Literacy Connection
Literally Changing Lives

Annual Report
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
A Message from the Board President

2012-2013 brought us new partnerships, new volunteers, and new learners. The Elgin firm, Plante Moran, ignited the year with their steady support, assisting us with a variety of literacy projects. The firm was instrumental in providing homework kits to families, supporting our Annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser, hosting a Facebook-driven campaign that raised $645, and much more!

Hampshire High School’s National Honor Society prepared a holiday program at both Family Literacy sites. Parents were able to select and wrap books to give as presents to their children while the kids made crafts, had snacks, and participated in an interactive story time led by several students.

Tutor, Albert Guevara, received the Elgin Image Award for citizenship. He has been a dedicated tutor since 2004, tutoring several learners and committing to over 500 hours this year alone. All of our tutors, the 41 new tutors and those who continue to volunteer for us, are a tremendous asset to our agency. Our doors would be closed without them.

During these continued tough economic times, we explored ways to reach potential learners, volunteers, and donors by participating in a variety of local events. We also engaged participants in several fundraisers including the McHenry County Human Race, Culver’s Night of Giving, Panera Bread – Some Knead, Some Give, Nick’s Pizza, and Colonial Café Cares.

I want to thank our donors, volunteers, staff, and board members for their support during the past year. You make everything possible to help people in our communities lead better lives. I look forward to working with all of you in 2014—visit our office, keep up with our news, and help us continue to literally change lives.

Christine Awe
Board President

Improving Literacy and Life Skills, One Neighbor at a Time


Our Mission: The Literacy Connection is dedicated to helping adults in the northwest suburbs reach their literacy goals through one-on-one volunteer tutoring and small group instruction.

The Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is the agency’s core program. Trained volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to adults who are Basic Literacy or English as a Second Language (ESL) learners with the lowest literacy skill levels. Learners work with their assigned tutors to achieve measurable results, such as increased test scores, as well as personal goals like employment, citizenship, and self-confidence.

The Family Literacy Program serves parents and their children up to age 12. While the parents attend ESL classes with paid instructors, their children participate in age-appropriate educational activities. The programs are held at Channing Elementary School in Elgin and Golfview Elementary School in Carpentersville.

The agency also offers a weekly English conversation group at Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin.

Main Office
Gail Borden Public Library
270 North Grove Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone: 847-742-6565
Fax: 847-742-6599
E-mail: info@elginliteracy.org
www.elginliteracy.org

Carpentersville Office
Salvation Army Service Center
150 S. Kennedy Dr., Suite 88
Carpentersville, IL 60110
Program Demographics and Outcomes

Who We Are

Adult Literacy Program
Basic Literacy learners...........................................26
English as a Second Language (ESL) learners......206

Family Literacy Program
Paid Instructors ............................................................5
Adults ........................................................................52
Children ....................................................................75

Volunteers
Administrative .................................................................28
Tutors ........................................................................150

Total Adult Literacy Learners ..................................284
Total Volunteers ............................................................178

Adult Literacy Program Highlights
Personal goals achieved by learners:

134...........Improved score on standardized test
120.........Attained consumer skills
97..........Advanced level in curriculum series
73..............Increased involvement in children’s educational activities
61...........Met work-based student goal
41..........Improved employability skills
27..........Got a job or better job
19.........Other personal goal
8............Attained wellness and healthy lifestyle
6............Obtained citizenship
6..............Increased involvement in community activities
5..............Entered other education and/or training program

Tutors spent 11,079 hours tutoring, training, and preparing customized lessons to help learners achieve their literacy goals. Board Members and other volunteers served 664 hours helping in the office with fundraisers, mailings, and community events.

The Literacy Connection Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>ELECTED/APPOINTED</th>
<th>TERM EXPIRES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Awe</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>6/30/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Giardina</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gertrude “Trudy” Zaja</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lon Meltesen</td>
<td>Secretary, January-June 2013</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>6/30/2014</td>
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<td>Candice Johnson</td>
<td>Secretary, Resigned January 2013</td>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vikki LaRocco</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
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<td>Cheri Moore</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
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<td>Marcia Munn</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
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<td>Susan Van Weelden</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
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<td>Gary Christenson</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2015</td>
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<td>Terry Foster</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>6/30/2014</td>
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<td>Carlos Trujillo</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>6/30/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mi Hu</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>March 2004</td>
<td>6/30/2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen L. Oswald</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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Executive Director
Operations Manager
Program Coordinator*
Outreach & Resource Coordinator
Data Manager
Program Assistant
Tutor Trainer*
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
PACT Coordinator-Family Literacy

