

## **From the Back of the Boat**

By: Bob Garfinkel



Usually I like to kick back and enjoy summer, but this summer is packed with Literacy Partners events. They will be fun, but will require a lot of planning and detail. June and July will require many planning sessions for events in August. August 1<sup>st</sup> is our major Pig Roast Fundraiser with HCE at the Kewaunee Harbor. The following weekend is our Recognition Day. Unfortunately, due to scheduling, dates are very close together (see attached articles for details on both events). We need everyone's support to make both events successful. Mid-August is Back to School Day and in fall is our Healthy Eating Family Fun Night 2!

As far as Recognition Day is concerned, it would be great if your family, as well as your student's family could attend. This year's event will be under the large shelter at Bruemmer Park. You and your student(s) will appreciate a very short program of 15 minutes or so with the emphasis on fun. Once again, students and their children will receive books. Two piñatas will be featured as well as swings, slides, and the zoo animals may be viewed. Picnic casual will be the theme of the day—rain or shine. Letters in English and Spanish with return envelopes will be sent to tutors soon.

Many tutors suggested in the last tutor survey that we add more social events. Recognition Day, our workshops, along with tutor/student events provide socializing and networking. We need help planning and working at all events. Please call Bob or Anne if you can help.

# **THE STAR**

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## **My Favorite Tutoring Tips**

Bob Garfinkel

I have been tutoring for about 9 years. In that time, I have worked with students with English speaking skills from Level 1 – GED and beyond. About a year ago, I was faced with a challenge. My student was fairly illiterate in his native language. To be honest, things did not go well at first. We had to communicate with sign language! As time progressed, we both became pretty creative and became good friends. Things turned around when I asked myself, "If I were my student, how would I want to be instructed?" I fell back on our tutor training and found the answer. The key would be to use my student's strengths. Administering the Learning Styles Test in Spanish (I read the test out loud), I found my student's strongest area was manipulating of objects. I started instruction during our next class

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using manipulation of pictures and objects, along with listening and speaking skills. Instruction was as a clear and concrete as I could make it. Today, my student is on Lesson 8 of Laubach 1 and we have a short conversation each class, and he wrote a short story about his home in Nicaragua for the student book. Add mutual respect to the equation and we have SUCCESS! Learning Style Evaluation + implemented learning plan = SUCCESS!

## ~Donor Spotlight~

By: Bob Garfinkel

# GREEN BAY PACKERS FOUNDATION



The Green Bay Packers Foundation has been a key supporter of Literacy Partners for the last 8 years. Programs they've helped us fund are *What To Do* classes and book purchases, new textbook (Ventures) purchase, increase Coordinator time to 15 hours per week, buy computer resources, update Hillcrest with new resources (picture dictionaries, etc.), Student Scholarship Fund replenishment, Tutor Training, tutor seminars and Health Literacy programming.

The foundation is among the most generous in the USA. Last year, the Packer Foundation granted a record \$1.1 million! In December 2014, Jerry Waara (board member) and I were guests at a luncheon held inside the Lambeau Field Atrium to receive our check along with 222 other Wisconsin non-profits. To be included with non-profits of such excellence was an honor for us.

My fondest memory of any Recognition Day has to be the presence of Bobbi Jo Eisenreich, Manager of Corporate Giving, a few years ago. The Packers, over the years, have presented

thousands of footballs to organizations to raffle off. We thought it was time to present the Packers with a football! Everyone at Recognition Day signed the ball, including Bobbi Jo! During the introduction, I had the honor of presenting her the signed ball. It will be a moment I will always cherish.

## Student Success

Bob Garfinkel

I met Aaron for the first time a little over a year and a half ago. He dropped out of high school as a junior. After having several dead end jobs, he realized that he needed help. Aaron made the best move he could. He called Literacy Partners! Not having a car or driver's license, NWTC was not an option. Aaron fit perfectly in our 5.09 GED program.



After a month with his new tutor, the tutor terminated. Aaron had nothing to do with the termination. Having no one in the Kewaunee area to help, I agreed to take him as a student. The experience has been positive for both of us.

