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LitBits

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Brain Game 2008 raises over \$17,000 for LVR

The eighth annual Brain Game, presented by Thomson Reuters, was held on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at the Rochester Club Ballroom. Fourteen teams of local legal and accounting firms participated in the annual trivia challenge to support LVR. This year the event raised over \$17,000.

The 2008 Brain Game champion is the team

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC. Team members were: Doug Needham, Adam Mastroleo, Dan Paultz, and Colm Ryan.

More than 120 people enjoyed good food and drink and the opportunity to cheer on the participating teams who vied for the title of 2008 Brain Game Champion. Judge Karen Morris served as honorary judge, and

Brenda Smith of Heveron and Heveron, CPA served as timekeeper.

LVR wishes to thank the sponsors, the teams and our volunteer Brain Game committee for making this event a success.

Brain Game Teams of 2008

- Bonadio Group
- Bond,Schoeneck & King, PPLC
- Boylan Brown LLP
- Chamberlain D’Amanda
- Davie Kaplan, PC
- DocuLegal
- Harris Beach PLLC
- Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP
- Lacy Katzen LLP
- Manning & Napier Advisors, Inc
- Mengal Metzger Barr & Co. LLP
- Nixon Peabody, LLP
- Thomson Reuters
- Underberg & Kessler LLP



Winning team Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC with LVR board president Ed Hourihan.

Changes in LVR office hours for the winter

*The LVR office and library are open
Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The library is open Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. to noon*

December

Office closed in observance of Christmas
Thursday December 25, Friday December 26, and
Saturday December 27

January

Office closed in observance of New Year’s
Thursday January 1, Friday January 2 and
Saturday January 3

Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day
Monday January 19

LitBits, as well as other pertinent information, can be accessed on our website, www.literacyrochester.org

Holiday Gift Solution

Still looking for a gift for that hard-to-buy for person on your holiday giving list? One way to honor that special person and help others at the same time is to make a donation to Literacy Volunteers of Rochester. We’ll send a special card to the recipient acknowledging the gift and one to you as the donor. Just call LVR at 473-3030 and we’ll take care of the rest. What better way to express the spirit of season!

From the Executive Director - Bob Mahar Directors Update



This fall LVR begins two new exciting projects both aimed at providing support for individuals in our community who are looking to reach important goals in their lives.

Citizenship Scholarship

At the urging of LVR tutor Pam Killaby, LVR has begun a "Citizenship Scholarship Fund" to help individuals in our program, who are seeking U.S. Citizenship, handle the increased cost of taking the U.S. Citizenship test. With the cost going up by 40% as of October 1, the fees have become an added barrier

to those seeking to become citizens. At its September meeting the LVR board adopted a policy to establish the fund and to set up some guidelines for application. While information will soon be available on our website and in the office, a quick overview is that students need to be enrolled in the LVR program and are at a given level in testing. The scholarship will, dependent on the funds available, pay a portion of what is now a fee of \$675 to take the test. For more information, please check the website or call the office. Our thanks to Pam for her suggestion and to her fellow committee members who worked to put together this project including Chuck Lundeen, Mellissa Woodhams and Peggy Clatworthy.

Literacy Bridges to Employment

This summer LVR was informed that we had been successful in our efforts to provide a program called "Literacy Bridge to Employment". This program will combine one-to-one instruction for adult students with small group

instruction aimed at improving literacy, math, computer and job readiness skills. Our goal is to better prepare adults, reading between a 3rd and 6th grade level, to enter the workforce. This program hopes not only to build basic skills like literacy and math, but also to help LVR students obtain basic computer skills so that they can access employment information and apply for employment on-line. Improvements in literacy and math skills will give students an opportunity to achieve the goal of obtaining or improving employment. For more information please contact the LVR office.

One-to-One – it's who we are – it's what we do!

In recent years our office has offered group instruction to adult learners. These classes help support the goals of LVR students and also make effective use of the limited resources of volunteer and staff time. However, LVR remains committed more than ever to a one-to-one method of instruction for adult learners- it's who we are!

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President's Corner – Edward Hourihan



In the last few months how many times have you heard people say, in referring to the economy, "these are uncertain times" or "when will we see the bottom?". Questions about the direction of the economy, wild fluctuations in the stock market, the collapse of seemingly stable and indestructible corporations and the attendant loss of jobs has us all concerned. In times such as these, organizations such as LVR that heavily

rely on individual charitable donations, grants and state and federal funds are also affected. Cuts in funding limits the ability of LVR to accomplish its mission of helping adults to make a better life and world for themselves and their families.

An estimated 30 million adults in the U.S. can barely read and write; an additional 63 million have significant gaps in basic literacy skills. A large number of these individuals are unemployed, have no health insurance, and require public assistance. Imagine the difficulties these individuals encounter every day of their life, particularly in today's economy, with this unnecessary burden. Now more than ever, we call on the donors and volunteers that have contributed their time, treasure, and talent to the mission of LVR. Think of becoming a tutor.

Donating your time to help those who cannot or struggle to read and write is a tremendous gift. In speaking with our tutors over the years, they have commented on how their service to the organization has enhanced their social awareness, allowed them to keep active and learn about the community, allowed them to make a difference in someone else's life, and to make new friends by sharing their enthusiasm in a cause in which they believe. Today there are some 75 individuals on a waiting list at LVR who need help in learning how to read and write. So, in these challenging economic times, please consider donating your time. Become a tutor! Please contact LVR at 473-3030 for more information.

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Our community is again embracing the issue of literacy with many groups offering their support to LVR and others organizations providing literacy services. While I welcome the support of these groups, I often hear from organizations starting up new programs and projects. As you talk with friends and neighbors and they talk about their church or community association starting up a new literacy effort- encourage them as I do, to reach out to organizations such as: LVR, their local community education program, BOCES, the Rochester City School District, library or even City Hall (as they are coordinating the Mayor's Literacy Movement) and to join in their existing efforts. There are many programs in our community currently providing services for youth and adults, in classes and one-to-one, all of these programs need help. There are tremendous resources for literacy in our community that are here to meet the needs of learners of all ages and levels that are already positively impacting the live of people every day - it's what we do!

Thanks as always for what you do for LVR and for helping to spread the word about literacy in our community.

Save the Date

*LVR Winter Conference
Saturday January 31, 2009
9:30am-1:30pm*

More information will be sent out in late December or early January

LVR now has a group on Facebook

*In addition to our website at
www.literacyrochester.org*

You can use the Literacy Volunteers of Rochester Facebook group to catch up on what is going on at LVR,

Our group is titled Literacy Volunteers of Rochester

We invite all Facebook members to join our group

LVR Computer Programs

My Reading Coach: Teaches fluency, reading, comprehension and grammar to both Basic and ESOL learners.

MathMedia Arithmetic Software: Teaches number sense, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division as well as basic fractions, decimals, percents, algebra, and geometry.

Access to English: Addresses the needs of the most limited English users including users that have never been in contact with the English language. Exercises integrate content-area material with language development and instruction.

All of these programs are available at LVR for learners to use during office hours. Once a student has been trained on the individual program they may sign up to come in and use these programs on their own. LVR student services coordinator, Mellissa Woodhams, offers one-on-one introductory sessions for learners and tutors. Training sessions are generally held individually, but tutors and learners are welcome to sign up together. Each session takes fifteen to thirty minutes. Prior experience with computers is not required.