

# From the Back of the Boat

By: Bob Garfinkel

From the Back of the Boat



August was our most intense and successful month since we organized 9 years ago. Not only did we have 3 major events in 4 weeks, but all were HUGE successes. The events were our Pig Roast Fundraiser, Recognition Day and Back to School Day. No one person was responsible for the success. There were plenty of hands setting up and cleaning up. We had enough volunteers to run each event so that no one was over-worked. It was pure teamwork at its best! What's most impressive, in my opinion, everyone knew what to do or asked someone if they needed help. Personally, this was very gratifying to see.

Thank you to everyone who made our events a success. The work was intense but you made the experience enjoyable and networking was incredible.

## THE STAR

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### My Favorite Tutoring Tips

Bob Garfinkel

Words are the building blocks for reading. To learn effectively, words should be used in context (sentences students can understand). I have used the following list successfully with Level 1 and 2 students. These 100 words, believe it or not, make up 50% of all printed material. I found the list on the internet many years ago. You can find lists online for more advanced students. Google "1000 most common words" or "The 1200 most frequently used words" for extended lists.

If interested in vocabulary building, check out "The Picture Book Dictionary" in our Hillcrest Resource Room. The book is highly motivating, has colorful illustrations, and is perfect for Level 2 students and higher. The book goes through the alphabet featuring different words. It will take a word, give its Spanish translation, and then uses it in a simple sentence in both English and Spanish. It tops things off with a colorful picture demonstrating the word. I've seen even reluctant learners take off in this book (we have 6 copies)!

## The 100 Most Used English Words

1. the	26. had	51. no	76. just
2. of	27. his	52. said	77. may
3. and	28. they	53. who	78. these
4. to	29. from	54. more	79. new
5. a	30. she	55. about	80. also
6. in	31. which	56. up	81. people
7. that	32. or	57. them	82. any
8. it	33. we	58. some	83. know
9. is	34. an	59. could	84. very
10. was	35. there	60. him	85. see
11. I	36. her	61. into	86. first
12. for	37. were	62. its	87. well
13. on	38. one	63. then	88. after
14. you	39. do	64. two	89. should
15. he	40. been	65. out	90. than
16. be	41. all	66. time	91. where
17. with	42. their	67. like	92. back
18. as	43. has	68. only	93. how
19. by	44. would	69. my	94. get
20. at	45. will	70. did	95. most
21. have	46. what	71. other	96. way
22. are	47. if	72. me	97. down
23. this	48. can	73. your	98. our
24. not	49. when	74. now	99. made
25. but	50. so	75. over	100. got



## Tutor Training

Volunteer tutors are needed in all towns, villages and cities in Kewaunee County. Currently, over 18 students are on our waiting list. Some have been waiting over 1 year for help! If you know an individual(s) 18 years or older who have a desire to help another person improve reading, writing or speaking skills, contact Bob at 920-676-2061 or Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com. Fall training will be evenings in October. Dates at this time are not set because the trainers are revising the program to better meet the needs of tutors and students alike. Tutor training dates will be emailed, be in the Kewaunee Star, and be on the website soon!

## ~Donor Spotlight~

By: Bob Garfinkel



Literacy Partners' association with CenturyLink has been very close since our inception. Area manager, Mary Gostein, has been a wonderful tutor and literacy board member from our early beginnings. Mary worked with her student, Josie, to increase her reading and speaking skills to a point where they went after a GED and received it several years ago. Mary continues to work with Josie and considers her a "little sister."

CenturyLink is a huge global communications company, enabling millions of customers to transform their businesses and their lives through technology. CenturyLink has 1,050 employees with a payroll of \$51,653,000. Their network investment is \$1,690,027,000. Often, large corporations are part of the problem, but CenturyLink is part of the solution. Their environmental policy is sound and they make an extra effort to save and preserve our natural environment.

Gotstein commented, "CenturyLink is very proud of the volunteer work that its employees are doing to strengthen the communities in which we live and work. All CenturyLink employees are eligible for the Matching Time Grant program funded by the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation. This program gives us an opportunity to earn a grant of \$500 twice a year by volunteering at an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public or nonprofit school, or government entity. I am thankful that CenturyLink believes in rewarding volunteer work by being so generous to the organizations that we support."

CenturyLink, through grants such as these, has strengthened every aspect of our organization. Thank you, CenturyLink! Please share in the success of our students and tutors!

