



Volunteers Cruise with LVI for Scorching Summer Outing

Intense as the heat was on Wednesday, July 20th, volunteers from St. Charles, Warrenville and Chicago braved the day, leaving the solace of air conditioning behind them to join LVI and IYC staff for our annual summer volunteer “thank you” event.

The event this year was a paddlewheel boat ride along the Fox River, on the eponymous *Fox River Queen*. Drinks of the hard and soft variety flowed as the paddlewheel boat pulled away from the dock and into what turned out to be a most merciful as well as much welcomed breeze.

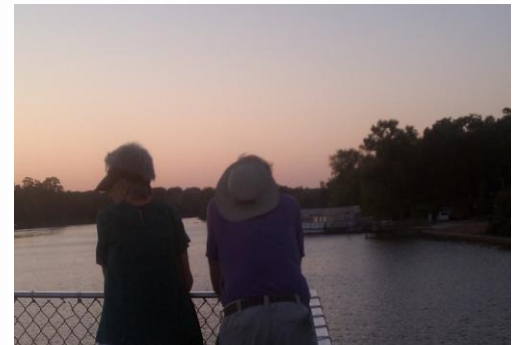
Special guests of the event included recently retired IYC-Chicago principal Jim Vlammig and IYC-St. Charles’ Chaplain Elmore. Also in attendance was John Miaso, head of the Knights of Columbus of Resurrection Parish in Wayne, Illinois. During the boat ride, he ceremonially presented Executive Director Dorothy Miaso with a check representing the sum of the proceeds raised at the June 25th Charity Pig Roast which they sponsored, in part to raise funds for the Jump Start program.

Guests enjoyed a bountiful dinner, beautiful scenery and a pleasant evening sunset. LVI hosts bi-annual volunteer appreciation events to provide both LVI and Center staff a time to say “thank you” for all that you do on behalf of the youth being detained in the system. It is also provides an opportunity for us to speak about our work and experiences with the youth, as well as discussing other aspects of our lives.

Thank you to all who attended. To those who were unable to join us, thank you for your continued dedication to the young men and women in the IYCs. Our appreciation for all you do to help the youth we serve cannot be expressed by either us or IYC staff, so it gives us great pleasure to acknowledge it any time we can.



Jump Start volunteers and Chaplain Elmore of IYC-St. Charles mingle on the paddlewheel boat.



Jump Start volunteers enjoy the scenery from the upper deck as the boat pulls into dock.



Dorothy Miaso, LVI Executive Director, accepts a check from Knights of Columbus Chair and brother, John Miaso.

Students Explore Interests in Harrisburg

Every other Wednesday, students at IYC-Harrisburg attend elective classes covering a wide range of subjects such as cooking, poetry, art, and anger management. Students select their top four subjects, and from them, each student is given two subjects to attend. These classes are designed to give the students a break from their regular studies, as well as provide valuable skills and tools to help prepare them for their return home.

Jump Start Program Coordinator, Joni Gravatt, teaches the *Independent Living* class, which focuses on helping the students realize what knowledge and skills they will need to acquire to effectively live on their own. Subjects covered include filling out a job application, practice interviewing, creating cover letters, balancing a checking account, writing checks, and brainstorming possible career options. The class also discusses such issues as where students will live, how they will interact with roommates, and how to balance a budget. *Independent Living* is held every other Wednesday for 50 minutes for a class of eleven students.

Community Resource Fair for Kewanee

The 2011 Henry County Community Resource Fair was held Wednesday, October 19th at the Black Hawk College Community Education Center in Kewanee from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. The annual event is sponsored by The Human Service Council Agency of Henry County, which consists of service agencies that provide assistance to residents of Henry County and the surrounding area. Informational booths at the fair included: housing assistance; employment services; food pantries; senior services; health care; disability services; education; child and youth programs; and volunteer opportunities.

Jump Start Program Coordinator Deb Sundberg and AmeriCorps Members Phyllis Dotson and Jennifer Wagner attended the fair to represent LVI and to present information to those attending on tutoring and other volunteer opportunities at IYC-Kewanee. Door prizes were donated by members of the council and refreshments were served for those who stopped in to visit the fair.

Congratulations Graduates !

