



Lincoln Literacy Council
Lincoln Literacy News
April
2011

THANK YOU LLC VOLUNTEERS!

Though we share the spirit of April as national volunteer recognition month, your own individual efforts exceed our ability to record the countless hours spent on behalf of LLC as many groups do!

All the same, we plan to try. Read on for news about:

- **June 1 Tutor Town Hall**
- **June 4 Havelock Charity Run**
- **June 25 Annual Awards Ceremony & Potluck Luncheon**

Your Help Needed for 33rd Annual Havelock Charity Run



LLC's 2010 Havelock Charity Run participants

You don't even have to run! This fundraising race takes place Saturday, June 4th, starting We'd love to have you join one of our teams in the 10K run, the 3K run, or the 3K walk and afterward, you and your family and friends will be able to enjoy the awards ceremony in Havelock Park. Our teams are called "Go Big Read!" The entry fee is \$17 per person, and you can register online.

However, you don't have to even leave your home to help. The Go Big Read team members are trying to raise funds for LLC by getting pledges of support for their participation. If you know someone in the race, help them out by pledging your support. If you don't know anyone, you can pledge to help get our Executive Director Clay Naff across the finish line as he once again tries his luck at the 10k. Online pledges can be made at our web site.

RACE-Day Schedule

Packet Pickup: 6:30 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. at the corner of 62nd & Havelock Ave.

Meet for Team Picture in front of the Joyo Theater @ 7:15 a.m.

Race Start: 7:30 a.m. in front of Pinnacle Bank, 6145 Havelock Ave.

For more information about forming or joining an existing LLC team, contact Esther Ortiz at 402.476.7323 or eortiz@lincolnliteracy.org.

Annual Awards Luncheon June 25 – Save the Date!

We have so many fabulous volunteer tutors and wonderful students, it's impossible to recognize them all. But in addition to specific awards for outstanding performance and achievement, we celebrate everyone in our LLC family at the Annual Awards Ceremony & Potluck Luncheon. So mark your calendar, think of someone deserving to nominate, and plan to join us at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 25, to celebrate another successful year for our students and tutors. Once again, we will gather in Pilgrim Hall at First Plymouth Church (our host for LLC's English for All classes on Monday mornings). Lunch will be potluck – and with our international student body, it's usually very good luck! However, if you don't feel like cooking and sharing, it will be possible to order a lunch.

Open Books, Open Doors Event a Rousing Success!



On Friday, March 25, some 200 friends of LLC shared music, drinks, conversation and superb food during LLC's third annual "*Open Books, Open Doors*" fundraiser. Chez Hay's unique and charming loft at 14th and P was the setting for the auction of books and specialty items plus a talk by Lincoln historian Jim McKee. Huge thanks to all who so generously donated time, talent and auction items to make another LLC signature

event a success – and one that brought in over \$18,000 – A record for *Open Books!* The net proceeds will go to support the work of LLC.

LLC Executive Director Named 2010 Nonprofit Executive of the Year



LLC Executive Director Clay Naff recently was named local Nonprofit Executive of the Year for 2010. Clay's selection was announced February 24 at the annual Association of Nonprofit Executives (ANPE) luncheon held at the Embassy Suites hotel.

Clay has been Lincoln Literacy Council's executive director since late 2005. In announcing the award, ANPE said, "Clay has exhibited remarkable leadership abilities, continuing to improve the council's services while shepherding it through the trying economic times of the past two years. His leadership during the organization's extensive strategic planning helped guide the organization to the success that it enjoys today."

In accepting the award, Clay said he was astonished and humbled, particularly in view of the excellence of the field of nominees from local nonprofit organizations.

More congratulations!

LLC tutor Heidi Hochstetler, 7th grade English teacher at Goodrich-Dawes Middle School, recently was honored by the East Lincoln Rotary Club and US Bank as Teacher of the Month.

"Heidi has been a strong member of the English professional learning community at Goodrich," Goodrich-Dawes Principal Mike Henninger said in his nomination letter.

In an e-mail to us, Heidi remarked, *"I decided to start tutoring with LLC because what gets lost in the national debate about immigration are the human stories. Immigrants have often dealt with situations that we can only imagine here in the United States, and they have to figure out how to fit into a new culture. My*

ancestors experienced the exact same situations when they immigrated to the United States, and I am honored to help someone else make that transition."

And we thank Heidi for being a great teacher while also serving as a LLC tutor!

Congratulations to former LLC executive director and volunteer Lois Poppe, who received a Long Standing Service award from the local League of Women Voters at the group's April 21 luncheon.

Last but not least, on behalf of the LLC Board of Directors, staff *and* tutors, we want to extend special thanks to the LLC Trainer Team for its efforts this past year. Along with staff transition, they literally slogged through rain, sleet and snow to "graduate" 27 new tutors since January 1. And, that's on top of the 117 tutors trained in 2010!

