
The Partners Press

Tompkins Learning Partners, Inc.

Fall 2009

Tutor of the Year and Exemplar Awards

Top TLP Awards Bestowed

TLP volunteers Maggie Goldsmith and Jim Atkinson were recently recognized as two of TLP's outstanding volunteers with the awarding, respectively, of the Henry Cowan Tutor of the Year Award and the TLP Exemplar Award.

Maggie, recipient of the tutor of the year award, has been a tutor with the agency since 2006 and also serves as a liaison between TLP and Lansing Residential Center. In addition to providing a communication link between the two organizations, she has also mentored other tutors, and worked with facility staff to match tutors with resident students. She is a strong advocate for the education of the young women at Lansing Residential Center.

The recipient of the 2009 Exemplar Award is Ithaca resident Jim Atkinson. Atkinson has been a volunteer with TLP for two years, focusing most of his time and efforts reorganizing the agency's extensive library, editing the agency's publications and assisting with fundraising. The Exemplar Award is presented annually to an individual, business or organization that has partnered with TLP in a non-tutoring capacity to further its mission to help individuals enrich their lives through literacy.



Picnic Fun!



TLP's Annual Recognition Picnic was held Sunday, September 13, 2009, at Stewart Park. The wind may have curtailed our game-playing this year, but it did not stop



tutors, students, board members and staff from having a fun time visiting and enjoying a delicious picnic lunch! The day's program noted 25 volunteer tutors with three to five years of service and 13 volunteer tutors with six to ten years of service. TLP is truly fortunate to have such a large group of long-term (as well as new) dedicated volunteer tutors. The event culminated with the presentation of awards. (See above.)



Borders Book Drive

If you have read or used some of the new easy-to-read books in the library, you can thank Borders Books & Music and the United Way of Tompkins County. This past August, Borders conducted an in-store book drive where customers purchased books to be donated to United Way agencies. One of our staff represented TLP at the Ithaca store on a Saturday afternoon during the drive to tell customers about TLP and how our students and tutors alike need all kinds of books to help achieve their literacy goals.

From the books donated and collected by the United Way, Sarah White selected books on a variety of topics, including geography and culture as well as easy-to-read books for students to use on their own.

TLP is grateful to Borders and the United Way for helping expand the TLP library. Feel free to thank the Borders staff if you are shopping there!

Thank You to the Comic Book Club!

The Comic Book Club of Ithaca is believed to be the oldest active comic book fan club in the United States. Since starting in February of 1975, the Club has held 34 comic book conventions in addition to many smaller shows.

A few years after Carmela Merlo and Roger Stern took over leadership of the Club in 1995, they started donating proceeds from some of their comic book shows to TLP.

A big-thank you to Carmela and Roger and all Club members for remembering us every year!

SUPPORT TLP

at the

Annual Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair
Saturday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Dodds Hall, First Presbyterian Church
315 N. Cayuga Street or
First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park

Are you looking for a meaningful alternative to holiday gift-giving?! You can purchase one of the following gifts in your name, or in the name of friends or family:

\$10 = one 30-week subscription to News for You, a newspaper for beginning readers.

\$25 = a training packet for a new volunteer tutor.

\$35 = 7 hours of childcare so a student can meet with his or her tutor.

\$50 = a book and/or workbook designed for low-level adult readers

****Or**, a dollar amount of your choice for support of Tompkins Learning Partners.

TLP Board News **Welcome back!**

Former TLP board president Ellen Bonn has rejoined TLP Board of Directors for a three-year term. Mrs. Bonn, also a former tutor, served with TLP, then Literacy Volunteers, from 1997 to 2003.

She trained to be a volunteer Adult Basic Education tutor at LVTC/TLP in early 1996. She was working full-time at Cornell and came to the agency with volunteer library experience and experience tutoring primary-grade children in reading. Ellen was eventually recruited to the board and served two terms. During that time her enthusiastic participation in agency activities was invaluable to the organization. She was a leader in board development and fundraising, and took on the task of hiring a new (and the current) executive director. Director David Smith noted, "We are thrilled to have Ellen back with us. Her board and agency development work helped set the stage for the successful agency we are today."

Summer and Fall Tutor Training Workshops at Tompkins Learning Partners



****Thank you to everyone who participated in the fall workshop series and helped make it such a success:***

****Special thanks to Lifelong for generously providing space for tutor training.***

New Volunteers Who Attended Training

Kelly Basner
Terry Carroll
Jessica Custer-Bindel
Patricia Heckart
Pilar Junco
Rebecca Mendez
Helen Ranck
Jaquelyn Turner
Mickey Upadhyay
Dru Wheelin

Experienced Tutors Who Attended Training

Judith Ashton
Cheryl Barbasch
Mary-Lynn Cummings
Lizzy Evett
Carol Hockett
Larri Richmond
Betty Spero
Pat Wagner
Tom Weiler
Amalia Weinberg

Comments About Training

"Pay-dirt! I tried some of [the] strategies (presented at the Read Aloud Think Aloud Workshop) and found my student very receptive... Can't wait to try it again!"
--from a current TLP Tutor

"I think this training (Be an Effective Tutor) gave a useful, broad overview of the organization and its programs – not too specific or general."
--from a potential TLP Tutor

Spread the Word

The next new volunteer orientation is January 5, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Tompkins Learning Partners. Call 277-6442 to pre-register.

DUMP and RUN Update!



Tompkins Learning Partners participated once again this summer as a Dump and Run partner, having been selected last year by the Student Advisory Committee at Cornell, making us one of the recipients of funds from the sale of items "left behind" by Cornell students. For three months this summer TLP volunteers and friends sorted goods, moved them to Cornell's Helen Newman gym, and worked the weekend of the sale. As a result, TLP received \$7,000 of the \$37,000 raised. TLP will participate again next year at this fun and different event. So please add us to your calendar and help during summer 2010!



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TLP respects the privacy of our students. We never use students' full names or photos without their permission.

Non-Profit Organization

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Return Service Requested

TLP will soon be sending out its Annual Fundraising Appeal letter. We hope those of you contacted will be able to make a gift to our organization this year. If you would like to give, but do not receive a request, a simple way to do so is by credit card through our website at TLPartners.org.

— **Your Help Is Needed, Too!** —

TLP has recently received three grants! The Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library has awarded \$800 to be used for books and other tutoring materials. The Wal-Mart Foundation provided \$1,000 to be used for student supplies. The New York Education Department has again awarded an E. L. Civics grant for \$9,652 to support our work with ESL students.

Grants!



Our mission is to help adults and young people who live or work in Tompkins County meet their personal goals, free of charge, by improving their ability to read, write, and speak English, and to use math and computers. Students achieve these goals by working together with professionally trained and supported volunteer tutors.

**TLP's
Mission**