



Literacy Matters



15th Annual Scrabble Bee

15th Annual Scrabble Bee Sponsors

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Thank you to all of our sponsors, participants, judges, board members and staff who joined us for our 15th Annual Scrabble Bee that was held Thursday, March 9th at the Swan Club in De Pere. Over 250 people attended our largest fundraiser of the year. This year over \$49,000 was raised to support our adult and family literacy programs in Brown County.

The evening began with dinner and a presentation by one of our adult learners, Cristina. She shared the story of her journey and how Literacy Green Bay's Children First Family Literacy program and her tutor assisted her in achieving her goal of obtaining her GED.



Our Master of Ceremonies, Lisa Malak of WFRV-TV Local 5 Live, and our auctioneer, Jim Stamatakos led the oral auction, which had great items like 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 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. However, teams could purchase extra tiles, buy a peek in the dictionary, and bribe a judge. Thank you to the teams who came out to play.



Congratulations to 1st place winners Northeast Wisconsin Technical College who had a total of 6,127 points. 2nd place went to Grancare Nursing & Rehabilitation Center with 5,797 points. 3rd place went to the Clever Clovers with 3,313 points.



Tutor Time-Out

Our Adult Tutoring Program Manager conducts in-services for our tutors every couple months. Our next Tutor Time-Out will be on Immigration Law presented by attorney Sarah Griffiths from Grzeca Law Group. The Grzeca Law Group provides presentations to groups throughout the states on Immigration Law and Immigrants' Rights. Sarah will answer questions on immigration news relevant to our area.



Many Faces of Literacy Green Bay

Meet Program Specialist and Computer Lab Instructor Taylor Hilgart

What does the Program Specialist do?

I help both Betsy, the Ell Classes Program Manager, and Shelley, the Adult Tutoring Program Manager, with a variety of different things. Regarding our ELL classes, I help register new students, sell them their textbooks, enter and update student information in our database, and answer any questions that may come up.

With the adult tutoring program, I enter tutor pair information in our database, including the hours that tutor pairs meet every month and any goals and accomplishments reached by the students. I help them find and check out books from our library, and answer any questions they have about what materials to use depending on their goals. Every month I also put together Tutor Supplemental Packets for the tutors in addition to any materials they check out from our library.

What do you do as the Computer Lab Instructor?

Our Computer Lab is available for both tutored students and students enrolled in class, so primarily I assist the students and teachers with using Rosetta Stone and Burlington English software. There is a growing emphasis on students learning basic computer skills, so in addition to practicing their English, they are also developing their typing skills, learning how to use email, learning how to navigate the internet. For students who are ready to enter the workforce, they learn how to search online for jobs that match their skills.

What new technology do we have and how do you see the new technology being used?

Our classrooms now have interactive boards, which will be a huge benefit for both our students and teachers. The interactive boards are highly interactive and allow teachers instant access to the Internet, which means they can bring up images from Google and watch videos on YouTube to supplement their lessons and help explain concepts to students. This could range from finding a chart that illustrated the difference between present and past tense, to finding an image that explains what English speakers mean when we ask, “Cat got your tongue?” because let’s be honest, English is kind of a crazy language. Beyond Google and YouTube, the teachers are now able to use any website and resource that they find useful, which also serves as a good break for the students from their everyday textbook.

What do you like about working at Literacy Green Bay?

As the Program Specialist, I get to read the monthly reports from the tutors about how their students is doing, and in addition to recording the hours they meet every month, I also get to see students who are getting driver’s licenses, getting jobs, and buying homes. In the short time that I’ve been here, we have already had several students pass their citizenship test and vote for the first time. It is so rewarding and exciting to see the progress the students make and how hard they work to reach their goals. We’re a small staff at Literacy Green Bay, but with the dedication of all of our volunteers, teachers, staff and of course the students themselves, we get to see a lot of success and cheer our students on as they make impressive strides towards their goals.