We worked for about 6 months on study skills, proof reading, science and math. At that time, the Oneida Nation that runs the program with NWTC and the Wisconsin Dept. of Instruction, met with me and decided that we would get credit for what we've done, but should use the revised GED for the remainder of the program. This proved to be very challenging. When they revised the program, they combined language arts, social studies and computer education together. Social studies encompassed 45 essays of various lengths demanding a high level of writing and reading while teaching computer skills. Actually, it was put together well by Shana Parker, the director of the Oneida Educational Community. With guidance from Anne Laurent and Kathy Garfinkel, we completed the intricate computer assignments.

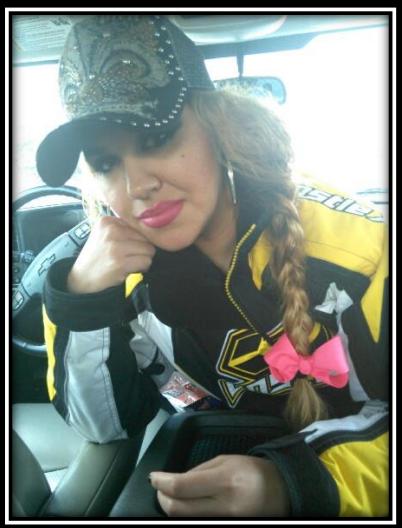
Aaron passed his exit oral interview on May 26, 2015. He will soon get his GED certificate. Next

on our agenda is to pass the driver's test and look for employment. Aaron, I feel, has a bright future. He will need to find employment while going to NWTC for more training, perhaps in law enforcement. Without a doubt, Literacy Partners has made a difference in this student's life and made a difference in our community.

## Earning My GED

Elvira Rodriguez Hernandez

Actually when I decided to do the GED it was because I wanted to do something for me. In Mexico I decided that when I was 14 I didn't want to go to school for family reasons. I lost many opportunities in life to be someone professional for a good economic position because in Mexico if you do not study, the minimum wage is super low, \$50 per week or sometimes every two weeks. That does not help to pay for food, rent, bills or clothing.



My parents separated for awhile. My sister, mom and I decided to come sometime with my brother and his family here in the US. My mom told me I'd have to go to school but I would not go to school because I grew up afraid of rejection and thought it would make me get bullied to be Hispanic.

I remember a social worker came to tell me I had to go to school but hearing my story he supported me. What I did was look for a job because I wanted to help my mom because we were separated from my dad. I wanted to cooperate because we went through bad times.

After I met my husband we decided to live together. My family decided to return to Mexico and I continued being a housewife for over 14 years. I'm already a wife and a mother but still I am not a professional.

I took the decision and the big idea to study to be a professional. I went to Karen and Nancy, my tutors, and I explained my ideas and what I wanted to do and they requested information from the president of this organization. He helped us with directions and information to get the GED.

It was exciting what I had to do with the help of my tutor. I had to study mathematics, history, social studies, science, and English, among other things. That was very stressful sometimes, difficult or easy. It's difficult to be away from school for a long time and then come back to learning in another language. That is really difficult! It was especially hard to be with a day and night sickness.

Nancy and I worked very hard every class to obtain my diploma. Sometimes I had to interrupt the classes because of my sickness, but I learned something. No matter what, if you don't have arms, hands, legs or have sickness you can work very hard to obtain your dreams because if you believe in yourself all can be in life.

Finally, I have my diploma and am very happy to have accomplished this. Now, my next step is to strengthen the language and to learn how to speak better. To continue with steps to choose a career one day and when that happens, my efforts will be fulfilled to be a successful professional. I can say it's not important how hard what you want in this life, only set a goal to achieve it and you will have it!

Thanks to my motivation and hard work and the encouragement from my husband Santos, daughter Jenny, tutors Nancy and Karen, parents and family, we did it! Thank you also to the president of Literacy Partners, Bob, and all who were involved with getting my GED. I appreciate you helping me. I am very happy for this achievement in my life.

