

The Reader's Guide



Volume 20, Issue 1

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County
An Accredited Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

Winter 2007

LVLC Program Grows 20% to Meet Need

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County's (LVLC) program has grown more than 20 percent over the past year, resulting in more adults becoming more literate in English.

In January 2006, LVLC had 180 active students; in January 2007, the number of active students was 220. Meanwhile, the total number of students involved in the program in 2006 is estimated to be close to 500. The number of tutors volunteering

also jumped 20 percent from 2005 to 2006—from 72 to 92.

Currently, close to 91,000 adults in Lee County have poor literacy skills, which limits their ability to find rewarding jobs, to communicate with their children's schools, and to follow instructions on over-the-counter medications.

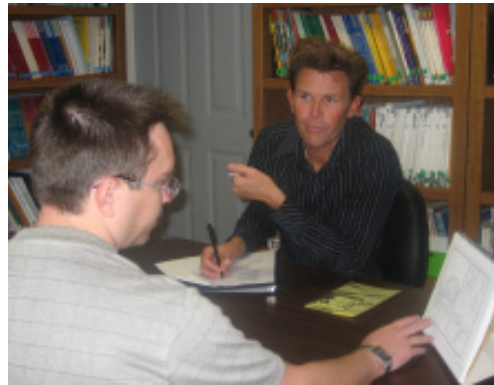
One reason for the program growth is the move from individual tutoring to small groups that meet throughout the county, explained

Tess Murphy, LVLC's Executive Director.

"We still have many individual matches," she said, "but more and more we are placing new students in small

groups with others at their level of literacy. Our tutors report that the groups are full of learning, laughter, and energy."

More than 15 small groups now meet in Lee County. Their growth is attributed to new community partnerships (see page 3), which will increase in the coming year.



New Program Director Tye McKeehan (right) conducts a student assessment in LVLC's library. This is the first step for the 10 to 15 adults who sign up for adult literacy programs each month.

Program Director Joins LVLC

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County welcomes a new Program Director, Tye McKeehan, Ed.D., Ph.D.

In addition to his experience with adult literacy programs in Kentucky, where he served on the Kentucky Literacy Commission, Tye has been a teacher with the Lee County School District. He is currently Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, Argosy University/Tampa.

"Tye's experience in the field of literacy and adult learning, and his energy for supporting the mission of this agency, make him a valued addition to our staff," said Tess Murphy, Executive Director. "We are very happy to have him on board and we welcome our tutors to stop by to meet him and say hello." She added that he will work a flexible part-time schedule, and will always be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Fundraising Events Deliver Dollars, Lift Awareness of Adult Literacy

Events in December and January scored big in raising funds for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County programs and raising awareness of the need for adult literacy in the community.

In December, LVLC partnered with Barnes & Noble Booksellers to raise nearly \$5,000 to support adult literacy programs. The activities included a Book Fair and gift wrapping for donations.

January's "Food for Thought—Dine Out for Literacy" is expected to raise \$12,000. A savory blend of eight sponsors, six restaurants, and 15 authors drew literacy supporters and new friends. Good food was served up at participating restaurants, which donated a percentage of

sales that day: Cape Crab and Steak House; Oasis on Lafayette; Victory Lane Cafe; Cantina Laredo; Farmer's Market Restaurant; and T.G.I. Friday's.

Thanks go to sponsors Tween Waters Inn, Comcast, The News-Press, Bell Tower Shops, UBS, Henderson/Franklin, Brooks Pharmacy, and Teachers Association of Lee County.

The authors included: Suzanne Barr, Linda Bilodeau, Elaine Ely, Renee Gardner, Sal Kapunan, Carol Kennedy, Anatole Kurdsjuk, Christine Lemmon, Judy Nyhus, Edwina Raffa and Annelie Rigsby, Jada Ross, Esther Sandner-Petersen, Lona Smith, Sara Williams, and Charlotte Williamson.

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From My Desk...

Funding Realities

As the Executive Director charged with raising the funds to keep the agency operating, I've heard the question: "If you are a nonprofit, why do you need to raise so much money?"

In our case, it costs \$8,000 to \$10,000 a month to run a program that trains close to 100 volunteer tutors a year and provides free literacy training to hundreds of adults.

First, being a nonprofit is a tax status, not a business strategy. Any organization that doesn't make a profit disappears.

While we are "nonprofit," we still have many of the same costs of any small business: rent and utilities, office supplies, computer support, Internet

access, mileage reimbursement, postage, insurance, government fees and licenses, telephone, and more. We also have fundraising expenses, program expenses (books and materials for tutors and students), and employee expenses.

Our sources of funds are grants, United Way, special events, and individual and corporate donations. Our donors in the past three months (below) are diverse and generous.

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate all our donors. On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, I pledge to insure that we use all our funds wisely and effectively to further our mission of adult literacy.

