

From the Back of the Boat

Bob Garfinkel

Happy Birthday Literacy Partners on your 6th birthday! You crawled at year one and continued crawling at year two and three. At age four you walked, although a bit shaky and stubbed your toe several times, but you never fell. At year five, you were walking pretty well on your own and with the help of Russ Flemming, the famous runner; you began to learn how to jog. At age six, you are not quite ready for any marathons, but can hold your own with any literacy council in the one mile run.

Our many wonderful donors and sponsors along the way were there to encourage and cheer us along and our outstanding tutors kept our students on task to complete many goals that might have been otherwise out of their reach. Our students have tirelessly worked as a team with our tutors with many meeting at night after working 12 hours or more. Somewhere, our students have found their second wind and crossed the finish line achieving their many individual goals. Our students' achievements have been many and great. We are proud of them.

Most people I know never gave us much of a chance, expecting us to fold in a year or two. They not only underestimated our desire to meet the needs of our students, but had no idea of the ability of our board members to focus and handle obstacles as if they were small bumps in the road.

My idol, Vince Lombardi, summed it up pretty well when he said, "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, and a civilization work."

THE STAR

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Recognition Day 2012—Sept. 29

Kewaunee Grade School 4:00-
5:30pm

Recognition Day, sponsored by Dominion Energy, has been a special day for Literacy Partners, for the past 6 years. It is a celebration of the progress and achievements of our students, the hard work of our tutors, and the support of our donors and Friends of Literacy. You will get a snail mail shortly giving you and your student all of the details you will need along with a return post card. I'd like to see everyone attend this year to cheer for our new citizens, GED graduates, 250, 500, and 750 hour tutor awards, and the winner of the Frank Bernard Award. There is always great food, and students and their children will select free books from our friends at Dominion.

Earlier this year, we sent our students a survey to set the day of the week, location, time, etc., to have a great attendance at the event. Also noted was that students said the program is too long. The committee has cut a half hour off the program. We promise to keep things moving! If you are new to Literacy Partners and would like more information, call Bob (920-676-2061).

Student Successes

Bob Garfinkel

Student success does not happen by chance or by mistake. Success is a result of teamwork, hard work, regular class meetings and focus on the task at hand. I am proud of our fine tutors. The following are major success stories that took months to years to accomplish.

Please share your student's success stories with us by sending them to me. A success story might be about a successful trip (alone) to the store, pharmacy, etc. I look at every success story as major—another step toward literacy.

G.E.D. Graduates

Josie

I knew Mary and Josie were a perfect match when they first met. They worked through problems that came up such as Josie move to Green Bay, Mary's and Josie's work schedules, family events, etc. To show how close they have become, Josie calls Mary her "mom."

Quotes from Josie on her G.E.D. included

"It makes me proud to show my son how important an education is. I could still work and go to school to accomplish this."

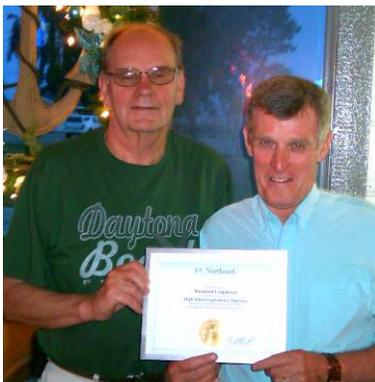
"I couldn't have done it without my tutor, who was there for me."

"Getting my G.E.D. allowed me to get a promotion at work."



Tutor Mary and Josie with her G.E.D Certificate

Raymond



Tutor Jerry and Raymond with his G.E.D. Certificate

Raymond has accomplished more from the age of 55 to 60 than most people accomplish in half of a life-time! Raymond has worked diligently with his tutor Jerry, to learn a new culture, refine his English

skills, gain US Citizenship and most recently, his G.E.D. He has also secured a position at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Raymond says the G.E.D. not only will help him if he ever needs to search for another job, but also admits that many of the skills learned in the program have helped him with life skills such as writing. Raymond's wife, Heidi adds that the programs Raymond has been involved with Literacy Partners has raised his self-esteem and confidence. Raymond gives Jerry a lot of credit for his successes and states that he could not have done it with him.

Citizenship

Chris

Willard contacted Literacy Partners in the late summer of 2011. He asked for and received help and materials for the US Citizenship Test for his wife, Chris. She studied for the test independently with LP there for support and reference. We provided a "spirited" pre-test prior to her test in Milwaukee. Chris passed the test with flying colors on the first try.



Chris, Willard and family now reside in Iowa.

