

## 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.**

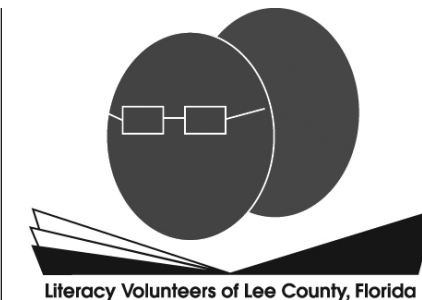
If organizations can be defined by their response to crisis, LVLC's staff and board of directors have shown themselves to be deeply committed, not just in principle, but in the practice of agency stewardship, to the cause of adult literacy education in Southwest Florida. The situation required tough 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](http://www.leadultliteracy.com)



## Board of Directors

July 2007 – June 2008

### President

Julie A. Lewis

### Vice President

Ernesto Aleman

### Secretary

Douglas Harrison, Ph.D.

### Treasurer

Lyle Smith

### Directors

Amy Breault

Robert Graham

Donna Mutzenard

Edith K. Pendleton, Ph.D.

Mary C. Smiley

Susan Steacy

Gilda Suarez

Rebecca Totaro, Ph.D.

Matt Visaggio

## Staff

As of June 30, 2008

### Executive Director

Tess Murphy

### Program Director

Kristin Przelomiec

### Secretary

Julia Krasynska

### Lehigh Acres Office Manager

Betty Eggleston

## Volunteers

### Office Assistants

Carrie Adams

Grace Cochrane

Lee Marks

Marge Robinson

Mary Root

Mary Smiley

Susan Steacy

Valerie Sutherland

Mary Williams

### 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  
 St. Michael's  
 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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$121,072</b>

### EXPENSES

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

### 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