

Literacy Promotion Awards 2014

As part of International Literacy Day, the Tri-County Literacy Network recognizes individuals' contributions to literacy in the tri-county area of Chatham-Kent, Sarnia-Lambton and Windsor-Essex. On an annual basis one individual from each county or municipality is recognized for his/her promotion of literacy.

Chatham-Kent Recipient:

Recipient of the Literacy Promotion Award 2014 for Chatham-Kent

This year, in Chatham-Kent, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Laura Williams**.

Laura Williams, Job Developer at the Goodwill Career Centre, is a long-time identifier and determined supporter of job seekers who lack essential skills or secondary credits. Committed to informing clients about free adult learning screenings and services. Laura and her colleagues continuously coach and encourage Chatham-Kent's at-risk residents with endurance. Who doesn't need an edge in this job market? Successful job searches become reality when clients brush up on math and writing, complete their diplomas or acquire basic computer skills. This is largely a result of Laura's belief in and promotion of literacy and lifelong learning.

Open to collaboration, she offers information to practitioners and LBS participants alike. Laura truly understands how solid partnership improves service! In her role with the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers Program with a teacher-led lab component, she was key to bringing critical help all under one roof. She facilitated an invaluable opportunity for catching up in the age of digital media.

Windsor-Essex Recipient:

Recipient of the Literacy Promotion Award 2014 for Windsor-Essex

This year, in Windsor-Essex, we would like to recognize the contributions of **Linda Youdelis**.

Linda Youdelis has been a volunteer tutor with the Windsor Public Library Adult Literacy Program since 2003. Through the years, she has met with several adult learners to help them achieve their personal goals through literacy. Since 2011, Linda has volunteered with the library's Book Buddy Program, meeting one-on-one with a child to help her improve her reading skills. Linda is also a board member of the Windsor Volunteers for Literacy Foundation, a charitable organization which aims to promote, advance and support organizations to improve literacy in the Windsor community.

In her role as a tutor, Linda provides encouragement and support by helping her learners develop self-esteem and problem-solving strategies. She has been instrumental in motivating her learners, and providing a positive learning environment. As a Book Buddy, Linda exhibits patience and creativity in devising

activities that will benefit the child she meets with, and help develop a life-long love of reading. Linda has a keen sense of humour and a positive energy, which combined with her patience and integrity, makes her an invaluable volunteer. She truly is a champion of literacy.