

The Reader's Guide



Volume 19, Issue 4

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County
An Accredited Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

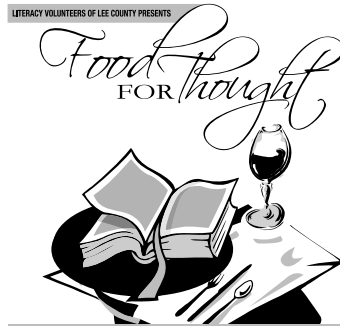
Fall 2006

Reserve January 25 For 'Food for Thought'

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County will hold its annual fundraiser, "Food for Thought — Dine Out for Literacy," on Thursday, January 25, 2007. Restaurants throughout the county will participate in the fundraiser. Each will donate a percentage of its sales that day to support adult literacy programs in Lee County.

Hundreds of residents and visitors were enthusiastic about last year's event in which eight restaurants took part.

This year, Comcast, Bell Tower Shops, The News-Press, Tween Waters Resort, Teachers Association of Lee County, and Brooks Pharmacy have already signed on as sponsors of the event. More sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact the LVLC office at 242-4374 for more information.



A hula hoop contest made the Family Reading Festival on "Comcast Cares" Day fun for the children.

'Comcast Cares' Day Salutes LVLC

Comcast of SW Florida selected Literacy Volunteers of Lee County as the recipient of the sixth annual "Comcast Cares" day of service in Lee County.

On Saturday, October 7, hundreds of local Comcast employees volunteered to improve the office (including a new computer lab for adult students) and grounds of LVLC's new location in Cape Coral. Volunteers also hosted a Family Reading Festival with the theme, "Opening Up Your World."

Crafts, a bounce house, and refreshments were available for children and their families. Books collected by Comcast employees were given away for free.

"Comcast is a strong supporter of adult literacy and has a very real commitment to advance literacy levels in our community," said Tess Murphy, LVLC Executive Director. "The company recognizes that without basic reading skills, it's difficult to fully benefit from all of today's technological advancements.

"We are overwhelmed by their generosity in improving our offices and, thus, our ability to better serve our adult students and their tutors," Murphy added.

LVLC Relocates to Cape Coral

After a year of searching, Literacy Volunteers of Lee County has found new office space. On August 1, the agency moved to 1609 SE 26th Street, Cape Coral, in a building owned by and adjacent to Epiphany Episcopal Church on Del Prado Boulevard.

Special thanks go to George Mock for installing the telephone and data systems and to Bob Wimbursh who donated signage.

"We are so grateful to the church for making this space available to us," said Tess Murphy, LVLC Executive Director. "We look forward to becoming part of the Cape Coral community."



Comcast volunteers paint the shutters on the LVLC office building on "Comcast Cares" Day.

Turn to p. 4 for Upcoming LVLC Special Events!

(More photos on p. 4)

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LVLC In the Classroom

Tutor, Student Training in Full Swing

LVLC has begun 13 classes around the county for 55 adult students who want to learn to read, write, speak, and understand English. These classes range in size from two to nine students and run from August through December 2006.

All the students are native speakers of other languages and hail from 19 countries and one commonwealth: Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Hungary, South Korea, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Peru, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela. LVLC thanks the volunteer tutors who instruct these weekly classes: George Black, Debbie Gwaltney, Pat Hunter, Joel Katz, Anne Liebermann,

Brenda Maggi, Skip Mitchell, Norm Nelson, Susan Steacy, Cheney Swedlow, Mary Beth Unger, and Bob Wimbursh.

A year-round program of monthly one-day tutor training sessions, held on Saturday in locations around the county, starts on Oct. 21 with ESL training from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Lakes Regional Library. Volunteer tutors must be over the age of 18 and English-literate; a college degree is not necessary, nor do tutors have to speak any language but English. A \$30 fee covers the cost of materials provided during training. Call 242-4374 to receive a registration packet.

With more than 100 adult students on LVLC's waiting list, your help as a tutor is very much needed — and appreciated!

LVLC in the Community

Outreach Program Expands...

LVLC is working with several community organizations to expand its outreach to adults who want to learn to read, write and speak English.

A program is in the works at The Nations Association, where LVLC will provide "Workplace Survival English" at The Nations offices in Fort Myers. In addition, an LVLC tutor is providing English instruction to a class of students at the Tri-County Apprenticeship Academy in Fort Myers.

...Matching Programs Boost Support

Does your company offer a matching gift program based on hours that you volunteer for a non-profit agency such as LVLC? This is an easy way to support Literacy Volunteers. Please call our office at 242-4374 and let us know.

26 Volunteer Tutors Complete Training

From July through September, Literacy Volunteers of Lee County trained 26 volunteer tutors who are ready to assist with adult literacy programs:

Rosie Amante	Cheryl Iwaskow	Norm Nelson
Edith Berg	Janice Jong-A-Kiem	Renee Orsak
Judy Brauer	Tom Kolter	Edi Pollaert
Karen Coleman	Fred Kowaleski	Denise Santos
Adele Cramer	Richie Kowaleski	Patricia Stevens
Mary Anne Hermann	Jaycine Lester	Cheney Swedlow
Virginia Hinspeter	Brenda Maggi	Katie Verna
LaVonne Hoffman	Scott Martell	Bill Wojtkowski
Liv I	Betty Murray	

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.