# Recognition Day 2015

Bob Garfinkel



Our Recognition Day Committee felt that our “highlight” of the year needed a change, a face lift. And, boy oh boy was it a hit! Previously, our program was held at the Kewaunee Grade School. The facility is beautiful, with plenty of room, and a wonderful stage complete with sound system. Our new venue, Bruemmer Park, had plenty of seating (large shelter and 12 extra picnic tables), and a relaxed atmosphere with a beautiful, natural background. Children ate and parents excused them to play on the playground equipment or walk through the zoo. An ancient sound system provided the increased volume we needed, and the food was unbelievable!

The highlights for me were the 250 hour, 500 hour, 750 hour and 1000 tutor hour honors, the Frank Bernard Award, attendance of the LC Community Problem Solvers, two GED graduates, one new US Citizen, and the introduction of Martha Ahrendt of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. About one third of our new authors of the student book, “Where is Home” were present; all attendees received a copy of this amazing book. A copy of it will also be in the Algoma and Kewaunee Libraries for the public to enjoy, coming this September.

Finally, the day ended with the breaking of two piñatas, led by former student Alfredo and his friend Eduardo. For those in attendance, it was a wonderful way to spend a mid-summer beautiful day. Recognition Day 2015 will always have a special place in my heart when I think about the summer of 2015.

## Award Winners at Recognition Day

250 Hours-Thomas Mall

500 Hours-Sandy Ehren, Beth Fox, Kate Phillips, Muriel Seidl, Mike Urmanski

750 Hours-Mary Gotstein, Sue Hingst

1000 Hours- Mary Anne Albert, Lorraine Aspenleiter, Barb Baldwin, Jack Wagner, Bob Garfinkel

Frank Bernard Award for Tutor Excellence-Jack Wagner & the TOEFL Team

GED Graduates-Elvira, Aaron

US Citizen-Maria Barajas



## Festival Foods Brat Fry

Anne Laurent

On Friday, June 5, Literacy Partners manned the Festival Foods East Brat Fry. It was a beautiful day we didn't sweat OR freeze! It was a day filled with catching up between tutors, meeting new friends, and flipping a few burgers.



We would like to extend a huge thank you to Festival Foods, as well as those from our organization who volunteered extra time out of their busy schedules to come and help make sure this fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you!

## Literacy Board Vacancies

Our election for Literacy Partners Board of Directors will be this November. We have at least one opening for board seats and one opening for a Student Representative. Board meetings are in English only and students on the board must be able to speak and understand without an interpreter. Please contact Bob (920-676-2061) if you or your student is interested by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We have 6 board meetings per year that begin at 4 pm and end roughly at 6 pm on the first Thursday of that month.

## Of This and That...

1. Thank you to the Nora Robert's Foundation for a recent grant. The money will be used for the purchase of books for our students and their children at next year's Recognition Day. (Nora Roberts is my wife's #1 author!)

2. Helping Hands Caregivers contacted us looking for hiring adults in Kewaunee County. Check [www.helpinghandswi.com](http://www.helpinghandswi.com) for your student or yourself (also, 920-217-2961, ext 206).

3. Great news from all Kewaunee County School Districts. Smiles 4 Life has teamed up with schools to provide students with oral hygiene services. On site services include: Oral screenings, cleanings, fluoride varnishes and dental sealants. The services are available to all 4K-Grade 12 students. A one page enrollment form is all that is needed. Smiles 4 Life accepts Badger Care. To learn more, visit [www.Smiles4Life.org](http://www.Smiles4Life.org) or call 262-896-9891. (Kewaunee County Public Health also provides free varnishes to children 6 yrs old or younger).



4. Door County Memorial Hospital offers "Open Door Dental Clinics". This service features services for children 3-18 yrs of age who are Medicaid recipients without access to a dentist or are uninsured.

5. Thank you to the Robert and Rita Krauss Foundation for their continued support of our programs!

6. According to the "Independent Sector's Value of Volunteer Time," Literacy Partners' services in Kewaunee County were valued at \$108,900 in 2014-15!

7. Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church, Kewaunee, Baylake Bank & Union State Bank, and Mary Ann Heraly for generous donations to Literacy Partners programming.

