

literacy volunteers

on the green

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Outgoing board president Allan Priaux of Kent visits with incoming president Arri Sendzimir of Waterbury at LVG's 2010 Gala Fund-raiser. Ms. Sendzimir brings over 40 years of experience as a consultant, employee, and business owner in the for-profit and not-for-profit areas in the United States as well as overseas. She has sat on a number of boards, including that of the Connecticut Community Foundation, and was first introduced to Literacy Volunteers on the Green in her capacity as a mentor for the Waterbury Foundation's Nonprofit Assistance Initiative. She is currently Director of Development for Neighborhood Music School in New Haven. (photo by Wendy Carlson)

The mission of Literacy Volunteers on the Green (LVG) is to teach basic literacy and English as a second language to residents of Litchfield and northern Fairfield counties such that they might succeed in high school and college, improve their performance as employees, respond to their children's need for help with schoolwork, and better their understanding of American culture. These services are offered both to native speakers of English and to those for whom English is a second language.

plant the seed

Since its inception, LVG has trained 193 tutors and served more than 500 students. In 2010, about 75 tutors were actively engaged in teaching 140 students. All instructional services are provided free of charge.

At present, LVG serves a broad area that extends from Salisbury/Lakeville in the north to Danbury in the south. Students live throughout northwestern Connecticut and hold a wide range of educational accomplishments, from primary through graduate school, as well as diverse age, employment, family status, and ethnic attributes.

LVG acquired nonprofit status in 2009 and has since experienced exceptional growth. In 2010, the organization operated on a budget of approximately \$74,000 made possible by donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and other nonprofits.

The number of community partnerships continues to grow. A partnership with New Milford Public Library makes materials available to students and tutors through the library's bibliomation system. Student referrals come from the Nurturing Families Network, Head Start, and local social service agencies.

"Now I can attend my daughter's meetings at her school. I can go to the doctor's office when someone in my family is sick, and I can make and receive phone calls. I go shopping and if I have a question about some product I ask a salesperson and don't feel frustrated. I can also fill out a form and send a note to my daughter's teacher." - an LVG student

President of the Board of Director's Report

At the Annual Meeting on December 18, 2010, out-going board president Allan Priaulx summarized LVG's major accomplishments for 2010:

- helping 140 people learn to speak, read, and write the English language;
- training 32 volunteers to be new tutors, bringing the total number of trained volunteers to 193;
- providing almost 4,000 hours of instruction;
- adding two classes to help students prepare for U.S. citizenship;
- strengthening our board of directors with the additions of Arri Sendzimir and José De Aguiar;
- hiring our first staff, Executive Director Jacqui Farrell;
- holding a successful fund-raiser in April and conducting a fall annual appeal;
- receiving grants from the United Way, the Connecticut Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, the McFadden Family Foundation, the Savings Bank of Danbury, and the National Book Fund to help defray 2010 expenses;

- acquiring student/program and donor databases in order to streamline our operations; and
- holding our first "picnic" in September, which introduced our students to the pot-luck concept.

In closing, he said, "But most of all, we have made a difference in the lives of the people who are in LVG programs: employees who are now better at their jobs because they can communicate in English; through our school-based ESL programs, mothers and fathers who are able to talk to teachers about their children's progress; tutors who have the satisfaction of seeing their hard work bear fruit when a student reaches a new plateau of learning.

"As I leave the presidency of this fine organization I am thankful for the wonderful opportunity it has given me to make a difference, and grateful to Anne and Rita for having the wisdom to start LVG. I also wish to acknowledge all of the Board members, volunteers, and staff for their hard work, and to Arri Sendzimir for her willingness to take over the organization's leadership at this important juncture."

2011 Board Members

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President**

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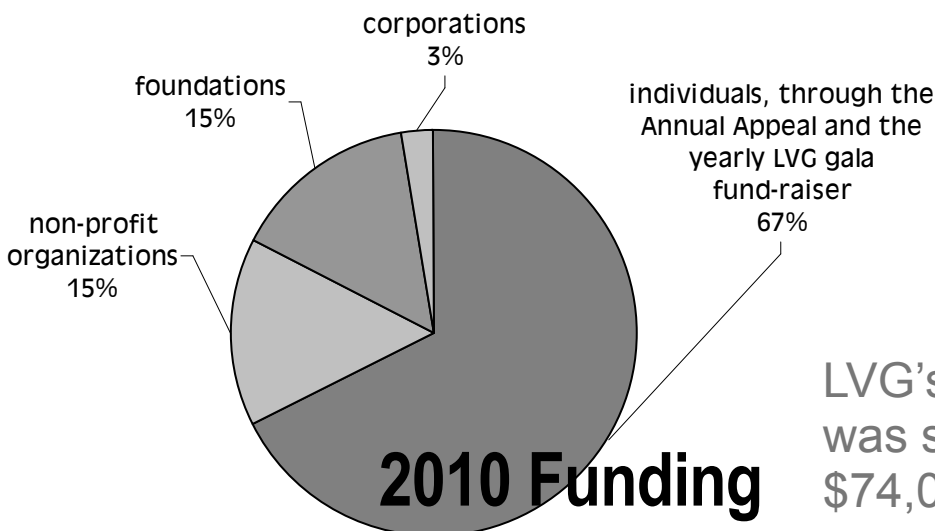
Margaret Wiener

Staff

**Jacqueline Farrell,
Executive Director**

**Priscilla Mancinone,
Program Coordinator**

**Jamie Buck,
Information Officer**



LVG's 2010 operating budget was slightly more than \$74,000.

Thank You to Our Donors

In particular, we would like to thank St. John's Church in New Milford, which has housed us almost since our inception, at 7 Whittlesey Avenue.

