

Best Buddies



Mario says his family is secure and happy here in North Port, and he doesn't have the routine worries he experienced in his home country. Marisabel works as a nursing assistant and hopes to go back to school to study nursing.

Their boys, Santiago and Sebastian, are both doing well in school and have a good command of English. At home everyone speaks Spanish because these parents want their children to be completely bi-lingual.

Our tutors often hear from students that they are very surprised to find so many Americans eager to help them get settled and learn the language. Mario Rodriguez is no exception. Since he came to Florida from Venezuela, his tutor, Sid Shrauger, has been there for him. They appear to be best buddies, so pleased with each other's company. Since 2015, Sid has been teaching English to Mario and introducing him to American culture. Job well done, Sid! Mario speaks very well, has good pronunciation, proper sentence structure, the ability to describe the abstract, and a great vocabulary. Just 3 years ago, he spoke only Spanish.

Mario and his wife decided to settle here after he had visited his sister who immigrated to the U.S. When he and his wife completed studies in Venezuela, Mario worked as a marketing manager for Pepsi and his wife worked in banking. They always imagined living in the U.S., where they saw real opportunities.

When he first arrived, speaking no English, Mario worked in landscaping, then golf course maintenance, Goodwill, Publix, and for the Sarasota School Board doing maintenance. He advanced in his work as his English improved. Mario now works at a Walmart distribution center, and he gives that company high marks for his job and benefits. He claims that anyone can find success in the U.S. if they want it and work for it. One day he will go back to school to improve his chances of getting a solid professional job. He and Marisabel must take turns getting more education, but both are determined to do it.

The little spare time Mario has, he spends with his family. They especially love the holidays we celebrate. The 4th of July is a favorite. Mario is impressed by the patriotism he sees in the U.S. He truly appreciates the fact that we can argue and disagree openly about our government without repercussions.

When asked about his tutor Sid, Mario said he is a blessing to his whole family. And it appears that Sid feels the same about Mario.

President's Corner

Fall has arrived in Florida and Literacy Volunteers is ready to continue working with our students. Many of our tutors (and students) are arriving back in the area to resume their tutoring and classes. We have many new projects and events planned for this year and hope you will participate as often as you can.

Our new **"Start Now! North Port"** project has begun, and we are excited to be moving into a new office space that will offer us possibilities for more programs and tutoring opportunities.

Please consider volunteering in other areas beyond tutoring. We have many possibilities where you can donate your creative talents. Don't wait to be asked – join us today in our important work. Thanks to all of you who have supported our organization. Now let's "get to work" for the 2017-2018 fiscal year!

-- Jan Gallas



For the past 35 years, Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County has been offering free one-on-one tutoring to any adult who needs help with their English skills. Unfortunately, many residents do not know what we do in the South County community. That is exactly why we have created a Speakers Bureau. We provide an informative presentation to community organizations about the volunteer work and value we offer to those who need help learning and improving their English.

A group can be a club, church, or any community of people. Esther Bird, who coordinates this program, schedules one of our trained members to make the presentations. We hope that when listeners learn about the work we do and the value it adds to people's lives, they will want to get involved in serving the community.

You can reach Esther at 941-497-5302 or email estherbird2@aol.com.



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

Tutor Luncheon

Please join us for a Free Tutor Luncheon
Date: Friday, December 15th
Time: 12:00 noon

at Venice Area Beautification, Inc
257 North Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34285

Hosted by Esther Bird
Seating is limited. Reserve your spot now.
Reservations required.

Please reserve by December 12th to Sharon Betterton
By email: venice.literacy@gmail.com
By phone: 941-861-1352



New!

LVSSC Project in North Port

Start Now! North Port is modeled after an award-winning program of an adult literacy organization in Nashville, TN that faces a challenge similar to ours. With a growing student waiting list for a limited number of one-on-one tutors, adult students would typically wait for months before being matched with a tutor. Our mission is to provide waiting students with short lessons to begin the learning process. We also familiarize these students with our organization and give them the skills and confidence to persist in working toward their goals.

The **Start Now!** tutoring model is different from that of permanent tutors. Our staff prepares all lesson plans and materials for each 1-hour tutoring session. Tutors volunteer as often as they wish. This gives them freedom to travel, host guests, or engage in other activities without worrying about missing lessons. They meet with a variety of students of different levels and give us a follow-up report of what is accomplished in each lesson.

Start Now! North Port began taking students in June 2017 with a small test group of 2-3 students and tutors.

We initially worked exclusively out of NP Library. However, in July we were able to lease a small office at North Port Family

Service Center, and we now include that space as an option for tutoring students. In November 2017, we moved into a larger space in the Family Service Center, which allows us to hold additional classes and reach out to more students. We are raising funds to create a computer/language lab for this new space and provide more learning options for our students.

