

# TIM HOVEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • SIXTIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
CHAIR: UTILITIES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

April 16, 1999

Rep. John Gard, Chair and Members  
Joint Committee on Finance  
Room 315 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Member:

I am writing to encourage you to include funding for a county jail literacy program for adults in the biennial budget.


The Wisconsin incarceration rate is on the rise as a result of this we are faced with problems of overcrowding in our prisons. Prisoners are sent out of state in order to deal with this growing problem. One way I believe this can be resolved is to begin adult education programs at the county jail level. Educating inmates at this level will decrease the chances that they will become serious felons in the future.

Ozaukee County, which is in my district, has developed a successful program. They have designed a program that allows inmates an opportunity to get their Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED). The program has graduated over 75 inmates and most have been repeat offenders. The program is currently funded from both federal funds and community funds.

I believe it would be in the best interest of the state if funding for a county jail literacy program was included in your next budget proposal. Perhaps funds from the Department of Corrections could be diverted to match the community for a county jail literacy program across the state.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration in respect to this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy T. Hoven  
State Representative  
60<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

TTH/jrw

Cc: Nina Walker



Michael (Mickey)  
**Lehman**

State Representative  
58th Assembly District

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Committee Chair: Ways and Means

April 8, 1999

Ms. Nina Walker  
W70 N1018 Hampton Court  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Dear Nina:

I am writing today to express my strong support for additional state funding for county jail literacy programs. In particular, the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program has been immensely successful in reducing recidivism at the county level. Since its inception in 1992, 91 inmates have received their high school equivalency diplomas as a result of the County's Program.

I strongly urge the Joint Finance Committee to look at Ozaukee County's Program as a pilot program and model for other parts of the state as to what can be achieved when basic literacy skills are provided. Along with a reduction in recidivism, these individuals experience improved personal and employment potential, as well as problem-solving skills, thereby allowing them to become productive and contributing members of society upon their release. I am hopeful that the members of the Joint Finance Committee will agree programs such as Ozaukee County's merit state financial support.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL "Mickey" LEHMAN  
State Representative  
58th Assembly District

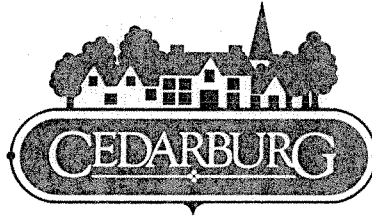
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58th District Includes - CITIES: Cedarburg, Hartford and West Bend (Wards 23-29, 34-38, 40, 41, 43-47); VILLAGES: Jackson, Neosho and Slinger;  
TOWNS: Addison, Cedarburg (Wards 1,2,3,6, and 7), Hartford, Jackson, Polk (Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8), Rubicon, Trenton and West Bend

Printed on recycled paper with a soy base ink.



April 13, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program that provides jail inmates the opportunity to better themselves through education. This program, which began in 1992, provides inmates with basic skills to earn their GEC/HSED to compete in today's society. Efforts are needed to stop the growth of the incarcerated population and the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program is one of them. By giving inmates the opportunity to better themselves through education and become productive citizens with career awareness and employability skills, we are reducing recidivism.

Please help support this program in Ozaukee County, and throughout the state, by providing money needed to change the lives of jail inmates by giving them self-respect and self-esteem.

Sincerely,

City of Cedarburg

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith W. Kaiman".

Keith W. Kaiman  
Mayor

KWK:caa

April 10, 1999

Senator Mary Panzer  
P. O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Panzer:

The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy program has been a unique educational effort since its start in April, 1992.

Initially taught by two volunteers, and funded by citizen contributions, the program has produced 94 high school graduates; 400 students have participated in the program to date.

It is time that this fine program be offered in every one of our 72 county jails. It's proposed that it be funded by the state with grant monies that the counties could match.

This model program has a proven record of reducing recidivism in Ozaukee County. Please add your support to this initiative, and encourage your fellow lawmakers to do the same.

Sincerely,

*Robert A. Klug*

*Evelyn F. Klug*

Robert A. and Evelyn F. Klug  
N91 W5849 Dorchester Dr.  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

# McManus & O'Byrne

A T T O R N E Y S     A T     L A W

DARCY E. MCMANUS, Court Commissioner

CHRISTOPHER L. O'BYRNE

114 EAST MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 147

PORT WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN 53074-0147

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mobjd@execpc.com

April 13, 1999

State Senator Mary Panzer  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

In Re: Jail Literacy Programs

Dear Mary:

Please accept this letter as an expression of my support for the request of the Jail Literacy Programs for State funding for such programs throughout Wisconsin.

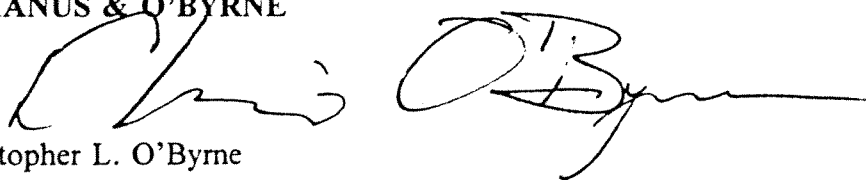
Through my work with incarcerated individuals, particularly, young offenders, I have learned that the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program is one of the most positive and beneficial programs offered to inmates.

I know several individuals who have succeeded in successfully integrating themselves back into society because of the work of the Jail Literacy Program. Young offenders, without any job opportunities, have been able to use their time in jail to become literate and finish their high school degree. On several occasions, I know that the pride they take in their work has allowed them to become employed, law abiding and tax paying citizens. State support of this program would be a direct benefit to the inmates by providing them the tools to choose a crime free life. This is a financially effective and socially appropriate use of taxpayer's funds.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter and urge you and your colleagues to support funding of Jail Literacy Programs.

Best regards,

McMANUS & O'BYRNE

  
Christopher L. O'Byrne

CLO/kas

cc: Nina Walker

P. J. SCHMIDT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

P.O. BOX 148

W62 N570 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN 53012

PHILLIP SCHMIDT  
PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE  
414-377-0484

April 13, 1999

State Senator Mary Panzer  
State Capitol  
P. O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Mary:

RE: Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc.

I want to bring to your attention an educational program that is succeeding in this county. I am one of the earliest supporters of the program and continue to do so. The goal is to help county jail inmates receive their GED or HSED, and prepare them for future employment. Every successful inmate (who does not return to jail) saves the county approximately \$25,000/year. The program is approaching the 100th graduate.

