

Tutor's Students Listen, Repeat, Learn!

Words are very important to Jerry Greenfield. As president of the Greenfield Advertising Group and as a writer, he uses the English language to inform, persuade, and inspire. He also has experience teaching English as a Second language in Spain (The Mangold Institute) and in Miami. So Jerry found a perfect match in Literacy Volunteers of Lee County.

He concluded his tutor training six months ago and now works with a group of four students, all from Mexico. "I thought I would be more productive helping more than one person at a time, especially since I had been trained in methodologies effective in that environment,"

he explained. While Jerry's knowledge of Spanish (he also speaks French) helps him explain why and how certain words, phrases or sentences work, he tries not to speak his students' languages in class.

He is a proponent of "listen and repeat." His students learn sentence patterns through drills so they can recognize when something doesn't sound right, the same way he learned Spanish in the eleventh grade.

While students have to hear correct English, they also need to understand the way people actually speak English each day. So Jerry enjoys explaining the use of "gonna" and "gotta." They also are working on the three basic tenses: present, past,

and future, and every week Jerry gives them a slang phrase, such as "stick your neck out" or "get over it."

Jerry's LVLC students are under 30 years of age and at an "advanced beginner" level. Their weekly meeting is especially challenging since it comes at the end of their workday. Still, they take their learning very seriously and are "devoted and attentive" for the entire hour they are together, he reported.

"One of the things about teaching English is that you have a positive and direct impact on an individual's life," he noted. "People become part of society and participate in the national discourse. It's very fulfilling to see results of your work immediately."

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County, Florida, Inc.

1609 SE 26th Street
Cape Coral, FL 33904

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

Literacy Student On Path to Goal

When Marielys Figueroa arrived in New York four years ago from her native Puerto Rico, her credentials were sterling: master's degree in organizational psychology. She was eager to broaden her opportunities, but she knew that without a strong base of English, she would not be able to communicate effectively.

As she launched her life in America, it was difficult to find time for classes that did not conflict with long hours of work in a mental health clinic as parent educator. During a vacation to Fort Myers, Marielys immediately "fell in love" with the community and lifestyle here, just as so many before her. She relocated, unencumbered

with "things" — just two pieces of luggage. But she had a heart filled with hope and a great desire to return to college for a master's degree in occupational therapy. That required better English comprehension than she had achieved, so she called Literacy Volunteers of Lee County for help.

Working with a tutor once a week, Marielys has moved quickly to improve her literacy skills. She recently called the chair of the department of occupational therapy and community health for a master's program in which she is interested and was able to effectively describe the course work she has taken and experience she has gained with special-needs clients. At her pres-

ent position as Social Worker at Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida, she assesses applicants' needs and coordinates the services and training they receive.

Here is an analogy she uses with clients. "One day I went to a restaurant with co-workers. I had only known them for two months. When they talked about chicken pot pie on the menu, I asked them to explain it. I didn't have a clue about the food, but I ordered it because I was around good people who I learned to trust."

Today, the person who "always wanted to improve myself" and was ready to go "the extra mile" can say these phrases with greater ease. When she turned to others, help was there. And when others turn to Marielys, she is there for them.

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County 2008 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Adult Literacy,

Literacy Volunteers of Lee County (LVLC), like all nonprofit service organizations in Lee County, has experienced a challenging year. We have made a number of changes in the way we do business, and still more changes and adjustments are likely in our future. Our charge is to continue to meet the ever-growing demand for our services in the face of stagnant resources.

The best available data suggest that there are more than 90,000 Lee County residents who can't read or write English well enough to meet the basic demands of everyday life. In FY 2007-2008, LVLC provided **free, confidential literacy tutoring to 632 residents** of Lee County, and we know that the impact of learning to read and write goes far beyond the individuals we serve.

In January 2008, we **expanded our services** to eastern Lee County by taking over operation of the Lehigh Acres Literacy Council. In less than a year, we have grown the volunteer tutor corps there, reliably staffed the office with volunteer administrative workers, and already doubled the number of students we serve in this area.