In August, our LVSSC Level 0 teachers came forward to report that their classes had progressed past the point of being a “true” Level 0. It was suggested that incoming students at Level 0 begin with a Start Now! tutor to help them learn enough English so they would also be able to fully participate in current Level 0 classes.

We now have seven tutors volunteering for Start Now!

While we were sad to see them go, we are happy to report two of our SN! students were matched with permanent tutors and left our program. We are currently interviewing more students to fill their places.

The number of Start Now! tutors and adult learners will change from month to month, but we are certain that more students will be learning while they wait to be matched with a permanent tutor.

Monthly Volunteer Hours Reports

Please make it a habit to report your volunteer hours at the end of each month using the link emailed to you by a Coordinator or by going to LVSSC’s web site:

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

Two for One

For several years members of LVSSC have had the pleasure of working with Nancy Pike. She has served in many positions on the Board of Directors and has been instrumental in the success of all our fund-raising activities. She is originally from Wisconsin where she studied and worked as a librarian.

Nancy's arrival in Venice was a truly noteworthy event. She is an avid sailor and actually sailed to Venice in 1985 with her husband, tied her boat to a dock, explored the possibilities and the rest is history. Nancy worked for the Sarasota County Library System as a public services librarian, a branch manager and lastly as the Director of Sarasota County Library System. She retired in 2006 and has volunteered for Literacy Volunteers ever since.

When our group began to explore ways to address our student waiting list in North Port, President Jan Gallas provided the leadership we needed to embark on the Start Now! North Port project. That program now provides students with many more tutoring opportunities. Jan led a search for a Start Now project manager and found that Kim Pike was interest-



ed. Yes, another Pike; Nancy's daughter. Kim was the most qualified candidate with a rich background in teaching English to adults and in coordination of ESL programs. Kim has set up shop at Family Service Center at 6919 Outreach Way, B111 in North Port and provides support for the many tutors who come in to teach English. Kim is very approachable, supportive and has just the skills and experience we need.

Kim and Nancy are a dynamic duo who make us all proud and happy to have them both on the team.

Scrabble for Language Learners



ESL students Svitlana, Grazyna, and Angelika play Scrabble between Adult Literacy classes at North Port Library.

Welcome New Board Member - Dr. Jim Patterson



Dr. Jim Patterson, a native of Maine, permanently relocated to Florida in 2011 after four years as a snowbird.

Jim's professional background includes heading a community college and a branch campus of Maine's land grant University in Orono.

Previous background includes stints as a public school teacher and principal, and he was the founding Superintendent of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. He has taught students at every level from middle school to high school Gifted and Talented students, as well as teaching Leadership Skills to University MBA students and engineers.

Additionally, he has served as a CEO of a welding and metal fabrication company and as the principle of Patterson Associates, Inc., a management consulting practice.

Dr. Patterson has served as a board member and officer for dozens of organizations including Maine Science and Technology Commission, Maine's Veterans Services Commission, the United Way of Aroostook, Waldo County General Hospital, Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development, and others.

He has been honored by the Maine Legislature, the National Science Foundation, is a lifetime Trustee for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics and most recently had a bequest of \$1 million dollars given to UMaine in honor of his work on the new campus in coastal Maine.

Welcome New Board Member - Svitlana Cherkashyna

Svitlana Cherkashvna is our first student representative to the Board of Directors in many years. She tried for a very long time to develop a command of English.

Svitlana was raised in a part of Russia where English was taught in school, but there was no way to practice, no opportunity to speak, hear, or read the language. There were no books or magazines, and all movies were translated into Russian. When she migrated to New York, she spent fourteen years taking group classes in ESL but never achieved proficiency.

After relocating to North Port and contacting LVSSC, Svitlana is finally reaching her goal of speaking good English and being able to read her favorite books about nature and mysteries. All she needed was a tutor who could identify her specific learning needs. Svitlana says "hooray" for LVSSC.



Welcome New Board Member - Debi Hoefler



Debi is a retired Director of Customer Education at Teradata Corporation. She has 40 years of experience in the technology industry, including extensive experience teaching adults. She was an advanced placement English student who also studied Computer Science, Mathematics, and Accounting.

Debi currently teaches ESL in North Port and is an integral member of the team that is converting the database to the new LACES system.

Welcome New Board Member - Don Moore

Don Moore studied for his BS in Physical Therapy at the University of Buffalo, followed by an MA in Education at the University of South Florida.

He has worked as a Physical Therapist for 41 years. In addition, he volunteers as a YMCA coach and with Boy Scouts and Laurel Civic Center. He has been a member of various school committees and has been with Rotary since 2003, both as an officer and board member. Don has volunteered with LVSSC since 2006, and with the Language Arts program at Venice High School.



