The Barbara Bush Foundation Supports Family Literacy in Area Communities

A $25,000 donation will fund a collaboration between Old Town Elementary School, the River Coalition, Head Start, Old Town Adult Education, and The Housing Authority of Old Town to serve at-risk families with low literacy from Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford, and Old Town.

Carla Leatham, Principal from The Leroy Smith School in Winterport, also received a $5,000 planning grant award to start a similar program in that community. LV-Bangor, Head Start, and SAD #22 Adult Education will partner on the initiative.

Volunteers interested in working with a low literate parent and their family should contact the LV-Bangor office. If you know a family who may benefit from this experience with children eight years old and under from these communities, call the LV-Bangor office at 947-8451.

LV-Bangor Executive Director Mary Marin Lyon (L) accepts a $25,000 check from Mrs. Barbara Bush.

Mark Your Calendars

Holiday Tutor Reunion Options:

#1: Sea Dog Restaurant
   Tuesday, 12/1 from 6 - 8 p.m.
   RSVP by 11/23

#2: Chop Sticks Chinese Restaurant
   Monday, 12/7 from 6 - 8 p.m.
   RSVP by 12/2

Save your spot by calling 947-8451!

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Our Mission

We empower greater Bangor area adults with improved reading and English language skills that enhance life skills in the areas of family, health, work, and community through no cost, learner-centered instruction provided by dedicated and respectful trained volunteers.

Literacy Volunteers of Bangor

Literacy Matters - The Newsletter of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor

Fall - 2009

Part two of a two-part series

As supporters of literacy in our area, we don’t often hear about the founding days of Literacy Volunteers of Bangor except as we reflect upon the occasion of an anniversary. The animated spirit of today’s organization started in 1969 with its two co-founders, Sr. Mary Benigna and Agnes Beckwith.

Sister Mary Benigna of St. Xavier Convent in Bangor was born Adela de Desnies Viens in Eliot, Maine in 1896. She entered the Sisters of Mercy as a teenager and became a teacher of French among other subjects, in Catholic schools all over the state, including Bangor’s All Saints School. She passed away in 1997. Sister Benigna was known for her gentle people skills, firm classroom decorum, and an undaunted spirit that could hitch a ride on the back of literacy volunteer Michael Gleason’s motorcycle as well as house homeless men in the convent!

Retired missionary Baptist Agnes Tweedie Beckwith was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and sum-

... these two women with a purpose . . . formed a bond and partnership that would continue for several decades.

mered in Lamoine, Maine. Schooled at Cambridge Latin School, Mount Holyoke College, and Harvard University, she taught in New York, Washington DC, and in El Salvador missions. She retired to Lamoine in 1960 after 33 years of service and passed away in 2001. Agnes was known for improving the lot of Spanish-speaking individuals who called her Doña Agnes or “Aunt Agnes” in Spanish. Her nieces in

Sister Benigna (L) and Agnes Beckwith, photo courtesy of Bangor Daily News.

Maine fondly remember her sending back corrected letters they had initially sent her. Agnes Beckwith was 63 and Sr. Benigna was 72 when their paths crossed for the first time in the spring of 1969 at a meeting of Church Women United [CWU] of Bangor-Brewer, an ecumenical and humanitarian organization that was part of broader social change in this area at the time. During the 1960s, the national Adult Basic Education Committee of CWU became a supporter of Literacy Volunteers of America [LVA], a Syracuse, New York organization founded by Ruth Colvin. CWU sponsored LVA workshops and encouraged its local CWU Chapters to send representatives.

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Pay It Forward Investor Rick Bernstein Donates First Check for $500

Rick Bernstein (L) presents a $500 check to former board president Dick Madore to continue the Pay It Forward philosophy that connects trained volunteers with low literacy adults who want to improve their literacy. “During our lives, we’ve all been helped by people who do not want to be repaid or want anything in return,” Bernstein said. “Pay It Forward donations allow my wife Heather and I to forward to others what we can’t pay back. And we’re happy to support LV-Bangor where the philosophy is shared.”

