Laurent

On Tuesday, November 2, 2011 Literacy Partners put on its final Health Literacy event for 2011: *What to Do When Your Child Is Sick*. Cindy Kinnard, RN led the informational event, and Danielle Metzger interpreted. We had a great showing of parents and children at the event. It covered very basic and common scenarios: fevers, rashes, common colds, lice, ringworm, and much more! The students were very engaged and asked many useful questions. The event was fun, relaxed, and informative. Each student received a copy of the book *“What to Do When Your Child Is Sick”* in either English or Spanish as a gift to take home and use as a reference guide.

If you think your student would benefit from this class, watch for it in 2012—we will most likely be running the class again. In the meantime, all of the “What to Do” series books are located at Hillcrest in the Resource Center. The book titles include: *What To Do When Your Child Is Sick*, *What To Do For Healthy Teeth*, *What To Do When You’re Having A Baby*, *What To Do for Teen Health*, *What To Do For Senior Health*, and *What To Do For Heavy Kids*. Take a look at them today!



Cindy Lemens and Danielle Metzger lead the class for parents.

New in the Resource Center

Ten tutors took advantage of the Open House at our Resource Center held in October. Tutors were introduced to our new shipment of outstanding bilingual books, our new health series, and excellent dairy farm flash cards and pocket version of “Spanish in the Dairy.” Areas of concern were discussed. If you were not able to attend the Open House and would like to see the new materials and get copies of “Spanish in the Dairy” and Dairy flash cards, call Bob at 920-845-2516 to make arrangements for a time to meet.

Tutor Training – Fall 2011

Five new tutors successfully completed tutor training in October. Trainers Barb Baldwin and Nancy Lamack led the four session/14 hour course. Bob Garfinkel talked to all of the new tutors after their first literacy class and commented that this group of five is as good as any class we have ever had. All tutors are excited and have had several successful sessions with their students.

We ARE IN NEED OF TUTORS IN ALL AREAS OF Kewaunee County. Our next tutor training will be late winter/early spring and will feature morning sessions.

If you know of someone interested in tutoring an adult, please contact Bob at 920-845-2516.



Back Row: Thomas Mall, Doak Baker, Denise Nemetz, Ingrid Weitzel, and trainer Nancy Lamack. Front Row: Trainer Barb Baldwin and Vickie VanLangendon

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Ingrid Weitzel is Named English Language Learner of the Year!

Bob Garfinkel

Ingrid Weitzel had no idea that twenty years after coming to this country, she would not only be the talk of Kewaunee County, but the State of Wisconsin! Ingrid was nominated by tutor Jerry Waara and Bob Garfinkel in an annual promotion by Wisconsin Literacy to honor the “Outstanding Language Learner of the Year,” as well as “Tutor of the Year” and others contributing to literacy in the State of Wisconsin. Little did Ingrid know that this was the start of a week that she would never forget!



Tutor Jerry Waara, Jeff Kleiman and Bob Garfinkel presented Ingrid with the State of Wisconsin Proclamation.

On October 17, 2011, five Literacy Partners Board members and about 15 employees of Union State Bank gathered around Ingrid's desk. I had the honor and privilege to read a proclamation that all in attendance will remember forever. It was a proclamation by Governor Scott Walker declaring October 19, 2011 as Ingrid Weitzel Day in the State of Wisconsin. This is the day she received the award from Wisconsin Literacy.

The next day, Jerry escorted Ingrid to the Kewaunee Board of Supervisor's meeting. I introduced both guests and they received a rousing applause. On Wednesday, Jerry, Ingrid, Barb Baldwin and I attended the State Literacy Convention in Appleton. Before a crowd of 510 literacy instructors, directors and adult education dignitaries, Ingrid was awarded a beautiful plaque and she delivered a wonderful speech to the huge audience. Ingrid thanked Literacy Partners and Jerry for helping her gain citizenship and literacy skills.

The week to remember did not stop here. Union State Bank had an informal lunch for Ingrid on Friday.

I told Ingrid how proud of her we all were and she expressed her gratitude for all the

recognition. She also said, "I am thankful for all of the attention and praise this week, but I am glad it is over. It is difficult being well known. At this point, I want things to get back to normal!"

I not only respect Ingrid for her accomplishments, but for her willingness to give back to the very organization that helped her. Last month, Ingrid was certified as a trained tutor in our literacy program.

Jerry summed everything up very well: "Ingrid has a great feeling of empathy for immigrants since she went through the process herself, and that is a great gift for her to give to her students. She knows the importance of education and learning English, and there is a bright future for her whatever she decides to do.

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Introducing Our Tutor of the Season

JoAnn Werner – mother, grandmother, teacher, tutor

I'm wishing it was Student/Tutor of the Season. So much of what I do is a direct result of Mina's (and Noel's) hard work and dedication to learning. I'm the facilitator and guide for their accomplishments.

I was excited by the opportunity to tutor. I had inquired before the Kewaunee County Literacy Partnership was established about tutoring in Green Bay. I was not thrilled about the travel that it would involve and at the time there was a 6 week course that was required and a \$45 fee for the course. That discouraged me. When the Kewaunee County opportunity presented itself, I felt like it was time for me to "step up."