3 Businesses Host Summer Programs

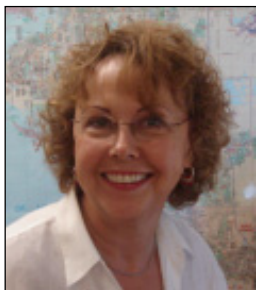
Literacy Volunteers of Lee County carries out its mission of improving adult literacy by contracting with local businesses for Workplace Literacy Programs. In summer programs at Worthington Renaissance, Pall Corporation, and T&S Concrete, 35 adults improved their speaking and reading skills.

All workplace literacy students are native speakers of other languages. Their employers invest in them by helping them to improve their

ability to speak and read English, making them safer and more productive on the job. LVLC's Workplace Literacy Program is supported by a generous grant from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

LVLC has hired Val Sutherland as the Workplace Outreach Coordinator. She recently moved here and is a trained volunteer tutor.

Businesses interested in starting a Workplace Literacy class can contact Val at 242-4374 or vallvlc@earthlink.net.



Val Sutherland

LVLC Thanks New Donors For Their Support

Literacy Patron (\$1,000+)
Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral
Walter Mangold

Educator Society (\$500 - \$999)
Brooks Pharmacy
Sanibel Community Church
Teachers Association of Lee County

Reader's Circle (\$100-\$249)
BB&B Management Consultants, Inc.
Arthur Hansen
Jerry Hrinik
Scott Legg
Carol Ann Michael

Book Club (up to \$99)
Albertson's
E.G. Guttery III
Learning Laboratories, Inc.
Leila Marks
Betty Sparrow
Miguel C. Fernandez III
James Tolson

(6/29/06 - 10/4/06)

Two Americorps*Vista Positions Open at LVLC

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County (LVLC) has two Americorps*VISTA positions to fill. They will focus on marketing, volunteer recruitment, public relations, and fundraising for LVLC, which operates adult literacy programs.

"We have two openings for people who believe in the life-changing power of adult literacy and would like to devote a year to this cause," said Tess Murphy, LVLC Executive Director.

The Americorps*VISTA positions call for 40 hours a week for 12 months and will start in January 2007. The VISTA volunteers receive a monthly stipend and benefits. Education or cash awards are made at the successful completion of the one year of service.

"This is a great opportunity for a recent college graduate who plans to enter the non-profit field," Murphy said. "It's also ideal for a retiree with outstanding communication skills who believes in literacy." For more information, call 242-4374 or e-mail tesslvc@earthlink.net.

Vista Volunteer Reports on 'My Year at LVLC'

*Kristin Przelomiec drove all the way from Seattle to Fort Myers to join the LVLC staff as its Americorp*VISTA volunteer last November. LVLC is most fortunate to have gained much needed support from Kristin in the areas of volunteer recruitment, tutor training, and encouragement of student involvement in the agency. Here is her report on her "Year as an AmeriCorps*VISTA Member."*

"VISTA stands for 'Volunteers in Service to America.' I often refer to it as the homegrown Peace Corps for those who aren't familiar with AmeriCorps.

"I chose Literacy Volunteers of Lee County for my year of service, and I couldn't have made a better choice. I have spent an incredible year working with wonderful staff, delightful tutors, and eager students.

"I have had the opportunity to help LVLC expand its program into the small group

model, and we have been able to meet the growing need for adult literacy services for our ever-present waiting list of students.

"During my time here, I have met so many dedicated students through assessments and LVLC's successful Annual Recognition Dinner. I have corresponded continually with

future and current tutors. Everyone here values the importance of participating and giving back to society, whether it is a beginning student from Korea or a board member who wants to form and guide the future of Literacy Volunteers.

"The VISTA position requires a year-long commitment, and my year comes to a close the week before Thanksgiving. LVLC will be opening two more VISTA positions, which will begin in January. If this sounds like a year for you, contact Tess Murphy at the office. Of course, I welcome any specific questions you would have for me."



Kristin Przelomiec

'Comcast Cares' Day a Hit at LVLC

To Anne, With Thanks...



Comcast volunteers planted a butterfly garden in the yard of the LVLC office during 'Comcast Cares' day, while inside they installed a computer lab for adult students to use to practice their English.

Anne Liebermann receives LVLC's Certificate of Appreciation.



LVLC said a poignant goodbye to Program Director Anne Liebermann, who has left to take a new position that will further her goal of helping improve the state of women in China. Anne lived and worked in China for two years before joining LVLC, and she desires to return.

Under her strong direction at LVLC for almost two years, Anne greatly improved the

processes for recruiting and training tutors, assessing students, and tracking the program in the database. Many tutors and students are grateful to her for her guidance and wisdom.

Anne continues to volunteer with LVLC. She tutors one individual student and also teaches a literacy class weekly at the Fort Myers library. The board, staff, and volunteers of LVLC are glad that she continues to be involved with literacy and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SAVE THE DATES!

Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, Friday-Saturday, December 8-9

Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of sales to LVLC when you present a voucher at the purchase counter. The address is 13751 Tamiami Trail in south Fort Myers.

Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble, December 2006

LVLC will be wrapping gifts for donations at Barnes & Noble in December. Call 242-4374 to volunteer.

Low literacy levels
are not just
obstacles to
individual dreams;
they impact the full
functioning of our
democracy and the
growth of our
economy.
— Boston Adult
Literacy Fund

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