Funding comes from a variety of sources including federal and state and approximately half of our budget is raised by our board of directors through contribution solicitation and fund raising. Many people, in all walks of life, are making this program work.

I urge you to consider this program as a model for all the jails in the state.

Sincerely,



Phillip J. Schmidt  
President

PJS:mab

**Wilfred P. de Junco**  
**612 E. Norport Drive**  
**Port Washington, WI 53074**  
**(414) 284-7199**

April 7, 1999

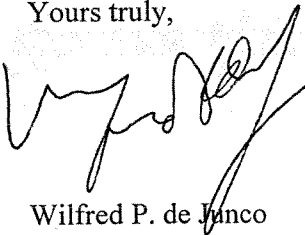
Senator Mary Panzer:

I am writing to tell you that I think that the State of Wisconsin should assist in funding county jail literacy programs, such as the Ozaukee Jail Literacy Program. I also think that the State should support the establishment of such programs in local county jails in other parts of the state. I think that some limited financial support by the State would be justified both in terms of the benefits to the community and to the lives that would be affected.

I am an Assistant State Public Defender who has worked in Ozaukee County for almost seven years. From what I have seen the Ozaukee Jail Literacy Program has been a valuable tool to help certain inmates complete their education and help reorient their lives so that they have a better chance at leading productive lives. The Jail Literacy Program not only helps some inmates to complete their education but also can help give some guidance in other aspects of their lives. Of course jail literacy programs cannot solve every person's problems, but they can be an effective means of helping some individuals, especially when they are at a point in their lives when they would be most receptive to such assistance.

I trust that you will give serious consideration to this matter and that you will support such programs.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. de Junco', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Wilfred P. de Junco

# Circuit Court of Ozaukee County

Branch No. 2

JUSTICE CENTER  
1201 S. SPRING STREET  
P.O. BOX 994  
PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074-0994

TOM R. WOLFGRAM  
Circuit Judge

TELEPHONE:  
Local (414) 284-8415  
Metro (414) 238-8415

FAX:  
Local (414) 284-8491  
Metro (414) 238-8491

EDWARD H. JOHNSON  
Court Reporter

April 7, 1999

Senator Mary E. Panzer  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

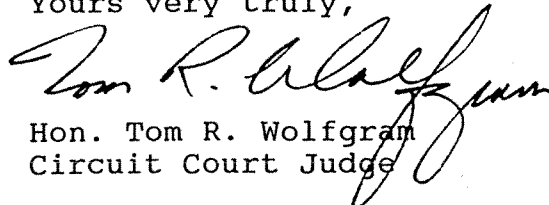
Dear Senator Panzer:

As a circuit court judge in Ozaukee County previously assigned to handle both the felony and misdemeanor calendars, I have become acquainted with the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Project. In my opinion, this project, and others like it throughout the state, provide a valuable service to inmates in local jails by allowing them to receive the training and skills they will need to achieve success once released from their sentences.

By providing the necessary math, language and other skills associated with a high school equivalency diploma, these persons are often in a position to obtain good-paying jobs upon their release. While I have no exact statistics on how this project may be affecting the recidivism rates of persons having gone through it, common sense tells me that persons whose time is occupied and are receiving a good wage have a decreased probability of committing additional crimes.

I would urge you and the other members of the Joint Finance Committee to provide the necessary funding not only for the continuation of these projects, but to facilitate their expansion. It is my belief that the costs associated will in the long run pay great dividends for all citizens of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours very truly,



Hon. Tom R. Wolfgram  
Circuit Court Judge

TRW:ehj



# OZAUKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Maury Straub, Sheriff

P.O. Box 245 • 1201 S. Spring Street • Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074-0245

Telephone (414) 284-7172 • (414) 377-7172 Metro

Facsimile (414) 284-8490 • (414) 238-8490 Metro

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April 6, 1999

To Whom it May Concern:

One of the goals of the Ozaukee County Jail is to provide it's inmate population with the opportunity to change their lives without affecting the penalties imposed by the courts. The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program is an integral element of the overall programming offered by the jail. This program provides the inmate with the basic skills needed to compete in today's society. The foundation for this program is widespread with the most critical element being the Ozaukee County Community.

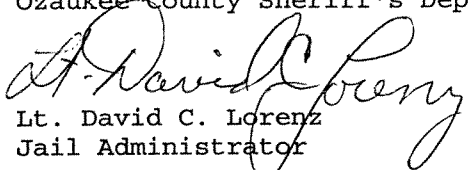
Corrections is one of the fastest growing industries in our country, spending billions of dollars annually. The need to take action is imperative. The county jail is one of the first experiences a criminal has when entering the criminal justice system. This is the level at which the most impact can be made and where more of our efforts need to be concentrated.

The community is often a forgotten element in correctional programming. The county jail must reach out to it's community for help and understanding. The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program is not only an educational program within the jail but also a community educational program about the jail. The better the community understands the jail the better the jail can achieve it's goals.

Cooperative efforts between correctional professionals, educators, counselors, clergy, government and the local community are needed to stop the growth of the incarcerated population. The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program is one of these efforts.

Sincerely,

Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department

  
Lt. David C. Lorenz  
Jail Administrator

# OZAUKEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Maury Straub, Sheriff

1201 S. Spring Street • P.O. Box 245 • Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074-0245  
Telephone (414) 284-7172 • (414) 377-7172 Metro  
Facsimile (414) 284-8490 • (414) 238-8490 Metro

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April 2, 1999

Senator Mary Panzer  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882

Dear Senator Panzer:

As you are aware, the Ozaukee County Jail has had a strong jail literacy program for the last seven years. This program has provided the opportunity for many jail inmates to earn their GED/HSED while incarcerated. It has also allowed hundreds of others to commence work toward their GED while in custody, so that the work can be completed after their release.

The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program provides jail inmates with the opportunity to better themselves through education. An inmate armed with a GED will find many more opportunities to become a productive citizen, thereby reducing recidivism. With the prison system bursting at its population seams, it is more important than ever to offer this type of opportunity at the county jail level as an attempt to turn around these lives before they provide an additional burden to the prison system.

You will soon be asked, as a member of the joint finance committee, to support jail literacy programs throughout the state by providing seed money for them. I believe that now is the time to foster jail literacy programs as a proactive way to address recidivism and decrease our inmate populations at the county jail level and, ultimately, the state level.

