

## Happy Halloween from Lincoln Literacy

Post-Halloween Depression, or PHD, is a serious and rapidly spreading syndrome. Once the sugar-high of trick-or-treat candy wears off, people realize that it is November, a notoriously gloomy month. Sadness, lack of energy, and a deep sense of hopelessness sets in. Epidemiologists say the danger is especially high this year, because there are four long, dark weeks from Halloween until Thanksgiving. Let's face it: **YOU ARE AT RISK!** Fortunately, Lincoln Literacy has the cure.

On Sunday, November 10th, the happiest place on earth will be the Great Plains Room of the East Campus Union. That's where the fifth annual **Scrabble Scramble** tournament will take place. It's a team event, so you don't have to be the world's best player to feel good about taking part. There is a recreational division for the casual player, and a competitive division for teams who know all those obscure Scrabble words and aim to win the trophy. There will also be a prize for the best themed team.



All Smiles at Scrabble Scramble!

Scrabble Scramble is a key fundraising event for Lincoln Literacy, but it's also a heck of a lot of fun. Entry is \$25 per person - if you register before Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. (Late registrations are \$30 each.) You can sign up individually, or with hand-picked teammates. We strongly encourage you to find a sponsor for your team. Sponsorships start at \$100, so virtually every business or organization can find one appropriate for

October 2013

their size and budget. More information and online registration is available at: [www.lincolnliteracy.org](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org) Thank you for your support!



## News for our Splendid Volunteer Tutors\*

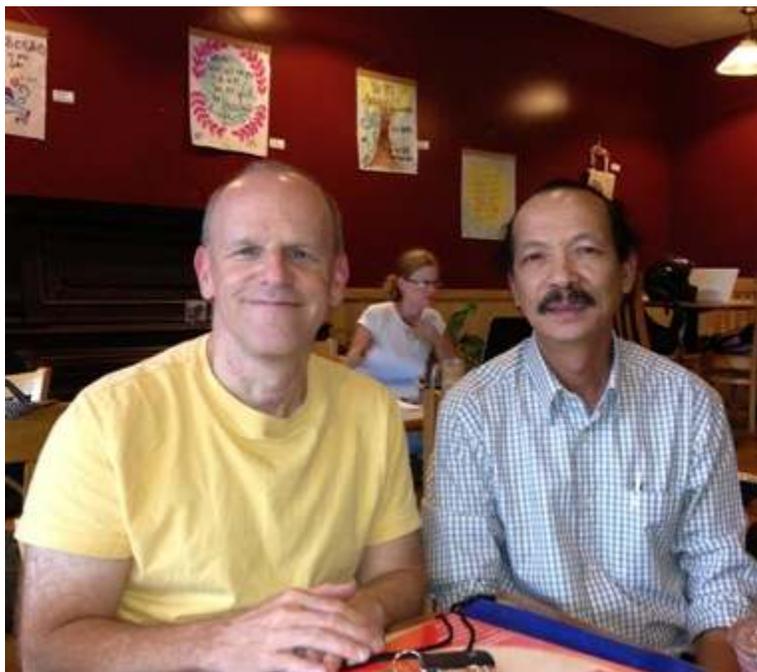
(If you'd like to become one, just visit our web site, and click "Get Involved.")

### Patriotic Service:

Lincoln Literacy Volunteer Tutors

Help Immigrants Pass the U.S. Citizenship Exam

Congratulations to three new U.S. citizens! We salute Taun Doan and his tutor, David Wiebe; Hai Trinh and his tutor, David Williams; and Hoang Doan and his tutor, Katherine Starace, for all their hard work.



David Williams (l) and his student Hai Trinh

We also would like to remind you that Lincoln Literacy offers a weekly Citizenship class on Saturdays at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Please call us for details on the class.

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**The Only Constant Is Change:**  
New Faces, New Roles at Lincoln Literacy

Over the summer, we had some departures, arrivals, and reconfigurations. Here's a quick summary of where we ended up. Workforce Readiness English Program Coordinator Natalia Ledford left in August to start a new job in Guatemala. Volunteer training coordinator Ginny Gross retired in September. Our three 2012-2013 AmeriCorps members, Carrie Knapp, Elektra Wrenholt, and Joy Nealeigh, finished their terms of service in August. Meantime, the AmeriCorps program issued new guidelines limiting members to teaching children. With that in other considerations in mind, we made new hires and reorganized some positions. Here's the lineup:

**One-to-One ELL Tutoring Coordinator: Ngoc Tran**

Ngoc (pronounced "NAW") took over this critical position from Victoria Welles, who was promoted to a new position. (See below.) Ngoc is from Vietnam. After learning English she completed college at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, where she earned a degree in family science. She interned at Friendship Home and volunteered at the Community Action Partnership before joining us. Welcome, Ngoc!

