



# LITERACY LINKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE LITERACY COUNCIL PROJECT OF THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



## Autumn Brings Volunteer Opportunities



School supplies have replaced garden tools in the store aisles, dusk is coming just a bit earlier, and I've even spotted a few geese heading south—it looks like fall is just around the corner!

This fall, the Literacy Council will offer training sessions in September and October for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer tutor. The training sessions give new volunteers an overview of things to know to get started tutoring an adult learner. Topics include a discussion of learning styles, lesson planning, cultural diversity, and the basics of reading instruction.

The Literacy Council has seen an increasing demand for volunteer tutors and our student waiting list has grown over the past few months. We are seeking patient volunteers who have a couple of hours a week to help adult learners achieve their literacy goals. This

rewarding, enriching volunteer experience offers a flexible schedule to accommodate tutor's and student's availability. No prior experience is needed and all training and instructional materials are supplied for tutors.

Literacy tutors make a life-changing difference to adults who want to learn English or improve their reading and writing skills. Please call (457-1888 or 892-6706) or email [frcliteracy@excel.net](mailto:frcliteracy@excel.net) today to learn more.

### Adult Literacy Tutor Training

- ◆ Session B: September 14 & 16
- ◆ Session C: October 19 & 21
- ◆ 5:30pm—9:00pm each evening

New volunteers also attend a brief Orientation session (Sept. 1 or Oct. 6) that will provide background about the One-on-One Adult Tutoring Program and the Literacy Council Project.

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## Partners in Reading



If you enjoy children and reading, consider become a *Partners in Reading* volunteer this fall! Our *Partners in Reading* volunteers work with Sheboygan County elementary schools to share the joy of reading with students in grades K-3.

Research shows that reading fluently by the end of 3rd grade is critical for academic success, as well as eventual success in work and life. By the time children enter 4th grade, they are called upon to use their reading skills to master content knowledge. Students who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are at risk of falling behind in their studies.

Providing additional reading opportunities to students is a great way to help them develop their reading skills. Volunteers spend about 60 minutes each week listening to children read, reading to children, and encouraging a positive attitude towards reading. All volunteering takes place at school, during the school day. Orientation for new *Partners in Reading* volunteers is October 8.

**To learn more about Literacy Council volunteer opportunities or to register for a session, call 457-1888 or email [frcliteracy@excel.net](mailto:frcliteracy@excel.net).**

Turn to page 2 to read more about the importance of reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade.



Highlights from  
“Early Warning:  
Why Reading by the End of  
Third Grade Matters”

- ◆ Nearly 6.2 million young people (ages 16-24) were high school dropouts in 2007.
- ◆ 67% of 4th graders scored below proficient on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- ◆ 83% of 4th graders from low-income families scored below proficient on the NAEP.
- ◆ Children need high-quality learning opportunities, beginning at birth and continuing in school and during out-of-school time, to sustain learning gains and not lose ground.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF READING BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE

**Learning** to read is a lot of work!

Infants are busy soaking up language from the day they are born. They listen to their parents and others around them talk and sing and read aloud. They start learning to read by learning about and playing with sounds.

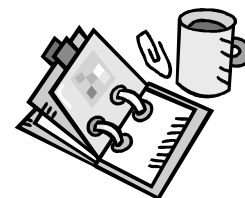
Later, they begin to connect the sounds they know with symbols on a page, or on a sign, or a cereal box. From their teachers and parents, they learn phonics and word decoding strategies. They listen and talk and ask questions, and they develop a vocabulary that helps them make sense of what they read and of the world around them. The more they read and talk, the more their vocabulary and base of knowledge grows—as readers, they are on their way!

While each child develops as a reader at his or her own unique pace, an important milestone for children is reading proficiently by the end of third grade. After third grade, children are called upon in school to apply their reading skills to reading for content knowledge. Rather than *learning to read*, they are *reading to learn*.

Those children who have not developed proficient reading skills by the end of third grade are at risk. According to a new report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters*, “the process of dropping out begins long before a child gets to high school. It stems from loss of interest and motivation in middle school, often triggered by retention in grade and the struggle to keep up academically.” The report goes on to say that, in a great many cases, this chain of events is caused by not being able to read proficiently by the end of third grade.

*Partners in Reading* volunteers play an important role in helping Sheboygan County children become proficient readers by the end of third grade. By listening to students read, reading to students, engaging students in comprehension activities, and providing positive encouragement, these volunteers help more students learn to read, so they can read to learn.

Last year, 100 *Partners in Reading* volunteers shared the joy of reading with over 250 elementary school students across Sheboygan County. As the new school year begins, we would like to offer a sincere *Thank You* to all our current and former *Partners in Reading* volunteers and welcome back our returning volunteers for a new school year! We invite anyone who is interested in becoming a *Partners in Reading* volunteer to come to our fall orientation for new volunteers on October 8 from 9am—12pm. Call 457-1888 or email [frc literacy@excel.net](mailto:frc literacy@excel.net) to register or learn more.



### Online Reading Resources



Reading Rockets

<http://www.readingrockets.org/>

*This site offers a wealth of wonderful resources for parents, teachers, and anyone who reads with children.*

Reading is Fundamental

[www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org) — *Reading activities, games, calendars, author interviews and more.*

Early Literacy

<http://www.hclib.org/BirthTo6/>

*EarlyLit.cfm*

*Reading aloud videos, tips, & information on emergent literacy*

Visit <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/reports/readingmatters.aspx> to read or download the Annie E. Casey Foundation report, “Early Warning: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters”.