8. Thanks to all who came out and volunteered (both setting up and on the actual event day) for Back to School Day 2015! It was a huge success! (Sue Hingst, Jackie Yon, Maureen Kinnard, Bob Garfinkel, Jerry Waara, Judy Delain, Mary Gotstein, Marge Weichelt, Joan Dalebroux, Jan Zenner, and Anne Laurent)

9. Thanks to all who volunteered their time (and their pies!) to help make our 2015 Pig Roast Fundraiser a huge success. (Maureen Kinnard, Mary West, Jan Zenner, Jerry Waara, Ryan Diederich, Jackie Yon, Nancy Lamack, Bob Garfinkel and Anne Laurent).

## Pig Roast Fundraiser

Anne Laurent

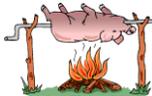


On Saturday, August 1, I pulled into the Kewaunee Marina around 7:45 am, only to find Bob already there, sitting with the potatoes! The fundraiser was slated to start around 11, so we had plenty of time. As the morning went on, the shelter organization came together, potatoes were hot (and thoroughly cooked!) and the sauerkraut was well on its way. We had 2 full pigs arrive, (in Nescos, cooked and seasoned, that is) and the meat was delicious. By serving time, we were armed with volunteers and spoons, ready to feed the masses. And, oh, did the masses come!

The event was advertised from 10:30-3, or until we ran out of pork. I believe we had our first customers ask if things were ready well before then. All pork was scraped from the bottom of the roasters before 2 pm. As we began to clean up, we were turning people away left and right. Even as I was getting into my car around 3:45 pm, I met people in the parking lot looking for the pig roast. They were not very happy when I told them it was done, over, and cleaned up already.

Donors that we would like to acknowledge for this event would be Festival Foods, Copps, and Great Lakes Kraut. We'd also like to extend a special *Thank You* to Thrivent Financial and the Catholic Knights for granting us matching donations for our fundraising efforts. Every dollar helps!

Thank you to all the volunteers and pie crafters for a very successful fundraiser that sold out in 3.5 hours. Thank you to HCE for an excellent partnership that we hope will continue into the future. A great effort by the planning committee



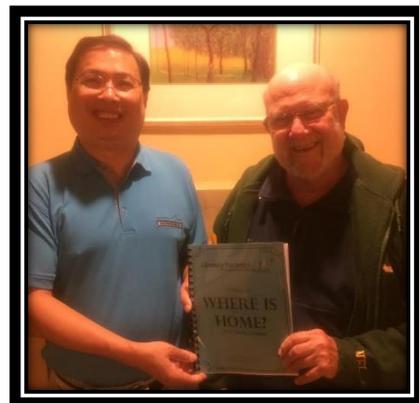
of Jan Zenner (HCE and LP), Janice Gilbertson (HCE) and Bob and Anne (LP) made this event well prepared, advertised and executed tremendously. Everything ran so smoothly that to an observer it looked as though one organization was sponsoring and running the event.

## Where is Home?

Bob Garfinkel

Well over half of our students submitted stories to the book, "Where is Home?...and Other Stories." The result of their effort is a book we can be proud of. In fact, the Kewaunee and Algoma Libraries have a copy to showcase the skills of our students. Thank you to all of our new authors for their thoughts and the many tutors for the encouragement of their students. Also, thank you to the Luxemburg-Casco High School for providing the materials for this attractive book. Stay tuned for info on our next book!

On a related topic, one of our new authors lives in Jingdezhen, China. His name is Parker (Xie Bing) and his tutor is John Rybski. They met when John was on a trip to China. Parker is an interpreter working for the Chinese Government. He was wanting to improve his English, so when John returned to rural Algoma, the pair teamed up on SKYPE and have class over the internet (check out his story on page 4 of the book). This story does not end here. Several weeks ago, four Chinese doctors visited Door County Memorial Hospital with an interpreter to look at the facilities and have talks about future plans. Parker was the lead interpreter. John set up a meeting with Parker in his hotel room. We had previously met on SKYPE when I evaluated him, but meeting face to face was exciting for me. The Chinese trip was a huge success and I feel bridges were built between our two cultures.



Parker (Xie Bing) and Bob meet and look through Literacy Partners' "Where is Home?" student writing book.



## Back To School Program

Anne Laurent

What a day this was! On Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Literacy Partners was once again a part of the Back To School program. This program focuses on low income families in our county that need assistance getting their children ready for the upcoming school year.

