



## Positive Happenings Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education Adult Basic Education 2013-2014 School Year

### Goodbye, Dear Friend!



ABE teaching staff:  
Kathryn Hansen and Kara Rotramel

The end of summer will also bring the end of an era at the Adult Learning Center. Long-time teacher, Kathryn Hansen, will be retiring after teaching and volunteering in the district for almost 20 years!

Kathy got her start in FLAS as a reading volunteer at Wyoming Elementary and eventually transitioned to the Adult Learning Center as a volunteer, then as a part-time teacher.

With a listening ear and a gentle heart, Kathy has become a student favorite during her years with the program. Her knowledge in English as a Second Language and her passion for working with students from all backgrounds has made her the perfect fit for our site and for our learners.

Kathy gave countless hours and endless energy to the program. Her patience, never-ending quest for learning, and her passion for ABE will be missed for a long time to come.

In retirement, Kathy is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with family and friends! Bon Voyage, Kathy!!

### Graduation Night – Fun for All!!

Each June the students and staff of Forest Lake ABE look forward to the Metro North ABE Graduation Ceremony. This year was no different and the night gave teachers, volunteers and students a reason to celebrate the successes of many adult learners. This year's ceremony took place at Anoka Senior High which is a partner site in the consortium. Forest Lake had 11 graduates participate in the ceremony and was even represented by a student speaker who expressed his gratitude to the district and the teaching staff of Forest Lake. Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests were invited to enjoy refreshments and were given the opportunity to socialize. The evening was a big success and everyone is already looking forward to next year's ceremony! Please consider joining us!



"Thank you to the teachers and volunteers from the Forest Lake program. Without them, I wouldn't be here tonight."

From a speech given by Forest Lake graduate, Antonio Blanquet, at the ceremony on June 12, 2014.

# Community Education - Adult Basic Education

## A Bunch to be Thankful For!

As always, we are so thankful for the tremendous support and overwhelming number of instructional hours that are donated by our talented team of volunteers. Last year, the site received over 2,800 instructional hours from its literacy tutors! Without them, the program would not be able to deliver the top-notch instruction to which students have become accustomed. Each one of the volunteers brings varied backgrounds and life experiences to the learners. We feel so grateful to have this team!

This year, we were also pleased to see one of our long-time volunteers receive the district's top honor. In early June, Bob Sorman was inducted into the FLAS Hall of Fame. Bob's nomination to the Hall of Fame recognized his years of dedication to the program and the almost 6,000 volunteer hours he has given since starting in 1989. In addition to his tutor hours, Bob has displayed great compassion and support for the community by starting a scholarship program for ABE learners pursuing a college education. After turning 90 in late July, Bob has no plans to retire from tutoring. The five shifts he works each week continue to keep him young at heart!



## Our Year in Review...

Each year it is exciting to learn about the cultures and backgrounds of our student population. Last year our site welcomed new friends from the following countries:

Bosnia – 1	India – 1
Cambodia – 3	Laos – 1
Cameroon - 1	Latvia – 1
China – 4	Liberia – 2
Cuba – 1	Mexico - 23
Dominican Republic – 1	Panama – 1
El Salvador – 11	Philippines – 1
England – 1	Russia – 1
Eritrea – 1	Spain - 3
Germany – 1	Thailand – 2
Haiti – 2	Uruguay – 1
Honduras – 3	Vietnam – 2

During the 2013-2014 school year, our site worked with 244 students and led over 12,000 instructional hours. The site had 60 learners complete their GED and had eight students earn their adult diploma.

If you have questions, would like to refer a student, or are interested in volunteering, please contact Kara Rotramel at 651-982-8302 or [krotramel@flaschools.org](mailto:krotramel@flaschools.org)

Browse all Community Education events and opportunities at the Community Education website:  
[www.flaschools.org/ce](http://www.flaschools.org/ce)