*2012-2013- Amy Kerber/Sabrina Budasi-Martin, Program Coordinators; Rosa Velasquez/Mary Kearney, Family Literacy; Shirley Appler, Tutor Trainer

“I have more confidence when conversing and writing. I was encouraged to pursue my goals.”-Oksana

“Since I started my classes with Debby, my life changed. I feel more confident, I am able to communicate and I feel happier.”-Alejandra
**The Literacy Connection Thanks the following Donors for their Generosity**

**Businesses and Organizations**

- American InterContinental University
- Avril Club
- Bartlett Park District
- Big Bowl
- Billi Natural Salon
- Bonefish Grill
- Bowway Lanes
- Brandt’s of Palatine
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Business Matters
- Café Roma
- Carol Stream Ice Rink
- Cheesecake Factory
- Chicago Bread, LLC
- Chicago Rockford International Airport
- Chicago Sky
- Chicago Sun-Times
- Chicago White Sox
- Chicago Wolves
- Chicago’s REWIND 100.3 FM
- Children’s Theater of Elgin
- City of Elgin
- Clee Engineering
- Colonial Cafe
- Culver’s of Carpentersville
- Danny’s Pizza
- Deerfields Bakery
- DSM Functional Materials
- Dylor’s Pub
- ECC Faculty Association
- Elgin Community College
- Elgin Noon Rotary Club
- Elgin Symphony Orchestra
- Elgin Trade Council
- Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
- Expression’s Hair & Day Spa
- Fast Community Bank
- Fox Valley Fire and Safety
- Fox Valley Repertory
- Friends Fox River Valley Public Library
- Friends of the Algonquin Library
- Friends of Gall Borden Public Library
- Gall Borden Public Library
- Giardano’s Famous Stuffed Pizza
- Grand Victoria Casino
- Grand Victoria Foundation
- Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc.
- Healing Hands
- Herb’s Bakery
- In the Neighborhood Deli & Cafe’
- Kellenberger Auto Repair & Accessories
- Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
- Kiwanis Club of Elgin
- LifeLine Theatre
- Lynfred Winery
- Marriott Lincolnshire Resort Theatre
- Menard, Inc.
- Metropolis Performing Arts Centre
- Nick’s Pizza & Pub
- Not-For-Profit Resources
- On The Border
- Paintball Explosion Park & Pro Shop
- Plante Moran Financial Advisors
- Platt Hill Nursery
- Port Edward Restaurant
- Rotary Charitable Projects Foundation
- Sam’s Club #4942
- Santa’s Village Azoosment Park
- Schaumburg Boomers
- Schaumburg Park District
- Sharon Daniel Salon
- Sybaris Pool Suites
- Tom’s Auto Clinic
- Town & Country Gardens
- Trader Joe’s
- Tru
- Village Pizza & Pub
- Village Squire Restaurant
- Walgreens
- Wise Guys Pizzeria
- Wolf Fitness Centers
- Yankee Candle
- Zanies Comedy Night Club

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- Ms. Chris Awe
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- Ms. Lisa Winchel
- Ms. Helen Witt
- Ms. Trudy Zaja
- Ms. Lisa Zaras
- Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Zeigler

We make every attempt to ensure accuracy in our donor lists. Please contact the office by email at info@elginliteracy.org or by phone at 847-742-6565 if we have misspelled your name. Donor lists represent donations received by June 30, 2013.
The Literacy Connection has received grant funding from the following in 2012-2013:

Grantors
Alfred Bersted Foundation
City of Elgin Riverboat Funds
Combined Federal Campaign
EFS Foundation
Elgin Township
Grand Victoria Foundation
IHC Group Foundation
Kane County Riverboat Fund
Kiwanis Club of Elgin
Motorola Solutions Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Secretary of State Literacy Office
United Way of Elgin

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following training locations for their continued cooperation through the use of their facilities:

Algonquin Area Public Library
Bartlett Public Library
Dundee Township Public Library, East Dundee
First Community Bank, Elgin
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Poplar Creek Public Library, Streamwood
Presence Saint Joseph Hospital, Elgin
Public Safety Center II, West Dundee

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