If you would like to discuss this or any other matter with me, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,



MAURY STRAUB  
Ozaukee County Sheriff

smt

PANZER

COUNTY OF OZAUKEE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER — P.O. BOX 994  
PORT WASHINGTON, WISCONSIN 53074-0994

PHONES: Local (414) 284-8329  
Metro (414) 238-8329

FAX: Local (414) 284-8100  
Metro (414) 238-8100

April 7, 1999

Nina Walker/Judy Johnson  
W70 N1018 Hampton Court  
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Dear Nina and Judy,

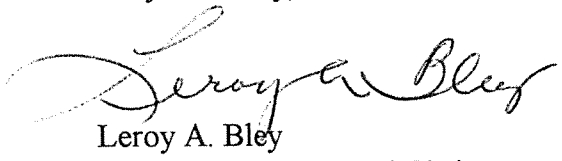
I want you to know how impressed I have been by the literacy project that you introduced to our county jail. The fact that the county jail of the smallest county in our 7 county area has graduated 92 persons with a GED is really impressive. We can hope that represents 92 salvaged lives.

There are some very impressive parts to this project. The fact that sponsorship, both financial and real involvement, comes from the broad Ozaukee community means that our citizens are involved and hopefully begin to understand the social problems that jails represent.

Another side benefit offered by the jail lieutenant is that it helps to resolve discipline problems in the jail - avoiding the idle minds/mischief connection.

Certainly, Nina and Judy, you know that enthusiasm for this project in our county remains high and we are proud that our county jail has been a leader in this innovative jail program.

Very Sincerely,



Leroy A. Bley  
Ozaukee county Board Chairperson

bk

1110 Nelson Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
April 5, 1999

Senator Mary Panzer  
Room 305, 160 N. Hamilton  
Madison, WI 53703

RE: Jail Literacy Programs in Wisconsin

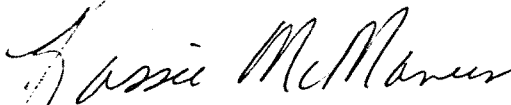
Dear Senator Panzer,

I am writing this letter to support Nina Walker in her request for State funding for county jail literacy programs in Wisconsin. The jail literacy program in Ozaukee County has proved to be a highly effective program for County inmates. With minimal resources, the teachers are able to have a meaningful impact in the lives of young inmates. Frankly, the jail literacy program is about the only positive program offered for these inmates.

I encourage the State Finance Committee to recognize and support Ms. Walker and others in their literacy campaign for county prisoners. Money spent helping prisoners get the education and skills they need for productive lives after their jail terms is truly money well spent. This state must support effective programs to help prisoners, and the jail literacy program in Ozaukee County has proved itself both effective and cost effective. Given the explosive growth of Wisconsin's prison population, this legislature's primary goal should be to support alternatives to warehousing inmates, such as the jail literacy program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kathleen M. McManus

c: Nina Walker

# Education



**AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PUZZLE**

# for Inmates

By William R. Toller, Assistant Superintendent of Human Services, Hampden County, Massachusetts, Sheriff's Office

"Education is a vital force in the reformation of fallen men and women. Its tendency is to quicken the intelligence, inspire self-respect, excite to higher aims, and afford a healthful substitute for low and vicious amusements. Education is therefore, a matter of primary importance in prisons, and should be carried to the utmost extent consistent with the other purpose of such institutions."

—E.C. Wines  
*National Prisons Congress  
Statement of Principles, 1871*

E. C. Wine's words, from over 126 years ago, still ring true today if we look at the population of men and women in our nation's jails and prisons. Recent data, from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation in New York City, reveals that only one-third of all state prisoners had completed high school and an estimated 50 to 75 percent of this group is functionally illiterate. Further, less than half of state prison inmates were working at the time of their arrest and an equal percentage had annual income of less than \$10,000 prior to their arrest. The need for

effective correctional education programs is apparent based upon this data. Perhaps the larger question is this: Does correctional education enhance public safety and assist correctional institutions in providing safe and secure custody coupled with reduced criminal recidivism?

At the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow, Massachusetts we have long recognized this relationship between effective security and effective educational programs. Under the administration of Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr., we began aggressive efforts to offer a comprehensive educational, vocational, spiritual, and treatment model of human services programming that helped us to weather the storm of record overcrowding in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s as we survived the combined negative forces of increased incarceration rates and budget limitations.

Sheriff Ashe has always believed that educational efforts cannot be provided without linkages to effective community-based programs. Over the years, we have grown from a small, one-room classroom program that met two nights a week to a seven-classroom, multilevel program that serves over 500 students daily and offers special education, Title 1 classes, adult basic education, English for speakers of other languages, GED preparation, five vocational classes, jail industries, and college.

This range of services has been accomplished through a dynamic blend of state and federal grants, court decisions (special education), and legislation (Inmate Literacy Law), local partnerships, use of community volunteers, increased state and county funding, and judicious use of our inmate commissary funds for educational supplies and equipment. These efforts over the years have not gone unnoticed. We were recognized by Governor Michael Dukakis as a statewide model for correctional education in 1987; several of our teaching staff have also been recognized in recent years with local, state, and national awards for excellence in correctional education. Last year we celebrated our 2,500th GED graduate and the 20th year anniversary of our educational programs. Much has been accomplished through Sheriff Ashe's vision and his basic belief in people.

### Is Education For Inmates Necessary?

In Hampden County, where nearly 100 percent of our inmate population returns to the community within three years, we have to re-examine again the inmate profile in terms of education. Eighty percent of our population of over 1,700 inmates have not completed high school and nearly 50 percent are functionally illiterate. Aside from the benefits of good sound correctional management provided by programs that "keep inmates busy," effective correctional education programs, linked to complementary vocational, spiritual, and treatment programs, should provide more. We have documented evidence over the years of the efforts of effective correctional education in terms of reduced disciplinary infractions, more effective use of community corrections programs including parole and probation, higher job placement rates, more use of community resources such as adult learning centers and post secondary programs, and increased self-confidence and self-esteem. Undoubtedly we are evaluated in the field of corrections in terms of criminal recidivism. Do your program efforts reduce the rate of return of offenders to your institution (which has been estimated in some national studies to be as high as 70 percent)?