This growth has come on top of our nearly 20-year-long presence in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Estero, North Fort Myers, Pine Island, Sanibel-Captiva and South Fort Myers. On top of the typical strain that expansion places upon resources, the widening economic crisis in the United States and around the globe has transformed what would otherwise have been a difficult situation into a threat to agency stability. Instead, **this challenge has made LVLC stronger than ever.**

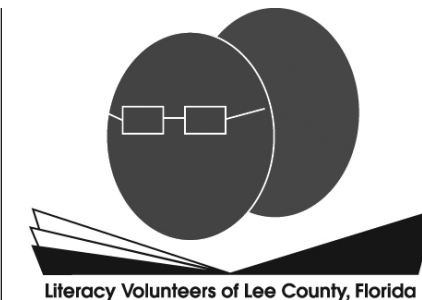
If organizations can be defined by their response to crisis, LVLC's staff and board of directors have shown themselves to be deeply committed, not just in principle, but in the practice of agency stewardship, to the cause of adult literacy education in Southwest Florida. The situation required tough decisions, and our board took the lead in making **targeted, strategic, careful cost reductions** that stabilized our financial situation. This difficult but necessary work was made easier by steps the board had already taken earlier in the year to reorganize its workflow and oversight responsibilities, and to increase the agency's profile in the business sector and support within the communities we serve.

The result: LVLC has been able to continue to strategically expand its services to meet the ever-growing needs of Lee County residents. The agency and board enter FY 2008-2009 excited about **new, innovative programs** and energized with a set of related **fundraising initiatives** that build collaborative relationships with key community partners.

We are proud of what we've accomplished, even and especially in these economically constrained times, and we look forward to continuing our commitment to literacy education in Southwest Florida.

Sincerely,
Douglas Harrison, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors
Literacy Volunteers of Lee County

www.leadultliteracy.com



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July 2007 – June 2008

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As of June 30, 2008

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Mary Smiley

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Valerie Sutherland

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Librarian

Marian Pyles

Publications Editor

Maxine Golding

LVLC Achievements

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

- LVLC expanded its program to serve Lehigh Acres starting January 2008. The number of adult students in Lehigh Acres doubled to 76.
- LVLC served 632 students, a 38 percent increase over the number served in the previous year.
- The number of small classes increased to 25, with an average attendance of 7.7 students.
- Community partnerships grew from 3 to 9, with 177 students being served.
- 130 new volunteers were recruited and trained at monthly tutor training workshops to tutor one student or a small class of students.
- The Board of Directors grew from 7 members to 12.
- A new agency brochure was printed.
- A new agency Web site (www.leeadultliteracy.com) was developed and launched.
- Workplace literacy programs were held at Robb & Stucky, Cypress Cove, and Pelican Sound Golf and River Club.
- "Spice of Life" cookbook, featuring recipes from LVLC's students and tutors, was printed and sold as a fundraiser.
- Monthly tutor meetings were instituted for the volunteer tutors to receive ongoing training on best practices for working with students who wish to learn English.

For more information, contact:
Literacy Volunteers of Lee County
 1609 SE 26th Street
 Cape Coral, FL 33904
 242-4374
 242-4375 (fax)

Lehigh Acres Office:
 9 Beth Stacey Blvd., Suite 202
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
 368-1002

Total Donations

We sincerely thank the friends and supporters who financially supported Literacy Volunteers of Lee County in our 2007-2008 fiscal year. The following list represents donations received from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008. We apologize for any names inadvertently omitted from this list. Thank you for supporting our mission of **Changing Lives—One Word at a Time.**

Literacy Patrons (\$1,000+)

Pamela Lynn Abraham
 BB & B Management
 Nancy C. Davis
 Ed & Ellie Fox
 Gannett Foundation
 Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral
 Julie Lewis
 Mary Smiley
 Lyle Smith
 SW Florida Community Foundation
 TGI Friday's
 United Way of Lee County

Educator Society (\$500-\$999)

Blue Pointe Oyster Bar & Grill
 Episcopal Church Women of
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 Bill & Virginia Fellows
 First Community Bank of SW Florida
 Robert Graham
 Greater Fort Myers Chamber
 of Commerce
 Kiwanis Club of Sanibel-Captiva
 Mathew Myers & Douglas Harrison
 Sanibel Congregational United
 Church of Christ
 Squire Myers Farm
 Teachers' Association of Lee County

Student Sponsor (\$250-\$499)

