

## From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

As a tutor, supporter, or a board member, what excites you about Literacy Partners? Is it the tremendous student success you read about in this newsletter, the progress of your student, our health literacy programs, tutor workshops, or special events? We'd like to hear from you! Whether you are a donor, tutor, board member or supporter, please mail or email your thoughts and comments to me and we'll print them in "The Star". We'll call the new article, "What Fires Me Up About Literacy Partners?" Tell you what? I'll start things out in this edition and we'll see who picks up the ball and contributes to our next newsletter in June! The deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Another addition to "The Star" will be a short feature highlighting one of our wonderful supporters. This month we will feature the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. Our staff felt that we should know more about those who share in the successes of our students and tutors. If you receive this newsletter, you are very important to Literacy Partners. This edition will be mailed/emailed to about 100 supporters. As always, thanks for your time, concern and support!

# THE STAR

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## FEATURES...

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## What Fires Me Up About Literacy Partners?!

*Bob Garfinkel*

My commentary, "From the Back of the Boat" can explain much of my excitement about Literacy Partners. Yes, I am an avid fisherman, but my excitement has nothing to do with catching fish, although fishing has taught me patience, problem solving, and a never give up attitude. Sitting in the back of the boat, I can clearly see where Literacy Partners is at the present time, where we are going, as well as where we've been.

One of the benefits of my position is all major and most minor student achievements pass through my office. It's been exciting to chart the progress of our GED students, US Citizenship candidates, as well as students with other personal goals. I also enjoy meeting with students and hearing their success stories. There have been many run-ins at the IGA where students have sincerely thanked me for our program. After many hugs in the frozen food department, I've decided to shop alone and leave my wife at home!

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Working with our tremendous volunteer tutors gives me a lift. There is something special that happens (a feeling) when our tutors gather for a workshop, brat fry, pig roast or Recognition Day event. We have a very positive and up beat organization.

I recharge every time we have Tutor Orientation and Tutor Training. Barb Baldwin and Nancy Lamack (both tutors, as well as trainers) give our new tutors the knowledge, skills and empathy they need to succeed. It's fascinating to watch our new tutors change from apprehensive rookies to confident instructors during the four sessions of training and the following months of tutoring.

Finally, my excitement heightens when our wonderful donors renew their support of Literacy Partners. Their financial (as well as non-financial) donations tell us they support our mission as an organization.

I get down in the dumps at times just like anyone else. My student at Diary Dreams Farm gives me a shot of excitement every Wednesday. After that, I am ready for the challenges of the day!

### Student Book Deadline is Near

Thank you to the 10 students who have submitted stories for our student book. Last year's book was sensational with 22 authors writing stories. There is still time to write! Our deadline is June 1, 2015. Students may send additional stories if they wish.

Our theme for this year is, "Where is Home?", although students may write about any topic. Stories might be several sentences or pages long. Student writing can be such a great learning experience. Being published can be an adventure!

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#### Quotable Literacy Quotes

"The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I (haven't) read." *Abraham Lincoln*

"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." *Groucho Marx*

"The man who does not read good books is no better than the man who can't." *Mark Twain*

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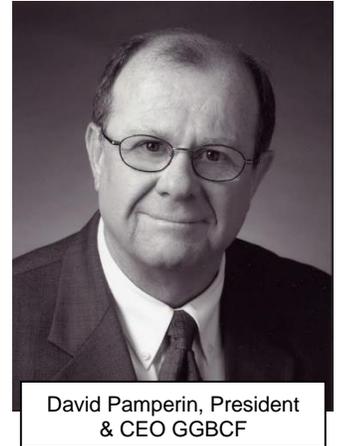
## ~Donor Spotlight~

By: Bob Garfinkel



### Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

What would life be like in Northeast Wisconsin without the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation? I would never like to find out, but for sure, people of all age and walks of life would be negatively affected. Schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations of all types would have programs limited or ended completely. Visions, missions and dreams would have to be altered or abandoned. The GGBCF is that important to the residents of Brown, Kewaunee, and Oconto Counties!