### Gathering the Data

In 1995, Sheriff Ashe hired the Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research to study a group of inmates who were released from our facility during a three-month period (July - September 1994). These inmates were broken into two subgroups: those who participated in one or more programs versus those who participated in no programs. During the next 18 months, this group was tracked for recidivism by examining each record (891) with the state probation files. The results were both startling and encouraging. The non-program group had a recidivism rate of 42 percent with recidivism being defined as another charge on the probation record; the program group had a recidivism rate of 28 percent. In addition to having a rate that was one-third lower than the non-program group, over 50 percent of the charges that were received by the program group were for motor vehicle violations. In addition, the program group's list of new offenses had only nine percent who were charged with violent crimes versus 37 percent of the non-program group who were charged with such crimes. Despite the problem of possible "self-selection" bias, this research has been the impetus for further study of the relationship between program participation and recidivism by our department. Similar studies of our college students has revealed a recidivism rate of only six percent during the last five years. While we knew that educational programs reduce recidivism — we now have data to prove it.

### Making Educational Programming Work

What can local jails and prisons do to ensure that education pro-

grams for inmates are contributing to both better correctional management and reduced criminal recidivism? Our experience has shown that effective correctional educational programs begin at the top — with a sheriff or superintendent who has a vision of creating a culture of hope and a culture of involvement within the facility and who clearly communicates this vision to staff and inmates alike. Our success in Hampden County is directly related to a dynamic leader who consistently communicates our organizational vision of "Strength Reinforced with Decency, Dignity Dignified by Fairness" to our staff, inmates, and stakeholders at every opportunity he has. His belief in people and his belief in our mission is contagious to all who meet and interact with him.

The Correctional Education Association has promulgated four correctional service goals that all jails and prisons might consider as part of their mission and vision statements for correctional education. They are as follows:

- 1) Institutionalize a universal service objective of five years of arrest-free living. Foster community preparedness from the very date of entry, independent of length of stay.
- 2) Raise the level of awareness and promote introspective examination by teaching and constantly reinforcing the principle of cause and effect.
- 3) Strive to empower: Help your students view themselves as worthy of the effort needed to confront and overcome their demons.
- 4) Have total and absolute faith that your students are in perpetual change and that your energy and efforts must impact their decision.

With these goals in mind, effective correctional education programs must also:

- 1) Engage in continuous quality improvement through a dynamic team process of program and staff development. This process is required for all programs in Massachusetts that receive state or federal funding. It has enabled our staff and program to improve all aspects of our service delivery to students.
- 2) Be linked to successful programs in the community that welcome ex-offenders who are still pursuing educational goals.
- 3) Engage in practitioner and criminal justice research to identify promising practices and document efforts at reducing criminal recidivism.

Is education for inmates necessary? The answer is yes, if we, as corrections practitioners, believe that it is necessary to utilize every tool at our disposal that shows its effectiveness in fighting recidivism. I believe that it is our responsibility, as criminal justice professionals, to pursue correctional practices that demonstrate the capability to positively impact public safety. As Malcolm X said in 1965, "A prisoner has time he can put to good use. I'd put prison second to college as the best place for a man to go if he needs to do some thinking. If he's motivated, in prison, he can change his life."

### About the Author:

William R. Toller is assistant superintendent of Human Services for the Hampden County Sheriffs' Office in Ludlow, Massachusetts. He has worked as a GED teacher, counselor, manager and in his present capacity since 1976. He is presently also serving as the newsletter editor of the International Association of Addictions and Offender Counselors, a division of the American Counseling Association. ☺



William R. Toller

# Good Living

LIFESTYLE  
□ Lifestyle features  
□ Community calendar  
□ Weddings and engagements  
□ Classified advertisement  
Thursday, September 9, 1993  
Part Three

## Sentenced to study

Inmates find hope, self-worth in literacy program

"When I first came to jail, I thought I was a failure. I never went to school because I thought I had better things to do, like drugs and crime. Well, those drugs and crime led me right here to jail.

"While attending (your) class I've learned about how intelligent I really am. I never really had anything going for me before this program. My graduation is the only success I've ever had.

"I'm the only one who holds the plan for my future, and this plan is to succeed and not to come back to prison or jail."

—Russell

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM  
Ozaukee Press staff

Men like Russell keep Judy Johnson and Nina Walker, founders of the Ozaukee County jail literacy program, going strong. The women point with pride to their success stories, the men who have bettered themselves.

For some of the men, bettering themselves means obtaining their high school equivalency diploma (HSED), preparing themselves for college or the work world. For others, it's simply learning to read, to put three letters together to form a word they can understand.

It's not just literacy that the women work toward. They help the inmates set goals for themselves, help them realize the link between actions and consequences.

"Progress is our product," Johnson said. "That builds self-esteem, which can get the whole process working for these men."

The program is not a solution in and of itself, Walker added.

"This is an opportunity for change. This is not a magic wand," she said. "These are little steps in a structured situation that can help these men make a big change in their lives."

### Program history

Johnson and Walker have been teachers for many years, and both work for MATC.



ALTHOUGH THE CLASS size ranges from eight to 10 pupils, teacher Judy Johnson worked individually with Floyd during a literacy program class while Randy waited his turn and worked on his own lesson. Photo by Vern Arendt

Johnson has taught math, employment and study skills since 1967. Walker's areas are English, history and preparation for the HSED. She has taught since 1959.

The women have a strong social conscience as well, and that helped pave the way toward the jail program. They took their first steps in 1989, when Walker attended a literacy conference in Oshkosh. One of the seminars dealt with a literacy

program run in the Rock County jail, and the speaker's enthusiasm sparked Walker's interest.

Walker said that when she talked to Johnson about the conference later, "Judy was just as enthusiastic as I was."

Ultimately, the women approached Fernando Perez, who was sheriff at the time. He liked the idea, but was defeated in that fall's election. The two then went to Sher-

iff Michael Milas with their proposal. Milas also liked the concept, but there was no money in the jail budget.

But Milas authorized Lt. David Lorenz and Sgt. John Dettmann to visit Rock County with the women and check out the literacy program there. After that, the women developed a proposal for Ozaukee County.

Continued on page 3

## Participants testify to program's success

Bill, 29, has been out of jail for three months. He's working at a Fond du Lac dairy farm, planning to go to school this fall and hoping ultimately to earn a college degree in hotel management.

"I won't go back to jail, period," he said in an interview outside the Ozaukee County jail, where he had visited teachers Judy Johnson and Nina Walker. Even though he is out of jail, the two women are interested in his life and willing to help where they can, he explained.