Recognizing that each person has something to offer, Pay It Forward is explained to adult learners who come to LV-Bangor for services. The reaction? Adult students are empowered by the opportunity to keep the acts of kindness going and recognize that while their talents may be different, they have something to give.

Vietnamese LV-Bangor Student Graduates from EMCC

On May 16, LV-Bangor student Hoang Lam (R.) crossed off another accomplishment from his list of goals as he graduated with honors from Eastern Maine Community College’s Electrical & Automation Technology program. This fall, Hoang is headed to the University of Maine where he’ll study Electrical Engineering Technology. “All this is quite a feat given that Hoang didn’t know English when he moved to the U.S. four years ago! “It was like a nightmare for me,” explains Hoang of his first months in the U.S., during an interview with WLBI-2.

Hoang began working with LV-Bangor tutors soon after arriving in the U.S. and for the past 3 years, retired UMaine professor Phil Locke has taught Hoang English on a weekly basis. On May 16, Phil and his wife Helen celebrated Hoang’s latest achievement. It’s likely this will be one of many for the soon-to-be American citizen.
Welcome to this year’s Literacy Volunteers - Bangor Annual Report — The past year has been a remarkable one, with many successes and milestones. Our organization continues to flourish with the help of many committed volunteers. We thank you for your support! Our annual report follows.

2009 Donors, continued
Cliff Vaux
Charles and Jane Veecher
Joseph and Holly Vetelino
Virginia Villa
Dr. Algis and Linda Vydas
Wayne and Michelle Walker
John and Mary Jane Wedin
Linda Westphal
Lee White
Maria Tjian Wick
Dale Wilkes
Fred and Terri Wlodarski
Patti Woolley

In Honor Of
Anne Archer and Michael Cooperman, in honor of Our Son, Ashton Cooperman
Susan Brooks, in honor of My Mother
Margaret Clancy, in honor of My Mother, Catherine Clancy
Lee Davis, in honor of My Mother
Mary Dexter, in honor of My Father, Arthur M. Benson
Maria Fuentes, in honor of Laura Luszynska
Sharon Newcomb, in honor of My Mother, Elsie Bartlett
Dustin and Sarah Smiley in honor of Our Children, Ford, Owen and Lindell

In-Kind Donors
Theresa and Larry Ayotte
Bangor Public Library
Curriculum Resource Center of Maine
Dan Moody Consulting, Inc.
Gladean Consulting, Inc.
Marilee Hewes
Linda Martin
Ann McKay
NESCOM Graphic Design Class
Sarah Shi
ten Soares
Ric Tyler and Elizabeth Sutherland
United Technologies Center
UTC Film and Video Class
Kristen Wedin

Annual Recognition Night Sponsors
Mark and Sharon Cuneo
Husson University
James W. Sewall Company
Merrill Bank
New England Health Search
Rispoli, Erhardt and Wlodarski – Morgan Stanley
Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation
The Rock Team, LLC
The Singing Hearts

Treasurer's Report
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 (unaudited)

Income
Private Foundations $31,622
Private Donations 17,451
United Way of Eastern Maine 17,108
Program Fees 5,353
Special Events 1,234
Investment Income/Other 497

Total $73,264

Expenses
Salary, Contractor, Payroll $45,241
Office Supplies, Printing, Postage 5,736
Program & Fundraising 3,989
Utilities and Insurance 2,854
Volunteer Training & Recognition 2,385
Administrative Fees 2,039
Conferences, Training, Travel 1,375
Office Equipment 489

Total $64,018

Income Above Expenses $9,246

Long-Term Investments $33,976

Newest Literacy Tutors

2009 Donors
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Partners
Cole Family Foundation

Major Donors
Anonymous
Advent Church Christian Church and All Souls Congregational Church
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
Best Buy Foundation
Dr. Edward David
Rick & Heather Halkey Bernstein
National Book Scholarship Fund
Old Town School System
Bryan and Sara Smith
Walmart Foundation

