

ADULT LITERACY, WE NEED YOU

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Minh Nguyen immigrated to the United States from Vietnam with his father and brother when he was 20 years old. Minh enrolled in the Chippewa River District Library's Adult Literacy Program as an ESL (English as a Second Language) student last April. Minh was scheduled to take the U.S. Citizenship test in May and he needed help. Minh and his volunteer tutor used the "U.S. Citizenship" practice test available through the library's Web Resources at crdl.org to help him study. On May 19th Minh passed his test and is now a U.S. citizen, all because someone in our community took time out of their busy life to become an adult literacy tutor. Today, Minh is continuing to work on his English speaking, reading and writing skills with his volunteer tutor.

The Chippewa River District Library's Adult Literacy Program needs people like you to help people like Minh learn to read and write and/or speak better English. Statistically, 11% of adults in Isabella County are functionally illiterate. Roughly 1 out of every 10 adults can't read road signs, or the directions on a bottle of medication. This November, your Chippewa River District Library will be hosting another round of free adult literacy tutor training. Are you or is someone you know interested in helping adults in our community better equip themselves to function in our modern society? Call Susan at 773-3242 ext. 49, and tell her you want to become an adult literacy tutor. The training is free. Once your tutor training is complete, you will be matched with an adult from our community wishing to improve their literacy skills, but what

you'll really be giving them is hope, self esteem, and the skills necessary to earn a living wage in our tough economy.

One tool adult literacy tutors, as well as parents and individuals at the library or at home, now have access to is *Lexia Reading*. With help from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Lexia Learning Systems developed interactive reading software designed to aid students at all levels, pre-K through grade 12. *Lexia Reading* is currently being used in over 10,000 schools, libraries, adult learning centers, and second language centers throughout the world, and it's available to use for free through your Chippewa River District Library.

If you'd like more information about the becoming an adult literacy tutor, or more information about how *Lexia Reading* can improve your or your child's reading skills, call Susan at 773-3242 ext 49 or visit the Chippewa River District Library's display at the Central Michigan District Health Department's 2008 Health and Safety Fair on Thursday, August 28th.

Of course we have other events and activities going on as well. Bring your preschoolers to CRDL Storytime at Veterans Memorial Library in Mt. Pleasant every Monday and Thursday at 10:15am, and at Faith Johnston Memorial Library in Rosebush every Wednesday at 11am. CRDL Teen Video Game Open Play is on the calendar for Tuesday, August 26th at 6pm at Veterans Memorial Library. Discuss a good book at CRDL Faith's Book Sense, Tuesday the 26th at 7pm at Faith Johnston Memorial Library. The little ones will love CRDL Lapsit Storytime on Wednesday the 27th at 10:15am. CRDL Lapsit Storytime is perfect for young developmental minds (children up to 2 years old) and happens at Veterans Memorial Library. What other fun events and activities are happening at your Chippewa River District Library? Click www.crdl.org and see why everyone is saying "I Love My Library".