

# Literacy Volunteers of Coconino County

## LVCC Reader

LVCCReads.org

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2006 - 2007

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**Jordan Ripley**

AmeriCorps Member

### Volunteer Highlight

Jordan Ripley, LVCC's AmeriCorps volunteer, has been an unequaled asset to LVCC over the past year. She has performed duties above and beyond, including communicating effec-



Jordan with LVCC's International Literacy Day sign on Sept. 8th.

tively with LVCC learners and tutors, organizing events, teaching classes, creating materials and much, much more within the day to day operations of the organization. She will be sorely missed. Anyone who meets Jordan will remember her sweet demeanor.

Jordan will be heading off to Central America with her husband following the holidays, and the Peace Corps will be fortunate to have her as a volunteer.

At the Volunteer Appreciation breakfast on Saturday December 2nd, Jordan was recognized as "Magnificent Moonlighter" because

"Jazzy Jordan hits all the right notes across the LVCC scale." Thank you Jordan for all of your hard work and the good-natured way you have completed it!

At the breakfast, LVCC announced several more award-winning volunteers.

The awards went to...

*Carolyn Hazen*: "Group Leader Extraordinaire" for "daring to take on a group and inspiring others to do the same."

*Valerie Schantz*: "Valiant Volunteer" for "taking on learners at both ends of the spectrum and reporting like clockwork."

*Holly Taylor*: "A Fearless Leader" for "all the guidance and support given to LVCC over the past 6 years."

We also recognized tutors who have given their time and skills for more than five years. Those with five years of volunteering service include: *Chuck Avery, Tom Giesemann, Ted Tonkinson* and *Marjorie Withrow*. Tutors with six years of service include *Harriet Brown, Margie Erhart* and *Jean Hockman*. Finally, *Joyce Browning* has completed ten years of volunteer service and our very own *Laura Bohland* has completed eleven years.

Congratulations recipients and thank you again to all volunteers for your contributions to Literacy Volunteers and the community of Flagstaff.

### Farewell LVCC

I would like to say thank you to the tutors, learners, Ann, Laura, Carrie and Rachel for a great year at LVCC. I am ending my AmeriCorps term with LVCC in December and I am grateful for the opportunities I have had while serving here.

One of the best parts of being at LVCC has been to personally meet learners in both the drop-in English classes and during learner intakes and reassessments. I find learners' motivation and willingness to enrich their lives through learning a new language very inspiring.

I have enjoyed working with my learner in our one-to-one tutoring sessions. She is a lot of fun to work with and I feel like we are always laughing during the sessions—either at funny mistakes

or my attempts to be an artist or actress. I will miss working with her, and I have found the tutoring experience to be very rewarding.

When I began in January, I kept hearing the phrase "life-long learning." The learners I have met have impressed upon me the meaning of this phrase. I hope to carry the same spirit of life-long learning with me wherever I may go.

In anyplace I move to, I will look for local adult education programs in my community and learn how to support them. I may not have my future planned out, but the people I have met and the experiences I have had at LVCC will definitely shape my outlook and values. Thank you!

—Jordan Ripley

### VOLUNTEERS

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead

## What I Am Thankful For...

*Francisco:*

- My work
- My health
- My friends
- My family
- God

*Manuel:*

- My tutor
- My friends
- Having plenty of food
- Snow in Flagstaff
- Mike and Rhonda's and Denny's in the mornings

*Maryory:*

- My health
- My family in Venezuela
- My new friends in the US
- My husband
- My classes

## Tutor Tip

An idea for increasing vocabulary as well as creating a comfortable and caring environment is to have a virtual "Gift Exchange."\* First, discuss what customary gifts are given on holidays. Then, write notes back and forth with your learner using the following formats:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
I would like to give you \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Yours,  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,  
Thanks so much for \_\_\_\_\_. It was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sincerely,  
\_\_\_\_\_

This can be an ongoing activity between a tutor and his or her learner. It is a great deal of fun and involves more critical thinking than one might imagine! (Of course there is no need for actual gifts in this activity!)\*  
\*Idea from Laurel Pollard and Natalie Hess's *Zero Prep*, 1997.

## Save the Date!

- Dec. 21- Jan. 3** **LVCC Closure.** LVCC will be closed from December 21 until January 3 for the holidays. Have a warm and cozy holiday season!
- Jan. 18** **Best Practices: Tutor Panel Workshop** at 6 pm at the office. Several of our experienced tutors will be here to share their best practices and answer questions that you have about tutoring. This is an excellent opportunity for tutors to talk to experienced tutors and gain ideas.
- Jan. 21** Please send your well wishes to Laura Bohland, LVCC's Program Manager, who will be out of the office for several weeks following a hip-replacement surgery.
- Jan. 20, 25** **New Tutor Orientation.** LVCC is in need of tutors, so please inform those you know who may be interested of these informational meetings. Orientation will be held at the East Branch library on Saturday the 20th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and the Main library on Thursday the 25th from 6 to 8 pm.
- Feb. 4, 11** **New Tutor Training.** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at LVCC.
- Feb. 27** **Tutor Workshop: How to Prepare Your Learner for Coconino Community College** at 6 pm at the office. This workshop will be given by Coconino Community College's Assistant Director of Learning Enhancement Services and Adult Education, Sarah Jasper Noreen. Sarah will discuss her advanced ESL class at CCC that is designed to prepare students for college-level work.
- Mar. TBA** **Tutor Workshop: Building Vocabulary and Spelling,** given by NAU Linguistics PhD student Lindsey Hillyard. Come learn strategies to help enhance your learner's word-building skills in speaking, reading and writing.

