#GladIcanRead
Read books to my children.
Preparing Adults and Families for a Brighter Future

Oserig, a father of three, could not speak or read much English. He came to Literacy Green Bay’s Children First Family Literacy Program to get his General Education Diploma (GED) so he could earn a family sustaining wage. Through dedication and hard work, Oserig received his GED on June 21, 2018. He is now enrolled in Northeast Wisconsin Technical College where he plans to train as an electrician.

For students pursuing a GED, the cost of taking both practice tests and the GED itself can be a great concern. Wisconsin Literacy provides GED Ready and Subject Test vouchers, through grant funding from the Department of Children and Families, for adults who qualified for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

In 2018, test vouchers helped remove financial barriers for these students pursuing their GED. Forty-nine percent of all GED completers in our membership network received vouchers from Wisconsin Literacy.

“The test vouchers for the GED tests were tremendously helpful. I’m not sure I would have been able to take and pass the tests so quickly without [them].”
Response from student survey
Oserig is one of over 900 learners who received their GED in 2017-2018.
Empowering Communities for Better Health

While at dinner, a grandmother kept going in and out of consciousness. Confused by the directions on her medication package, she had placed multiple opioid pain medication patches on her arm.

Helping people better understand their medications and their health care is at the heart of what Wisconsin Health Literacy (WHL) does. Over the past year, WHL offered community health education programs on a number of important health topics such as how to properly take opioids and other medications and on early pregnancy health.

WHL also created and disseminated a toolkit and workshop curriculum to help health care professionals and unpaid caregivers communicate more effectively to people with early dementia or Alzheimer’s.

The 60-day post-workshop survey for Let’s Talk About Pain Medicine showed that many participants share information with family members and friends, magnifying the impact of the workshops. In the Dementia and Early Alzheimer’s workshops, 90% of attendees reported making changes in their communication approach, leading to greater patient understanding of health information.

“I want to thank you so much for coming to our community! The workshop was very informative and well received. More of this type of education is much needed within every population we serve. Yaw^ko (Thank you)!”

Oneida Nation Site Coordinator
WHL offered 72 community health education workshops and reached over 1,000 people.
Impacting Over One Million Patients

While out with a friend, Mary suddenly developed severe chest pains and thought she was having a heart attack. Doctors in the emergency room soon discovered that she had accidentally taken her husband’s heart medicine instead of her diabetes medicine. The patient names on the labels were small and the pills looked identical.

Patients of any literacy level can struggle to read, understand, and take their medication properly. WHL’s 2017 survey found that 9 of 10 patients find medication labels confusing. Patients using WHL’s easier-to-understand prescription labels benefited from larger print and information that was easy to find.

In partnership with five pharmacy organizations, WHL recently completed redesign of medication labels for 65 pharmacy sites, ultimately affecting about 1.8 million prescription labels, and impacting over a million patients. Participating pharmacies reported that patients’ effective use of medication significantly improved after the label change in three commonly prescribed medicine categories.

“Since implementing the new labels, we have had fewer patient callbacks.”
Matt Mabie, RPh, owner, Forward Pharmacy.
WHL asked for feedback about what people liked or didn’t like about prescription labels.
Moving Adults to Jobs

Maria wanted to improve her English skills so she could work as a project planner and design engineer, her profession in her native Venezuela. She currently works in an assembly line position but is optimistic that, with the support of a tutor at Fox Valley Literacy Council, she will be able to return to work in her chosen career.

Literacy skills build confidence -- paving the way for better education and work credentials—and better jobs. Working with limited-literacy populations who may lack the skills to fill out job applications, member literacy agencies teach students resume writing and job interview skills, provide GED and High School Equivalency Diploma instruction, and share information on career pathways and workforce training programs in the area.

Wisconsin Literacy’s Regional Literacy Consultants (RLCs) support member agencies in this effort by introducing them to workforce development boards, W-2 agencies and workforce partners. RLCs and member agencies share with these partners how community-based literacy agencies build workforce readiness skills from the ground up.

“Wisconsin Literacy has made a lot of effort to help us connect with [workforce partners].

Jennifer Peterson, Literacy Network
“You are not just helping one person but a whole family!”
– Maria Ollarvez from Fox Valley Literacy Council
Building Stronger Agencies

Wisconsin Literacy’s four Regional Literacy Consultants (RLCs) provide personalized, direct support for member literacy agencies across the state. RLCs consult on professional development, board development and strategic planning. They also provide trainings and essential materials to help agencies grow.

Three English Forward trainings, a technique focused on oral literacy attainment, reached about 50 participants from 13 different agencies. One member said that she was changing how she did their tutor training because of English Forward. RLCs also provided instruction and materials to help local agencies use assessment materials and data tools to effectively track student progress. This information helps agencies build the case for funding support to continue their work.

Wisconsin Literacy creates opportunities for professional development and peer networking that helped member agencies reach 2,000 more students in 2017-18 than in the previous year.

“We would not be where we are if not for Wisconsin Literacy!”

Ellen Hossman, Literacy Council of Green County
Member Directors Kay (left), Steven (right) and Cynthia brainstorm ideas at the Southeast Regional Meeting.
Thank You to Donors, Grant Funders and Sponsors (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)

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Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Dr. Paul and Ladonna Smith
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Magic Pebble Foundation
National Guardian Life

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Many anonymous donors.

*We apologize for any error in our records that caused us to miss a donor or list a donor incorrectly. Please let us know if we did.

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**In Honor of/ Memory of**
Rosalyn Bensman
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Mary Ann Borgerding
Will Boyle
Helen Brotz
Jeremy and Carrie Burkham
Rollin Mace Chatterton
Lynn Currie and Tracy Warnecke
Michele Erikson
Katelyn French
Greater Waukesha Literacy
Nance Jo Grogan
Angie Hendrickson
David and Deb Holt
Gabriella Klein
Trinity Lange
Sawyer County Learners
Helen and James Woodburn

**Gifts In-Kind**
Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes
Madison Mallards
Reach Out and Read
Right Click Consulting

**Health Literacy Partners**
Thanks to these organizations who have partnered with us to provide health literacy services.

ADRC of Brown County
Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment
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Bader Philanthropies
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National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Greater Midwest Region
Security Health Plan
UW Carbone Cancer Center
UW Health
WEA Trust
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wisconsin Health Information Organization (WHIO)
Wisconsin Medical Society
Financial Highlights

REVENUE
- Support for Member Services: $435,673
- Program Support (WHL): $197,537
- Contributions: $99,687
- Events: $27,224
- Dues: $8,925
- TOTAL: $769,046

EXPENSES
- Member Services: $327,609
- Program Services (WHL): $259,586
- Fundraising: $70,398
- Management and General: $111,092
- TOTAL: $768,685
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Vice Chair: Bill Boyle
Secretary: Ginger Duiven
Treasurer: Joe Nick
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Jessica Doyle
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Wisconsin Literacy Staff

Lynn Currie, Fund Development Manager
Michele Erikson, Executive Director
Liz Fitzpatrick, Data and Communications Manager
Debbie Kutchin, Financial Manager

Regional Literacy Consultants

Anna Bierer, Northeast
Marsha Connet, Southeast
Beth Gaytan, Southwest/South Central
Angie Stokes, Northwest

Wisconsin Health Literacy

Kari LaScala, Health Literacy Project Manager
Caitlyn Mowatt, Health Communications Specialist
Steve Sparks, Health Literacy Director

During The Big Share fundraiser, Wisconsin Literacy asked donors including board member Steve Mundt, what they were glad they could read. Together, we raised over $30,000 for statewide literacy efforts.
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