—Tess Murphy

New Donors Provide LVLC Support

Literacy Patron (\$1,000+)

Pamela Lynn Abraham
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Cape Coral Community
Foundation
Cape Coral Kiwanis Club
Comcast Foundation
Nancy Davis Trust
Ed and Ellie Fox
Henderson/Franklin Attorneys
at Law
'Tween Waters Inn
UBS Financial Services

Educator Society (\$500 - \$999)

Bill and Virginia Fellows
Fort Myers Beach Kiwanis Club
Sanibel Congregational United
Church of Christ

Student Sponsor (\$250-\$499)

Cantina Laredo
The Nations Association Charities
Victory Lane Cafe

Reader's Circle (\$100-\$249)

Frank Badagnani
BB & B Management Consultants
Alan & Jackie Cadkin

Grace Cochrane

John Foskett

Anthony Gargano

Maxine and Michael Golding

Deborah and Kirk Richmond

Elsa Rogers

Fran Rotino

Elinor and Dominic Scricca

Semi-Retired Treasures

Community Congregational United

Church of Christ

Mary Unger

Unitarian Universalist Church

G. Napier Wilson

Book Club (up to \$99)

John Agnew

Albertson's

Carlos Aragon

Robert Chamberlin

Kaye and Barb Coons

Edison National Bank

Martin Fraser

Phyllis and Richard Goins

Carolyn Jerad

Margrit Kroner

Brenda Maggi

Karen Sartoris

Marthe Whitton

(October 5, 2006 – February 9, 2007)

The Mission of Literacy Volunteers of Lee County

To provide free and confidential adult literacy programs for any adult who requests it. This mission is carried out with trained volunteer tutors who help the adult students reach their goals for improving their English reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Programs Reach More Students Each Week

Every month, through increasingly important community programs, Literacy Volunteers of Lee County is reaching more adults who want to learn to read and write. These community programs now serve more than 50 adults each week.

The Nations Association: Two “Workplace Survival English” classes started in January at The Nations Association. Twenty-four adults are meeting weekly with their tutors, Don and Charlotte Brink, to improve their English

skills. These classes will continue through March 26.

North Fort Myers United Methodist Church: Another 24 adults are taking beginning English classes here. LVLC is pleased to partner with the church to provide day and night classes for residents of a nearby trailer park. Pat Hunter and David Moyer are the tutors leading these classes.

Tri-County Apprenticeship Academy: Six students at the academy are working

with tutor Bill Wojtkowski to improve their English skills, especially with regard to the terms and vocabulary of the construction industry.

Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers: LVLC is working with the Housing Authority to develop and offer free English literacy classes to residents who can improve their lives by improving their ability to read and write. Two classes a week are expected to start within a month.



Community friends, board members, Comcast supporters, and LVLC staff enjoy the Open House.

A Special Gift at LVLC's Open House

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County (LVLC) held the Open House for its new offices in Cape Coral on December 13, 2006.

Speakers included Julie Lewis, Vice President, LVLC Board of Directors; Larry Schweber, Vice President and General Manager of Comcast SW Florida; and Cliff Smith, President of United Ways of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties.

“We couldn’t have moved into our new offices without ‘a little help from our friends,’” said Tess Murphy, Executive Director. “We especially want to thank Comcast, the Epiphany Episcopal Church, and Mock Engineering for their donations of time and services to make our new offices such a good home for us.”

Comcast’s Schweber announced a gift to LVLC of \$7,000 at the Open House, based on the number of Comcast employees who volunteered to fix up LVLC’s new offices on Comcast Cares Day in October. A total of 300 volunteers helped that day.

“At Comcast, we appreciate the importance of community service to the health and well-being of the neighborhoods we serve,” Schweber said.



Cliff Smith (right) of United Way presents Larry Schweber with a certificate of appreciation for Comcast's generous support of Literacy Volunteers of Lee County.

24 Volunteer Tutors Complete Training

From October 2006 to January 2007, 24 volunteers received training to become tutors of adults who wish to improve their literacy skills. Two one-day training sessions were held by tutor trainers Liv I and Roberta Reiss, Literacy Coordinator for the Collier County Public Library.

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County also thanks Region IV Resource Center at the University of South Florida for its support in providing tutor training.

Here are the new tutors:

Mary Baker
Stephanie Bauer
Katrina Brewsaugh
Barbara Cohen
Iris DeBastiani
Nancy Dreissiger
Ruth Drummond
Jim Eliassen
Kay Fenn
Lois Gallo
Brenda Holloway
Nancy Jarvinen
Morton Kaplan
Joanne Krejca
David Moyer
Judy Nyhus
Peggy O'Brien
Amy Rosborough
Robert Ryan
Rosemary Ryan
Jill Scott
Rita Squillace
Jennifer Wyckoff
Philip Wyckoff

Join Literacy Volunteers of Lee County!

Did you know that with a \$200 donation, LVLC can make a match of tutor and student? We believe that the ability to read changes a person's life and has an impact on his or her family, the workplace and the entire community. Can we count on your help?

Yes! Count Me in to Help!

- I'd like to become a tutor. Please send me your literature.
- I'll arrange to help with office work.
- I'll arrange to have you speak to our organization.
- Here's my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.
- Other help I can give _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Best time to contact me _____

Be Part of Our Success

Book Club.....Up to \$99
 Reader's Circle.....\$100-\$249
 Student Sponsor.....\$250-\$499
 Educator Society.....\$500-\$999
 Literacy Patron.....\$1,000+

All donations are tax-deductible

*— adapted from
 Deuteronomy 6:10-12*

**We build on
 foundations we did
 not lay... We warm
 ourselves at fires we
 did not light... We
 profit from persons
 we did not know...
 We are ever bound
 in community.**

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