

# The Reader's Guide



Volume 20, Issue 2

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County  
An Accredited Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

Spring 2007

## Southwest Florida Community Foundation Awards \$15,000 Grant to Literacy Volunteers

Southwest Florida Community Foundation has awarded \$15,000 to Literacy Volunteers of Lee County to expand and enhance small group classes.

Until about 18 months ago, LVLC's program focused primarily on individual matches of one tutor and one student. The Board of Directors and staff examined the way literacy services were being delivered and concluded that the small group model (with fewer than 10 students in a class) can meet the needs of students on the waiting list in a more timely manner.

"We also discovered that the small groups are extremely effective in engaging students in speaking and understanding English," said Tess Murphy, Executive Director. "Anecdotal information from both students and tutors indicates the small groups also encourage communication and relationships among students."

Murphy added that LVLC will continue to provide individual matches when this works best for the tutor and the student.

The Community Foundation grant will enable LVLC to increase the number and size of small groups and insure that all adult students are reassessed on a regular basis and their progress tracked.

"This kind of feedback shows the students how far they have come and

helps to keep them enthused about their tutoring sessions," Murphy said. "The results also give tutors important feedback about their teaching and information as to areas where students needs additional help."

LVLC will hire a full-time employee to organize its schedule of small classes and to be responsible for all student assessments and re-assessments.

### 'Learning Is Wealth That Can't Be Stolen'

*LVLC's first workplace literacy program was started three years ago at Pelican Sound Golf and River Club, a residential community in Estero. A group of residents are trained tutors and during season meet weekly with their adult students, who are members of the landscape crew. What follows is a report from Jane*

*Woolbert, who coordinates the program at Pelican Sound, on the closing ceremony for the 2006-07 program.*

**"Learning is wealth that can't be stolen."**  
— *Philippine Proverb*

The general manager of Pelican Sound Golf and River Club, president of the board, greens superintendent, 16 tutors and 16 students waited expectantly for the first student's name to be called. Hearing his name, and with a beaming smile, the student received his certificate and 2007 participation pin. The look on his face

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## Book Fair, Appreciation Dinner Take Center Stage in June

Mark your calendars now for two special events in June for Literacy Volunteers of Lee County.

LVLC will host a **Book Fair** from Friday, June 1, to Sunday, June 3, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 13751 South Tamiami Trail in South Fort Myers. The purpose will be twofold: to recruit tutors for the program and to raise much needed funds. When a voucher is used to make a purchase at Barnes & Noble on those days, the retailer will donate a percentage of the purchase price to LVLC. A flyer and

voucher are included in this newsletter. Please make copies for friends, neighbors and co-workers.

This year's **Annual Appreciation Dinner** for tutors, students and friends of Literacy Volunteers will take place Friday, June 8, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 2507 Del Prado, Cape Coral. This year's theme is "*Celebrate Diversity!*" The annual celebration acknowledges student achievements and thanks tutors for the hours they have donated to advance adult literacy in Lee County.



*Students in the Pelican Sound Golf and River Club literacy program proudly display their literacy certificates in front of their tutors.*

**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF LEE COUNTY IS PROUD TO BE A UNITED WAY AGENCY!**

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of ProLiteracy America  
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## LVLC Welcomes Richardson As New Program Director

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County is pleased to welcome Barbara A. Richardson to the staff. She is the new Program Director, with responsibility for managing LVLC's adult literacy program activities. These include: the recruitment and training of volunteer tutors, recruitment and assessment of adult students, matching tutors and students, supervising record management and program reports, building relationships with other non-profit community organizations and providing case management.

Barabara was most recently a teacher with the Lee County School District. She was responsible for teaching autistic

students in kindergarten and first and second grades. She also has experience as a public assistance specialist with the Department of Children and Families in Fort Myers.



*LVLC's new  
program director  
Barbara A.  
Richardson.*

## 26 Volunteer Tutors Complete Training

From February through April, 26 volunteers received training to become tutors of adults who wish to improve their literacy skills. If you are interested in joining our growing roster of tutors, please contact LVLC at 242-4374.

Here are the new tutors:

Cyndy Becker  
Serena Blanchett  
Dorothy Branca  
Katrina Brewsaugh  
William Campbell  
Shirley Cavanaugh  
Kay Fenn  
Lois Gallo  
Carol Hoyem

Susan Johnson  
Sandy Lender  
Darryl Lyons  
Mike Nabors  
Lucy Perez  
Juliana Pinto  
Margaret Riske  
Alice Roenigk  
Alice Rowen

Eileen Simon  
Angelia Smith  
Julie Smith  
Gail South  
Mathew Visaggio  
Constance Wilson  
Doris Wydman  
Perry Wydman

