

Tutor Talk

A Publication of Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County



Tutor In-service Recap: Social Services in Sussex County

Since many tutors are asked by their students for help in areas other than literacy tutoring, a presentation of local services was given by Susan Bowman of Social Services and President of the Sussex County Council of Service Agencies on Tuesday November 10. Located at 83 Spring Street in Newton, the mission of Sussex County's

Division of Social Services is the delivery of public assistance and social services to eligible individuals and families to alleviate human suffering, and to maximize individual potential, in a competent and compassionate manner. The agency covers a large range of assistance programs including: Temp. Assistance for Needy Families, food

stamps, transportation, housing. In order to apply for assistance, a resident may go to their office to fill out an application for eligibility. These programs do require the applicant to be a legal resident. Even if an individual or family is not eligible, the social workers may be able to direct them to another agency that can help them.

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Calendar of Events

- *January 9th 9:30-12:30 Thinking of Becoming a Tutor Trainer In-service (see flyer)*
- *February 27 Scrabble Tournament 2-4 pm at SCC*
- *March 4—April 15 Tutor Training in Tranquility*
- *March—April Tutor Training in Newton*
- *April 24 LVNJ annual Conference at Montclair State*

Literacy for Life Conference

Save the Date!

Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey will be holding its annual conference at Montclair State University on Saturday **April 24th, 2010.** Please take this

opportunity to attend this event since it is usually in the southern part of the state. Workshops are designed for adult literacy tutors, instructors, program leaders,

board members, and students.

Look for registration information to come. LVSC offers registration reimbursement and carpooling coordination.



LVSC Receives Grant from Verizon Foundation to Promote Literacy in Warren County

A dollar a month may not seem like much, but it can go a long way to improving literacy skills in state and giving people the opportunity to succeed.

Thanks to Verizon telephone customers in New Jersey who participated in Verizon's innovative Check Into Literacy Program LVSC

received a grant to support its literacy program and expand its reach into Warren County. Contributions from New Jersey residents are part of the more than \$xx million given to literacy organizations throughout the country. In all, hundreds of literacy organizations around the nation were assisted through the Check Into Literacy Program.



The program allows Verizon landline telephone customers to support literacy by checking a box on their monthly phone bills to make a \$1 tax-deductible donation to promote literacy.

Verizon then distributes these donations to local literacy organizations that serve the individual states the customers live in.

"We're proud to work hand in hand with our customers on this critically important literacy initiative," said Dennis Bone, president of Verizon New Jersey. "Together we're helping citizens in New Jersey row, learn and be successful contributors to our state and nation as a whole."

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon Communications, supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational Web site, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2008, the Verizon Foundation awarded more than \$68 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$26 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 3 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

According to the New York Times, 1 in 8 Americans and 1 in 4 children receive nutritional assistance via the food Stamps program and the new inconspicuous plastic swipe card.



Check the Box to Help Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey

Individuals in New Jersey can now donate to LVNJ by checking the appropriate box on the NJ Income Tax form. These check-off donations are a vital

source of revenue for Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey which provides instructional resources and grants for LVSC and other member programs in our

network. Please remember LVNJ when you fill out your NJ Income Tax form: **Go to Line 62, fill in Code 05, and enter the dollar amount.**

HELP FOR ALL DURING THE UPCOMING GIFT PURCHASING

The Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County garners its funding from grants, donations and fund raising events. There's also another way that both students and tutors can use that costs them no additional fees!

Using the computer go to:
www.literacyforyou.org

Look on the left side bar.
Click on: *Support LVSC*

Scroll down the page until you see: Other ways to help... *Support LVSC when shop on line*

You will see 4 options. Read and click on the one you wish to use for shopping.

One Cause register and then choose a store and start shopping

iGive.com register and then choose a store and start shopping

Gift Hatchery when you need to send a gift basket; indicate LVSC as the cause you wish to support

Amazon.com must click on the box below the text that indicates LVSC as a support choice.



On all the sites, you shop and LVSC gets a small amount of cash in return that helps us help our tutors with training and materials, helps the students and ultimately, helps all.

**THANK YOU FOR
USING
www.literacyforyou.org
FOR YOUR SHOPPING!**

NJSHARES Utility Bill Assistance Program

The program provides assistance to eligible individuals and families who are in need of temporary help in paying their utility bills. Applicants must have a termination notice or shut-off notice and can not be a participant nor be income eligible for any additional types of utility assistance

Participating Utility Companies:

- Atlantic City Electric
- Elizabeth Gas Company

- Jersey Central Power and Light
- Public Service Electric & Gas
- Rockland Electric Company
- NJ Natural Gas Company
- South Jersey Gas Company

Services:

The maximum grants that are available:

Electric Grant: \$300
Natural Gas Grant: \$700
Electric Heat Grant: \$700

Oil / Propane Grant: \$700

Funding availability varies, please contact the office for further details.

Benefits:

- Provides temporary assistance for households experiencing a utility crisis

Contact Information:

973-209-7549 or 973-383-6020.

Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County
P.O. Box 453
Newton, NJ 07860
lvasc@tellurian.net



Literacy Changes Lives.....

The purpose of Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County is to promote and foster increased literacy in Sussex County and contiguous areas through free, student-centered volunteer teaching and aid to low-literate and non - English speaking adults; to encourage and aid individuals, groups or organizations desiring to increase literacy through voluntary programs.

For over 20 years, Literacy Volunteers of Sussex County has provided free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring in basic literacy and ESOL to adults in Sussex County and contiguous areas.

LVSC : Making a Difference

LVSC trained 41 new tutors during our fiscal year of 2008-2009. In all, 136 students were tutored a total of 3,491 hours during this year.

Do You Know the Facts about Literacy?

According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, approximately 44 million people in the United States cannot read well enough to fill out an application, read a food label, or read a simple story to a child.

\$5 billion a year in taxes goes to support people receiving public assistance who are unemployable due to illiteracy.

According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau Data available, nearly 15,000 residents over the age of 25 in both Sussex County and in Warren County do not have a high school diploma.

Among the growing immigrant population in both counties, approximately 3,000 residents in each one feel isolated or limited by language communications problems.

"Literacy - It's not just about reading anymore."

