



# LITERACY VOLUNTEERS

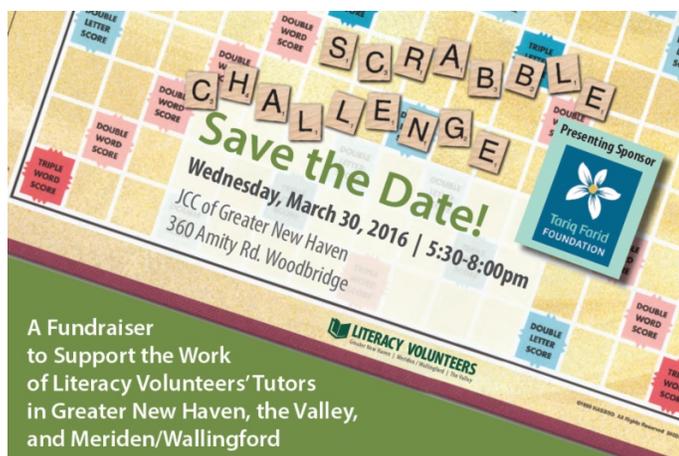
Greater New Haven | Meriden / Wallingford | The Valley

## LITERACY LINK E-NEWSLETTER Issue 12, Jan. 2016

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## SCRABBLE NEWS

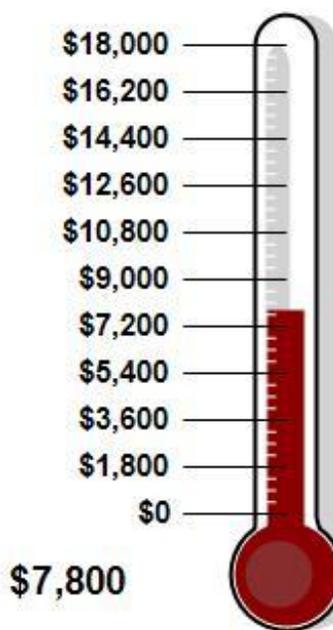


### PRESENTING SPONSOR:

The Tariq Farid Foundation is supporting Literacy Volunteers as the Presenting Sponsor for our 2016 Scrabble Challenge. Established by Tariq Farid, the Founder and CEO of Edible Arrangements, the mission of the Tariq Farid Foundation is to alleviate suffering by providing for the basic needs of food and healthcare, and to improve lives through the support of education and skill development opportunities that enable individuals to reach their full potential. Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven thanks the Tariq Farid Foundation for their generous support of our adult literacy programs in New Haven, Meriden, Wallingford, and the Valley.

### Annual Appeal

Amount Achieved to Date



We are 52% of the way to our goal of \$15,000.

**All amounts** are appreciated and donors can **specify the program area** they would like their contribution to support.

### **NEW DONORS ARE**

**WELCOME!** If you have a friend, co-worker, or family member who would like to contribute to our Annual Appeal, please have them contact us or go to [www.lvagnh.org](http://www.lvagnh.org) Donate Now!

You can **increase the impact** of your donation by another **60%** by sending your check or online donation to us **by 2/28/16** due to a matching grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Thanks to all who continue to provide the financial support we need to keep serving our communities.

## **SEEKING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

**Administrative Support** - Seeking front desk coverage for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

### **CELEBRITY EMCEE**

Meteorologist Matt Scott from FOX 61 will host Literacy Volunteers' signature event. Join us for Scrabble fun on March 30th!



### **HONORARY CO-CHAIRS**

This year, Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven is proud to have the support of the Chambers of Commerce in all three regions we serve.

The Honorary Chairs for the 2016 Scrabble Challenge are Tony Rescigno, President of Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce; Sean W. Moore, President of the Midstate Chamber of Commerce; and Bill Purcell, President of the Valley Chamber of Commerce.

### **CHANGES**

Whether you're a die-hard Scrabbler or a first-time player, here are some things you'll need to know about the 2016 Scrabble Challenge.

- **New Venue:** Thanks to a great partnership, we will be holding the 2016 Scrabble Event at the JCC of Greater New Haven in Woodbridge, off Exit 59 of the Merritt Parkway. We hope this location will be

mornings at 4 Science Park in New Haven. Our office at 14 West Main Street in Meriden is also looking for someone to help with office tasks on Fridays from 9am to 1pm. Tasks include phone coverage, word processing, basic knowledge of Excel, and assisting staff with projects.

**Book Bank Volunteers** - Our Meriden office is looking for volunteers to supervise the Community Book Bank on Mondays from 9am to 1pm.

**Digital Photographer** - We need volunteers with a "good eye" and a digital camera or phone to take photos of tutoring in action throughout our program areas. This is a fun way to help promote Literacy Volunteers!

Interested in one of the opportunities listed above? Want to refer someone you know? Send an e-mail with a brief cover letter introducing yourself to Donna Violante at [donnaviolante@lvaghn.org](mailto:donnaviolante@lvaghn.org).

## **UPDATE: GRANTS RECENTLY AWARDED FOR 2016**

Literacy Volunteers would like to recognize the following foundations and organizations for their continued support.

convenient for players and large enough to accommodate our growing event!