Welcome New Board Member - Fran Valencic



Fran Valencic works as social columnist for the Venice Gondolier Sun. Her work gives her the opportunity to meet people active in service to the community and identify the generous spirit that prevails. She is well known to most social and service groups and attends all the events that can be fit into her busy schedule.

Fran has lived in Venice for 38 years, having come from Cleveland, Ohio. She is a retired elementary school teacher. Fran is a life history writer. It is Fran's interest in people, her experience in teaching, and her knowledge of the Venice-North Port communities and their needs for LVSSC services that makes her participation on the Board so valued and appreciated.

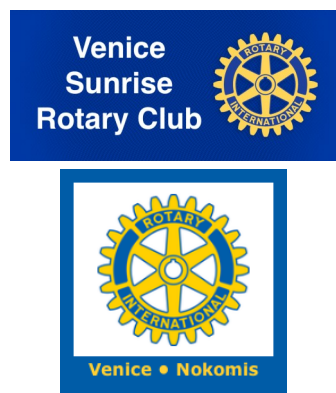
Another Student Success Story - We'd Like to Print Yours !



I want to pass along to you the news that my former student, Larysa Aheyeva, started medical school at the beginning of August.

George and I made a trip to New Jersey and Long Island to visit various family and friends, and we met up with her and took her to dinner. She is doing well and is so incredibly happy. It was wonderful to see her. We continue to keep in touch with each other.

-- Kathy Adamczyk



Two Rotary Clubs Support Literacy Volunteers

Over the years LVSSC has struggled with a home-grown database system, which was not truly multi-user. Now, through generous Rotary Matching Grants from the two Venice Rotary clubs, we have begun the conversion to a fully integrated database known as LACES, a product of LiteracyPro Systems. The new system, which we hope to have up and running in November, will allow our Coordinators quicker access to more accurate information thus improving the services we offer to our students.

Plantation Community Foundation - a long-time supporter



Claudia Daniels, LVSSC Grant Writer and Board Member, accepted a \$1,300 award to purchase two laptop computers and a printer for the Start Now! North Port office.

Literacy Volunteers' Value to Our Communities

Below are some facts worth remembering when deciding which organizations to support. With our budget of less than \$60,000 per year, we are able to provide services to adults who need to learn or improve their English.

The estimated value of the volunteer hours was \$444,000 in our last fiscal year. Below is the breakdown. LVSSC provided:

11,290 Instructional Hours to Adult Learners in reading, writing, and speaking English

9,712 Non-Instructional Volunteer Hours in preparation, interviewing, and management

The true value is far greater when you consider the job opportunities our students find once they have some command of the language.

Dollar Value based on Bureau of Labor Statistics
Florida Occupational Wage Estimates 2016

North Port Newcomer Day



On Saturday November 4, new Board member Debi Hoefler and Kim Pike, Project Manager of Start Now! North Port, represented LVSSC at North Port Newcomer Day in the George Mullen Activity Center in North Port. The largest crowd ever attended this expo-like event at which more than 80 community organizations, government agencies, and local businesses provided information for those new to the city or anyone who wanted to learn more about the North Port community.

Tutor Training for New Volunteers - Please tell your friends!

Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 12: **2-day tutor training at Jacaranda Library, Venice**
Reserve for Venice sessions by contacting Sharon Betterton at venice.literacy@gmail.com
or 941-861-1352.

Saturdays, Jan. 20 and 27: **2-day tutor training at North Port Library, North Port**
Reserve for North Port sessions by contacting Karen Bridegam at north.port.literacy@gmail.com
or 941-861-1320.

Welcome New Tutors

THANK YOU to these volunteers who will be making a difference in lives of adults who want to learn English or improve their reading skills.

On June 9 and 16, these volunteers were trained by Esther Bird at the North Port Library.



Front: Debi Hoefler, Jane Rohrer, and Paula DelColle
Middle: Bonnie Smetts, Lee Miller, Gloria Cosgrove, Barbara Veech, and Melissa Wall.
Back: Emily McNamee, Peter Norrman, Tony Turlenko, Alison Tanner, and Lauren Hubbard

On September 22 and 29, Esther trained these volunteers at the North Port Library.



Front: Kirstin Ritter, Sally Horning, Denise Gastineau, and Diane Wozniak.
Back: Mark MacConnell, Rose Deidrick, George DeFranca, Jon Beebe, and Paula Dulski.
Ron Scala is not in this photo, but he completed the training.

Contributors, Thank You for Your Financial Support!

July 2016 - June 2017

Over \$5,000

Dollar General Literacy Foundation
United Way of South Sarasota Co.

