



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Literacy Volunteers of Bangor
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Literacy Volunteers of Maine Brings Photo Exhibit to the Bangor Mall for the Next Month

Bangor – Literacy Volunteers of Maine in cooperation with Literacy Volunteers of Bangor (LV-Bangor) is bringing a landmark photography exhibit **FACES OF LITERACY: VOICES OF COURAGE** to the Bangor Mall this summer. The exhibit is on public view July 26 – August 27 at the former B. Dalton bookstore in the JC Penney wing, weekdays from 10 am to 9 pm and Sundays 11 am to 6 pm. A reception which will profile LV-Bangor students and volunteers is planned for **Wednesday, August 4th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** **and the public is invited to attend.**

The Bangor Mall (a Kravco/Simon Property) is the lead sponsor for the exhibit. Businesswoman Christine Chou is the owner of two Chinese restaurants in Bangor and Orono and is the other sponsor. Christine's involvement with LV-Bangor started six years ago as an LV-Bangor tutor. She wanted to tutor her Chinese cooks in English so they could communicate with her English-speaking wait staff. Then, in an interesting twist, she became a student. The result of that switch was her first book, *A Chinese Woman's Thoughts on American Culture* which Christine self-published. In a classic example of "giving back," Christine has donated \$1,500 to LV-Bangor from her book proceeds and has pledged future support from its sales.

The exhibits 20 black-and-white portraits depict 41 adults from varied backgrounds who came together as learners and tutors in the Maine Literacy Volunteers Network to attain great achievements. These men and women encourage others to gain the life-changing opportunities literacy opens, such as: owning a small business, securing better employment, becoming an American citizen, advancing to higher education, or advocating for one's family. Moving stories and personal testimonials accompany the powerful images.

Organized by Literacy Volunteers of Maine (LV Maine) the **FACES OF LITERACY: VOICES OF COURAGE** touring exhibit demonstrates that solutions are available to help the 200,000 Mainers who struggle with literacy. All it takes is the courage to make a toll-free call (1-800-322-5455) or call a local LV office. Last year, over 1,000 adults improved their reading through the Maine LV Network of fourteen affiliates.

For more information on the exhibit, call LV Maine 1-800-322-5455. For more information on LV-Bangor's reception, services or to purchase a copy of Ms. Chou's book, call 207-947-8451.

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