Amy Breault
 Maxine & Michael Golding
 Donna Mutzenard
 Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority,
 Xi Lambda Chapter
 Support Personnel Association
 of Lee County
 Rebecca Totaro

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

Epiphany Episcopal Church
 Jerry Hrinik
 Dr. Irving & Alwyn Johnson
 Leila Marks
 Hugh McCandless
 Edith Pendleton
 Christopher Riley
 Fran Rotino
 Semi-Retired Treasurers Community
 Congregational United Church of Christ
 'Tween Waters Inn
 Victory Lane Café
 Patricia Zelkowitz

Book Club (Up to \$99)

Carlos Aragon
 Mary Ann Aug
 Canada Club of Lehigh
 Barbara Cohen
 Kaye & Barb Coons
 R. Victor Dix
 Martin Fraser
 Dorothy Frisbie
 Judith Groover
 Mary Anne Hermann
 Carolyn Jerard
 Robert & Peggy Kleckner
 Karen Klomp
 Margrit Kroner
 Janet MacCubbin
 David & Patricia Moyer
 Tess Murphy
 James Roberts
 Alice Rowen
 Matt Visaggio
 Marthe Whitton
 Bob Wimbush

The Mission of Literacy Volunteers of Lee County

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

Community Partners

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

LVLC is proud to partner with community members to provide adult literacy tutoring:

Brightest Horizons Child
 Development Center
 Cape Christian Fellowship
 Cape Coral United Way House
 Catholic Charities Hispanic Services
 First Community Congregational United
 Church of Christ, Lehigh Acres
 Goodwill Industries of SW Florida
 Housing Authority of the
 City of Fort Myers
 Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
 Jesus the Worker Catholic Church
 Lee County Housing Authority
 North Fort Myers United
 Methodist Church
 Page Park Improvement Association
 Pine Manor Improvement Association
 Presbyterian Homes of SW Florida,
 Lehigh Acres

Business Partners

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

LVLC is grateful for the help and support of our business partners:

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
 Blue Pointe Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill
 Cape Coral Breeze
 Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce
 City Biz Directory
 Comcast
 Empty Closet
 First Community Bank of SW Florida
 Greater Fort Myers Chamber
 of Commerce
 Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce
 Lehigh Acres Citizen
 Lehigh News Star
 Mock Engineering Inc.
 Panther Community Bank
 Robb & Stucky
 Shoeless Joe's Sports Café
 TGI Friday's
 The News-Press
 The Old Captiva Housing of 'Tween
 Waters Inn
 Victory Lane Café

Other Partners

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

LVLC is indebted to the following groups for their cooperation:

Community Health Assn., Inc.
 Deaf Services of SW Florida
 Edison College
 Epiphany Episcopal Church
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Kiwanis Club of Cape Coral
 Kiwanis Club of Sanibel/Captiva
 Lee County Library System
 Lehigh Community Services
 State Department of Education,
 Region IV Resource Center
 Visually Impaired Persons of SW Florida

Important Facts About LVLC and Literacy...

- 15 percent of our students are English-speakers who never learned to read & write.
- Our English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students represent 45 countries of origin.
- Most of our adult students (86 percent) are between the ages of 19 and 54 years of age.
- Most of our adult students (61 percent) are women.
- Adults who lack basic literacy skills are much more likely to suffer from disease and to have health care expenses as much as six times higher than adults with average levels of literacy.
- About 70 percent of adult welfare recipients have lower-level literacy skill.
- Poor reading skills correlate heavily with lack of employment, lower wages, and fewer opportunities for advancement.
- Deficient readers are less likely to become active in civic and cultural life, most notably in volunteerism and voting.

Year-end Financials

July 2007 to June 2008

INCOME

Program Services	\$26,840
Contributions Income	24,597
Special Events	7,602
Grants	61,979
Interest Income	54
Total Income	\$121,072

EXPENSES

Operations	\$26,954
Fundraising	2,622
Networking	2,554
Direct Program Expense	9,438
Employee Expense	94,149
Total Expense	\$135,717

NET INCOME

(\$14,644)

Literacy Volunteers of Lee
 County is proud to be a
 United Way Partner
 Agency and a ProLiteracy
 America Affiliate



Partner Agency