## Tutor In-service – Ann Beeson

Sixteen tutors took advantage of our most recent tutor seminar on April 16th at the L-C Middle School and they weren't disappointed. Ann Beeson's topic was, "Elements of Reading and the Adult Learner." The five elements of reading are, phonics and decoding, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and motivation to read. Ann also led several activities that proved to be a lot of fun. If you are interested in a print-out of the seminar, contact Bob and he will mail it to you. Two have been sent out already! The evaluation sheet tutors completed after the workshop was very positive. Every tutor said he or she gained good amounts of knowledge and felt their time was well spent. There were many comments about Ann's tremendous enthusiasm and warm manner. There were also many comments about enjoying seeing other tutors and networking.



Bob presented Ann with a coffee mug with our Literacy Partners' logo on one side and the other side read, "Ann Beeson-Packer Backer." (Ann lives in Minnesota!) The evening was topped off with each person in attendance receiving a giant cookie from the Great Harvest Bakery in DePere thanking us for what we do in celebration of National Volunteer Week.

## Recognition Day 2015 *Information & Volunteers Needed!*

Anne Laurent

Recognition Day 2015 is set for Sunday, August 9 at 11:30 am. In case you have not heard yet—we are shakin' things up this year! The event will be held at **Bruemmer Park**, just outside of Kewaunee. The address to the park is: **E4280 Co Rd F, Kewaunee, WI 54216**.

This year's event will have a short program (only about 15 minutes), and then we will put more focus on getting to know each other, visiting, catching up with old and new friends, and letting the children run around and enjoy the park and attached zoo. Everyone will again be able to pick

out books to take home as a gift from our organization.

The event will be located in the large shelter in the middle of the park. Please come and bring a dish to pass. The event will be summer casual, with a focus on fun! Please come, and bring your students and all family members. RSVP postcards will be coming to you early this summer. Please take the time to fill them out and return them promptly.



As with any event, we do need a few people there to help set up. We are asking for 4 volunteers to come around 10 am to help us set things up, as well as 3-4 to stay after and make sure everything is cleaned up. If you think you could come early, or help us clean up at the end, please contact Bob or Anne. Their contact info is on Page 1 of the newsletter.

## Tutor of the Season **Gail Gerondale**

Tutor, Gail Greendale attended the First Communion of her student's four children at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Kewaunee.

Pictured are Gail's student Araceli Cano and her husband, son Jesus, and daughters Daniela, Emili and Arlin, who also attend school at Holy Rosary. It was a beautiful service and a very festive celebration at their home.



I grew up in Preble, Wisconsin, which was then a suburb of Green Bay. My husband Lyle and I celebrated our 50TH wedding anniversary this past August. We are so fortunate to have four children, one son and three daughters. They have blessed us with eleven Grandchildren to love and enjoy! There are seven boys and four girls, 8 to 25 years old.



Through our working years, my husband and I owned and operated four retail grocery stores for twenty five years. Being that we were not yet ready for retirement after selling them, Lyle went into the insurance field and I started in retail management. I was a manager at the downtown Younkers store in Green Bay and later I

managed CJ Banks, a women's clothing store, in Bay Park Square Mall for 11 years.

When we found a retirement home here in Kewaunee, I was challenged to find something fulfilling and meaningful to add to my life. I saw the TV ad on the Kewaunee station asking for tutors. I said, "I think I can do that! I have helped people all of these years doing customer service". Since having great training with Bob, Barbara, Nancy and Maureen, I have begun with my first student. Araceli is a wonderful student. We both learn and laugh as we go and we are grateful to the Kewaunee County Literacy program for having enriched our lives.

## **What Fires Me Up about Literacy Partners?**

**Lorraine Aspenleiter, tutor**

Since I have taught for about 30 years some time ago, and now live in Casco for the past 10 years, I felt that it was time to get involved with the needs of the neighborhood. Prior to coming here I had traveled to a number of economically poor countries and recognized the importance of education and the lack of it for so many there and here.

