

## One-on-One Student Succeeds

Kim Eubank mentions that he's not sure why anyone would want to write a newsletter article about him. "It's because you're a success story," says his tutor Rachel Blakeman. They meet every week at the big white tables in the young adult section of the Allen County Public Library to help Kim improve his reading skills.

They're part of the One-on-one Tutoring Program at Three Rivers Literacy Alliance. In the year and a half that they've been working together, Kim has made progress. Once an unemployed resident at Washington House, fighting substance abuse, Kim has achieved measurable gains in his reading skills and found regular full time employment.

Rachel describes Kim as very detail oriented and great at spelling. Since he has his high school diploma, he's not preparing for a GED exam. His goal has been to improve his skills for life in general. A return to functional literacy is Kim's goal. One-on-one Tutoring has provided the time and patience Kim has needed to attain that goal. Along with his AA meetings and work schedule, it also provides a needed



routine structure.

His work with Rachel has prepared him for the work he began in September as custodian at St. Anne Home. He reads instructions and cautions on cleaner bottles as well as the policy, procedure, and compliance documents that come with every job.

Rachel gives Kim a lot of credit. "If he didn't show up on time every week with assignments done, he wouldn't be where he is today." Going back to their first tutoring session, Rachel describes how she asked him to bring a notebook to every session. He bought the notebook and an Allen County Public Library canvas tote bag. Rachel's mom bought him an intermediate dictionary. Without exception he brings the tote bag with dictionary, notebook, and workbook to every session. The workbook

provides guidance for each session. In addition to the workbook assignments, they work on Kim's Washington House assignments and read newspapers and anything about automobiles.

When asked about his aspirations, Kim says he likes working at St. Anne's and "one day might go into autobody." He is strongly interested in automobiles. "That's why we read so much about cars," Rachel says, "Kim's consistently working on his van." He points out that it currently needs a new carburetor "because this one's running too rich."

Kim isn't the only one who has gained from the One-on-one Tutoring sessions. When Rachel says that they've read about "anything with internal combustion engines," she adds, "I've been learning a lot."

# Literacy Alliance Presents Literacy Star Awards



Presenters Melissa Long and John Steiner pose with the Literacy Star Award Winners.



Rick Oliphant  
for Pizza Hut of Allen County

## Nominees

Allen County Local Education Fund  
Nominated by Nila Armstrong

Carol Butler  
Nominated by Tina Acosta

Community Alliance for Healthy Families  
Nominated by Marty Temple

East Side, West Side After School Reading Club  
Nominated by Alison Lee Bauer

Faith United Church of Christ Preschool  
Nominated by Reverend Elizabeth Pulauski

Fort Wayne Rescue Mission  
Nominated by Chaplain Bob Cahoon

Karen Lohmueller  
Nominated by Connie L. Tessman

Pamela Martin-Diaz  
Nominated by Nancy Magi

Neighborhood Health Clinics  
Nominated by David J. Steigmeyer, M.D.

Pizza Hut  
Nominated by Denise Snyder

Janet Sarratore  
Nominated by Jeffrey L. Gubitz



Pamela Martin-Diaz



Carol Butler

The Literacy Alliance awarded the Fourth Annual Literacy Star Awards at the Literacy Celebration Luncheon on Friday September 26, 2003 at Hall's Guesthouse. The Literacy Star Awards, sponsored by Star Financial Bank, honor those individuals and organizations that advance the cause of literacy in our community.

Recipients were Carol Butler who reads to people who are unable to read, the East Side West Side After School Reading Club which fosters an enthusiasm for reading through a variety of activi-

ties, the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission which prepares residents for work through a computer-based learning center, Pamela Martin-Diaz who has developed resources to promote literacy, and Pizza Hut of Allen County whose BOOK-IT! Program motivates children to read. John Steiner of Star Financial Bank and Master of Ceremonies Melissa Long from WPTA Channel 21 presented the awards.

In addition to the awards, the Literacy Celebration Luncheon featured guest speaker Aye Aye Myaing, an English as a Second Lan-

# Awards 2003



Reverend Dave Humphreys  
for Fort Wayne Rescue Mission



Representatives of East Side West  
Side After School Reading Club

# Gaming Association Donates Money

Participants arrived early November 7, even as convention organizers put the finishing touches on what would be *PentaCon XIX*, Indiana's oldest and biggest gaming convention. People set up hundreds of tables in the Grand Wayne Center's main hall while others prepared registration booths in the lobby. A man delivered cases of water. A Three Rivers Literacy Alliance staffer set up the Literacy Alliance's display table.

