



May, 2019

Dear Friends,

We have come to the end of my tenure at Literacy Volunteers of Rochester (LVR).

I want to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for all the help and support you have given to me and the organization throughout the past 17 years. Recently I shared that while dollars, data, and dashboards are important elements in today's world for all non-profits, they are not what makes up the important core of LVR. The most important element that makes up that core are people.

LVR was built on the dream of Ruth Colvin to have a fully literate society. In 1964, a dedicated group from Church Women United founded LVR with a workshop called "Each One, Teach One" and within two years LVR had 217 tutors and 230 students enrolled in the program. Over the years the organization grew in part to people like Doris Leve, Rose-Marie Klipstein, and Peter Giopulos; among others who had the courage and vision to continue to work towards Ruth's dream.

Over my 17 years of being with LVR as Executive Director, and from my start as a VISTA volunteer in 1986, my fondest memories will always be the people. The brave individuals who come for help with literacy, the dedicated volunteers and staff who worked so hard every day, and the countless friends and supporters in our community. These are all who have truly made LVR the organization that I will always remember.

As it is time for me to "Open a New Chapter", I ask you to think of the people that are working to overcome the many challenges of literacy every day and make a gift to LVR today! Your gift will help LVR continue to empower adults in Monroe County to be fully engaged members of their community.

With much gratitude,

Robert Mahar