



Enriching the quality of life and learning for adults and families through individualized literacy instruction, personal relationships and community building.



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Northern Waters



UPDATE

FALL 2010 Newsletter

A Special Delivery from NWL!



As families in Polk County welcome the precious gift of a new child, NWL offers them a special gift. For new babies born at the Osceola Medical Center,

and St. Croix Regional Medical Center, families will receive a brand new backpack, filled with a new book, bookmark with tips on why and how to read to your baby, and a simple piece of literature about NWL's services. At SCRMC, Providers will be offering backpacks at their well-baby visit, scheduled shortly after birth. The backpacks are part of NWL's "**Grow-N-Learn**" program whose goal is to reach ages 0-100. Approximately 150 backpacks will be delivered this year between the hospitals and clinics. "New Mom's love receiving a free gift." said one hospital spokesperson. And some of the families have been able to put the backpack to good use as an older sibling prepares to go back to school this fall!



Spotlight on Tutoring

By Leanne Waterworth,
Program Director

This past Spring I received an email from a potential volunteer named Brad who carried unique experience as an English teacher to Korean students. At the time, NWL had never worked with such students, but I valued his interest in wanting to help others and quickly got him into our database of tutors. About a week later I received a phone call from The St. Croix County Job Center. They had a female client who recently lost her job. While she searched for employment she

wanted to work on enhancing her reading and writing skills. And ironically, she was originally from South Korea! It certainly felt like Providence had a hand in this potential match. But before my excitement got out of hand, I needed to hear from the student herself. Motivation is key if one wants to improve herself. And as of yet, I hadn't heard from the student- only someone who wanted to help her. Meanwhile, my new tutor Brad told me that his wife MinKyoung, a native of South Korea, was also interested in

Pictured from left: MinKyoung, Ok and Brad



being a tutor. They stopped into our Balsam Lake office to meet me, look at materials, and ask questions. I mentioned to them about the potential student I was waiting to hear from. MinKyoung was especially hopeful, as she was new to the US and felt a twinge of homesickness, longing to speak with someone from her native language. Only 5 minutes after Brad and his wife left my office, the phone rang. Sure enough, it was the potential Korean student, inquiring about our program! Her name was Ok, and not only did she speak the same language, but she lived only a short distance from the tutors, in St. Croix County! I excitedly talked about how I had the perfect match for her already. We were quickly able to set up a time to meet with Brad and

MinkYoung at the Baldwin Public library.

It was a wonderful first meeting as we went over introductions. Soon, it was discovered that Ok and MinkYoung were both from Seoul Korea! In my mind, this match was divine.

Ok is the mother of 4 grown daughters and has been living in the US since 1973. "All that time, I never learned to read and write very well." Ok worked for Clopay Inc. for 23 years until the company laid her off 7 months ago. As she searched for employment it was evident that she needed to enhance her skills, and attain her GED. Brad says "her determination has been inspirational to both MinKyoung and me, and she is serving as a role model for us in achieving our own goals." The team continues to meet weekly and great progress is being made as Ok uses the Lauhbach series of books to improve her English skills.



Summer Goals Achieved

Last May, the NWL youth were encouraged to create (with the help of their tutor) a personal goal to work on over the summer months. Six of our NWL youth took advantage of the Summer Incentive program and as a reward, each student earned 2 free admission passes to Fawn-Doe-Rosa Wildlife Park in St. Croix Falls! A few of the kids even decided to take along their tutor and spend a fun "day-off" together. Some of the accomplished goals were:

- *To complete the book 'Rasclé' by Sterling North.
- *Write a 3 page, short story with correct spelling.
- *Complete the Multiplication table in 6 minutes.

Congratulations to Tyler, George, Carson, Nolan, A.J. and Makayla! Good luck to all of you as you head back to school. Thanks to our tutors for encouraging the kids to work hard over the summer.

We are also grateful to Fawn-Doe-Rosa for donating the admission tickets and promoting education.