David Pamperin, President  
& CEO GGBCF

The GGBCF has been working with donors making investments to strength our community since 1991. The Foundation is a non-profit corporation overseen by a board of directors and by a dedicated staff with expertise and knowledge unmatched in community foundations. Approximately 400-500 non-profit programs benefit each year in areas of basic needs, education, arts, and culture. Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County has been the beneficiary of the generosity of the supporters and donors of the GGBCF since about 2009. Under the leadership of CEO David Pamperin, the foundation has strengthened and taken off in new directions. Martha Ahrendt, PhD, Vice President of the Community Engagement, has given us valuable suggestions and ideas to make our grants and programs stronger. The GGBCF has been a great source of help for our programming.

They include:

Dental Day, What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick, Back to School Program, First Aid Program, expanding our services on the farm, East Shore Industries classes, Healthy Eating Family Fun Night, Student Scholarship Fund, and basic support.

Our message to GGBCF and all of our wonderful supporters is, "Thank you for your help from the bottom of our hearts and please share in the success of our students. We cannot do it without you!"

## Tutor Training 2015

Bob Garfinkel

Susan De Marchi, Mary Jadin, and Wayne Fischer completed tutor training last month and have been matched with students. In my opinion, I can't remember a tutor training class as engaged and involved as this one!

Our next training session will be this September in the evening. Please continue to send interested potential tutors to me!

*Pictured below (L to R): Susan De Marchi, Mary Jadin and Wayne Fisher*



## Patient Advocates for our Students

Anne Laurent

Would you like to be a patient advocate for our students? Oh, what is a patient advocate you say? Funny you should ask—I found a wonderful article while researching for our Health Literacy Committee, and I'd love to share it with all of you. If you are interested in assisting a student that needs help (it would be on a case by case basis), please let us know. You would only be contacted by us in the event that someone needs help.

## What Does a Patient Advocate Do?

*Article written by: Trisha Torrey, The Alliance of Professional Health Advocates, 7-04-2010*

That's a good question — what does a patient advocate do? And there are a handful of answers, depending on the kind of help you need.

Some advocates help you with insurance claims, or review your hospital bills. Others might sit with you at home while you convalesce, or help you understand a difficult diagnosis and an extended list of treatment options. In fact, [there's a long list of services patients or health advocates might provide.](#)

Most of these are simple to understand, because this kind of help has actually been around for awhile. The type of patient advocacy that seems most confusing – but can have the biggest impact on your positive medical outcomes – are medical / navigational advocates.

These advocates will sit with you in the doctor's office and ask questions, or will help you make a difficult medical decision, or will sit at your bedside to monitor your hospital care, to be sure you get the right drugs, or don't acquire an infection.

Here's a metaphor to help you better understand why this is important: Fifty years ago, if you wanted to buy a house, you found someone willing to sell, and the two of you worked out all the details. If you needed a mortgage, you got it. If you needed a lawyer to draw up the deed, then you hired one.

But over the years, particularly as credit problems started to arise and the legal requirements got tougher, we began to see real estate brokers establish an expertise as the go-between – between the seller and the buyer. These brokers have a much larger bank of knowledge than someone who only buys or sells a home two or three times in a lifetime. They understand the process, know home values, mortgage options, negotiation – they know far more about everything related to the transaction of buying or selling a home than most of us do. Today, very few home transactions take place without a real estate broker to orchestrate them.

Unfortunately, the healthcare system (no matter what country you live in) has become so tenuous that patients really do need a go-between to help them navigate. Doctors can't do it alone anymore, nor can nurses. Without that expert to step in and shepherd us, we patients may succumb not to our disease or condition, but to the problems in the system that is intended to help us.