This year we received an assortment of 100 pairs of shoes, ranging from preschool aged children all the way up to the seniors in high school. As always, the shoes were in great condition, and the children loved them. One of my favorite parts of the event is watching the children come in the door. We always save the Soles4Souls booth for the end of the line. Yet, as soon as the children walk in the door, their heads turn, and they immediately get smiles on their faces and it seems as if they can't wait to get through the line in order to come by us and pick out a new pair of shoes to take home. Of the 100 pair donated, 3 pair were left at the end of the day, all men's size 12. They were brought down to *The Clothing Closet*, a place where clothes are donated and given to families free of charge. They however, rarely have shoes donated and were thrilled at the fact that we had some to donate to them.



After receiving their shoes, the children were given a t-shirt, donated to us by the LC Community Problem Solvers, as well as the Dairy Dash Event (they were new, past year's race shirts), and then escorted out to Bob and Maureen, awaiting them with the chomping teeth in hand. Bob gave them a quick (yes, I even heard it, and it was QUICK!) synopsis of dental



health and procedures and practices, and asked them a few questions. He made the 2 min educational experience interactive and fun. Then Maureen Kinnard was there with a goody bag of dental supplies (toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, etc).

At this event, we served about 124 families and 276 children. Not all of them received a pair of shoes, but the ones that did were thrilled. Being a crucial part of something that impacts the lives of these families is so important to us. It makes me think of a Margaret Mead quote that we often use in our organization: "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." As always, distributing these items to children and families in need is a rewarding, humbling and energizing experience for all who volunteer, especially myself.



A huge thank you to those who helped us set up on Monday, Aug 17, and who volunteered their time on one of the two shifts (or both!) on the actual event day. And a humbling thank you to Soles 4 Souls. Their shoe donation has become a huge part of this event over the last 4 years. Without everyone's help, we would not be able to provide such services to the community



# Healthy Eating Family Fun Night is BACK for a Second Year!

Anne Laurent

We are excited to announce that you are all invited to attend a very special event. Our **Healthy Communities** group (Literacy Partners, Kewaunee County Department of Public Health, and UW-Extension) is proud to announce the return of Healthy Eating Family Fun Night! The event will be held **Thursday, September 24, 6pm** in the **LC Middle School Home Economics Room**.

The event will focus many aspects of healthy eating. The carnival-type event will occur in small group forms—tutors and students (and corresponding families)—will attend mini-stations (about 5-6 minutes each) to interact with an educator on a particular health topic. After this, we will split up into the 4 kitchens and make some simple, delicious healthy snacks and drinks that kids can actively participate in making! And, you will be able to make multiple snacks to take home with you! The entire event will last about 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Because perishable supplies have to be purchased prior to the event, we are asking for **pre-registration** for this event. **The event, as always, is free to everyone in attendance.**

\*\*\*Please share this information with your students, as well as friends and family. Because this program was so successful in 2014, we are opening it up not only to the Literacy Partners organization, but to the public, as well.\*\*\*

**Space will be limited, so please sign up early. Children are encouraged to join their parents. Again, ANYONE from the general public is also welcome to join us!**

If you, your student, or someone you know would like to attend, please call or email

Anne  
(920-328-5552 / [AnnieMLaurent@gmail.com](mailto:AnnieMLaurent@gmail.com))

or Bob  
(920-676-2061, [Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com))  
with the following information:

1. Names of everyone attending
2. Total # of attendees
3. Ages of all children that will be in attendance

The official flyer is below. You should have also received it via email earlier this week (if you didn't, please let Anne or Bob know). If you have any questions, contact Bob or Anne (contact information listed above). Thanks!



## WHAT: Healthy Eating Family Fun Night

The event will focus many aspects of healthy eating. The carnival-type event will occur in small group forms—adults and children together will attend mini-stations (about 5-6 minutes each) to interact with an educator on a particular topic. After this, we will all come together and make some simple, delicious healthy snacks and drinks that kids can actively participate in making!

**WHEN: Thursday, September 24 at 6 pm**

**WHERE: Home Economics Room @ LC Middle School**

619 Church Avenue, Casco, WI 54205

**COST: FREE!**

*Addition Info: Because perishable supplies have to be purchased prior to the event, we are asking for **pre-registration** for this event by **Monday, September 21, 2015.***

**Pre-Registration Instructions:** Please email or phone the number of individuals attending, as well as the ages of all children to: Bob Garfinkel (920-676-2061/[Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com](mailto:Garfinkel.Bob@gmail.com)) or Anne Laurent (920-632-4911/[AnnieMLaurent@gmail.com](mailto:AnnieMLaurent@gmail.com))

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*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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