



*Literacy Green Bay  
Our Mission:*

*To help adults and families acquire the reading, writing, math, English language, computer and workforce skills they need to be fully functioning members of our community.*

March 2016

From the Executive Director: History of Literacy Green Bay Chapter 2: ESL or Basic Literacy?



Not all the adults seeking our help were refugees or immigrants needing to learn English. We soon realized that many local adults had low basic skills, might have had a high school diploma, but still struggled with reading, or had not finished school and dropped out. Additional tutors were recruited and trained to teach basic reading and writing skills. For several years, our tutors were identified as

either an ESL tutor or a Basic Literacy tutor. In 1998, that changed when the 2 training workshops were combined, allowing for more flexibility and versatility for the tutors.

According to US Census Fact Finder, it is estimated that **9.4%** of the population in Brown County, 25 and older, lacks a high school diploma. That number does not include those who have a high school diploma but still have low literacy skills. Having low literacy skills has been identified as a key driver for poverty. We agree. Our tutors and staff have witnessed how our students' improved skills, increases in reading proficiency, or GED attainment has led to self-sufficiency through employment, higher wages, vocational certificates and equally important, self-confidence.

-Kathy Cornell

14th Annual Scrabble Bee

Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants, judges, board members and staff who joined us for our 14th Annual Scrabble Bee on February 25th at the Swan Club in De Pere. Over 250 people attended our largest fundraiser of the year. This year over \$46,000 was raised to support our adult and family literacy programs in Brown County.

14th Annual Scrabble Bee

Our Title Sponsor



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The evening began with dinner and a presentation by one of our adult learners, Emelina Bebeau. Emelina shared the story of her journey and how Literacy Green Bay and her tutor assisted her in achieving her goals of speaking better English, obtaining a job working with children and entering an associate's degree program at NWTC.

Following dinner, our Master of Ceremonies, Lisa Malak of WFRV-TV Local 5 Live, and our auctioneer Jim Stamatakos began the oral auction, which had great items like Milwaukee Bucks tickets, Supper Club at Home package, Weekend in Wisconsin Dells, Door County Weekend and Golf at Kohler. In addition to the oral auction, there was also a silent auction, bucket raffle and a restaurant raffle.



Once the oral auction was completed, two rounds of Scrabble took place. Each round had a different theme to which the words had to apply. Thank you to the 28 teams who came out to play.

## Somali Class

Literacy Green Bay received two grants from Resurrection Parish and the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation to support our classes for low level Somalis. The students in this class never learned to read or write in their native languages, so they need more support than what we offer in a typical ELL class.



## Child Tutoring Program

Literacy Green Bay is holding a child tutor training on Saturday, April 2nd from 9 - 11 a.m. in our Learning Center. Child tutors are high school and college students who work with the first through fifth grade children of our adult ELL and GED learners. We ask for a once a week commitment from the volunteers.



Thank you to the Rotary Foundation of Green Bay, Inc for their support of our Child Tutoring program. Our child tutoring program was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant.

## Spring Tutor Training Workshop

If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a tutor, our Spring Tutor Training Workshop begins with orientation on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. See the website for more details.



## Annual Awards Breakfast

Save the Date! Our Annual Awards Breakfast will be held at the Legends Club at Lambeau Field at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21st. More information to follow.



## Walk for Literacy

The Walk for Literacy will be held at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay Saturday, September 10. Registration begins at 9:00 am with the walk starting at 9:30 am.

## Congratulations Sawa!

Congratulations to Board Member Sawa Senzaki, who was chosen as a Current Young Professional Future 15 recipient. Future 15 recognizes individuals who are "currently influencing the growth, prosperity, and quality of life in Brown County and will continue to impact the area in the future." Past Future 15 recipients, Board Members Rashad Cobb, Melinda Morella and Adult Tutoring Program Manager Shelley Karnz also attended the event.



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## Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday and to celebrate it is Read Across America Day



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Melinda Morella, Secretary  
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Laurie Laurent-Hyland, Child Tutoring  
Betsy Hanson, Program Specialist & Special Events  
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#### *Trainers*

Lori Hochschild Lynn Hyer  
Barb Pharris Dorothy Seehausen  
Jean Van Erem

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#### *Student Evaluators*

Frank Czarnecki Lee Hartzheim  
Kathy Lockard Terry Roberts  
Susan Tucker Les Van Vonderen

#### *Sites*

#### *Office/Learning Center*

424 S. Monroe Ave.

#### *Outreach*

Salvation Army Kroc Center

#### *Children First Family Literacy*

#### *Partners*

YWCA & NWTC

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