"They're more like friends sometimes than teachers," he said. "They are real helpful."

"They don't let you slough off a lot (in the program). They want you there to learn."

One of his immediate goals is to improve his reading skills.

"I have a hard time reading to my kids," he said. "I want to be able to do that. My kids are my top priority. And I want to improve myself, too."

He has a two-year college degree, and said he earned that with a lot of help

from his former wife.

Eventually, Bill hopes to be financially able to make a donation to the literacy program.

"Somebody else helped me," he said. "I'd like to be able to help somebody else."

### Steve

Steve, 23, is still in jail. His current goal is to obtain his high school diploma. "I see now what I can accomplish," he said. "I was too much into my life before. Life on the streets was life on the streets. But these two (women) helped me understand there is more to life."

"I'm really pushing to get my high school diploma. I want to go to college." He's already passed the civics exam for his high school equivalency diploma, and is working on his reading skills.

He said he joined the literacy program because it was something to do while in jail, and because it gave him the support he needed to study.

"I tried it (education) when I was out, but I didn't do much," he said. "Here they

teach us and motivate us."

### Floyd

Floyd has been a certified nursing assistant for 10 years. While in jail, the 27-year-old man has been considering other career options, and thinks he would like to become a medical technician. It's an option his wife, a registered nurse, is excited about.

"I'm trying to make the best out of the time I'm here," he said. "I've gotten the wheels turning. Before I was content to get up, go to work. I'm beginning to ask myself, 'Why? Isn't there more?'"

"I've learned to set goals. I've learned not to sell myself short. I'm slowly learning nothing is too much."

"I've gotten a lot out of this program. I can work at my own pace. You have this one-on-one thing, and that helps me a lot. I have a lot of questions."

Walker and Johnson are very helpful, Floyd added.

"They're great with helping you out, pushing you along," he said. "You come in and they'll push you to the max."

He shakes his head at the inmates who aren't taking advantage of the classes, who aren't trying to help themselves.

"To just see them in the dorm room, wasting away, bothers me," Floyd said. "It's a pet peeve of mine."

### Randy

Randy, 17, said Floyd talked him into joining the literacy program. The two work well together, helping each other when needed.

"I was going to go for my diploma when I got out, but at a slower pace. I don't enjoy the work, but I enjoy learning. It's fun," said Randy. "If I get my diploma now, I can get out of here and do something." Once he gets out, it might be too tempting to put off going back to high school, he said.

The class has shown him what he can do, Randy added.

He wants to complete his high school education, then head to college. He believes he can get a basketball scholarship. After that, who knows what he can do.



# Literacy program: 'I've learned about how intelligent I am'

From Page 1

By the end of 1991, Milas took this proposal to the county law enforcement committee. Members enthusiastically endorsed the volunteer program. No money in the budget

There still were no funds in the county budget for the program, so the women became fundraisers. They solicited contributions from residents, businesses and civic groups.

In addition, they applied for and received a \$10,000 state grant to fund a portion of the program. The money is used to pay the women's salaries for teaching five and a half days. The women actually teach about eight hours a week, and they spend several more hours each week working on program paperwork.

"Basically this is a donated program," said Walker. "We are the only ones in the state with a consistent, viable community-based jail program."

It's that community component that makes the program special, added Johnson. "We say to the fellows, 'Look around. People in this county care. They don't want

you here; they want you out of here,'" she said, gesturing around a small classroom furnished with donated items and things purchased through donated funds.

Program begins

The Ozaukee County jail literacy program opened without fanfare on Apr. 8, 1992.

Inmates volunteer for the literacy program, filling out applications distributed by the jailers. Although the forms are to be filled out by inmates, at times jailers find themselves helping out because the prisoner can't read or write well enough to do the task, said Lorenz, the lieutenant in charge of the jail.

The applications are reviewed by the jail staff and the two teachers. If an inmate has a disciplinary sanction pending, he will not be admitted to the program until it is served.

If an inmate is accepted into the program and misses class twice, he is expelled. If an inmate does not progress, does not work at progressing, he is also expelled.

"This is not a right; this is a privilege," Walker said.

When an inmate joins the program, an assessment is done to determine where he stands academically. Each inmate then signs a contract that states his goals in the class.

Inmates attend class for 75 minutes three mornings a week, and for two hours each Monday night. Eight to 10 inmates are in class, and the instructors work individually with each of them.

Inmates are given homework each day. They can also check out books and magazines from a small library in the classroom. The teachers try to satisfy special requests for books made by the students.

At the end of each class, the inmates write in their journals. It's a way to ensure both they and the teachers know what they've done and what they have yet to do.

Once a week, the class works on group dynamics. A recent discussion on fatherhood took three days to complete, noted Johnson.

"It can be uncomfortable, especially if they had a problem in their own lives," she said. "But I think there is some real growth in these men."

Class members work on setting goals and determining how to achieve them, the women said, as well as problem solving.

Much class time is also devoted to the topic of responsibility, realizing that there are consequences for each action an individual takes.

"A lot of these men are action-reaction oriented," said Lorenz. "Now they are required to think before acting. For many of them, that's a very large change." Individual goals

Many of the program participants are working toward their HSED. To receive the diploma, participants must pass tests in writing skills, social studies, science, interpreting literature and the arts, mathematics, civic literacy, and health. They must also complete requirements in employability skills and career awareness.

Neither Johnson nor Walker can administer the tests. Both because of the cost and the difficulty in getting someone to come to the jail for testing, which takes place almost weekly, Lorenz has been certified to administer the tests. The tests are corrected at MATC.

"The sheriff felt it was important to have someone on the staff who could administer them. It makes them more available to the inmates," Lorenz said.

"To pass their tests; to get their HSED, is quite an accomplishment for the inmates. They have generally failed in the educational system."

Many of the inmates said they would not have studied for the HSED without the jail program, he added.

"It's not a top priority for them," Lorenz said.

When an inmate passes all his tests and receives his HSED, a special ceremony is held at the jail. The inmate dons a cap and gown and is presented with his diploma by either Milas or Lorenz. The cap for the ceremony is made by the instructors and signed by all the members of the class.

In addition to the diploma, the inmate receives a Harley Davidson cap and shirt donated by a local businessman and, if the graduate is from Ozaukee County, a gift certificate from The Country Thrift Store operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. If the graduate is from outside Ozaukee County, he receives a special book.