A graduation ceremony was held on September 29th for 17 youths who had received their high school diploma, GED or college certificates at IYC-Harrisburg. Three high school diplomas, 10 GED certificates, and four college certificates were awarded. Rick Gravatt, the Special Education instructor, and GED recipient Esteben Cardenas made speeches on behalf of the graduates during the ceremony.

At IYC-Kewanee, 11 high school diplomas, nine GED certificates, and five eighth grade promotions were awarded.

Staffing Update

LVI's Executive Director along with LVI Board Member, John McLeod, have been interviewing candidates for the program coordinator position at IYC-St. Charles. After having received over 90 resumes, invitations to interview were extended to ten candidates and were then narrowed down to three. LVI extended an offer in late November to Jeanette Kiene, who has officially passed the full background check process, and will begin on January 9th. Welcome, Jeanette !

You Got Talent at Kewanee !

Wednesday, December 14th was the IYC-Kewanee holiday potluck that provided lunch as well as entertainment for Center staff. The 60 or so attending enjoyed a meal of turkey, ham, gravy and more. After the meal, "Kewanee's Got Talent" provided entertainment. About 50 youth signed up to be a part of the show. The top nine acts were chosen to perform for the potluck audience. The youth worked hard on their acts, and were excited about performing.

Some of the boys wrote and rapped original songs, while others told jokes or sang songs written by others. Several of the performers were current or previous students in our tutoring program. A few of the notable acts included a duo that sang and danced to Michael Jackson's "Thriller", as well as the winner (currently a student in our tutoring program!) who rapped and danced to Eminem's "Lose Yourself." Prizes were awarded to the top 3 acts as voted upon by three judges.

We enjoyed watching the kids we have worked with show off their entertaining skills. It was refreshing to see and hear the talent the youth of IYC-Kewanee has to offer.

- Jennifer Wagner
AmeriCorps Member

Welcome AmeriCorps Members !



OUT REACH for
COMMUNITY
ACTION in
LITERACY

September 1st marked the beginning of another program year for LVI's VOCAL AmeriCorps program, and we welcome Jennifer Wagner, as a full-time member at IYC-Kewanee. We also welcome back to our 2012 program year four 2011 returning members:

Byron Eden at IYC-St.Charles, Cherie Eller-Ferrel at IYC-Harrisburg, and Phyllis Dotson and Ron Happach, both of whom are at IYC-Kewanee.

As a full-time member, Jennifer serves as a Literacy Specialist at IYC-Kewanee, where in addition to tutoring and assisting in the computer lab, she also provides program assistance to the Jump Start Coordinator, Deb Sundberg. Additionally, Jennifer is also tutoring at Black Hawk College's Community Education Center in Kewanee, and serving one day a week at an elementary school in Princeton. As a full-time member, Jennifer is serving 35 hours a week.

Cherie Eller-Ferrel is a returning part-time member in Harrisburg, where she is serving her second year with our program. As a part-time member, Cherie is serving 20 hours a week as a tutor and assisting as needed with other academic enrichment activities.

Byron, Phyllis and Ron are all returning as what is called "minimum time" members. As minimum time members, they serve 10-12 hours at each of their Centers, primarily tutoring and mentoring the young men, as well as serving where and when needed with other program activities. All three had been serving as volunteer tutors in the Jump Start program prior to "kicking up" their hours and becoming AmeriCorps members.

In late August, we bid a sad farewell to Tara Bortz, a part-time member at IYC-Harrisburg, and in July to Sara Kosmin, a part-time member at IYC-Chicago. Thank you both for your contributions to the Jump Start program.

AmeriCorps is a service program that is part of the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. In Illinois, AmeriCorps programs are administered by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, known as Serve Illinois. The Commission is governed by a 26-member governor-appointed body, representing all sectors including business, labor, education, youth, senior citizens, education, and national service. It is housed in the Illinois Department of Human Services. There is a competitive process by which non-profit and other public agencies vie to sponsor AmeriCorps programs, with the Commission making the selection. Individuals who serve as AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance and upon successful completion of service, an education award of up to \$5,550 that can be used at a higher education or vocational institution of their choice. LVI's VOCAL AmeriCorps program – Volunteer Outreach for Community Action in Literacy – has 38 members for this program year. The members, who serve at a variety of volunteer literacy programs throughout, are a mix of full-time, part-time and minimum time members.

Have you bought materials for Jump Start ?

