

*Reprinted with permission from **Bangor Daily News**, Bangor, Maine, June 17, 2010. Copyright ©2010 Bangor Publishing Co.*

## **Reading Required**

Moving up the socioeconomic ladder in life requires reading skills.

Recent years have seen the number of young adults who are high school dropouts increase at Literacy Volunteers of Bangor as they discover that a high school diploma is necessary for any hope of a decent job.

When their “crisis” moment happens, LV-B is there to help some receive their GED certificates and help others to read and understand.

However, when I read in the May 20 BDN editorial, “Poverty of Reading Skills,” that two-thirds of our nation’s fourth-graders are not proficient in reading, it took my breath away on where our nation’s future may be headed.

As a financially bare-bones organization, we welcome anyone who is interested in teaching an adult to read. No teaching experience needed, just the desire to help a neighbor attain skills that may take them to the next rung on the socioeconomic ladder. Please consider becoming a volunteer literacy tutor. Call 947-8451.

**Terri Wlodarski, LV-B board member**

*Orono*