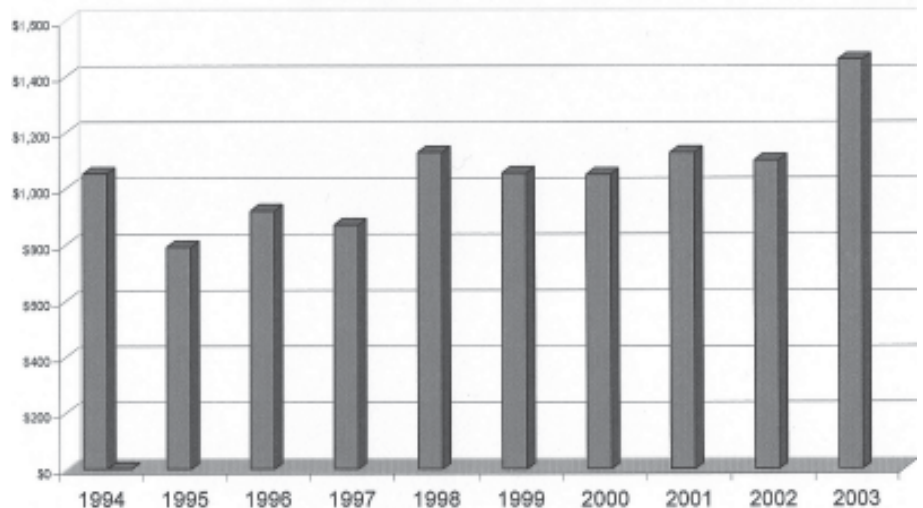
Over the next three days, the Nineteenth Annual *PentaCon* Gaming Convention, sponsored by the Northeastern Indiana Gaming Association, hosted about 1000 participants in over 400 events. Organizers provided for all kinds of games--live action and role playing games, board games, miniatures games, and collectable card games--along with costume and painted miniatures contests, special guest appearances, vendors, and charity events.

For the tenth year, Three Rivers Literacy Alliance benefited from the charity events. Charity events included raffles and a Jail-N-Bail. Through *PentaCon's* generosity and efforts, the Literacy Alliance has received over \$10,000 since 1994. This year's donation was the largest to date, \$1,460.

"We're very proud to support local organizations like Three Rivers Literacy Alliance," says Lisa Adams who coordinates *PentaCon's* charity events. She adds, "We exist to promote gaming. If people can't read, they can't game." Contributing to organizations like the Literacy Alliance is "a way to serve our goal and serve the community."

Due to the expansion at Grand Wayne Center, *PentaCon XX* will not be held where it has been for the past five years. Though next year's meeting place is TBA, Lisa expresses confidence that it will be in Fort Wayne.

Annual PentaCon Donations



guage student at Three Rivers Literacy Alliance. Before an audience of 75 which included her family, Aye Aye described how she arrived from Burma with little English and no literacy skills. A mother of two and employed at Summit Sewing in Fort Wayne, she expressed gratitude to her tutors and the Literacy Alliance for helping her learn skills that enable her to succeed.



New Outreach Specialist, Jean Johnson (left), with outgoing Outreach Specialist, Gwen Bess

## Read to Me Outreach Specialist Leaves the Literacy Alliance

In December, Story Friend and Outreach Specialist Gwen Bess left Three Rivers Literacy Alliance, moving to St. Louis where her and husband Charles's family live. Since his retirement from GM a little over a year ago, they had planned to return.

Gwen began three years ago as a Story Friend Volunteer at Early Childhood Alliance's Turtle Creek

childcare facility, reading to the children an hour every week. It was nice, Gwen recalls. "Something that started as a volunteer effort evolved into a position." She added the Outreach Specialist position to her efforts when it became available two and a half years ago. With a gentle voice, kind smile, and much energy, she presented Book Sharing Tips Presentations to parent groups. Gwen also managed the Books for Kids distribution, sorting donated books and delivering them regularly to sites around the community.

Gwen says it was personally rewarding to do work that "had a real positive impact." Numbers indicate some of the impact Gwen's work has made. Overall she has

given 170 Book Sharing Tips presentations to a total of 3,200 participants. Through her diligence in outreach, she increased the number of Book Sharing Tips given in 2003 by 6%, through which she reached 22% more participants. Regarding Books for Kids, she collected and distributed 13,231 books.