**Here is a list of things Patient Advocates may be asked to help with:**

- Accompany a student to medical appointments
- Help you learn more about your medical condition
- Help you make difficult medical decisions
- Help you maintain a healthy pregnancy
- Help teach you/learn with you pain management techniques
- Help you navigate the insurance maze
- Help you file health insurance claims
- Find legal assistance after a medical error
- Help you file for social security disability or other assistance
- Help track paperwork and records



## **US Citizenship**

### **Maria Barajas Becomes a US Citizen!**

Renee Koenig

Maria Barajas became a U.S. citizen in February. It was a sunny but freezing cold day with temperatures below -10 degrees on the day Maria stood before a U.S. District Court Judge in Milwaukee and raised her right hand to take the oath of allegiance. The judge jokingly said he often wondered why some people choose to live here on freezing cold days especially if they are coming from warmer countries! Maria was joined with 67 other people from 39 countries to take the oath in Milwaukee that day. Family and friends of the new American citizens spilled out of the courtroom in excitement and anticipation of the memorable event. As Maria's friend and former tutor, I was thrilled to be there to see Maria achieve this goal.

Maria was overjoyed with emotions of happiness and relief to have completed this very long journey she set out for so many years ago. Maria and her husband, Romauldo, left Mexico to live in the U.S. nearly 20 years ago. They have four school age children and they have been living in Kewaunee more than 10 years. Tutors from Literacy Partners have been helping Maria and her family for most of their years in this county. We started with basic tutoring, then driver's education which led to a driver's license for Maria and later Romauldo even obtained his GED diploma.



Helping Maria with the naturalization process which led to her citizenship might be considered icing on the cake! Speaking of cake... we held a small celebration in honor of Maria and presented her with a delicious cake. Maria's children clapped for her and said they are very proud of their mom. Maria said she is so thankful to Bob, Kate Phillips, Mary Brown and myself for helping her.

I learned a lot about the naturalization process while helping Maria. I found myself frustrated at times with the requirements and paperwork that seemed overly cumbersome and prohibitive. Maria's journey was extra challenging because we needed to file a special waiver for her and we struggled for a great length of time to find a professional with the necessary credentials to complete the required waiver forms. I am so glad I did not give up looking for the way to help Maria reach her goal.

*"Today marks a very special milestone in your life. With a solemn oath, you are now a citizen of the United States of America. You pursued this day wholeheartedly and pledged your allegiance to this country; now we welcome you to the American family." – **Congratulations on becoming a U.S. citizen.** Quote from USCIS government document*

## Festival Foods Brat Fry to benefit Literacy Partners

Anne Laurent

Our Festival Foods Brat Fry date has been set! Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> Literacy Partners will get the chance to man the Brat Barn at Festival Foods East in Bellevue. Please take note of the day, and if you are in town, stop by for a brat or a burger!

We are also in need of volunteers to help work that day. There will be 2 shifts of workers, The first group going from 9:30 am – 12:45 pm and the second group going from 12:30 pm – close (usually around 5).

If you can help us out by volunteering a few hours of your time, please contact Anne or Bob. Their contact information is listed at the beginning of this newsletter, as always. Thank you in advance!



## “Elements of Reading and the Adult Learner”

Presented by Ann Beeson, M.Ed., Adult Education Specialists  
LC Middle School, Rm 103  
April 16, 2015 @ 6 pm

We are so fortunate to take Ann Beeson away from her busy schedule to present a tutor workshop called, “Elements of Reading and the Adult Learner” on April 16, 2015 at 6:00 pm in Room 103 of the Luxemburg-Casco Middle School (619 Church Ave. Casco).

*On a personal note, I attended one of Ann’s workshops 5 or 6 years ago in Appleton. I hoped that someday she could present for us. Ann is not a reading specialist. She has vast experience teaching reading and has had personal discussions with top people in the field. She speaks our language and will not talk over our heads.*

**Please RSVP by April 13<sup>th</sup> to reserve a seat and so we have an indication of how many handout to prepare. Light refreshments will be served.**

In this interactive presentation, we will review 5 main elements of reading: phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension and motivation to read. We will identify and discuss the elements listed above, consider these elements as they relate to the adult learner, and provide activities you can use with your students.

Ann Beeson has worked for the past 13 years with adult education programs in 10 states. As an independent sales rep and consultant, Ann presents at local and state conferences, and offers materials for adult learners from various publishers including New Readers Press, the publishing arm of ProLiteracy. Ann has a Master degree in Curriculum and Instructional design from the University of Minnesota.