Donors
Anonymous
Donna Accettola
Park and Tanja Aggravol
William and Betty Albrecht
Alpha Capital Advisors
Alfrusa International
William Anderson
Kathleen Armstrong
Anne Baccus
Bangor Regional Public Health & Wellness
Lois Baxter
Bill and Donna Beck
Patricia Benner
James and Janet Bertucci
John and Carrie Beyer
Carolyn Binette
Catherine Bishop
John and Wanita Blass
Franklin and Jane Bragg
Kent Bridges
Susan Brooks
Shane and Tessa Burpee
Paul and Polly Camp
Jean Camuso
Lynne Carlisle
John Carr
Iris R. Chapman
David Clement
William and Cynthia Collins
Alan and Chris Comeau
Eileen Cox
Mark and Sharon Cuneo
Allan and Linda Currie
Don Curtis
Lee Davis
Ron de Paolo
Kenneth and Lisa Deal
Harold Dowse
Jenny DeRosby
Christopher Desmond
Matthew Dunlap
Jason and Meredith Eaton
David and Susan Edison
George and Mary-Lib Eyeyer
Angel Fernandez
John Fogel
Brian Folsom
Roger Foy
Linda Gilbert
Grandview Building and Remodeling
Jeffrey and Brenda Hardy
Walter A. Harris
Nancy Harrison
Harold and Susan Hatch
Mark Hawley
Amie Hayes-Crosby
Joan and Nancy Wynn Hill
Kathleen Hill
Frederic Hirsch
Fred and Jean Holland
Kristen Holland
Robert and Joan Holmberg, Jr.
Kathleen Hughes
Cheryl Huskins
Mary Huskins
Paul and Debra Jacques
Jacquelyn Kaufman
Timothy and Tracy King
Mary Kinsella
Sarah Knight
Steven and Sheila Knaakte\r
Eric Peterson & Kristin Langellier
Carol Kilberg
John LaPlante
Susan Lake
Mark and M. Kathleen Lena
Harry and Mary Leslie
Roger and Shelly Lewis
L. William and Mary Lint
Darryl & Marin Marin Lyon
David and Gina Madore
Dick and Ann-Marie Madore
Maine State Association of Emblem Clubs
Dennis and Mei Marble
Avril Martin
Paul Martin
Roger and Bernice Martin
Shannon Martin
George Massimic
James and Martha McCarthy
Kristen McCollum
Sue Medley
Philip and Claudette Michaud
William and Cheryl Michaud
Bernard and Gloria Miller
Michael and Eileen Morrison
Richard and Theresa Morrow
Barbara Murphy
Lawrence and Danielle Mutty
Richard and Sharon Newcomb
James Nichols & Susan Wishkoski
Northcountry Laser Graphics
Rich and Susie Nutter
Old Town Rotary Club
Thomas and Alice Oepseshaw
John and Janet Ordway
William Osborne
Gordon and Gloria Ouettele
John and Elizabeth Parish
Niles and Sonja Parker
Patawa Club
Doris Pelletier
People’s United Bank
Marguerite Peterson
Stephanie Phillips
Wills and Kathy Pierce
Charles and Angela Platt
Anne Pooler
Paul and Connie Potvin
John Quirk
Nicole Rediker
Richard Riemersma
Richard Rosa
Judith Rudman
Daniel and Maria Sandwic
John and Elizabeth Sherblom
Philip and Barbara Small
Donald and Katherine Smith
James and Diane Smith
Rose Marie Sparacio-Walcutt
Brian Stanley
Lisa Stawsz-Gagne
Lovern Stockwell
Patrick and Sandra Sturtevant
Michael Suyc
Jean Sullivan
Diane Swanson
The GAP Foundation
Karen Tolstrup
Robert Treadwell
Ralph and Elizabeth Van Dusen
On June 2nd, one hundred and seventy (170) friends of LV-Bangor commemorated its 40th Anniversary Celebration and attended the Annual Recognition Night at Husson University. WVOM talk show personality, Ric Tyler, hosted the event and distinguished guests included Governor John Baldacci, First Lady Karen Baldacci, Maine’s Poet Laureate Betsy Sholl, and Literacy Volunteers of America founder Ruth Colvin.

