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Grant to Aid Literacy Volunteers



Bangor Savings Bank Hogan Road branch manager Cindy Stevens (left) presents a \$4,000 check to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor Executive Director Mary Main Lyon to support the program's literacy activities.

BANGOR, Maine — The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation has awarded a \$4,000 grant to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor to help provide low-literate families with a starter library of age-appropriate books. LV-Bangor's Voices in Reading program provides literacy instruction to functionally illiterate adults with young children in order to break the cycle of intergenerational illiteracy.

“This grant award from our foundation to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor signifies our commitment to improving the quality of life in our communities and the skills of Maine's work force. This is an important investment because nothing is as fundamental to success and prosperity as literacy, and few programs are as effective as Maine's adult literacy programs,”

said Yellow Light Breen, senior vice president and chief strategic officer for Bangor Savings Bank.

The Voices in Reading program provides parents who struggle with literacy a personal volunteer tutor who works with the adult to improve his or her literacy skills and reach personal goals. In addition, the tutor helps the parent promote reading and developmentally appropriate literacy activities for their children.

“The most important educational program for a child is a well-educated parent,” said LV-Bangor executive director Mary Marin Lyon. “Better educated parents create better educated children. The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation investment in this program provides tools that allow the family to embark on a life-long educational journey.”

For 40 years, Literacy Volunteers of Bangor has worked to improve the lives of Bangor-area residents who have literacy barriers that affect their social, economic and educational opportunities. Volunteers receive training to assist an adult who is improving in reading and-or is learning to speak English as another language.

In 2007, Literacy Volunteers of Bangor received the Agency of Distinction for the “2 Those Who Care” Awards sponsored by WLBZ Channel 2. Adults interested in volunteering or improving their literacy are encouraged to call 947-8451 for more information, or visit www.lvbangor.org.