Little Free Libraries Are a Hit!

Bob Garfinkel

"Take a book. Return a book." That is the simple, yet immensely impactful motto behind the Little Free Library project. The project is only two years old, yet has spread to over 30 states and 12 countries around the world! The idea of the Little Free Library started in Hudson Wisconsin, when Todd Bol constructed the first Little Free Library in honor of his mother, a former teacher and avid reader.



CenturyLink office hosts the Casco location.

The excitement of the Little Free Library Project has not escaped Kewaunee County. New and seasoned readers alike will be pleased to learn that Kewaunee County continues to add Little Free Libraries for a current total of four plus plans for more. Current locations include Libraries in Fireman's Park and the Bank of Luxemburg (in Luxemburg) donated by the Liebl Family

in the memory of husband/father Ray, while the library in Casco in front of CenturyLink was provided by Wisconsin Literacy. There is also a Little Free Library on the porch of the Belle Isle Inn at Algoma that has been serving readers for over a year.

Unfortunately, "In the U.S. 63 million people or 29% of the adult population, (over the age of 16) cannot read well enough to read a newspaper story written at the 8th grade level" (ProLiteracy 2011). Encouraging and motivating people of all ages to improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills creates life-long learning filled with countless opportunities for personal development, as well as community advancement. Little Free Libraries encourage reading by making it accessible in the local community.



The Bank of Luxemburg offers a central location for readers in Luxemburg.

The "Buy Local" Initiative and Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County are working jointly to put up Little Free Libraries throughout Kewaunee County. Contact Jennifer Brown, Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation Director at [920-487-5233](tel:920-487-5233) or Bob Garfinkel, President of Literacy Partners at [920-845-2516](tel:920-845-2516) for information concerning donations toward building or purchasing Little Free Libraries or information about what it would take to have a library on your property, in front of your business, park, etc..



The front porch of Belle Isle Inn in Algoma is within easy reach of small children



Children gather at the Fireman's Park in Luxemburg

Some of the comments left in the libraries so far include:

I think it is a good idea to share books with the less fortunate. (Written by a 3rd or 4th grade girl)

I love the idea. I have some tips. Maybe you could have more of these libraries around this park with kid books only. Please use my idea.

Thank you. Books are fun!

I love books.

I think this is real cool. Whoever made this is the best ever!

This is fabulous. Whoever made this is awesome!

I like it!

Great idea, my grandson loves it!