**Posthumous Award to Founder Sr. Mary Benigna (right)** — Sister Mary Denis Schwartz of the Sisters of Mercy in Portland accepts the posthumous award for LV-Bangor co-founder Sister Mary Benigna. Pictured above with her are President Dick Madore and Mary Marin Lyon, Executive Director.

**5 Year Service Award Recipients (above)** — Seventeen (17) volunteers celebrated 5 years of service. Pictures above (l-r) are Ann McKay, Peter Anderson, Sandra Hard, Emily Cameron, Helen Locke, Ben Smith, Jane Veedar, Phil Locke, and Janet Moran. Other honorees include Linda Bradford, Monique Buezanoski, Christine Chou, Karla Gustafson, Dorothy Kinney, Jeremy Libby, Sally McMannus, and Maggie Peterson.

**Governor Proclamation (left)** — Mary Marin Lyon accepts a State of Maine Proclamation from Governor John Baldacci proclaiming June 2nd, 2009 as Literacy Volunteers of Bangor Day.

**Certificate of Appreciation (left)** — As Public Relations Committee Chair, Terri Wlodarski orchestrated a truly memorable evening, Terri is with Dick Madore.

**Russian Entertainment (below)** — Minh Phan & Margaret Clancy participate in the folk songs performance given by Anna Baglay and Tamara Thomas (not shown).

**Former English Student Remembers (left)** — Lai Liu Lam acknowledges her first tutors Judy Rudman and Kara Schreiber who helped her learn English in the early 1990’s.

**Student/Tutor of the Year (above)** — After 5 years of work with a tutor, Steve Scalese can boast of raising his reading from a 5th to 10th grade reading level. Mary Sweeney, his tutor, joins him along with Zakery his 7-year-old son, who couldn’t be more proud.

**Basic Literacy Tutor Training Team (above)** — Mary Lake, Jen Montgomery-Rice, Meredith Eaton, and Janet Moran trained 54 new tutors during the past year.

**100 Hour Club** — Sixty-three (63) volunteers invested 100+ hours towards improving literacy in our communities. Those in attendance on June 2nd include (l-r) Julie Robbins, Terri Wlodarski, Gary Arnold, Rose Marie Sparacio Walcott, Libby Wiers, Ben Smith, Alice Ovenshaw, Judy Sims, Candace Austin, Mary Huskins, Phil Locke, Cathy Jewell, Jen Montgomery-Rice, Martha Scevy, Lyane Carlisle, Emily Cameron, Jane Veedor, Anna Baglay, Lisa Ricks and Cheryl Charles. Other honorees not pictured above are Margorie Adams, Anne Archer, Ann Blumer, Patty Caswell, Elizabeth Chadborne, Margaret Clancy, Sandy Cheney, Mary Ruth Conley, Don Curtis, Ellie Gould, Ron dePaolo, Christine Dimeir, Sarah Deheng, Echibha Ellis, Eric Gould, Karla Gustafson, Meghan Hancock, Lamee Hanna, Molly Pitcher Harrison, Susan Hatch, Kristen Hoffman, Judith Horeen, Ellen Huff, Sara Krautkramer, Victoria LaRoche, Linda Martin, Debra McLaughlin, Sally McMannus, Janet Moran, Erin Mullane, William Rice, Renee Raulx, John Rooney, Carolyn Smith, Jen Soares, Mary Sweeney, Margarita Torres, Justin Umland, Richard Vicaire, John Vedon, Sharon Willey, Susan Wishkoski, & Bonnie Wood.

**Outgoing Board Members (left)** — Ben Smith, Ian Prior, and Kristen McCallum completed their terms as board of directors this spring.