## New Donors Support LVLC Programs

### Literacy Patron (\$1,000+)

B B & B Management  
TGI Friday's

Farmer's Market Restaurant

Janet MacCubbin  
Oasis on Lafayette

### Educator Society (\$500 - \$999)

Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis

### Book Club (up to \$99)

Albertson's  
Carlos V. Aragon  
Steve Chupack  
Paige Hamner  
Kristin Przelomiec  
Marthe Whitton

### Student Sponsor (\$250-\$499)

Cape Crab & Steak House

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

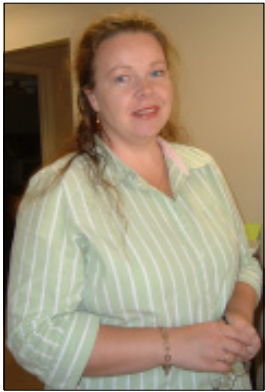
Carole Broome

*(February 10 - May 4, 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.

# Literacy Changes One Life at a Time



Julia Krasynska had no illusions when she and her young daughters boarded a bus in Lvov, Ukraine five years ago.

It was the start of a long, hard journey -- 10 hours to Warsaw, Poland,

with two-year-old Kseniya and nine-month-old Yevheniya, then a plane to

Amsterdam, another plane to Miami, and finally a car trip to Fort Myers.

Krasynska, a university-educated engineer, left her life in Ukraine to follow her husband, Viktor Krasynskyy, who had already arrived at a new job as a computer programmer and a new life in the United States.

The trip was indeed scary for someone with hardly any knowledge of English. How would she communicate her family's needs, as well as those of her own? After a few years here she realized that she could not do it all on her own, nor could she learn all she needed to about this country.

Krasynska found her way to Literacy Volunteers of Lee County and became a student in February 2006. This is what LVLC does -- change one life at a time.

"My reading skills at that moment were better than my ability to speak, but both were filled with mistakes," she says.

Weekly classes with her first tutors, Frank Badagnani and Skipper Fossett, and her second tutor, Susan Steacy, put her in touch with "amazing people," and her English slowly began to improve. Her current tutor, Karen Dornan, provides one-on-one study as they meet twice a week for two hours at a time.

Now, Krasynska reads newspapers, young adult books, and Web sites. More importantly she feels much more comfortable doing the daily errands for her family -- communicating at the bank or asking questions when she shops.

And she proudly works at the LVLC offices four hours a day, five days a week, answering the phone, doing data entry, mailing materials, outputting reports and preparing booklets for tutor training.

She still has more to achieve. "My goal is to speak correctly," Krasynska explains. "I feel more comfortable and confident when writing and reading. But I'm nervous when I speak. I'm so thankful to LVLC and the people who help me."

Her smile says it all.

## 'Learning Is Wealth That Can't Be Stolen'

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spoke volumes about the pride he had in his work this year.

Kay's student of three seasons stood, looked at the audience, and read a paragraph from "Truck Trouble" that he had been learning to read this year. Her other student, new to this country and a new reader of any language, read from "One Fish, Two Fish." Sam read a story he had dictated to his tutor. When her name was called, another student came to the front of the group and quietly, in English, introduced herself and thanked her teacher, Barbara.

Carol, a new tutor this year, e-mailed that night, "I was proud to be part of our team. The look on the faces of all our students at the closing program was most gratifying."

Many might not understand why our closing program is such a special occasion. We take the ability to read, write and speak English for granted, as well as the opportunity to attend school. That privilege is not universal.

Our literacy classes have been the first school experience for several of our students. Each of them arrives, with a smile and a handshake, eager

to begin the lesson. It's wonderful to watch them learn and grow more confident.

Margarita is a warm lady with a great smile. She and her tutor, Treva, worked this year on the shapes and sounds of letters. We had to celebrate when Margarita wrote her name and phone number for the first time in March.

There are many things about life here the students need explained to them. For example, after a short walk around the meeting area, it became obvious that the students didn't know what a fire hydrant was or what to do in the event of a fire. Tutors Dori and Elaine spent several classes teaching how to make a 911 call and what to say to the dispatcher.

Another student needed help with what to record on his phone's message machine and how to tell people to speak slowly so he could understand what they were saying. After much practice, he recorded an effective message.

Making a 911 call, food names, and workplace vocabulary may seem like very small steps toward literacy, but we know these steps not only make our students' lives a little easier, but more effective employees.



*Participants in the workplace literary program at Pelican Sound Golf & River Club celebrate their achievements.*

## Summer Schedule For Tutor Training

Tutor training workshops are scheduled for June, July and August. Anyone interested in attending a training session is invited to contact LVLC for a registration packet. There is a \$30 charge to cover the cost of the training materials. All workshops are held on a Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**June 16, Epiphany Episcopal Church**, 2507 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral

**July 14, Downtown Fort Myers Library**, 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers

**August 18, Epiphany Episcopal Church**, 2507 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral

# 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*

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Efforts to improve the literacy skills of children cannot be successful without efforts to improve the literacy skills of parents as well. — Proliteracy America

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