Anonymous - in memory of

Palamona W. Ferris
 Mary and Richard Allaire
 George Allingham
 Peggy Anson
 William Arnold
 Julie Astbury
 Judith St. G. Bacher
 William and Catherine Bachrach
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 Fred and Lisa Baker
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 Harry Cohen
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 Rosemarie and David Cohn
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 Kenneth Cooper
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 Angus and Lucy Maitland
 Paul Baiocchi and Anne Maitland
 Hazel Porter and Alastair Maitland
 Eileen Maloney

(Continued on page 4)

Thank you for your continued support for LVG's Mission

Literacy Volunteers on the Green, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization established under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3); tax identification number 26-2018636. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law and may be made by check to LVG, P.O. Box 366, New Milford CT 06776 or online with your credit card or PayPal account through our website: www.lvg-ct.org.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Thank You to Our Donors

(Continued from page 3)

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Margaret Molina				

Thank You to the Foundations and Businesses That Support Us

Archdiocese of Hartford	Ellen Knowles Harcourt Foundation, Inc.	Long Mountain Road Foundation	Rotary Club Of New Milford
Bain Real Estate	Ericson Insurance Services, LLC	Mayerson Stutman Abramowitz, LLP	Savings Bank of Danbury
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation	G.P. Tool Company, Inc.	McFadden Family Foundation	Shred-it
Betty and Davis Fitzgerald Foundation Inc.	Goldring Family Foundation, Inc.	Medical Instill Technologies, Inc.	St. Andrew's Church, Kent
Bulls Bridge Body Shop	J. Robert Hutchings, CPA, PC	Meserve Memorial Fund	The Community Foundation of Northwest CT
Candlewood Animal Hospital	Kent Apothecary	MVP SOS	The Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield
Canterbury School	Kent Fabrics	Nicholas Tobin, Inc.	Town of Kent
Chestnut Hill Enterprises, Inc.	Law Office of Cecilia Buck-Taylor P.C.	O'Keiff Orthodontics, LLC	Union Savings Bank
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Connecticut Community Foundation	Lions Club of Kent Connecticut	ProLiteracy	United Way of Western CT
Dishy Family Foundation		Quality Thrift Shop of Kent	United Ways of Central and Northeastern CT
Dungannon Foundation		R.J. McDermott and Associates, LLC	Washington Food Market
			Webster Bank

Thank You to the Businesses and Individuals who donated Goods and Services

The Abbey of Regina Laudis	Fund	Litchfield County Times	Pilobolus
Agway	DK Schulman Design	Litchfield Jazz Festival	Plateau Designs
AirTran Airways	Calligraphy	Scott Lutrus	Allan Priaulx
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Brickhouse Pizza and Restaurant	GW Tavern	New Britain Rock Cats	Billy Steers
Bridge Fine Wine, Spirits and Beer	Hickory Stick Bookshop	New Milford Adult Education	Stop & Shop
Bridgewater Chocolates	Dave Hodges	New Milford Historical Society	StraightLine Bikes
Bull's Bridge Inn	Hartford Wolf Pack	New Milford Sports Club	Sundog Shoes
Capri Boutique	Holiday Restaurant	New Milford Youth Agency	Nancy Tafuri
Coffee Express	The Inn at Kent Falls	Joe's Salon	Tease
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Concept Interiors	J.D. Tucker's	Jan Kamm	TheatreWorks
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David Ortiz Children's	Kent Apothecary	Lennie's Flower Shop	Village Center for the Arts
	Kent Kitchen Works	Andrew and Bronwyn Leone	The Villager Restaurant
	Kent Wine and Spirit	Litchfield Athletic Club	Walkers Shortbread
	Bob and Marty Lambert		Warner Theatre
	Lennie's Flower Shop		Washington Food Market
	Andrew and Bronwyn Leone		Washington Pizza
	Litchfield Athletic Club		White Horse Country Pub
			YardApes
			Yokohama

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, tutors, and students of Literacy Volunteers on the Green, we would like to thank everyone who helped make our mission possible this year. This Annual Report includes the names of all who supported us through a donation or gift-in-kind. If we have omitted or misspelled anyone's name, please accept our apologies and contact us at (860) 355-0830.

A Moment in the Life of an LVG Tutor



Veteran tutor Christine McGrath of Litchfield shares information at a 2010 tutor training session with Rick Slivka of New Milford in foreground, and Randy DiPentima of Kent and Jay Frank of New Preston at left. LVG tutors come from 19 surrounding communities.

Connecticut's first Iraqi refugees — Board member and veteran tutor Sue McWhinnie, far right, shares a moment with Dr. Nafie Abtan and his wife,



Suahair al Shammari, who were brought to this country by IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigration Services, based in New Haven) and tutored by LVG. Special thanks are due to the Brookfield Congregational Church, which sponsored the family.

A Story of Success



*Hi, Rita and Anne!
I'm now an
American citizen!!!
Here's a picture
from my oath
ceremony in Hartford.*

Best regards, Natasha

Rita Guariglia and Anne Maitland are co-founders of LVG. Natasha has been an LVG student for the past five years and took both English and citizenship classes.

2010 LVG Tutoring by the Numbers

1 Basic Literacy Tutor Training Session

2 ESL Tutor Training Sessions

32 New Tutors

74 Active Tutors

**4,000 hours of instruction, equivalent to
\$72,000 in educational services
donated to the community**

Thank you to our Tutors and Volunteers

Norman Adler
Mary Sabia Allaire
Roberta Allen
Julie Astbury
Lisa Atkinson
Catherine Bachrach
David Bain
Loretta Bayers
Elenor Bristol
Carol Beck
Kathleen Bertram
Bill Carr
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