

LVGH Annual Fund 2015 - 2016

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Dear Shannon,

**Where would you be without literacy?** Think about it: from the time you wake up in the morning until you climb into bed at night, your reading, writing, and English speaking skills are involved in almost everything you do. It comes so naturally to most of us, we forget we're even doing it.



Unfortunately, this is not the case for the estimated **40% of adults in the greater Hartford region who lack basic English literacy skills.** Some of them grew up right here in Connecticut, but continue to struggle with reading and writing. Others have recently arrived in the U.S., seeking new lives and their piece of the American dream - a dream they cannot attain without first learning English.

**[Please join us as we continue our mission to build a stronger, more resilient, fully literate Greater Hartford.](#)**

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Last year - thanks to the dedication of our volunteer tutors and the generosity of our donors - **Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford helped nearly 850 adults to improve their English literacy skills** and work for better lives for themselves and their families.

**One of those students was Kate.** Four years ago, Kate was preparing to begin a career as a dentist in her home country, Russia, But she couldn't forget the time she'd spent as a student in the United States, and dreamed of returning. So Kate made the brave decision to say goodbye to her family in Russia and begin a new life in America.

Kate soon discovered that, due to differences in training requirements between Russia and the U.S., she would need to complete two more years of residency before she would be allowed to practice dentistry here. And in order to gain acceptance to a residency program, she would have to pass the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam.

and determination. A friend told her about LVGH, and she immediately came into the Hartford Literacy Center to sign up for ESOL classes.

**“Coming here has been more than just studying English,” Kate says.** In particular, she says that her ESOL tutor, Carol, went above and beyond. “She helped me learn how to write emails the way that Americans do. She did mock interviews with me to help prepare for my residency interviews. It would have been a nightmare to go through that without Carol’s help.”



After about a year of taking English classes with LVGH, Kate took and passed the TOEFL exam with flying colors. She secured an internship as a dental hygienist, and was recently accepted to a dental residency program. **In two years, Kate will once again be able to practice dentistry.**

**“The English classes at LVGH made this possible,”** Kate says. **“I am excited for my future in America.”**

**[You can help more students like Kate to follow their dreams when you give to our 2015 Annual Fund Campaign.](#)**

With hard work, courage, and the support of our talented, highly trained volunteer tutors, each year hundreds of LVGH students like Kate achieve their goals of getting better jobs, earning high school diplomas, becoming U.S. citizens, learning to use computers, and so much more.

**When you donate to LVGH, you create hope and opportunity for hundreds of adults and their families in our community. Thank you.**

With gratitude,

Carol "CJ" DeVido Hauss  
Executive Director  
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford

P.S. - Prefer to mail your donation? You can mail your check to LVGH, 30 Arbor Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

P.S.S. - Online donors now have the option of setting up a **monthly donation** through Paypal. Just \$5 a month can make a difference! Visit [www.lvgh.org/donate](http://www.lvgh.org/donate) and click on the Donate button to learn more.

*Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.  
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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