I don't know how it happened, but several adults discovered that I lived here and asked if I would teach them how to speak English. Since I did not know there was a program established

for this purpose (and there wasn't at that time) I began on my own. It fulfilled my desire to serve and also to be of help to the "cry of the poor", which is part of my Franciscan calling.

As things developed shortly after I began teaching, The Literacy Program was introduced In Kewaunee County. That gave me a lot of courage and know-how to be an effective tutor. However, by now I had only one student. The others either found someone closer to their home or did not stay in the area.

It was quite a challenge at the beginning, with an adult student who could not understand a word of English. And so my advice to a beginner tutor is to have patience and love the person you are working to help. Do not look for rapid achievement because building a good relationship is important for learning and trusting. Affirm each as much as possible and the rewards are great.

For me, we have developed a wonderful friendship and she has become a very self-confident person. She is still shy and does not speak much, but there is nothing she will not attempt. It is such a joy to see her with her two boys, and she does not hesitate to go to all the parent-teacher conferences at their school.

Besides this reward, there is also the blessing of meeting so many other devoted volunteers. And Literacy Partners provides many excellent programs for the tutors. These programs give great advice and ways of improving one's techniques in teaching, in sharing information with other tutor and feeling what you are doing is making a difference in our society. One of the programs that really shows the many accomplishments is Recognition Day. When the students speak, or when one reads the things they wrote for the booklet, it is a real motivation to keep giving your all to better our community and the rest of society.

Lorraine, ssssf

*On a personal note, about 8 years ago, I heard that two sisters were teaching ESL classes in the Casco area. Who ever thought to check the Rectory? Somehow we found them and Literacy Partners has*

*benefited ever since. Sister Lorraine and Sister Mary Anne have had experience at every level of education from primary school through high school. They have been active in literacy events and workshops. They have given me many ideas and suggestions. Lorraine and Mary Anne have been an inspiration to me and others and a true blessing to know and work with. -Bob*

## Of This and That

1. Our students have highly recommended 3 Immigration Lawyers for other students to contact. The listing is on our website at [www.literacykewauneco.org](http://www.literacykewauneco.org) under "Links": Community Resources.
2. Several tutors have used Duolingo online to learn a new language or review a language. Duolingo has added new languages which include: Spanish, Italian, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, French, German, Dutch, Hungarian, Portuguese, Irish, Danish, and Norwegian.
3. Thank you to all of our financial donors. Without your help, we could not exist. Special thanks to recent donors Oksana Kurowski (former student), Shopko Foundation, Algoma Lions, Festival Foods, Herb Kohl Foundation, CenturyLink, Kinnard Farms and United Fund of Kewaunee County.
4. We found an interesting article published in the New York Times on May 4, 2015. The article praised Kewaunee County as an extremely good place to live as far as upward mobility for children in low income families. Not only did we rank 238 out of 2, 478 counties surveyed in the US, but far exceeded many counties in Wisconsin. If interested, I (Bob) can send you the article.
5. The Senior Scene is now available at [www.seekandfind.com](http://www.seekandfind.com). Past newsletters are also available at that site.

## Hillcrest School to Close

The voters have passed the referendum in Kewaunee to make building changes in their school district. Talking to the new Superintendent of the Kewaunee School District, we will have to remove all of our books and supplies from the Resource Center by April 2016 (possibly May). Our Literacy Board of Directors has been looking for a new Resource Center for well over 6 months. Rentals are running \$500-\$1500 per month (which we cannot afford).

We have been fortunate to have had our Resource Center space donated in the past. Presently, we have a donated space that has been offered to us at no cost in the basement of a church. At this time, we have no other option. If anyone knows of a no cost/very low cost room that we can use in our county, please let Bob know (920-676-2061). The room has to be one that our tutors can get into day or night and large enough for tutor training.



