

I wore many hats when I volunteered at the Literacy Green Bay.

I started out as a tutor. When the influx of Hmong came to our area, I started working with them. At that time we would go to their homes. I had an interpreter that would meet me and help me get the information I needed. They were also given a pictorial test where they would have to identify the objects in the pictures so we could determine the level they were at. They were quiet, reserved, pleasant people and I enjoyed working with them.

Next the Hispanics came to Green Bay in large numbers. They were also tested at home if they were unable to come to us. It was a challenge for me if they lived in a trailer park. There were many streets in the trailer parks and no directions. Shortly after this, rooms to test in and for tutors to use became available at Literacy Green Bay, it was much more convenient.

The Hispanics were great to work with as they are a much more outgoing culture. Working with these two groups of peoples was rewarding as I learned much about their cultures and what they had to go through to get to this country and start a new life. Both groups have good work ethics as most work from little on.

My next hat was as an evaluator. We would test people individually and with the results of the testing, write a report and recommend what book they would start with. Later on testing for large groups became available on Friday mornings. I enjoyed doing this.

My final hat was as a teacher's aide for Cindy Volz for 16 ½ years. This was my favorite job. It was great because by working with the same people day after day, you were able to get to know them better and form bonds. I worked with people from so many different countries and cultures during this time.

The 22 ½ years I volunteered at the Literacy Green Bay made my retirement some of the best years of my life. Meeting people from all different countries and cultures and hearing their stories made me so much more aware of how fortunate I am; we take so much for granted.

Thank you, Literacy Green Bay for enriching my life, and thanks to all the staff for making me feel like part of the group. It was a pleasure working with all of you.



Marie Fonder