

The Golf Affect Launches Northside Literacy Network Effort

By Sue Gleason

If you know anything about golf you know that Steve Stricker calls the Northside of Madison home. A less known fact is that Stricker, current ranked 5th in the world and 1st among US golfers has created The Golf Affect to give back to his community. As described on their website

“The Golf Affect is a charitable movement powered by the sport of golf that aims to directly affect the lives of our community. The Golf Affect does not bring golf to those in need; we use golf as a vehicle to bring valuable resources to those in need. Steve Stricker, along with the support of Dennis Tiziani and Cherokee Country Club, aims to generate revenue through charitable events and brand recognition to create an influential movement and positively impact the lives of our community.

On the ground here at home, Tiziani is doing just that by providing computers to schools, ensuring wireless Internet in the schools and most recently partnering with Liz Fritz, principal at Lindbergh Schools to sponsor Literacy Network programming for Northside parents. *See the following article, reprinted with permission from the Literacy Network of Dane County Winter 2011 Newsletter*

English in the Schools program reaches out to the Northside at Lindbergh Elementary School

Cecilia Corona has two main goals for learning English: she wants to be able to help her kids with their homework, and she wants to talk to her doctor without a translator. To reach these goals, Cecilia is attending an English in the Schools class at Lindbergh Elementary each week. Throughout the past few years, Literacy Network has offered English in the Schools classes for parents on the south, east, and west sides of Madison at schools such as Leopold, Orchard Ridge, Glendale, Midvale, and Hawthorne. This fall, Literacy Network ventured to the north-side through English and Spanish classes at Lindbergh Elementary.

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, parents, families, and teachers from Lindbergh, Mendota, Gompers, and Black Hawk learn school-related English or basic Spanish. For the last half hour of the program, learners from the English and Spanish classes gather together to practice their target languages together. Native Spanish speakers teach and encourage native English-speakers, and vice-versa. Cecilia shared that the language exchange portion of the program is her favorite part because now she is not nervous when she practices with the native English speakers. The English and Spanish classes at Lindbergh are made possible through the generous donations of Dennis Tiziani, former UW golf coach and founder of The Golf Affect. The Golf Affect is also offering family dinners before the language classes each week to build community and enable families to attend class without worrying about rushing to feed their children a meal.

Cecilia has already seen improvements in her English and she feels more confident using English in her daily life. In mid-November, Cecilia spoke to her children’s teachers in English during Parent-Teacher Conferences without the help of a translator. Lindbergh’s program is one of three bilingual family literacy programs in Madison this semester. Glendale Elementary and Orchard Ridge Elementary also host English and Spanish classes for parents, families, and teachers every week. The program at Lindbergh will continue in the spring semester, along with additional sites throughout Madison.

Literacy Network is a non-profit organization made up of teachers, learners, tutors, volunteers and donors all working together to improve adult literacy in Dane County. Our programs teach reading, writing and speaking skills to adults and families so they can achieve financial independence, good health and greater involvement in community life. All programs are free of charge.

Founded in 1974 as a non-profit organization, Literacy Network has been a United Way Agency since 1979. Literacy Network is also a member of Wisconsin Literacy.



Americorps member Melissa Noe and Golf Affect sponsor Dennis Tiziani draw raffle winners with one of the children in Literacy Network's program at Lindbergh Elementary.



The students in Lindbergh's English class. Left to right: Cecilia Corona, Adriana Bernal, Marisol Olvera, Elvia Torrijos, Maria Avila, Sara Ewing (instructor), Elia Reinke, and Irma Vasquez Martinez.