**Literacy  
Partners**  
of Kewaunee County

## National Literacy Statistics

How are we doing compared to other literacy organizations nation-wide? The Proliteracy Statistical Report was based on 2013-14 data. The report was based on 256,811 students, 94,512 instructions/volunteers with a total income of \$175 million. Below are the results, as well as how we compare as an organization.

Nationally	Literacy Partners
Students	
38% Women, 62% Men	26% Women, 74% Men
Employment	
37% employed, 45% unemployed, 18% not in work force	68% employed, 4% unemployed, 28% not in work force
Wait List	
63% of Literacy Organizations have waiting list	We have a waiting list of about 20
Instructor Age	
19-24: 24%, 25-44: 20%, 45-59: 24%, 60+: 60+%	19-24: 0%, 25-44: 8%, 45-59: 11%, 60+: 81%
Retention Rate	
80% annually	81% (not including tutors on hold)
Services Provided	
Computer Education: 23%	Yes
Financial Literacy: 29%	Coming 2016!
Health Literacy: 31	Award Winning!
Percentage of organizations using Facebook: 68%	Yes
Organization ONLY uses volunteer tutors: 58%	Yes
Uses both volunteer and paid instructors: 40%	No
Only use paid instructors: 2%	No
87% of all instructors in ProLiteracy programs are volunteers	Yes
Sources of Funding—National	Sources of Funding – Literacy Partners
Foundations/Corporations : 16%	Yes
Federal Government: 17%	0%

State Government: 20%	0%
United Way: 7%	Yes
Special Events: 7%	Yes
Individual Donations: 6%	Yes
Local Government: 5%	No
Memorials: 3%	No
Organizations: 2%	Yes
Direct Mail: 2%	Yes
Other: 15%	Yes

*\*Personal Note from Bob\** Please note that 42% of money obtained usually comes from local, state and federal sources. Literacy partners has **not used 1 cent of tax payer money to fund our programs**. The reason for this is three fold. The paperwork for government grants is unbelievable! Secondly, take government money and they virtually run or have a large say in your policies and how you run your organization. Third, our Board of Directors, when we organized Literacy Partners, decided not to burden our heavily taxed residents. This decision, at times, has heightened the importance of our fundraising events, supporters, and individual donors. In our opinion, we still consider this decision sound.



## Back To School Program

Anne Laurent

For the 5<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.

Hopefully, Literacy Partners will once again have a Soles4Souls shoe station, as well as a fantastic dental educational stop. We will be looking for volunteers, both for set up, as well as to work the events.

### Event Information:

**Set Up: Monday, August 17**

Set Up Time: 8:30 am - ? (usually about 2 hours)

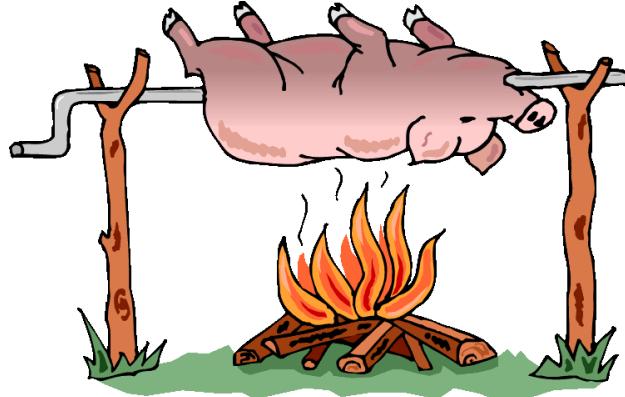
**Event: Tuesday, August 18**

Event Time: 12:30 pm – 5 pm.

### **Shifts available:**

1. Set up 8:30 am – 10:30 am
2. Event 1: 12:15 pm – 3 pm
3. Event 2: 2:45 pm – 5:30

Please let Bob or Anne 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!



## Literacy Partners/HCE Pig Roast Fundraiser!

Planning is underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Literacy Partners/HCE Pig Roast Fundraiser! The event will be **Saturday, August 1** 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 – 11:45**, and the second from **11:30 – close**, plus clean up (when we run out of pork, usually around 2 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 or Bob.



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

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