\$1,000-\$4,999

Esther Bird
Janet Gallas
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Heron Creek Community Foundation
Plantation Community Foundation
Arline Smyth Quinn Charitable Foundation
Women's Sertoma Club of Venice

\$500-\$999

Robin Blair
Elizabeth Bruckman
Kathleen Cellura Fund at CFS
George & Lorraine Cooper
Lindy Smith
Venice Nokomis Rotary Club
Venice Yacht Club Charitable Foundation
Women of the Moose, Venice Chapter

\$100-\$499

Irma Arroyo
Sharon & Greg Betterton
Carol Bischoff
Betty Black
George Carpenter
Carolyn Conte
Anne Currin
Troy & Mary Ann Dillahunty

\$100-\$499 Continued

Beth Ferris
Barbara & Dennis Gahry
April Green
Anne Hollenbeck
Mary Juday
Frank & Margaret Kaprive
King's Gate Round Table, Nokomis
Judith Lindauer
Marina Lvovsky
June Lynch
Molly Mains
Carl McIntyre
Chuck & Sandy McIntyre
Don & Elaine Moore
Nancy Nasser
Kathleen Page
James Patterson
Nancy & David Pike
Judith McGinty & Joe Pokorney
Lavonne Radonovich
Sid and Carolyn Shrauger
Karen Sornberger
Southwest Co. Alliance of HOAs
Pat Swindler
Sally & Eric Vihlen
Susan & Donald Volk
Jean West-Walker
Sharon Williams
Janita Wisch
Judy Wolf
Margaret & John Woods III

\$100-\$499 Continued

Leslie and Rick Yard
Marie & Cary Zolot

\$40 - \$99

George & Kathy Adamczyk
Loula Carroll
Ernest & Suzana Coleman
Richard Coleman
Olga Delorey
Michael Dishnow
Friends of the Venice Public Library
Paula Gray
Tom Harlow
Roberta Ingrassia
Nanci Korman
Hubert Laubis
Jean Madden
Gloria Majerus
Sheila McClintock-Fraser
John Nugent
PEO Chapter GU
Kimberly Pike
Beverly Pressly
Barbara Rubin
Rebecca Senoglu
Mary Seyler
Jo Ellen Silberstein
Jean Smuckler
Minerva Vasquez-Farmer
Susan White
Deborah Winsor

Thank you, too, to everyone who made membership contributions and donations to the United Way Walk-a-Thons in Venice and North Port to benefit Literacy Volunteers.

Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

for the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Unrestricted Revenue & Expense

Revenue:

United Way of South Sarasota County	\$	7,000
Memberships & Other Contributions		13,061
Fundraising Events		20,329
Total Unrestricted Revenue		<u>40,390</u>

Use of the facilities of the Sarasota County Libraries in Venice and North Port
and the skilled services provided by our wonderful volunteers **PRICELESS!**

Expenses:

Wages and Payroll Taxes	\$	21,736
Training Materials		1,141
Office Expenses incl. Telephone/Internet and Moving costs		2,707
3-year Copier Maintenance and Copies		2,220
Printing, publications, and postage		964
Directors & Officers Insurance		775
Equipment purchases and repairs		458
Florida Literacy Coalition Conference		649
Community Outreach and Recruitment		503
Annual Meeting and Tutor Appreciation Luncheon		452
National, State, and Local Memberships		449
Florida State Nonprofit Corporation registrations		145
Total Unrestricted Expenses	\$	<u>32,199</u>

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 8,191

Changes in Net Assets

Temporarily Restricted Grants received in 2016-2017	\$	19,250
Training Material Expense		(3,533)
StartNow!North Port Wages and Payroll Tax (new)		(2,148)
Copier and cart for Englewood Library tutors		(265)
Office Expense - Lanyards for tutor Name Tags		(139)
Balances Released from Restriction		(46)
Change in Restricted Net Assets		<u>13,120</u>
Restricted Net Assets - beginning of the year		<u>2,000</u>
Restricted Net Assets - end of the year	\$	<u>15,120</u>

Sandy McIntyre, Treasurer

**Literacy Volunteers
of South Sarasota County**
260 N. Nokomis Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

Literacy Changes Lives



FIRST CLASS

Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

www.LiteracyChangesLives.org

Mailing Address and Venice Literacy Office:
260 N. Nokomis Ave.
Venice, FL 34285 Phone: 941-861-1352
venice.literacy@gmail.com

North Port Literacy Office, 13800 S. Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287 Phone: 941-861-1320
north.port.literacy@gmail.com

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Vice Pres..... Joe Pokorney
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Sharon Betterton, Venice
Karen Bridegam, North Port

Start Now! North Port

Kim Pike

Tutor Trainers

Esther Bird, Venice
Lavonne Radonovich, North Port

Newsletter

Judith McGinty, Editor
Sandy McIntyre, Layout

Yes, we will mail printed copies to members who do not have an e-mail address or who request paper copies.



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