Gwen intends to use the first few months of 2004 to settle into her new home and perhaps take a trip. Then she will look for work, "something along these lines," meaning outreach for a literacy organization. "Or I'll volunteer if I can't find work." One thing for sure, she will be able to spend more time with her grandson Diego.

## Announcements

### Mark Your Calendar

**February 7** - Report Card Night Comcast and the Komets host Report Card Night at the Memorial Coliseum. Students with an "A" on their current report cards will be admitted free. The game, Komets vs. Flint Generals, begins at 7:30 PM.

**February 18** - GED Graduation Commencement for Literacy Alliance GED graduates will be at 7:00 PM at the Scottish Rite Center. The snow date has been set for February 25.

**March 29, 30 & 31** - Miniseries *The New Americans* premieres at 9:00 PM on PBS Channel 39. The series follows immigrants from their plans and dreams in their homelands to their new lives in the United

States. Featured families come from Nigeria, India, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

### Congressman Mark Souder Visits Reach Out and Read Site



Congressman Mark Souder and Public Health Nurse Melanie Koch discussed the Literacy Alliance's Reach Out and Read Program last October during his visit to the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health.

### Jon Steiner Leaves TRLA Board

The Literacy Alliance bids longtime board member Jon Steiner farewell. Formerly of STAR Financial Bank, Jon accepted a position at a bank in Michigan where he and his family moved in December. His efforts for the board and his dedication to literacy have been deeply appreciated and will be missed. The Literacy Alliance wishes Jon success in his new surroundings.

### TRLA Needs Volunteers

The Literacy Alliance is always looking for volunteers. Literacy tutors work with adults, helping them with reading and basic skills. Story Friends read to children at childcare centers and in medical clinic waiting rooms. Volunteers can call Brian or Kathleen at 426-7323.

## TRLA Welcomes New Volunteers. . .

The Literacy Alliance welcomes ten new volunteers, Lona Antil, Susan Ashton, Diane Breese, Debbie Dunne, Terri Emrick, Steve Lerch, Angie Moulin, Manuel Silverman, Kim Wroblewski, and Kate Yates.

Many volunteers make TRLA programs work because of their service as Literacy Tutors and Story Friends. With warm appreciation, the Literacy Alliance wants recognize them and their years of service.

**0 - 5 Years** - Sue Andis, William Ashman, Cindy Barger, Mary Baumgartner, Amanda Bedwell, Jane Beer, Rachel Blakeman, Rosalie Blevins, Heather Blickendorf, Paula Bullman, Jean Carmean, Brian Chisamore, Ron Cuny, Eugene Faley, Dorothy Goodwin, Mary Ellen Gudeman, Marta Guthier, Rosalie Hamilton, Barb Jensen, Darrell Jones, Paula Kern, Bob Lengeerich, Cara Matz, Virginia Miller, Beverly Miner, Erin Salisbury, Mary Short, Melissa Shumaker, Gayle Smith, Joan Songco, Merle Wagner, and David Worley.

**5 - 10 Years** - Sr. Laura Banet, Charla Bentz, Genie Bishop, Brandon Bougher, Marcella Burtch, Mona Case, Phyllis Cass, Gordon Cole, Ann Dirkes, Elaine Haydock, Monna Lee Hill, Jane Keltsch, Tom Klapheke, Ruth Lahr, Martha Moore, Dolores Pawlish, John Pawlish, Cindy Pflueger, Ed Schaefer, Orval Shryock, Allen Vincent, and Mary Wise.

## . . . And New Board Members

The Literacy Alliance also welcomes James Davis, Janell Sprinkle, and Douglas Stevens to the board.

They join existing board members Patricia Daly, Vicki Lee Johnson, Casey Schuerich, Joe Shade, Jr., Laura Taliaferro, Brian K. Thomason, Jean Vrabel, and Larry Williamson.

