

Enriching the quality of life and learning for adults and families through individualized literacy instruction and communitybuilding



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UPDATE

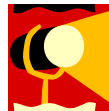
NWL Introduces New Program Director

In May, Leanne Waterworth came on board as the new Program Director for NWL. She is replacing Jill Leahy who has since taken on the role of Executive Director. Leanne's primary responsibilities will consist of volunteer management, the newsletter, and assisting Jill in the office as needed. Her background includes 10 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations such as Family Pathways, Lakes Free Church in Lindstrom, MN and Washington County, MN.

Reading is a passion of hers that she likes to share, especially with her 3 young children. "Watching my 7 and 5 year old learn to read has been such a rewarding experience. I am amazed at how their little minds have suddenly been opened to a whole new world as they begin to recognize and understand words. And truly, I don't want anyone to miss out on the joy and opportunity that literacy brings."

Leanne feels rewarded by this new opportunity with NWL and looks forward to meeting many of you. She will be available in the office MWF from 9-2pm.

Spotlight on Tutoring



By Leanne Waterworth,
Program Director



In this UPDATE, we would like to highlight a tutor and learner team. After all, they are the cause for our motivation! And in this case, we have a student matched with not one, but two tutors who are able to specifically meet the needs of the learner.

Paul, a resident from Osceola was interested in improving his reading skills as he considered going

to college. He learned about NWL through WITC. We recently paired him with a retired English Professor from St. Thomas (also) named Paul. But it was also a desire of the learner to better understand math as he chose to pursue the field of welding. So NWL found a second tutor named Dave, a St. Croix Falls resident, who has retired from a career in Finance"

Paul meets once and even twice a week with each tutor individually. He says, "I'm grateful to have Paul and Dave as a team. They are helping me get to where I'm supposed to be."

Recently, I had the privilege of meeting with Paul during one of his weekly sessions at the St. Croix Falls Library. The learner is an avid downhill skier and hunter.

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His English tutor tries to incorporate those interests of the outdoors in the lessons

he creates. This helps keep the student involved and motivated. The pair seems to have camaraderie and is enjoying the weekly sessions.

From the Executive Director

By Jill Leahy

As I look out the window of our office at the grey sky yet hear the voices and laughter of children in the halls of our office, I am reminded of some of the learners I have met over the last several months. When life seems dull and grey and unrewarding to a learner, the voice and care and laughter of a tutor is all it takes to change an attitude and a life.

The past several months I have spent managing not only the office but the volunteer teams. We have had increased demands for our services, which is exciting to be able to make a difference in the lives of less privileged people in our communities. It has been deeply rewarding and life changing for me to witness the interaction between people from very different backgrounds. The willingness and dedication and enthusiasm from our volunteers are above and beyond what I could imagine. And the joy I saw in the learners eyes when they found someone who listens and takes time for them moved me to tears on some occasions.

So I'd like to say thank you to all of you who have so graciously worked with us to help carry out our mission of enriching the life

and learning for adults and families through individualized literacy instruction and community building. Without our volunteers and supporters, this would not be possible.

The Board and I have spent several hours over the past several months discussing our mission and planning a bright future for NWL. One goal is to increase our outreach efforts to more families and children. With this increase in services, we will be looking for more great volunteers and support. If you know of anyone interested in helping others better themselves through reading and education, please contact us.

Leanne is a great asset to continuing our outreach and mission, and I look forward to her working with you and me. I will continue to serve you as well, but I will focus more on organization management, networking, and outreach. Again, thank you for allowing me to be part of this important cause.

Understanding Your Health

Health Literacy is a hot top in our society. The recent fright that 'swine flu' brought about shows that having knowledge in this area can prevent more than just an illness. It can calm a storm of panic and uncertainty.

That's why NWL is hoping to take some action in the area of Health Literacy. One of the Goals of the WI Literacy Council is to help others "understand information about your health so you know how to take care of yourself and make good decisions". Through them, we have been given 20 copies of an easy to read book written by 2 long time nurses called: *What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick*. NWL would like to partner with Polk County hospitals to provide this material and educate new parents. Along with the book we will share information on our services as well as ways to encourage reading with your children.