**Program and Operations Manager: Donna Stadig**

Donna joined Lincoln Literacy in 2008 as a part-time front desk administrator. She has since taken on considerably more responsibility as office manager. This fall she was promoted to her new position, becoming just the third full-time employee at our organization. As Program and Operations Manager, Donna oversees our wide-ranging Workforce Readiness English program for refugees, as well as all our childminding, conversation groups, and office operations.

**Training and Development Manager: Victoria Welles**

Victoria, who has worked at Lincoln Literacy for more than a decade, has long been involved in training new volunteers, as well as coordinating one-to-one EL L matches. With this promotion, she takes over the duties previously held by Ginny Gross, as well as managing our development efforts to raise funds for our programs. (See a message from her below.)

**Front Desk Administrator and Van Driver: Eric Ayite**

Eric, who hails from Togo in West Africa, joined us in late summer to help at the front desk, drive our van to take adults and children to and from our classes, and help out in many other ways. Eric speaks fluent French and excellent English, as well as his native language and. Welcome, Eric!

**New AmeriCorps Members: Shelly Patrick & Rik Minnick**

We've been fortunate in signing up two fully qualified teachers as part-time AmeriCorps members to work with the children in our family literacy programs. Shelly Patrick is an immigrant from Malaysia who earned her teaching degree at UNL and taught math for a year at a high school in South Sioux City before joining us. Rik Minnick also earned his teaching degree at UNL and volunteered as a tutor with us prior to becoming an AmeriCorps member. They're both doing great work at many of our sites.

**Old Hands Help Out: Carrie, Britt, Joyce, and Josh**

Four former AmeriCorps members are helping us meet the needs at our many sites

this fall as part-time employees. They are Carrie Knapp, Britt Varisco, Joyce Hahn, and Josh Snowden. We're very glad to have them all on our team.

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## A Plea from Victoria Welles

Lincoln Literacy's board and executive director recognize that we must broaden our base of support, because serious funding challenges loom. With the Sequester in place, federally originated grants for refugee services that helped Lincoln Literacy to grow are under a serious threat. Other government grants have disappeared altogether. In part because I know so many of you, having trained and placed volunteers for more than a decade, have been assigned to start a new development initiative Lincoln Literacy.

Friends, I would really appreciate if you would let me know of any companies or individuals who might be interested in helping us in this difficult time. We want more people to learn the stories of our students who work so hard to make the American dream come true. We also want more people to learn about our wonderful volunteers who work so hard to help their students to start a new life in this foreign country. We would like to start visiting local companies and telling them more about what Lincoln Literacy is doing. We will really appreciate it if you could put a word for us at your company and see if they would let us come over and make a short presentation.

I am very excited about my new position as Training and Development Manager, because I will get to spend more time working with my favorite volunteers, whose talents and willingness to help I admire so much. Let's talk.

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## In-Service Training: What's Your Pleasure?

Lincoln Literacy is listening! What training topics would you like to see offered? Please send in your suggestions for future in-service topics to Victoria ([vwelles@lincolnliteracy.org](mailto:vwelles@lincolnliteracy.org)).

Meantime, we would like to make it easier for our volunteers to make use of Lincoln Literacy library resources. That is why this fall we started having periodic Open Houses. Please come to Lincoln Literacy on Thursday, January 23rd, between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. and visit with the Training and Development Manager Victoria Welles and ELL one-to-one coordinator Ngoc Tran.

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## The Perils and Pitfalls of English

In closing, we offer a poem sent in by volunteer tutor Ken Donlan. It offers good perspective on what it's like to try to learn ...

### **Our Lawless Language**

**The laws that govern plural words  
I think are strictly for the birds.**

October 2013

**If goose in plural comes out geese,  
Why are not two of moose, then, meese?  
If two of mouse comes out mice,  
Should not the plural of house be hice???  
If we say he and his and him,  
Then why not she and shis and shim?  
No wonder kids flunk out of schools --  
English doesn't follow rules.**

With thanks to Ken and to all of you for your support of our life-changing, community building services,

Sincerely,

Clayton Naff  
Executive Director  
Lincoln Literacy