From time to time, we find that tutors often come across materials that they would like to use with their student and purchase the materials on their own. We appreciate your generosity in doing that, as does your student and the School District. A reminder that if you are purchasing materials for use on our behalf, it is tax exempt and you can use our exemption letter when making the purchase. Copies of the letter can be gotten from our staff at any of the Centers.

Also, if there are purchases you make, if you let us know we will issue a thank you letter with the monetary value included which can be used as a charitable deduction on your income tax.

Remember that mileage can also be counted as a charitable contribution. The IRS allows a standard rate of 14¢ a mile, or with reliable written records, actual out-of-pocket expenses for vehicle usage in charitable volunteer work.

Touching the Sky at the NWIVC

The Northwestern Illinois Volunteerism Conference was held on October 7th at scenic Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois, and was attended by Jump Start Program Coordinator Deb Sundberg from IYC-Kewanee. Representatives from various organizations were welcomed by Dave Layton, the spokesperson from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Quad Cities, along with members of the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Scott McFarland, Resources & Information Manager, and Karla Kunzeman, Volunteer Programs Manager.

The Keynote Speaker, Eleni Kelakos, presented a musical motivational program entitled *Touch the Sky!* that was more than a simple keynote address. She combined humor, stories and original songs into an uplifting message designed to re-energize and encourage adults to celebrate their uniqueness and unleash their potential.

The afternoon sessions that our Jump Start representative, Deb Sundberg, chose to attend were: *Engaging Generations of Volunteers*, which covered concepts of generational differences and how it defines who we are. Characteristics of four distinct generations were discussed through such topics as life influences and values. *It's All about Communication* covered ways in which people communicate. Topics included 8 Steps in Communication, Verbal vs. Nonverbal, Personality and Communication, Processing Information, Fact vs. Emotion, and a discussion of what may cause a breakdown when communicating with peers. The session entitled *Project Planning* outlined the process of developing a project and the steps involved which included objectives such the type of plan, who should be involved, implementation strategies, phasing plan, funding options, project support, and the resources or people needed to accomplish the project.



SIVC Lights the Way for Service and Success



The Southern Illinois Volunteerism conference was held on September 29th at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon, Illinois and was attended by Jump Start Program Coordinator Joni Gravatt. The conference, sponsored by SERVE Illinois, featured five workshops ranging in scope from the fundamentals of nonprofit fundraising to managing the accident and liability risks associated with volunteer activities. The first speaker of the day was Jen White, Leadership Development Coordinator for Methodist Medical center in Peoria, Illinois. Her topic *Put on a Happy Face: How to Make More with Less* gave listeners a toolbox of best practices for prioritization, management, and accountability, as well as encouragement for weathering changes and smiling your way through your day.

The afternoon speaker was Katie Campbell, Executive Director for the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration. Katie talked about conveying the professional value of volunteers as a critical resource and offered strategies to enable effective leadership for our volunteers, most importantly understanding how leaders and their roles in organizations are perceived, with the focus on communication, optimism, and building relationships.

The afternoon session attended by our Jump Start representative was entitled *Leaders vs. Managers*. In the session, participants identified the characteristics of both leaders and managers and determined when each is needed. Some of the management characteristics identified were producing order, achieving consistency, planning, functioning independently, and maintaining control. Conversely, the characteristics of leaders were identified as producing change, achieving vision, setting direction, functioning interdependently, and motivating.

The Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
cordially invites you and a guest to a

New Year's Celebration

Sunday, January 8, 2012

1:00 pm

at

The Country House

2095 S. Kirk Rd.

Geneva, IL 60134

It's not too late! Call or e-mail LVI if you would like to attend.

312-857-1582 or lvail@aol.com



21st Annual Tutor & Adult Learner Conference

Saturday, April 21, 2012

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

UIC Center for Literacy

1040 W. Harrison

Chicago, IL 60607

For more information, please visit

<http://www.lvillinois.org/OntheRoadtoLiteracy.asp>

TUTOR TIP – Picture This !

Picture This: Developing visual memory may help students recall facts and details to improve reading comprehension.

Materials: A picture with a descriptive paragraph.

Directions: Give the student an “action” picture with a paragraph describing it. Have the student study the picture carefully and discuss it. Have the student read the paragraph about the picture. Have the student turn the picture over and then try to write down as many details as he or she can remember about the picture. Depending on the student’s level, the tutor may wish to do the writing. After writing, reread the passage and discuss.

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