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FY13 Adult Volunteer Literacy tutoring sites

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April 6-12 — National Volunteer Week, www.pointsoflight.org (click Events)
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Recognize volunteers during National Volunteer Week in April

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This spring, I encourage you to use National Volunteer Week, April 6-12, as an opportunity to recognize the volunteer tutors in your program. The contributions our dedicated volunteer tutors make in changing the lives of adult learners is vital to the success of our Adult Volunteer Literacy program. In this issue, you will read of one such volunteer tutor from the Dominican Literacy Center, Chicago, who has made a lasting impression on her student. Let’s let all of our tutors know how much we appreciate them during this special week of recognition.

I thank each of you for your extraordinary commitment to improving the lives of Illinois citizens through literacy services. In FY13, there were 1,138 tutoring sites across the state that provided one-on-one tutoring. While the work we are accomplishing is outstanding, the need continues to grow. Keep up the excellent work!

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Professional development opportunities are available throughout the state.

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Secretary of State Jesse White joined Dennis DeRossett of the Illinois Press Association in presenting volunteer tutor Cheryl Stolz with a 2013 Spotlight on Service Award last May.

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South Suburban College, South Holland — Two local authors spoke about their experiences as published authors and read excerpts from their books. Reader scripts were used with the children to promote reading as a group and to show that reading can be fun.

Township High School, Dist. #214 Community Education, Arlington Heights — Rotary Club members read to the children in both large and small groups and helped with literacy activities. Parents helped their children stuff a bear pillow pal and then read together with their newly created reading buddies.

West Chicago Public Library District, Chicago — Costumed characters including Pet the Cat, Olivia and Fancy Nancy read stories to the group. Character-themed crafts to go along with the stories were available.

Celebrating passing the U.S. Citizenship test are (left to right) volunteer tutor Lenore Hrejsa, adult learner Yuritzi Moreno, and Sr. Jane Ann Bodman from the Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora.

Volunteer tutor helps adult learner read, earn citizenship

Yuritzi Moreno joined the Dominican Literacy Center three years ago and was matched with volunteer tutor Lenore Hrejsa. Yuritzi was a young mother of four children all under age 6 and worked full time outside the home at a factory. Lenore taught Yuritzi English, supported her throughout all her ups and downs and worked with her on preparing for the U.S. Citizenship test. On the day of the test, Lenore accompanied Yuritzi to the federal building in downtown Chicago and helped her celebrate when she passed the test on her first try!

During her time at Dominican Literacy Center, Yuritzi got a new job at a school where everyone spoke English, had another baby and became a new U.S. citizen. On her last day of tutoring, Yuritzi had many happy and sad tears. Her time at the Center was over but her life had taken many new and positive turns. In her speech, Yuritzi said she will always remember the very important part that her tutor, Lenore, played in her life. Without her tutor’s help, she would not have gotten to where she is today.

According to the American Community Survey 2008–12 five-year estimates, Illinois has a 1,768,305 foreign-born population. Of those, 54.6 percent are not U.S. citizens.

The Secretary of State’s office funds 76 Adult Volunteer Literacy programs and 37 Penny Severns Family Literacy programs that offer English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. To find an ESL program, check the Secretary of State Literacy Effort booklet or call the Illinois Adult Learning Hotline at 1-800-321-9511. A good resource for literacy programs is the Civics and Citizenship Toolkit offered through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
**2013 Family Reading Night ★ 2013 Family Reading Night ★ 2013 Family Reading Night ★ 2013 Family Reading Night**

Libraries, literacy programs and schools throughout the state celebrated Family Reading Night last November with the theme, “Read Across Illinois.” Family Reading Night is celebrated annually the third Thursday in November. The Secretary of State’s office, the Illinois Center for the Book and the Illinois Reading Council’s Illinois Reads initiative collaborated to promote Family Reading Night. Following are highlights from the 2013 Family Reading Night events. The 2014 Family Reading Night celebration will be Thursday, November 20. For materials including posters and bookmarks, please complete the form at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/cm.html.

**Asian Human Services, Chicago** — Families read books from the “Illinois Reads” website and then created finger-paint images of the favorite parts of their books.

**Instituto del Progreso Latino, Chicago** — A pajama party featured reading together, playing games and completing projects based on Spanish/English poems. Each family received a book and tickets to Brookfield Zoo.

**Black Hawk College, Moline** — Graduate students from an occupational therapy class collected books to read to families and also played guitars and sang songs together. A variety of foods were made so the families could try foods from different cultures. Each child received a book to take home.

**Albany Park Community Center, Chicago** — Parents and children joined teachers, volunteers and the Mayfair Branch librarian for three sessions of stories, rhymes, singing and movement. Each child enjoyed reading and sharing a free book with their family.

**Fishes & Loaves Outreach, Springfield** — Participants were encouraged to wear pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal for family reading time. The Springfield High School cheerleaders performed a R-E-A-D cheer with audience participation, and guest performers provided entertainment and story time.

**Aquinas Literacy Center, Chicago** — A night of fun and games included Scrabble, Boggle, Bananagrams and Uno. A storyteller read The Popcorn Book and popped popcorn for participants.

**Frontier Community College, Fairfield** — Four stations were set up representing different areas of the state: Cahokia Mounds, Chicago, Metropolis and Springfield. Each station had crafts and activities plus food to represent that location. Activities included making baseballs out of paper plates and yarn, dream catchers, headdresses, Abe Lincoln hats and Superman necklaces.

**Howard Area Community Center, Chicago** — Participants read books relating to agriculture in Illinois. Stations highlighted what grows in Illinois and included tasting fruits from Illinois farmers, making a recipe using a key Illinois crop, and making a collage of Illinois foods.

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Illinois Literacy is a publication of the Secretary of State, Illinois State Library Literacy Office.

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian

Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library

Cyndy Colletti, Program Manager, Literacy Office

Produced by the Communications Department.

To subscribe to Illinois Literacy, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576 (Illinois only), #3.

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