## Literacy Council Receives National Book Fund Grant

ProLiteracy has chosen the Literacy Council Project of the Family Resource Center as a recipient of a *National Book Fund* award. This award has provided us with more than \$900 worth of books from New Readers Press to support our tutors and students!

Through this award, we have received multiple copies of the current edition of the *Oxford Picture Dictionary*. For tutors and beginning ELL students, this dictionary is a tremendous resource for communicating and developing a speaking and hearing vocabulary.

We have also received books that will directly support volunteer tutors by providing information they can use to enhance instruction and lesson development:

- *I Speak English: A Guide to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages* offers general guidance for tutoring, along with a wealth of techniques, exercises, and activities that tutors can use.
- *LitStart: Strategies for Adult Literacy and ESL Tutor* gives a great overview of adult learners and tutoring, followed by lesson ideas and appended word lists, words families, sight words, and more.
- *Tutor: A Collaborative, Learner-Centered Approach to Literacy Instruction for Teens and Adults (8th. Ed.)* covers learning styles, teaching reading, comprehension strategies, writing, learning difficulties, plus lesson ideas.

These books are available in the Literacy Council’s Resource Library for tutors to check out. Please call ahead (457-1888) to make sure a copy is on the shelf. A sincere thank you to ProLiteracy for this grant!



## Our sincere thanks to...

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Barb Lemmens</i>   | <i>My Own Book/Al Zerger</i>   |
| <i>Carla DeMaster</i>   | <i>Oostburg Area United Fund</i>   |
| <i>Cedar Grove Area United Fund</i>                                   | <i>Partners for Community Development/Hispanic Information Center</i>      |
| <i>Community Advisory Board</i>                                       | <i>Partners in Reading volunteers</i>                                      |
| <i>Don Niederfrank, St. John’s UCC, Random Lake</i>                   | <i>Plymouth Public Library</i>   |
| <i>Eastern Shores Library System</i>                                  | <i>ProLiteracy</i>   |
| <i>Elaine Wagner</i>  | <i>Random Lake School District &amp; Tom Malmstadt</i>                     |
| <i>George Griffiths</i>   | <i>Richard Packer</i>  |
| <i>Georgia Packer</i>   | <i>Sarah Melin</i>   |
| <i>Ginny Mikkelson</i>  | <i>Sheboygan Area School District</i>                                      |
| <i>Greater Random Lake/Adell United Fund, Inc.</i>                    | <i>Thrivent Financial for Lutherans</i>                                    |
| <i>Helen Williamson</i>   | <i>Sheboygan &amp; Plymouth Area United Way</i>                            |
| <i>Hmong Mutual Assistance Association</i>                            | <i>Sheboygan Area School District</i>                                      |
| <i>Hugh &amp; Ruth V. Ross Charitable Fund, Inc.</i>                  | <i>UW-Extension Sheboygan County &amp; Tina Kohlman</i>                    |
| <i>Judy TeWinkel</i>  | <i>Volunteer adult-literacy tutors</i>                                     |
| <i>Katie Rengers, Our Lady of The Lakes School, Random Lake</i>       | <i>Winnie Huebsch</i>  |
| <i>Lakeshore Technical College</i>                                    | <i>Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection &amp;</i> |
| <i>Lakeview Community Library, Random Lake &amp; Darla Jean Kraus</i> | <i>Julia Reyes-Hamann</i>  |
| <i>Mead Public Library</i>  | <i>Wisconsin Literacy</i>  |



Family Resource Center  
1209A Eastern Avenue

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The Literacy Council Project is a volunteer-based program that provides reading partners to elementary schools and free, one-to-one literacy instruction to English and non-English speaking adult residents of Sheboygan County .

Learn more at [www.frc-sc.org](http://www.frc-sc.org)

1209A Eastern Avenue  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
920-892-6706

\*Plymouth Office hours:  
Mon. & Weds. 9-5; Tues. &  
Thurs. 1-6; Closed Friday

◇  
2508 South 8th St.  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
920-457-1888

\*Sheboygan Office hours:  
Mon & Weds. 9-5; Tues. 1-5;  
Thurs. 9-1; Closed Friday



## Children’s Book Festival Oct. 15-17

**An** exciting event for children, parents and anyone who loves children’s literature is coming to Sheboygan this fall! The Sheboygan Children’s Book Festival will feature 15 exceptional children's book authors and illustrators in a weekend of presentations, talks, workshops, and book signings. Award-winning authors/illustrators scheduled to appear include Avi, Kathi Appelt, Lois Ehlert, Calef Brown, and many more! A panel discussion on early literacy is also planned.

A part of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center’s *Sheboygan Shindig*, the mission of the Children’s Book Festival is to inspire readers, writers, and artists. All events are free and open to the public.

Visit [www.SheboyganChildrensBookFestival.org](http://www.SheboyganChildrensBookFestival.org) or call Mead Library at 459-3400, ext. 134. for information on authors and illustrators and the Children’s Book Festival.

For information on art-making workshops, exhibitions and Sheboygan Shindig events Oct. 15-21, call the Arts Center at 458-6144 or visit [www.jmkac.org/shindig](http://www.jmkac.org/shindig)

**Brighter Futures.  
Powered by Literacy.**

*Literacy Links* is the newsletter of the Literacy Council Project of the Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County.  
Newsletter editor:  
Jo Ann Dent, Literacy Council Project Coordinator