- **Reduced Team Price:** This year we are offering a lower Team Registration fee in the hopes of bringing in a greater number of new teams. It is now \$25 per player/\$100 per table (compared to \$50 pp at last year's New Haven event). Register your team of four friends, relatives or co-workers today! TUTORS PLAY FOR FREE.
- **ONE EVENT, THREE REGIONS:** For the first time we are focusing our energies on developing a single Scrabble Challenge to support ALL THREE REGIONS we serve. The funds raised from this year's event will provide Free Adult Literacy Classes in Greater New Haven, Meriden/Wallingford, and the Valley.

[CLICK TO VISIT OUR SCRABBLE WEB PAGE](#)

# **MIS- UNDERSTANDING DYSLEXIA**

- City Missionary Association of New Haven - \$2,600
- Cuno Foundation - \$2,500
- John G. Martin Foundation - \$4,000
- Liberty Bank Foundation - \$5,000
- Meriden Foundation - \$12,000
- Pitney Bowes Foundation - \$2,500
- Valley United Way Special Needs Grant - \$1,150
- Werth Family Foundation - \$25,000

Thanks to their support, we will be able to continue offering our literacy programs to adults who wish to improve their reading, writing, and English speaking skills in Greater New Haven, Meriden, Wallingford and the Valley communities.

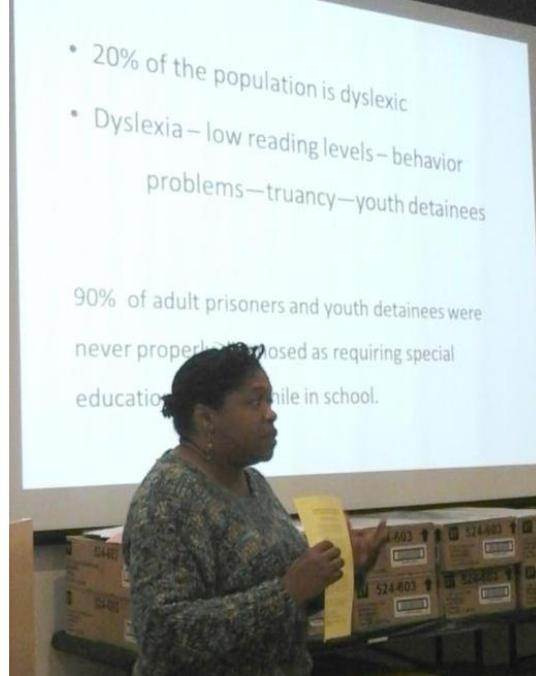
## HELP US EARN \$ EVERY TIME YOU MAKE AN AMAZON PURCHASE



For complete details about the AmazonSmile program, please visit [Program Details](#).

### Literacy Volunteers Offices

4 Science Park  
New Haven, CT 06511



On Saturday, January 16, Literacy Volunteers welcomed back one of its own to educate tutors about the most common learning disability faced by our adult student population: dyslexia.

Former Literacy Volunteers tutor, Dr. Karima Robinson, shared her experiences as a dyslexic learner and an educator in a free tutor workshop titled "Understanding Dyslexia".

In her presentation, Robinson challenged tutors' preconceived notions about dyslexia while educating them on the most recent research. Tutors also participated in activities that mimicked the disorienting effects of dyslexia.

"I did not realize that there is a hearing component to dyslexia," said New Haven Basic Literacy tutor, Valerie Kilmartin. "That information will help me with my dyslexic student."

Curtis John, another New Haven tutor, said he was struck by "the difficulty [dyslexic students] have with abstract words as they cannot make a picture of these words...I imagine [this] would make reading very difficult bearing in mind that many of the foundational words in reading are pretty much abstract. How do you see 'is'?"

P: (203) 776-5899

14 West Main St  
Meriden, CT 06451

P: (203) 235-1714

415 Howe Ave  
Shelton, CT 06484

P: (203) 924-6651

20 Church St  
New Haven, CT 06511

P: (203) 285-2621



"The workshop was an eye opener," John added. "Not only did it engender an appreciation for the many outstanding individuals who might have overcome this affliction through sheer determination and intelligence, but it also kindled hope, through the tried and tested science-based teaching methods, for many who are on their way to making their contribution to the world."

"Karima was a terrific presenter. The material could easily have justified a full day program," said Kilmartin.

If you would like a copy of the resources shared at the January workshop, contact Sarah at [sarahflynn@lvagnh.org](mailto:sarahflynn@lvagnh.org).

## A LITTLE CHANGE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



Literacy Volunteers Executive Director, Donna Violante, accepts the check from the Vice President of Customer Advocacy, Carl Casper.

The Connex Coins-for-Change program yielded almost \$830 for Literacy Volunteers during the October-December quarter. Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven would like to thank Connex and all who supported our fundraiser by going to the North Haven branch to have their coins counted!

## **WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES!**

If you are a tutor or student with news you would like to share in our monthly e-newsletter, please contact Sarah at [sarahflynn@lvaghn.org](mailto:sarahflynn@lvaghn.org).

Your story could be featured in our next **Student Spotlight** or **Tutor Talk!**