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Literacy Changes Everything

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March 2016

Last Call for ScrabbleBee Teams



2015 ScrabbleBee Team from Peoples Bank Midwest

Got a desire to show off your word wizardry, have a blast, and help out a great cause? There's still time for you and five friends, co-workers, or family members to form a team for Literacy Volunteers Chippewa Valley's 15th Annual Scrabble Bee. If you've never taken part before, the Bee is a fast-paced team Scrabble event in which your team races against the clock – and other teams – to score as many points as possible in a collaborative version of the popular word game.

This year's Bee is Thursday, April 21st, at The Lismore Hotel (formerly the Ramada) in downtown Eau Claire. The newly remodeled Lismore ballroom is our biggest venue ever, and that means there is room for at least a dozen more teams so register now! Registration is \$350 for a team of six, and that includes pizza, lemonade, and the chance to win great prizes, bid in a silent auction, or complete in a raffle. For full details, visit

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Thrivent Choice

LVCV is now listed in Thrivent Choice's charitable grant program. Find us on their website in the searchable [online catalog](#). Thrivent Financial will direct Choice Dollars to us in a particular month.



Have you "Liked" us on Facebook yet? Go to our page now.



www.lvcv.org/scrabble-bee or call (715) 834-0222.

A special thank you to our event sponsor CCF Bank; major sponsors Eau Claire Ford, Northwestern Bank, RCU, Royal Construction, Team Tiry and Xcel Energy; game and tile sponsors CVTC, Festival Foods, Marshfield Clinic, and Mason Shoe; and media sponsors WQOW TV 18, Volume One, and Wisconsin Public Radio.

Celebrate Writing Articles Due in April

Attention tutors! Has your student submitted an article for the next Celebrate Writing book? Entries are due April 1st for "What I Get When I Give". If you need more time, just let us know. For more information, [click here](#).

The 2016 Celebrate Writing book will be given out at Celebration of the Stars. This annual event celebrates the accomplishments of students and tutors will be held on the



morning of May 16, 2016 at Lake Street United Methodist Church, Eau Claire. Social time and refreshments will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the program to follow at 9:30. To RSVP for Celebration of the Stars call 715-834-0222 or email info@lvcv.org.

CPR Class Held at Family Literacy



A CPR Class was held for students in the Family Literacy program in March. There were eight students in the class,

and six passed! Students learned about infant/child CPR and first aid. The class was taught by Becky Adamski from the YMCA. Pictured above are students Anna, Nicolasa and Fidelia holding breathing masks used in CPR for infants.

Board Profile: Greta Heike

Being born and raised in the Chippewa Valley, Greta Heike has been a part of this great community and takes part in a lot of different opportunities throughout the years. She graduated from UW-Eau Claire in 2003 with a double major



in Accounting and Economics and then began her career with Wipfli. Currently, she is a tax manager for Wipfli LLP where she consults with businesses and individuals with their tax planning and compliance needs. She assists clients with their day-to-day accounting transactions, their federal and state tax income tax returns, and their income tax audits. She researches and develops tax credit studies.

Greta is married with two boys, who are in the early stages of learning to read. She said, "As I work with them and their struggles, it reminds me of the same struggles that adults with literacy challenges would have and how difficult it may be for them to simply go about their day. Literacy Volunteers is definitely an organization that will help make the Chippewa Valley a great place for them to live and a place for them to experience opportunities they may not have been able to otherwise. They will be able to make a better life for themselves and their families. I want to be a part of this organization and help others experience these opportunities."

Taste Buds Go Crazy!

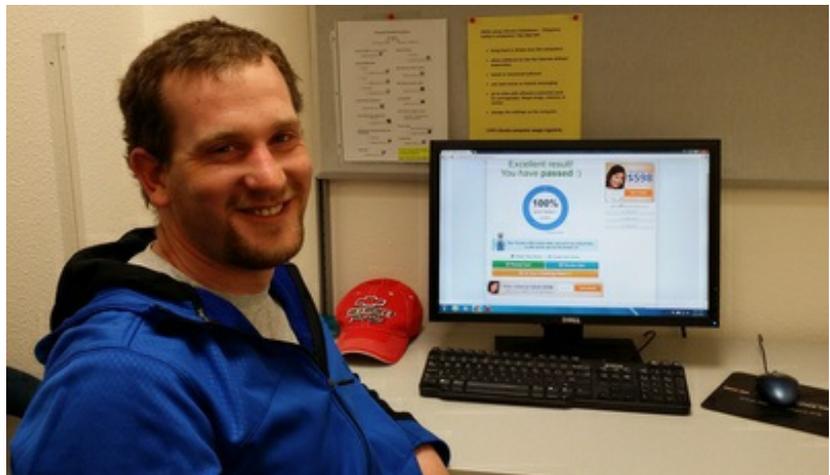


Who knew spinach leaves could taste so good?! Moms and their kids (and sometimes dads) have been gathering this month at our Banbury Eau Claire location to enjoy a series of healthy snacks and suppers. While preparing the goodies as a family, they learn about nutrition and helpful tips for the challenges of family eating.

Sampling mangoes, colored peppers, berries, etc., their "bunny bites" (small nibbles) have led to new favorites in the kitchen! Pictured above is Daisy (age 4) who particularly lit up with raw spinach. She ate it by the handful and took some home, too!

This 6-week cooking series is supported by Women's Giving Circle of Eau Claire Foundation and is presented by Nancy Coffey of UW-Extension and LVCV staff and tutors.

Student Progressing Toward License



Don Hetke and his tutor, Steve Isaksson, have been studying hard for Don's driver's license test. From this

photo of Don with recent practice test results showing 100%, it looks like success is just around the corner. Good luck, fellas!

Staff Profile: Louise Bentley

Louise Bentley has been at Literacy Volunteers since February 2014. Louise serves as the Chippewa County Coordinator as well as the Marketing Coordinator. As the Chippewa County Coordinator, she is the corrections instructor at the



Chippewa County Jail, teaches at the Open Learning Lab at the Chippewa Falls Public Library, oversees the tutor/student pairs in Chippewa County, and manages the LVCV office at the CVTC campus in Chippewa Falls. As the Marketing Coordinator, Louise designs and publishes agency materials such as the newsletter, annual report, brochures, press releases, and Celebrate Writing book. Louise also assists with event coordination (Scrabble Bee and Literacy Speaks), and maintains the LVCV website, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

Prior to working at LVCV, Louise was an adjunct instructor at Chippewa Valley Technical College and Lakeland College. She also has many years of experience in working for non-profit organizations at Momentum West, Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation and Chippewa Falls Main Street Program. Louise has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in English/Writing and holds an MBA from Lakeland College. When asked why she works for LVCV, Louise said that she strongly believes in the mission of the organization, and that it is extremely rewarding to share in the successes of our students. "This job allows me to do all the things that I love: teaching, writing and marketing. It is a perfect fit for me," she said.



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