Graduates' names are also inscribed on a plaque in the classroom. So far, 16 names are there, serving as an inspiration for others who participate in the class.

"It's their special day," said Johnson. "And this makes our day. It's just a wonderful feeling."

The first prisoner to receive his HSED graduated in June, 1992. One of the most recent graduates was released in time for his graduation, which was held at St. John's Church in the Town of Grafton.

If an inmate has not yet completed the work for the HSED and he is transferred to another correctional facility, his records are transferred with him, Lorenz said. It's hoped that he will continue his studies elsewhere.

Some of the participants who have been released from jail have continued their studies, the women added.

Johnson and Walker are worried by the trends they see in society.

"We've got a lot of young people here. We've got to help them make changes,"

said Walker. "If we don't do something, we're going to be in real trouble."

"You think what a waste of humanity. You think of the things they could be doing with their lives. There's so much potential."

Lorenz noted that there are more than 400,000 people in county jails throughout the country.

"As a society, we can't afford this," he said. The cost of incarcerating one person is roughly \$20,000 a year, plus society has suffered the economic, physical and psychological costs of the crime that's been committed.

"We have to provide the inmates with the opportunity to change," he said. To do this, the county has implemented a number of programs at the jail. These include religion, mental health, and alcohol and substance abuse programs.

The programs benefit both the inmates and the sheriff's department, Lorenz said.

"When inmates are involved in programs of any sort, they tend to have better behavior patterns," he said.

"Our goal is for every one of these people to become an Ozaukee County taxpayer," Lorenz said.

Stemming recidivism  
The program's goal is to stem recidivism, and Johnson and Walker are taking this one step at a time. Their initial goal is to have an inmate leave jail and not return for one year.

They have already had graduates leave the jail and attend college or obtain jobs.

"One of our students has been out since April and has a full-time job," Johnson said. "He says he's a changed person. Every time we talk, he says 'I'm not coming back.'"

Even with this type of commitment, some inmates will return to jail. This has happened with at least one program participant.

"It's frustrating enough for a person to get out of school and realize the job opportunities aren't there as you thought they would be," Johnson said. "Add this other strike, and it's really difficult."

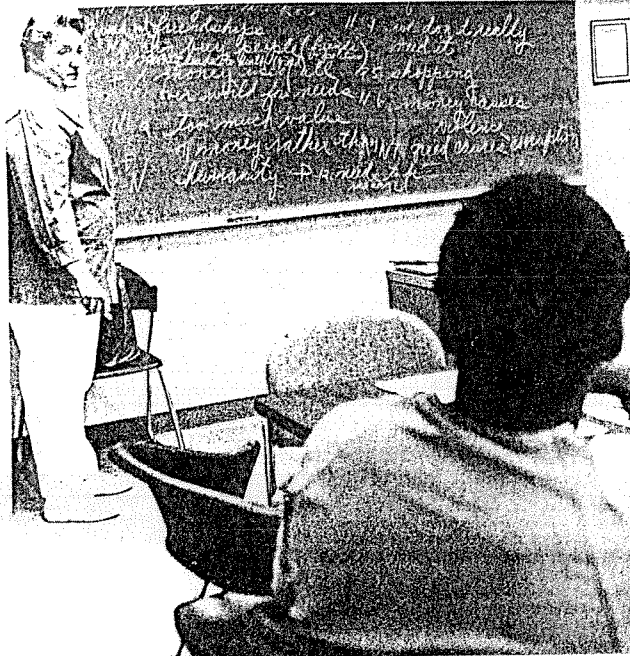
Someday, the women would like to see the county establish a halfway house to help inmates return to the community.

Until that happens, Walker said the women work with a simple plan. "We take it one by one by one," she said. "Plan for the worst and hope for the best—that's what we do."

"The literacy program here has made a new man of me."

"When I arrived here last year, my reading and math levels were around fourth grade. It was a real letdown for myself. But look at me now! With the help of this program and this wonderful teacher I'm at a 10th grade level. This program improved my education, self-esteem and self-respect. It has given me a new start in life."

—A Graduate



INMATES' IDEAS ABOUT money were written on the board by teacher Nina Walker during a free-writing exercise in the Ozaukee County jail literacy program. Photo by Vern Arendt

## Donors, sponsors sought for jail literacy program

Judy Johnson and Nina Walker are looking for ways to expand the Ozaukee County jail literacy program.

They want to run two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, so more advanced students can be taught separately from the others. This will give the two teachers more time to work individually with the inmates.

The women had been assured their application for an increased state grant would be approved. But because the federal government didn't give the state any additional funds this year, no increases in state grant money were approved.

"We will continue," Walker said. "We're not going to give this up. We really want to expand the teaching—and we know what we're doing is right."

Although the women are frustrated by the setback, they are hoping to obtain a corporate sponsor for the literacy program. They are also continuing to solicit funding and supplies for the program from area residents and businesses. Even school districts have been tapped as sources of used textbooks.

The women also have instituted an "Educate an Inmate" program. A \$100

donation covers the cost of books, supplies and testing fees for one inmate.

"We don't ever say to an inmate 'We don't have a pencil for you,'" Johnson said. "It's really neat because the community is involved and knows about this program."

"We tell the inmates to look around and see what the people in this county have done for you. They care," Walker added. "Everything, from the (graduation) plaque to the chalkboard to the stickers and the pencils we use, is from people, from the community."

Donations are not used for teachers' salaries, the women emphasized. They purchase supplies and equipment for the program.

Donations to the literacy program are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to St. John's Church, Lakefield Rd., Grafton.

The church is the official sponsor for the literacy program, and handles all money for it.

In addition to making donations through St. John's Church, people can designate the Ozaukee County jail literacy program when they make contributions to either the Greater Milwaukee or the Port Washington-Saukville United Way.

## Program statistics

From April, 1992, to April, 1993, the Ozaukee County jail literacy program worked with 45 students.

Of these, 9% of the inmates had an eighth grade education or less. Seven percent had finished eighth grade, 24% completed ninth grade, 22% completed 10th grade and 33% finished 11th grade.

More than half of the students, 56%, were 16 to 24 years old, while 20% were aged 25 to 30 years.

During the initial assessment for the program, the inmates' average reading level was almost 10th grade. This figure does not take into consideration inmates who could not read.

The average math level was close to the fifth grade level. It's rare to have a student with a math level above ninth grade, said teacher Judy Johnson.

Almost half of the students, 47%, chose to work on basic skills.

