



News

May 2012

Comments? Questions? Ready to Get Involved?
Contact us at [402-476-7323](tel:402-476-7323) or info@lincolnliteracy.org

Go Big Read! Lincoln Literacy's Teams Ready for Run

Once again Executive Director Clay Naff is limbering up for the 10k Havelock Charity Run, in hopes of raising funds for Lincoln Literacy. The June 9th run also features a 3k run and a 3k walk, so there are plenty of ways to participate. If you're interested in being on one of the Go Big Read! teams, call or email Esther Ortiz for more information at [402-476-7323](tel:402-476-7323) or eortiz@lincolnliteracy.org. If you'd like to support Clay's run, please [visit our web site](#), view the video, and then pledge your support!

Annual Awards Luncheon Coming Up!

With the end of the spring semester already in sight, it's time to make plans to attend our Annual Awards Luncheon. Once again it will be held in the beautiful Pilgrim Hall of First Plymouth Church, 2000 D Street, site of our Monday morning classes. The event will take place Saturday, June 16, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Keep your eyes wide open for announcements about award categories and nomination procedures!

Summer Mother & Child Health Literacy Class to be Offered

Once again, Lincoln Literacy will partner with a local cultural center to offer a Maternal and Child Health English class. This summer LL will partner with El Centro de las Americas to offer the class at the Malone Center/El Centro. The program educates immigrant and refugee women about issues related to women's and children's health from conception to birth and beyond, and links them to local medical resources.

The Mat Health program was developed in Spring 2011 with support from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Taught by Dr. Parveen Ghani of NHHS, the class was designed to provide health information to English language learners, especially those who are pregnant or young women who plan to have children. Since then LL received a grant from the Community Health Endowment to expand this program, and a 12-week class has been offered again at the Asian Center this spring.

On “Give to Lincoln Day,” Please Support Lincoln Literacy!

Thursday, May 17th, will be a truly special day in Lincoln. “Give To Lincoln Day,” sponsored by the [Lincoln Community Foundation](#) and a host of other generous sponsors, is your chance to make a real impact on Lincoln’s quality of life by giving and having your gift matched. Every donation you make on May 17th through this Web site:

<http://givetolincoln.razoo.com/story/Lincoln-Literacy-Council>

will help Lincoln Literacy to share in a pool of \$200,000 in matching funds!

Lincoln Literacy and Goodwill Industries Partner to Put Job Skills Education to Work

Beginning in March, Lincoln Literacy helping its students who are searching for a job connect with Goodwill Industries Serving Southeast Nebraska, Inc. for help in gaining the specialized skills and knowhow to find the right job. LL’s current *Workforce Readiness English* program teaches students vocabulary, equips them with job-seeking skills, and prepares students for participation in the Nebraska workforce. Goodwill, too, helps individuals who face barriers to employment at their Job Connection computer lab, located in Workforce Development. Individuals may receive assistance from employment specialists with resume and cover letter creation, online applications, and classes or tutorials for basic computer skills, typing and data entry, and registration in the state’s [NEworks](#) web-based job search system.

“This partnership is a win-win-win,” says LL Executive Director Clay Naff. “It will benefit Lincoln Literacy, Goodwill, and most importantly, the refugee and immigrant families who are our students.”

The partnership’s goal is to create a smooth transition between the programs and workforce for students. Selected *Workforce Readiness* students will undergo a brief training session and be personally guided through the registration process at the *One Stop Career Center*, where Goodwill provides a variety of employment services. “It can be difficult to navigate through two separate programs, especially for students learning English,” said Naff. “Working together, we can make sure that our students have a smooth transition and that they are able to take full advantage of all of the services available.”

Staff member Amanda Hefner coordinates Lincoln Literacy’s efforts on behalf of the partnership. A graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, Amanda has a BA in music and minors in both art and Spanish. She spent four years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic and now loves being back in Lincoln and working with her LL students.



ELL Job Skills Coordinator Amanda Hefner (at right) and refugee students from Burma share a light moment as they review English terms for body parts by singing "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Sharing Successes of Lincoln Literacy Students and Tutors

Through English Language Study, a New American Mother Lands a Job



Rosa Hernandez and children, Jesus age 3 and Arlette age 5, admire new books received from generous Lincoln Literacy book donors.

Rosa Hernandez's positive attitude and dedication to acquiring English language skills helped her meet her goal of finding a job. In April, Rosa was hired by Pfizer Inc., where she is delighted to be working. This past semester, Rosa and Jordan Hasselbalch, her tutor at West Lincoln Elementary School, focused on interview and job skills. She credits Lincoln Literacy classes at American Lutheran Church with LL tutor Mark Shiffler, her West Lincoln classes, and prior work with tutor Marcia Dick for helping her obtain employment. Now Rosa looks forward to her new board role with Lincoln Literacy having become a student member of the Lincoln Literacy Board of Directors in March.

Maricela Meza becomes U. S. Citizen



LL student Maricela Meza is sworn in as a U.S. citizen during Homestead National Monument Naturalization Ceremony on April 25. Photo submitted by LL tutor, Bev Clark, who attended the Naturalization Ceremony.

Congratulations to LL student Maricela Meza on recently attaining U.S. citizenship. Maricela has attended the LL Citizenship class at St. Paul United Methodist Church this year. Maricela reports passing her citizenship interview with ease and is “so thankful for” her tutor, Bev Clark, and the opportunity to join the group. Support for the Citizenship Class is received from the Kirk Reimers Memorial Fund. Maricela’s mother, Claudia Meza, recently joined the class because she, too, wants to become a U.S. citizen. ELL Coordinator Nick Svoboda, class coordinator, says that “I’m sure with Bev’s help, she will!”

Lincoln Literacy extends condolences to the family of Ed Perry who died in March. Ed was the husband of Lincoln Literacy tutor, Joanie Perry. He was perhaps best known in this community for his role as the head of the prestigious law firm that bears his name, Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford. Ed and indeed his whole family have been strong supporters of Lincoln Literacy. However, Ed also engaged in a remarkable range of civic, charitable, and community activities. He will be missed not only by us but by all of Lincoln.

head of the prestigious law firm that bears his name, Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford. We remember especially for his strong support of Lincoln Literacy.

Spring 2012 Lincoln Literacy Office Hours

To stretch our limited annual budget and serve the community in sites throughout Lincoln, we are open to the public – including tutors – on a limited schedule. However, you can make an appointment to see us at other times as well. Regular office hours are:

Monday – Thursday	9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Friday	Closed
Saturday morning	by appointment
Sunday	Closed

To become a Lincoln Literacy tutor or refer someone for orientation and training, contact Ginny Gross, ggross@lincolnliteracy.org or 402.476.7323.

More about Lincoln Literacy:

Lincoln Literacy is an award-winning United Way organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Established in 1972, Lincoln Literacy provides English language and literacy instruction to more than a thousand adults and families living in Lancaster County. Many are refugees and immigrants from around the world. The mission of Lincoln Literacy is to assist people of all cultures and strengthen our community by teaching English language and literacy skills. It does this by recruiting, training and deploying more than 300 community volunteers. Winner of numerous awards, Lincoln Literacy is proud to be a United Way agency and a member of the Human Services Federation.