Volunteer trainers include Marvin Almy, Marcille Ansoorge, Noreen Carpenter, Judy Ellingson, Jaine Evnen Merliss, and Anne Diffendal, who recently returned to offer assistance.

We want, too, to thank LLC staff member Victoria Welles, for her contributions both as a trainer and "*matchmaker*" for tutors and trainers as well. Read on for more from Victoria elsewhere in this edition of LLC News.

Tutor Topics

And now, an important note from LLC Staff Member Victoria Welles

My Dear LLC Tutors,

This is one of those moments when I am asking for your assistance. I am especially trying to draw the attention of those of you who had a match and due to some circumstances stopped seeing your student. Perhaps, some of you are thinking: "I need another student. Tomorrow I'll call the LLC office and ask for a new assignment."

Well, my friends, tomorrow has come. We need you! I have **18** students on my waiting list. All of them call me every week and ask – even beg -- for a tutor. Please call me at 402-476-READ ([402-476-7323](tel:402-476-7323)), or e-mail me at vvelles@lincolnliteracy.org, and I will be so glad to match you with a new student.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Victoria Welles
LLC One-to-One ELL Program Coordinator
402-476-READ

Measures of progress

LLC site coordinators are now beginning to conduct individual post-instructional assessments at group sites. We know that this results in classroom interruptions. Once again we thank you for your flexibility in accommodating to LLC's need to measure student progress. It's important to us for many reasons.

One-to-one tutors who have met with their students for more than six months are asked to call Lincoln Literacy at 402.476.READ and ask for Victoria, Alison or Karen to schedule a post-assessment evaluation. A post-assessment takes about 20 minutes and lets you and your student know about the progress that has been made.

We also remind you that 92 percent of the students who completed post-assessments last year improved by at least one level on the Basic English Skills Test (BEST). Though not a scientific sampling of all LLC students, this is a strong indication of the payoff from the efforts of our volunteer tutors!

To Become a Tutor or Encourage a Friend

There is still time to register online to attend a **Wednesday, May 11** orientation program at either **1:30 or 5:30 p.m.** Both sessions will be held the LLC office, 745 South 9th Street (corner of 9th and G streets). Parking is available in front of the building and in an adjacent lot which you can enter from G Street.

Questions about becoming a LLC tutor? You can contact **Ginny Gross, volunteer training coordinator, at 402.476.7323 or ggross@lincolnliteracy.org.**

All are welcome, but pre-registration is required. To register, simply visit LLC's website at: www.lincolnliteracy.org and start with "**Get Involved.**"

Host an Exchange Student

AMVN Exchange is looking for families in Lincoln who will open their homes and their hearts to Vietnamese youth (ages 13-18) attending school in Lincoln. Host family opportunities are open to all individuals – married or single and with or without children.

“If you have a spare bedroom and a big heart, then you’re a perfect candidate,” says new **LLC tutor Walker Cline** who is also an AMVN staffer. “All students are in the process of learning English. Some are fluent while others have a lot to learn,” Cline said.

Benefits include the opportunity to learn about a foreign culture as well as the joy of introducing a stranger to American culture. AMVN Exchange provides financial support and assistance and is currently accepting host family applications.

Students will arrive in July and will attend either Parkview Christian or Pius X schools. Students will need school transportation.

Please contact either Megan Hermansky (402. 475.8175 or mhermansky@amvnx.com) or Walker Cline (402.617.6062 or wcline@amvnx.com) for more information and application forms.

Keys to Safety Campaign Free Fire Safety Materials and Webinar Recording Available

Tutors wanting to develop lessons to help students protect themselves and their families from home fires may find free materials available through ProLiteracy to be helpful.

Visit the [Keys to Safety website](#) for more information about the campaign and the many free materials provided for programs and instructors. Also available on the website is a recording of the introductory webinar, [Incorporating Fire Prevention and Safety Education into Adult Instruction](#). View the webinar to learn more about how your program can get involved in the campaign!

For more information contact [Katie Schisa](#), project manager, at [315-422-9121](tel:315-422-9121) ext. 250.

Pass on Your Passion ... Leave a Legacy for Literacy ... Include LLC in Your Estate Plans.

Lincoln Literacy Council has long relied on grants for most of its operating funds. The last few years have shown how unstable that strategy can be. We are blessed with many longtime volunteers and supporters. If you are one, won't you help secure our future by including us in your estate plans?

In addition to ongoing support or a gift in your will or trust, you can make LLC a beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy.

To designate LLC as a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan, or life insurance policy, will or trust, call Executive Director Clay Naff to discuss your

goals for charitable provisions through which you can make the good you have done live on beyond your lifetime. You can reach him at 402-476-7323.

LLC Office Hours

Due to funding shortages, 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. The regular office hours are as follows:

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

More about Lincoln Literacy Council:



Lincoln Literacy Council is an award-winning United Way organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Established in 1972, Lincoln Literacy Council 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 LLC 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 200 community volunteers.