Of the 45 students, 53% were Ozaukee County prisoners, 24% were being held at the jail by Kenosha County, and 23% by the federal authorities.

Sixty-six percent of the inmates were white and 24% black, with 9% Hispanic or Indian.



Section B Inside  
Wednesday  
January 27, 1993

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

# Ozaukee-Washington

Metro  
Page B1

News of Cedarburg, Germantown, Grafton, Hartford, Mequon, Port Washington, Thiensville, West Bend and their neighbors

## Seeking a better life: Inmates in county jail return to school

2 MATC instructors spend two hours daily teaching high school equivalency

By RISA BERG  
of The Journal staff

Port Washington — Joe, an inmate at the Ozaukee County Jail, had a talk with his younger brother.

Like Joe, the younger brother has returned to the classroom to seek a certificate of general educational development, which is the equivalent of a high school diploma. "If you can do it, I can," Joe said his brother told him.

Joe, who didn't want his last name used, is among inmates enrolled in the Jail Literacy Project, which allows inmates to study and take the test for the certificate. The program began in April, and six have graduated.

The classroom sessions, each two

"When I was a kid I wasn't really interested in school. But now, all of it interests me."

Mike, an inmate at the Ozaukee County Jail

hours long, are Monday through Friday. The names of graduates are inscribed on a plaque that hangs on the classroom wall.

"My name is going to be up there soon," said Mike, another inmate who didn't want his last name used.

At 37, Mike has returned to the classroom with newfound vigor. "When I was a kid I wasn't really interested in school," he said. "But now, all of it interests me."

The class was created by Nina Walker and Judy Johnson, instructors at Milwaukee Area Technical College. They teach

the classes, oversee administrative details and raise funds for the program.

### No County Aid

The Jail Literacy Project receives no money from Ozaukee County. A grant pays Walker and Johnson for their teaching hours. The rest of their time is donated.

"The more involved we get, the more committed we are," Johnson said.

The students clearly appreciate the commitment. "The best thing that ever happened to this place is these two," Mike said.

Joe agreed. "If it weren't for the instructors I would never be able to do this," he said.

Reading and writing aren't the only skills taught in this classroom. Walker and Johnson also emphasize goal setting and values.

Please see Literacy page A



MIKE, AN INMATE at the Ozaukee County Jail, listens during a GED class held at the jail by Nina Walker and Judy Johnson, instructors at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Journal photo by Ronald M. Overdahl



JUDY JOHNSON looks over the work by Mike, an inmate at the Ozaukee County Jail, before class.

Journal photo by Ronald M. Overdahl

## Literacy/‘If you can do it, I can,’ inmate decides

From Ozaukee/Hawthorn Page

“Just getting an education is not a cure,” Johnson said. “It’s simply the first step.”

The instructors hope to create a mentor program, where residents can help inmates by contributing to the cost of materials and testing fees and serving as support for the

students.

For graduation, Walker creates a cap from orange cardboard to match the inmate’s uniform. The students receive diplomas, and a

gift or two from donors. Walker usually reads a poem to the departing graduate.

And, of course, the graduate’s name goes on the plaque.

# Jail literacy program a success

## ■ Officials hope to expand classes this year

The Ozaukee County jail literacy program has been such a success in its first year, that it will expand this year.

"They've had so many people wanting to be part of the program they've had to turn people away," Sheriff Michael Milas told the law enforcement committee Monday. "They have a long waiting list."

That long waiting list helped prompt the committee to approve using \$2,500 in profits from the jail commissary program to help fund the expanded literacy program.

The program, started last April, is

intended to help inmates work toward their high school equivalency diplomas, and to increase their basic skills so they become more employable. The ultimate goal is to keep inmates from returning to jail.

Basic skills would be the focus of much of the expanded program, said Judy Johnson, a program organizer and one of two literacy teachers in the jail. Roughly half of the inmates in the program are seeking help with these skills, she said, while the others are working to receive their high school diplomas.

So far, the program has served 60 inmates, she said. Of these, 11 have received their high school equivalency diplomas, and another 13 have completed portions of the high school equivalency examination.

Many of the inmates are not in jail long enough to complete the high school equivalency exams, Milas noted. Often these inmates continue their work after they leave the jail.

### Most from Ozaukee County

More than half the inmates involved in the literacy program are younger than 25 years, said Nina Walker, a program organizer and the other literacy teacher. More than half the inmates are from Ozaukee County, she added.

Both Walker and Johnson told the committee that they frequently get letters and positive comments about the program from inmates and former inmates. Before inmates are freed, they discuss their future plans with one of the teachers, said Johnson. They also prepare a resume to help them as they seek employment.

"Don't forget, I'm one of the ones you helped," read a recent letter from a federal inmate and former student. Another inmate, who now lives in Chicago, calls

often to say "I'm out and I'm still out (of trouble)—I'm your success."

While the commissary funds will provide a portion of the funds needed to expand the program. Another \$5,000 will come from St. John's Church in Lakefield, which helps sponsor the program.

These funds will be matched by a \$22,500 grant from the state. This grant only pays the women a salary for their actual teaching time, and is not to be used for supplies or equipment.

### Donations sought

Johnson told the committee that she and Walker are constantly seeking donations from the community to help finance the program. Some school districts have donated used textbooks. Some community groups provide pencils and other supplies, as do some businesses.

"We use everything we can get our hands on," Walter said.

It costs about \$100 to take an inmate through the program to the completion of the high school equivalency diploma, Johnson said.

"This is a very successful program," Milas said. "They're doing very well—better than programs in some of the larger jail facilities."

Donations to the jail literacy program should be sent to St. John's Church, Lakefield Rd., Grafton.

# Teaching the 3 Rs behind bars

**Retiring teachers helped more than 74 inmates earn diplomas**

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM  
Ozaukee Press staff

Nina Walker and Judy Johnson have spent 12 hours a week, 45 weeks a year, teaching at the Ozaukee County jail during the last six years, giving of themselves to men who other people wouldn't give the time of day.

But now, the women said, it's time to move on. They are retiring at the end of May.

"Once in a lifetime, you may have a dream that comes to be real," Walker said. "This program, to me, is that dream."

The women, co-founders and directors of the Ozaukee Jail Literacy Program, have helped more than 330 men advance their education and 74 inmates earn their high school equivalency degrees while in jail.

"Many more have graduated (while) out of the jail," Johnson said.