Health Literacy 2012

Back to School Event

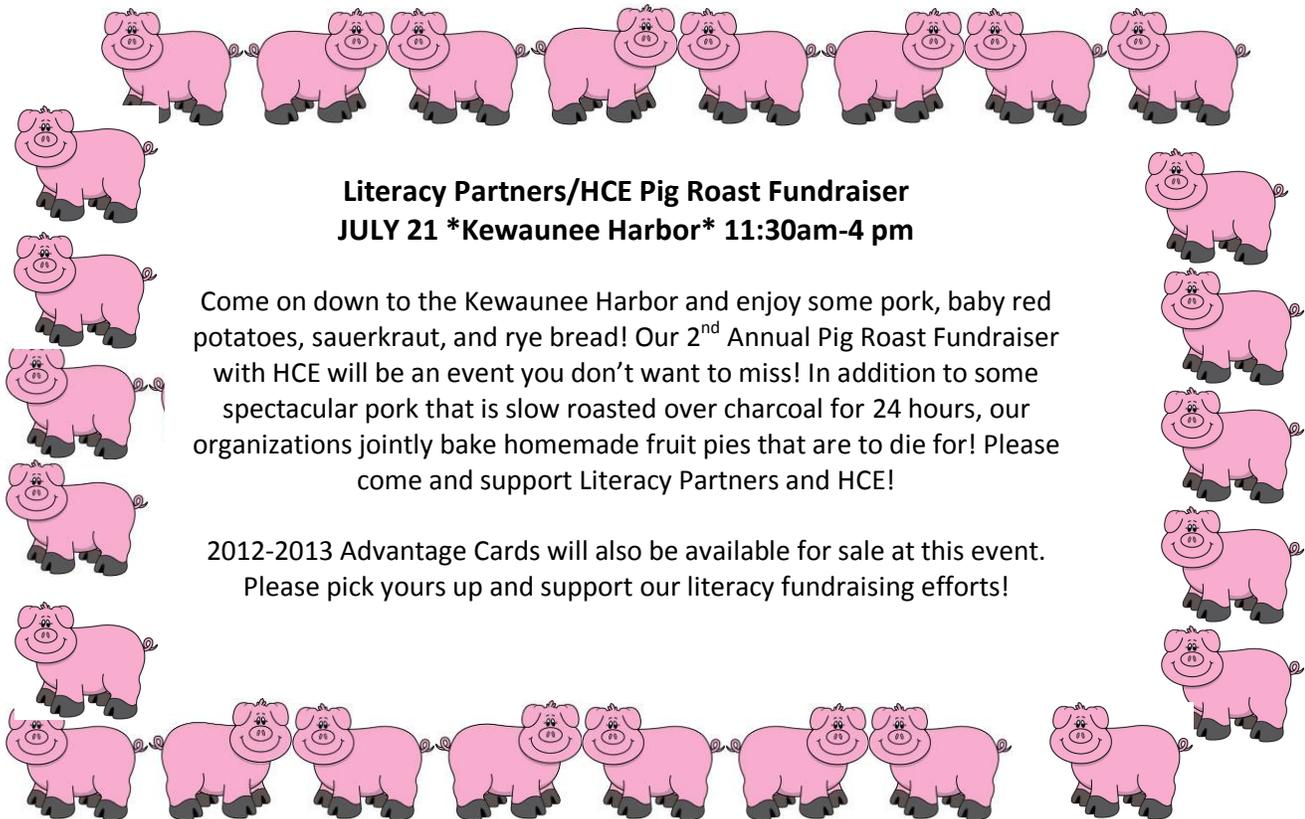
Anne Laurent, Coordinator

This summer is a busy time for the Health Literacy crew! Currently, we are beginning to finalize our "Back to School" event with the Kewaunee County Department of Health and UW Extension to help low income families in Kewaunee County to receive all needed items for the upcoming school year. Literacy Partners' Health Literacy Committee is adding a unique aspect to this event. We will provide all students and parents with new toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, timers, and show a video that promotes proper oral care procedures. This year, we are also adding soap and body scrubbies to our giving, to promote overall health, as well. To top it all off, we have partnered with an amazing organization, Soles4Souls, and will be able to give all students participating a new pair of shoes for the upcoming school year. We are very excited about this event!

We still need volunteers for this event. The date is August 9, and it is located at Hillcrest School in Kewaunee. Two shifts are needed: Noon-2:30 pm and 2:30 pm-5 pm. We will need a total of 5 volunteers per shift. Please contact Bob (920-676-2061) or Anne (920-406-9162) if you can join us!

Fund Raising

Pig Roast



Literacy Partners/HCE Pig Roast Fundraiser
JULY 21 *Kewaunee Harbor* 11:30am-4 pm

Come on down to the Kewaunee Harbor and enjoy some pork, baby red potatoes, sauerkraut, and rye bread! Our 2nd Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser with HCE will be an event you don't want to miss! In addition to some spectacular pork that is slow roasted over charcoal for 24 hours, our organizations jointly bake homemade fruit pies that are to die for! Please come and support Literacy Partners and HCE!

2012-2013 Advantage Cards will also be available for sale at this event. Please pick yours up and support our literacy fundraising efforts!

These wonderful trips provide the experience and materials to use English on paper. After each outing, I print pictures from the day and bring them to the next lesson. Juana and Melanie put the pictures into their own photo album and together we create the descriptive English sentences for each. A great activity for writing new vocabulary learned and creating sentences from these road-trip experiences.

I know these are some of the best English lessons I've shared with Juana and I also know that she and Melanie are eager to buckle up for this summer's adventures—perhaps frolicking at Whitefish Dunes State Park, exploring the Children's Museum of Green Bay, revisiting the Algoma Library, doing down-under on a submarine at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum at Manitowoc, feeding the

wildlife at the NEW Zoo or munching popcorn at a matinee movie and..... The fun of adding more memories into their photo album.

I hope I have inspired you to consider grabbing your keys and hitting the road with your student!

President's Comments:

Beth and her student try to get out and have a field trip once a month. Not only have these experiences been fun, but the personal connection between them has been strengthened and the learning has been invaluable. Thank you to Beth, for your valuable contribution to this newsletter. If you'd like to share an experience with us about your student, please contact Bob.

Of This and That

A BIG Thank You goes to the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation and the Catholic Diocese (Rice Bowl) for their generous financial support!

Congratulations to Judy Sell, Ingrid Weitzel, and Sister Lorraine Aspenleiter and their students for completing a level in Laubach.

Thanks to the newsletter staff and contributing writers for their work on this edition.

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