



LitBits

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2012 LVR Brain Game raises over \$22,000

The annual LVR Brain Game was held on October 11, 2012 at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside with Harter Secret & Emery LLP named as 2012 champions. Fifteen teams from the legal, financial, business, and educational communities competed in a fast-paced trivia challenge. Emcees Rebecca Leclair and Rich Caniglia from the WHEC News Team helped make this a very fun evening.



Brain Game was a financial success, raising more than \$22,000 to support programs and services to assist low-literate adults. LVR support came from the competing teams and friends who attended, as well as from Gold Sponsor Harter Secret & Emery LLP and Bronze Sponsors ESL Federal

Credit Union, Martino Flynn, Nocon & Associates, and Tax & Investment Group.

Generous donations of raffle prizes by Wegmans, jetBlue, Rochester Red Wings, and Edward Hourihan, Jr., Esq., and of our first-ever live auction item, a New York City vacation package, donated by Nannette Nocon, garnered significant additional dollars to fund programs for our adult learners.

Harter Secret will be looking to defend its title at Brain Game 2013 to be held on October 10, 2013.

Brain Game Participants

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC
 Boylan Code LLP
 Brighton Securities
 ChamberlainD'Amanda
 D4, LLC
 Harris Beach PLLC
 Harter Secret & Emery LLP
 Insero & Company CPAs, C.P.
 Lacy Katzen LLP
 Nixon Peabody LLP
 Phillips Lytle LLP
 St. John Fisher College
 Thomson Reuters
 Underberg & Kessler LLP
 The Wolford Law Firm LLP



2012 Brain Game Champions Harter Secret & Emery LLP

Save The Dates 2013

March 2 LVR Student/Tutor
 Conference
June 12 LVR Awards Ceremony
October 10 2013 Brain Game

Director's Message: The Many Faces of LVR

Executive Director Bob Mahar



I'm often told by my colleagues from some rural Literacy Volunteers affiliates that they struggle to find adult learners for their program. Sometimes the issue is the embarrassment of asking for help in a small community where everyone knows you and sometimes it is the geography and lack of public transportation. They often ask – how do you recruit learners? And we respond, we answer the phone and unlock the door each morning.

Fall is traditionally a busy time for new learners – starting in late August the “back to school” wave begins and often continues until October. Then things quiet down until after the New Year, when both learners and volunteers are often motivated by New Year's resolutions and head our way. This fall has been a different story. While we continue to be challenged to get enough volunteers to meet the demand for incoming learners, we have seen that fall wave continue this year, even with the knowledge that we have a waiting list over 100 and up to a six-month wait for a tutor.

While we continue to see adult learners who have struggled with reading, writing, and English in their daily lives and come to us motivated by helping their children, improving their employment situation, or a desire to participate more fully in daily life activities (like Bible study, writing letters, or filling out forms), we are also seeing more people who are seeking to gain access to secondary education and training programs.

Due to low test scores, many adults are unable to qualify for entry into GED and training programs conducted by BOCES or the school districts. These folks need assistance one-to-one and in small groups to be able to get a few more questions correct on the math or reading portion of the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) to gain entry into these classes and access to a new world.

One learner who fit this profile came to us last year at BOCES. Having already received a high school diploma more than 20 years ago, her math scores prevented her from entering the Phlebotomy program. With the help of LVR staff and volunteers she improved her score and entered the class. She continued to get tutoring assistance to help her complete her Phlebotomy certification and she obtained employment.

This fall, in addition to our one to one tutor matches we have provided these “access” classes at BOCES 1 and 2, the Rochester Housing Authority, and here at LVR. These classes provide assistance to small groups (8-10 learners) with the support of LVR staff and volunteers. We continue to work hard to recruit and train volunteers to meet the demand for help utilizing the traditional one-to-one Literacy Volunteers model developed by Ruth Colvin more than 50 years ago, but will also adapt to current demands and resources to best meet the needs of our learners.

If you are a current tutor and would be able to help out with these classes in areas such as reading, math, or computers, please call the office and we can give you some more information about when and where you can help. If you are not currently a tutor and would like to volunteer, or know someone who may be interested, the first step is to attend one of our preview sessions, which includes information about several volunteer opportunities at LVR, including tutoring. Friends of LVR are always our strongest ambassadors as you know more than anyone about the work of LVR and the lives we touch. As you gather with friends and family during the holiday season, please encourage others to consider LVR as a place to volunteer their time. Thank you for your support during this past year and Happy New Year!

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Victory in Small Claims Court

Here's a story from an LVR learner that illustrates how all of us – including those in the LVR adult learning community – face challenges, including literacy challenges, in our daily lives.

LVR learners and tutors are working together every week to build skills and abilities to navigate these challenges.

By Lia Velez

My husband and I had problems with our old landlord. She wanted to keep our security deposit. She said that we had failed to notify her that we wanted to move to another place, which wasn't true. Therefore, we decide to put a complaint in Rochester City Court (small claims). We went there, and filled a form, and determined the date for the hearing. It was easy, it took us only 10 minutes. We needed to pay \$15 USD (filing fee).

A week after, we received notice of the hearing. We didn't need a lawyer and we could apply for an interpreter.

The day of the hearing we were waiting 45 minutes, then in front of the judge we could explain and proved that the landlord was notified about our move. It was 30 minutes more. One week after, we received a letter (award summary) with the verdict in our favor. Our old landlord should return to us the money for the security deposit and \$15 USD for filing fee.

LVR and Its Partners Provide Family Literacy Program

LVR has been a provider of adult literacy services for nearly 50 years. Part of our mission is to foster literacy in the Rochester community. As we work with adult learners, we often see the cycle of low-literacy in families and the impact that children can have on the goals of adult learners.

This fall, with support from the Davenport-Hatch Foundation Inc., the National Society Daughter's of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and the Irondequoit Chapter NSDAR, and in partnership with the Hillside Family of Agencies, LVR has been piloting a family literacy training series.

This program, led by LVR Program Coordinator Jennifer Eaton and supported by a team of volunteers, provided training and support to parents and caregivers to work with their pre-school and early elementary aged children on developing literacy and language skills.



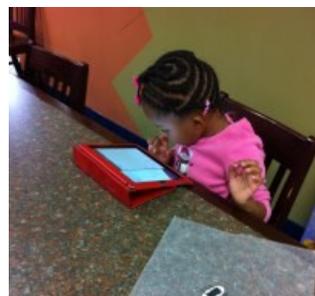
Participants with their literacy bags

This family literacy program, developed in conjunction with the Hillside Family of Agencies, Parent as Teachers program, has provided families with tools and techniques to infuse literacy activities into everyday work and play.

Program participants, with the help of Jennifer and her volunteer team, have utilized a variety of activities including puzzles, games, books, iPads, and everyday household items to engage children in developing literacy skills.

Each week families brought home literacy bags, donated by Thomson Reuters, filled with practical learning materials to practice skills and activities. This fall session served seven families which included 14 children.

LVR will be scheduling another series this spring.



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Happy New Year!

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY...FOR YOU

As you think about giving opportunities or update your estate planning documents, please consider a charitable bequest or other planned gift to support LVR's adult learning programs. Your generosity will enable your legacy to live on in perpetuity and benefit the future literacy needs of Rochester area adults.

Your financial professionals can assist you with making such plans. If you need additional information about LVR, its programs, or giving opportunities, please contact our offices at 585-473-3030.



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