**Thank You!** Thanks to the individuals and organizations for their generous support.

### INDIVIDUALS

Linda Allen  
Donna Allshire  
Judy Archer-Dick  
Margaret Ashbridge  
John Auld  
Harry Ballinger  
Marjorie Baumgartel  
Martha Beugnot  
Peter Blichert, M.D.  
Margaret Bliss  
Phyllis Borg  
Ralph Bracht  
John Brennan  
Mary Ann & Martin  
Buchman  
Elizabeth Canavati  
Linda Chapman  
Carol Cisko  
Janice R. Clark  
Virginia Coats  
Patricia Daly  
James Davis  
Ann Dirkes  
Stephanie & Kenneth  
Dunsire  
Ben & Sharon Eisbart  
Elizabeth Frederick  
Maria Geraldo  
Robert Gevers  
Theresa Glaze  
Leonard Goldstein  
Doris Grands  
James B. Griffith  
Mark R. Grimm  
Mary C. Hahn  
Jeffrey Halter  
Paul Haughan  
Dennis Headlee  
Leonard Helfrich  
Alice Hoffman  
Henrietta Howell  
Linda Hugel  
Diane Humphrey  
Noel Hupp  
Bettye Jones-Davis  
Angela Judd  
Linda Kaplan  
Dan Kaufman  
Jane Keltsch  
James Kodoz  
Carol Krull Lupke  
William C. Lee  
Shafonda Lewis  
Jerry Mackel  
Barbara Manges  
Wilda Gene Marcus  
Ronald Mausser  
Laura McCaffery  
Cecelia McCrilles  
David Menze  
Alfred Moellering  
Martha Moore  
Barrett Moy  
Mary Musson  
Maurie O'Daniel  
Joseph O'Hara  
Arthur Parry  
David Platt & Dana  
Wichern  
Rebecca Ravine  
Paul Reszel  
Condra Ridley  
Carl & Pat Rolfson  
Enid Rosenblatt  
Carol Shedd  
Patricia Shields  
David Silletto  
David Stensland  
Beatrice Stoeckley  
Laura Taliaferro  
Keith Teegarden  
Mary Ann Teetor  
James R. Toone  
Jean Vrabel  
Thomas & Barb  
Wachtman  
Ann Wallace  
Caroline Wanstall  
Catharine White  
Suzanne Wiehe  
Lisa Wiljer  
Devin & Brenda Willis  
Bette Worley  
Bob & Jane Wuthrich  
Esther Yoder

### ORGANIZATIONS

Bank One  
Barnes & Noble  
Books  
Glenbrook Square  
Mall  
Hyde Bros. Books  
Kiwanis Club of  
South Fort  
Wayne  
John S. & James L.  
Knight  
Foundation  
Lincoln Financial  
Group  
M.E. Raker  
Foundation  
Neva Light Trust  
N.I.G.A. - PentaCon  
Painters & Allied  
Trades Local  
469, District  
91  
Parkview Hospital  
Foundation  
Paul Clarke  
Foundation  
Prophet Sisters  
Foundation  
Psi Iota Xi - Delta  
Gamma  
Chapter  
Sears Workplace  
Giving  
STAR Financial Bank  
Taylor University  
Turnstone  
Verizon WAVES  
Village Books

### IN MEMORY OF RALPH MCCAFFERY

Allen County Public  
Library  
Marilyn Allmandinger  
Bessie Makris  
Carol Tanner  
Eldon & Robert  
Vegele

## From the Director's Desk

The New Year brings a renewed focus for the Literacy Alliance as we continue to meet the challenges of our work.

In past newsletters we have noted that our agency is benefiting from my participation in the 2003 cohort of the institute for Organizational Effectiveness. During this past year, the Literacy Alliance sought to become more effective through board development and better marketing of our organization. Realizing that our agency mission might not accurately portray our work to the public, the Literacy Alliance board unanimously adopted a new mission statement in December:

*The Three Rivers Literacy Alliance strives to end illiteracy by teaching adults through learning centers, literacy programs and tutoring services that empower individuals to succeed at work, at home, and in the community.*

Several phrases are significant in this statement. The purpose of our work is to **end illiteracy**. Our work is **teaching** and our focus is **adults**. Our services **empower** our adult students because literacy skills equal power in the life of an individual. Finally, we recognize that the three significant life roles of an adult are **worker, family member, and citizen**. In the future this mission statement will be our guide as we make program decisions and apply for funding.

Early in December, as we wrote our annual letter requesting financial support from Community Partners, we received yet another in what has been a seemingly never-ending stream of notices that our funding this year will be less than in the past. This time we were notified that our Community Development Block Grant was reduced by 50% from \$20,000 to \$10,000. But then, as December went on, our community friends responded to this disappointing news and we were nearly overwhelmed by the gifts that we received.

In these difficult times, when not only non-profit organizations but also many individuals and families are doing more with less, it is very gratifying to receive an increase in support over previous years. We can't say enough to express our appreciation.

We keep in mind your strong support as we make the difficult decisions that are necessary to carry out our mission. On behalf of the many adults in our programs who are studying so that they can better provide for themselves and for their families, we thank you.

PROLITERACY  
AMERICA



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