## Tutor Stories to Share

...R.B. continues to show great enthusiasm for learning to read. He works hard during the sessions and reviews material that we have covered during the week after the session. When we first started, his reading skills were very minimal. He has progressed a great deal over the months we have been together. We are still using the "Reading Reflex" program material and are about halfway through it. There are 29 word sounds lists in the program and we are currently on number 14. At each session we drill the new words, then read a new story based on those words.

I now write each of the stories that we use. They are usually one page long and I try to keep them interesting and relevant. At each session, we start by his reading the story from last week, which he has usually reviewed during the week. He works hard at this and is very pleased with himself when he shows improvement. After he finishes this second reading, I quiz him on what he has read. He is usually about 85% correct on the reading and maybe 75% okay on comprehension. After reviewing the story, we go over the new word list and then read the new story. If he has difficulty on a paragraph I have him reread it and he usually has it right the second time.

About two months ago I realized that with his lack of formal education and almost no reading skills, he has a very limited life experience. So I am trying to craft the stories to help him with that... ✨  
—Bud Swanson

D.R. is a joy to work with. She laughs a lot, especially at her own mistakes. One time she said to her son, "I love you too much," and asked me if that was correct. When I told her what she had said, she laughed and laughed. ✨  
—Sue Ordway

E.G. and S.H. are planning to start a new business installing carpeting, flooring and tiles. Their two sons are getting college educations as well as working. Their cleaning business is

successful. This has been a wonderful experience working with these good, interesting, hard-working people. ✨  
—Betty (and Rick) Smith

... Stephanie's mother C.A. and I have been working together since January. This is the second birthday party I've been to, and I hope there will be more. Two days a week we work at her home, while her three kids run in and out. I see them bringing home English from school, becoming fluent, and I know in the end they'll be the ones to teach their mom this new language. I'll start her off, but they'll keep her up-to-date. The other day Rolando taught her the word "gross," and I notice how she uses, with complete accuracy, even down to the shrug of the shoulders, the word "whatever." These are not part of our lessons, but they're part of the atmosphere of learning I bring to the house. English is fun, English is an adventure, English is useful, and in this country it gives power to those who speak it. At the birthday party, it was not by accident that we sang "Happy Birthday" in English. I was the one who asked to sing it in Spanish too. Learning never goes in one direction, after all. I can now say, comfortably, in C.A.'s language, "Gracias por todo. Me tengo que ir. Hasta mañana." ✨  
—Margie Erhart

N.B. and I have mostly been working on language for her workplace. She is a housekeeper in a hotel and her goal is to communicate with her supervisor and hotel guests. She often shares stories of being able to better understand English speakers in her workplace. One such accomplishment occurred when a hotel guest accidentally left a cell phone charger in his room. The guest first spoke to my learner's co-worker. The co-worker went to get her to help understand what the guest needed. N.B. was able to understand and speak with the guest until she figured out what he was asking for. ✨  
—Jordan Ripley

## To Our Volunteers by Lisa Ellinwood

**V** is for the *Very special people* that you are  
**O** is for the *Overwhelming support & compassion* you offer others during their time of need  
**L** is for the *Little things you do* that make such a difference in someone's life  
**U** is for the *Unspoken words* that sometimes mean just as much  
**N** is for the *Need you fill* when others aren't able  
**T** is for the *Time you give* of yourselves on top of your own busy schedules  
**E** is for the *Emotional support* you continually give  
**E** is also for the *Endless energy* you all seem to possess  
**R** is for the *Responsibility* you have taken on & never once complained  
**S** is for the *Smiles you bring* to learners & families by just being you

## REMAX Peak Properties Is Literacy Partner

Did you know that ReMax Peak Properties selected LVCC for sponsorship in 2006? First, they sponsored two teams in LVCC's 2006 Mountain Spelling Bee in May. One of the teams won third place and another won the Spirit Award! More recently, in addition to generous cash donations, ReMax Peak Properties and Pioneer Title Agency have teamed up to provide "literacy kits" for LVCC's learners.

The kit comes in a canvas tote imprinted with the slogan, "Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader." Each kit will include study items such as pencils, a notebook, index cards, erasers, highlighters, and a sharpener.

*THANKS REMAX AND PIONEER TITLE!*



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"Literacy is the bridge  
from misery to hope."  
-Kofi Annan, US Secretary  
General

Literacy Volunteers are the  
stones, concrete, steel,  
aluminum and timber of  
those bridges.

*Changing lives  
through literacy*

## Thank you LVCC Supporters!

LVCC would like to thank all of our supporters. We appreciate all of our tutors, board members, friends, Polar Express volunteers and those who contributed to the Direct Mail campaign. LVCC and its programs depend on your generous support!

LVCC would also like to recognize the following organizations who have supported LVCC in the last year:

- Arizona Community Foundation
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing Mesa
- Flagstaff Community Foundation
- Forest Highlands Foundation
- GeoFund
- Grand Canyon Railway
- Northern Arizona Book Festival
- Pioneer Title Agency
- Raymond Educational Foundation of Flagstaff
- ReMax Peak Properties
- Thomas H. Maren Foundation
- United Way of Northern Arizona
- Wal-Mart Foundation