I have a background in Elementary Education as a teacher for many years. I am the mother of four and now a grandmother of four with another on the way. I was aware of the need in our community for this program and wanted to help if I could. I'm not sure when this all happened. I was in the first class of tutors, I think. We met at LC Junior High.

My first student was a young Hispanic gentleman who did not speak much English at all. We arranged to meet using an interpreter. Our first meeting was very primary, but Noel was very serious about his classes and we quickly made progress. He became more confident. We met for maybe 18 months and then he moved back to Mexico. I often wonder about him and how he is doing. I know he will be successful in whatever he does. He was very goal oriented. He worked here to build a home for himself and his fiancée that he moved into when he returned to Mexico. Noel showed me the video of his new home before he went back.... it was beautiful.

Mina is my present student. Mina is an amazing mother and grandmother. She makes tutoring easy. She works ahead in every lesson and often quickly moves through the lesson because she has worked ahead. You can't ask for more than that. Mina and I meet twice a week, but she also travels back to Cancun for family visits about 4—6 weeks at a time. She is currently working on obtaining her U.S.

citizenship. That has been so educational for me. There is a lot to study since the test includes a reading and writing component, and the civics questions are asked in English. Mina has studied so hard and I am confident that she will pass on her first try! I get most excited about her ability to converse with me before our class begins. We talked for about 15–20 minutes recently. We were both so happy!

I find tutoring to be very rewarding. I've made two friends that are genuinely grateful and gracious about their commitment to learn English. They have both been able to be open to making mistakes and asking for help. That is not easy. I have the easier of the roles. Whenever I worry about a lesson or concept, I just think of how difficult it must be for them. We learn and laugh together, occasionally being frustrated, but always willing to work through it. When I think of how much my students have accomplished, I am privileged to be a small part of it.

I am so grateful for the Literacy Partners organization. The Board of Directors and Bob Garfinkel are dedicated and hard working. They are real heroes who give so much time and energy to maintaining this group. It is an endeavor that is so needed in our community!



Left: Student Mina and Tutor of the Season JoAnn Werner spoke to our recent tutor training class.

Of This and That

- Thanks to Russ for “Running for Literacy” in the Door County 50 mile Ultra Marathon and raising money to fight illiteracy in Kewaunee County.
- Thanks you to the Kewaunee Economic Development Corporation and Claire Thompson for organizing “Cares Day” where business leaders in Kewaunee County gave non-profits a helping hand.
- Congratulations to Kathy Hutchison and her student Maria for completing the G.E.D. program. More details will be in the January newsletter.
- Congratulations to Jack Wagner and student Marina for passing the State Board Cosmetology Test.
- Thank you to the Robert and Rita Krauss Foundation, Kewaunee Lions and Catholic Financial Life for significant financial donations.

Literacy Partners 2011 Tutor Survey Results

Our literacy board and committees take your responses to our annual survey seriously and plan the next year’s activities based on its results. The survey question is stated with a short result summary and President Bob’s response. Thank you to the 26 tutors responding to this survey. The percentage may be over 100% due to possible multiple responses.

1. Additional materials needed at our Hillcrest School Resource Center:

Results 44% Beginning writing activities
 38% Bilingual books
 38% Samples of other reading series

Bob’s Response: Our support group has responded to this survey by ordering and receiving over 40 bilingual books. More will be on tap for 2012. We will search for quality writing materials and since we are reviewing new texts, additional reading series will be added to our center when the process has been completed.

2. Has your student been promoted or attained a new job as a result of our program?

Results Five students have been promoted or gained employment due to our program.

Bob’s Response: We are proud of our students and their accomplishments which include: Licensed food manager, licensed cosmetologist, interpreter, farm supervisor, and full time employment.

3. Has your student achieved any personal goals or accomplishments?

Results: Eleven students have achieved personal goals.

Bob’s Response: Each student had their own specific goal.

4. What literacy workshops would you be interested in 2012?

Results: 80% Immigration Issues
 45% Ways to improve spelling
 40% Improving reading comprehension
 40% Hispanic culture

Bob’s Response: The tutor and student support groups plan our workshops. They have this survey and will plan the 2012 calendar around it.

5. What would be the number one thing we could do to help you instruct your student more effectively?

Results: Adopt a textbook that is up to date and interesting
Ideas to help my student with pronunciation
Provide useful grammar worksheets
More opportunities to talk to other tutors

Bob's Response: There will be a text selection committee forming soon. Call Bob if you want to get involved. At least one tutor get-together to share ideas will be on the 2012 calendar.

6. Are you using or have you used Laubach?

Results: 23 tutors have used Laubach

Bob's Response: N/A

7. Do the stories in Laubach keep your student's interest?

Results: 15 yes
6 no

Bob's Response: N/A

8. Are you satisfied with the way oral and written skills are presented in Laubach?

Results: 13 Yes
7 No

Bob's Response: Laubach is a bit stiff. I liven it up when I can.

9. Do you think we should explore other textbooks?

Results: 18 Yes
6 No

Bob's Response: If we have enough volunteers for the selection committee (4—6), we will go forward with a search for a new series. We will not replace Laubach unless we find a better series.

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