



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

IT'S EASY TO VOLUNTEER:

A - Access a tutor application

B - Begin your training

C - Connect with your students

**Interested in
joining us?**

Call us at 203-776-5899 or send us
an email at info@lvagnh.org.

Looking forward to your help!

WWW.LVAGNH.ORG

Literacy Volunteers was established in 1975 by Elizabeth Gumbart, a current Cheshire resident, and officially incorporated in 1977. The agency recruits, trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide FREE literacy tutoring to adults in Greater New Haven, Meriden, Wallingford and the Valley towns. The agency is accredited by ProLiteracy, the national literacy organization, and is a member of the Literacy Coalition of Greater New Haven, Coalition on Adult Basic Education, CT Association for Adult and Continuing Education and numerous Chambers in Greater New Haven, Meriden, Wallingford and The Valley.

WHAT WE DO TO IMPACT LITERACY

Literacy Volunteers conduct two core programs: Basic Literacy is the program offered to native English speakers who are reading and writing at low literacy levels. ESOL, or English for Speakers of Other Languages, is the program offered to adults who need to learn to speak, read, write and understand English. Many students in the ESOL program are recent immigrants and refugees to the USA. We also provide English Classes at our ESOL Center at Gateway Community College. We offer a Community Book Bank in Meriden where we accept donations of children's books and give them to families, schools and agencies in the community. To date we have distributed over 79,000 books. Literacy Volunteers is also part of a collaborative with New Haven Reads and Concepts for Adaptive Learning (Cfal) called the Literacy Resource Center located at 5 Science Park in New Haven.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to foster partnerships with adult learners, tutors and communities to enable individuals and families to achieve educational, career, and quality of life goals. Our vision is a future in which the power of literacy enables all adults to thrive in their communities.

Size & Scope:

Literacy Volunteers is a small non-profit (501©3) organization with an annual budget of approximately \$\$412,000. Last year we served 866 adult learners from 65 different countries including the U.S. with 200 volunteer tutors and approximately 25-30 additional volunteers who perform clerical/administrative, fundraising and Board responsibilities. We have a staff of 7 employees, 4 part-time and 3 full-time, Development/Grant Writer Consultant, Marketing and Communications Coordinator and an IT Consultant.

Area Serviced:

Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Meriden, New Haven, North Haven, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge.



Facts about

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

- Established in 1975, incorporated in 1977; Founder Elizabeth Gumbart, current Cheshire resident...have been servicing Greater NH and beyond for over 4 decades.
- Provide FREE classes in ESOL (English for Students with Other Languages) and Basic Literacy Classes; speaking, reading, writing; math and computer literacy.
- Mission: To foster partnerships with adult learners, tutors, and communities to enable individuals and families to achieve educational, career, and quality of life goals.
- Since inception have trained over 6,000 volunteer tutors who have increased the literacy skill levels of more than 20,000 adults.
- Last year (2018-19) 248 volunteer tutors worked with close to 1,400 adults at over 40 sites in Greater New Haven, The Valley, Meriden & Wallingford.
- Resource Literacy Center: Literacy Volunteers, New Haven Reads, Concepts for Adaptive Learning – Collaborative recently award the Constellation Award at the 3rd Annual Nonprofit Stars Align Awards Program sponsored by NH Chamber (Nov.21)
- 36 million adults in US cannot read, write, or do basic math above a 3rd grade level.
- Children whose parents have low literacy levels have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves; are more likely to get poor grades, display behavioral problems, have high absentee rates, repeat school years or drop out.
- 43% of adults with the lowest literacy levels live in poverty.
- 50% of immigrants who come to the US each year lack high school education and proficient English language skills.
- 75% of prison inmates did not complete high school or can be classified as low literate.
- Approx. 30% of the New Haven population reads below the basic level, which is 5th grade reading or below.
- Last year adults in LVA classes were from 57 different countries including the U.S.
- Last year (2018-19) 64% of students in LVA program achieved a significant gain in reading as a result of pre and post test scores; gains equal to at least one grade level, better than the State and National average.
- Funding for Literacy Volunteers: CDBG-New Haven, Meriden ,Hamden; UW of Meriden/Wallingford and Greater New Haven; State Dept. of Education (Adult Ed); Foundations and fundraising events, donations. Budget now: approx. \$400,000.



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

Organizational Chart - 2020-21

