

December 2006

Dear Neighbor,

As the new Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc. (LVeoc) I need to share a **frightening secret** with you. In ours, one of the world's richest nations, **23%** of all adult Americans are **illiterate**. If you are not appalled by this shocking statistic I suggest that you need to take a look at this horrendous inequity for the sake of the world in which we live.

In **Newburgh**, the situation is far more critical: **one third** of all adults cannot read their child's report card or the instructions on a prescription bottle or the names printed on an election ballot. They come from **every generation** and from **every ethnic group**. They are both **native-born** and **immigrants**. And they are frustrated, embarrassed, and ashamed.

To hide their humiliating secret, they wear reading glasses they don't need, carry pens they cannot use, and clutch unread newspapers like a shield. Their inability to read denies them equal participation in our nation and robs our economy, government, and society of the potential benefits of their full involvement. We all suffer. Democracy - government of, for, and by the people - cannot work for this country if its citizens cannot read.

So what can you - a confident reader - do to help?

An important way for you to help is by enabling us to attack our staggering illiteracy rate with your financial support. Another way is to consider joining us as a tutor. Let us know how you will help on the attached commitment form. You can make a big difference in someone's life for only 90 minutes per week!

Literacy Volunteers of Eastern Orange County, Inc. (LVeoc) invites you to become our partner in the removal of illiteracy in Newburgh and its surrounding areas. To honor every one of your family and friends who can read, give a tax-deductible donation to LVeoc as a holiday gift. Please send in the enclosed donor commitment form today.

With your dollars we can reach everyone who wants to learn to read. With your dollars we can help them escape their frustration, shame and embarrassment. With your dollars we can train a larger pool of volunteer tutors and purchase instructional materials to help them do their job. With your dollars we can channel a committed business community's efforts to remedy this problem and set a model for the rest of America. If Newburgh gets behind us, believe it, the country will sit up and take notice.

You have the power to guarantee that there are more readers in our world. Thank you!

Sincerely yours,



Roanne Patterson, Executive Director

Executive Director
Roanne Patterson

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Program Assistant
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Commit to Literacy!

Yes, I will help my neighbors read. Enclosed is a check/money order for the amount indicated.

Supplier \$20 _____ supplies student materials for one year
 Trainer \$75 _____ trains two tutors
 Supporter \$250 _____ supports 4 tutor/student pairs for one year
 Underwriter \$1000 _____ provides training manuals for 33 volunteer tutors
 Mentor \$xxxx _____

Corporate Giving

Sponsor \$100 _____
 Teacher \$250 _____
 Professor \$500 _____
 Advisor \$1,000 _____

Total \$ _____ Please make your check out to "LVeoc"

This donation is in honor/memory/name of (circle one):

name _____

address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

email _____

donor name _____

donor address _____

donor city, state, zip _____

Yes, I would appreciate a tax receipt for this donation _____

Tutoring and Volunteering

I am interested in tutoring _____

I would like to volunteer in other ways _____

tutor/volunteer name _____

address _____

city, state, zipcode _____

telephone _____

email _____

Please send LVeoc announcements:

by mail ____ by email ____ year round ____ only at fund drives ____