## Health & Safety Night

Anne Laurent

On Thursday, March 26, the Healthy Literacy Committee, in conjunction with Kewaunee County Public Health and UW Extension, put on a great event focused on health and safety in the home. Students, families and friends were all invited to attend. Children were encouraged to come along.

The event started out with Bruce DePeau, the Casco Fire Chief, talking about fire safety and prevention. He demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher, talked about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms/detectors, and focused on what your family should do in the event of a fire.

Next, Chris Seidl, a pharmacist at the Luxemburg Pharmacy, talked about many aspects of drug safety. She covered many problems that occur in homes (with prescription drugs and children) as well as many issues that can come with not understanding or mis-reading prescription directions. Many questions were asked and answered, and the segment was a huge success.

Finally, Cindy Kinnard, RN, of Kewaunee County Public Health finished up the program with her First Aid overview. This has been a huge success in the past, and is always a well-received program.

All participating families left with a new fire extinguisher, a first aid kit, an emergency numbers dry erase board, band-aids, and a first aid quick reference pamphlet (made by Kewaunee County Public Health).

*Pictures from the event night are shown below.*



A HUGE "Thank You" needs to be delivered to those organizations who funded and made this great event possible. Without their ongoing support, Literacy Partners would not be able to hold events like this for our students, tutors, and friends of literacy.

**2014/15 Health Literacy Program Supporters**

Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

United Funds of Kewaunee County

Robert & Rita Krauss Foundation

Shopko Foundation



Various pictures from the night, including our presenters, Bruce DePeau (above), Chris Seidl (left), and our wonderful interpreter, Danielle Metzger. It was a great group, full of questions and eager to learn. Overall, the night was a huge success!



A huge THANK YOU goes out to the LC Community Problem Solvers. These dedicated high school students came to our event and read to/helped the younger kids with literacy projects while the event went on. This allowed the adults to concentrate on the content presented to them without worrying about keeping their children entertained.



## Calling all Tutors! This is a program designed just for YOU!

Anne Laurent

On Wednesday, May 6, the Health Literacy Committee is putting on a program designed for anyone who is approaching retirement, or knows someone that is. This program, Health Resources in Kewaunee County, is designed to inform you about all the resources that are available through county and local programs to you, as a resident.

Presenting at this program will be Cathy Ley of the Aging & Disability Resource Center, Donna Monahan of the Lakeshore Community Food Pantry, Hilary Neste, Health Insurance Enrollment Coordinator at the Partnership Community Health Education Center and Nick with the Violence Intervention Project.

Each program will be about 20 minutes long, and there will be time at the end for questions. Material will also be available for you to take home. Light breakfast-type refreshments and coffee will be served.

Please take advantage of this great opportunity. As always, our programs are funded through grants and fundraising, so enrollment is free. We just ask that you **RSVP by Monday, May 4, 2015**. Please email or call Bob or Anne. Their contact information is on the first page of the newsletter.

**NOTE:** Tutors—this program is for you, as well as your spouse, siblings, and friends. You do not have to be a member of Literacy Partners to come to this informational session. Your students are welcome to come, but note: there will NOT be a translator assisting in the program.

## Cancer Clear and Simple

Renee Koenig

Is it hard for you to talk to your loved ones about cancer? We have all been affected in some way by cancer, however, the word ‘cancer’ doesn’t need to leave you feeling scared or confused. The *Cancer Clear and Simple* workshop will help you identify the risk factors leading to cancer and other chronic diseases, and prevention strategies. We will discuss the emotional impacts of a cancer diagnosis and learn ways to provide comfort and support for people diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers.

This workshop will include engaging activities and useful handouts including “Questions to Ask Your Doctor”, “information Sheets” and “Healthy Tips and Ideas”. You will learn about the Rural Cancer Network and other local resources. *Cancer Clear and Simple* is an educational program that is part of a partnership between UW Carbone Cancer Center’s Cancer Health Disparities Initiative and UW-Extension.

Renee Koenig, Family Living Educator, Kewaunee County UW-Extension will present “Cancer Clear and Simple” at the Kewaunee County Administration Center, 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee on **Monday, April 13 at 1:30 pm**. To register, call Judy Oftedahl at **388-2803 before April 12, 2015**.

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