The inmates' average score in the equivalency exams is 41 points higher than needed to earn the degree, Johnson noted.

"We're very pleased with what's going on," she said.

Sheriff Maury Straub said the women have done "an incredible job" establishing the literacy program.

"They're two of the most dedicated women I know," he said. "They are on a mission and their mission is a great one."

"It hasn't been easy for the program to get up and running. County jails are not a setting where historically we've been able to do a lot of rehabilitation or offer much to help inmates better their lives."

The literacy program, he said, is a key to helping inmates.

"If we can get these people a high school equivalency (diploma), it may help them land a good-paying job that will keep them away from crime," Straub said. Rock County program struck a nerve.

The women, who have almost 70 years teaching experience between them, made a commitment to work with jail inmates after hearing a speaker discuss the Rock County program.

Jail literacy spoke to the women's social consciences.

"I've always considered it a privilege to teach," Johnson said. "I think of these men as students. These students just happen to wear orange (jumpsuits) and have to follow a lot of rules."

Walker noted the average age of the men in the program is 24. That's something that should concern everyone, she said.

"We have an awful lot of 20-year-old males. It's really scary," she said. "We've also got an awful lot of bright people who have made some horrible decisions. They're 12 (years old) in their thoughts and they're in the bodies of 20-year-olds."

"Education, to me, is making better decisions for yourself."

Johnson added, "We present them with the opportunity for change. For some of these kids, it's the first success they've had in education."

"Each one that enters the classroom has success, even if they don't get their HSED (equivalency diploma). They have made a change to improve their lives."

**Inmates give credit to their teachers**

The inmates, who volunteer for the literacy program, are quick to give Johnson and Walker credit for their success.

"The teachers — they're one of a kind," said Alberto.

"They care about the inmates and that makes the difference," Jordan said.

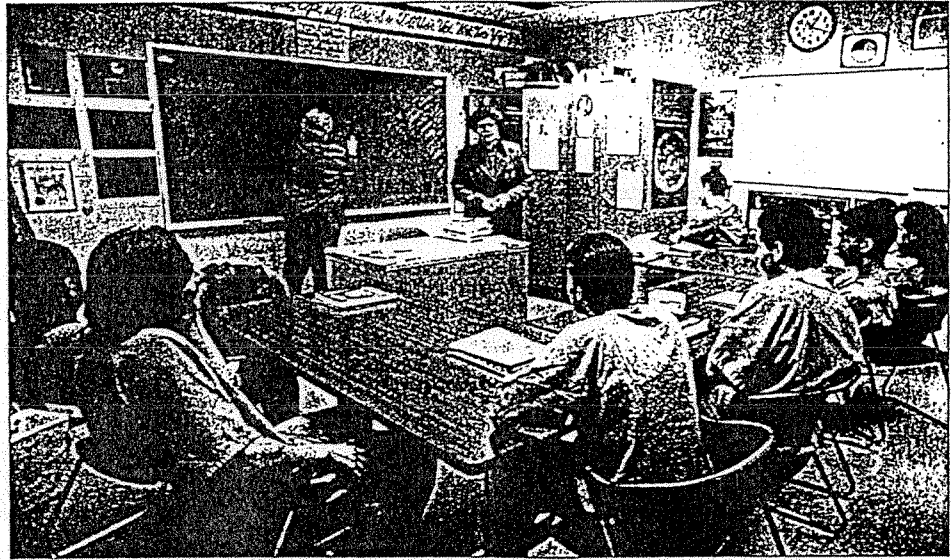
"I like coming to school," he said. "I learn and they make it easy to learn. They guide you. Some teachers just throw a book at you and say 'Read it.'"

Simon talked about the fact that he quit the program for a time. The women lobbied for his return.

"I just gave up too easily," he said. "But they didn't. They have big hearts."

"The guards, everyday, were on me to come back. To me that's a sign. Don't give up."

"It's going to be hard, but it'll be worth it."



A SOCIAL STUDIES lesson was written on the chalkboard by Nina Walker as Judy Johnson discussed the matter with students in the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program last week. Walker and Johnson, who have taught more than 330 students since they persuaded county officials to begin the program six years ago, recently announced they will retire at the end of May. However, the women plan to continue working for jail literacy, lobbying the state to require programs be held in all county jails.

Photo by Vern Arendt

tially when Simon decided not to return to class.

"We wanted him back. He made a commitment," Johnson said.

"He came in with the attitude education is very important," Walker said. "Personal problems kept him away."

"This group needs the extra push sometimes."

When the inmates learned they were retiring, Johnson said, their response surprised the teachers.

"They said the program will fail without us," she said. "It won't. It's got to work. We've worked too hard for it not to work."

"Judy and I are not the program," Walker added. "The program is a success. It will be a success in the future. They (the inmates) will help it be successful."

**Decision to retire made 1-1/2 years ago**

The decision to retire wasn't made because the women had lost interest in the program, Johnson said.

"It has nothing to do with us saying we don't have the passion we started with," she said. She still gets a tear in her eye every time she attends a graduation ceremony for one of the inmates, or when an inmate with difficulty in math suddenly figures out long division.

"We'll miss it terribly," Walker said.

"On the other hand, you reach a point where you want to do other things. There's only so much time. I think you know intuitively when it's time to hand it off to someone else."

"It's been like giving birth to a child. You hold the child's hand for a while, and then you have to let go."

One thing that has helped the women make their decision is the fact that on Jan. 1 the jail literacy program was incorporated as a non-profit agency. Previously, the program was sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church in the Town of Grafton.

Many members of the Friends of The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Project organization have been named to the program's board of directors and committees, they said.

"The program now stands on its own. It's mature," said Johnson. "And what's unique about it is the community involvement. There's a real sense of community ownership of this program."

**Community is important to program**

That involvement is important, the women said.

"What happens in this room is important not only to these inmates, but to their families and friends and society," Johnson said.

"There are people in the community who will come up and say 'You helped my son.' 'You helped my brother,'" Walker said.

important to inmates, the women said.

"We tell them, 'There are a lot of people out there who don't want you back in here,'" Johnson said. "They want this program to be a success."

One of the goals of the program is to prevent recidivism among inmates.

"We know we have people staying out," she said. "It's hard to quantify though."

The program, she added, is probably one of the most cost-effective in county government. The program has a \$50,000 annual budget. None of this money comes from the county.

A federal matching grant and funds from the inmates' commissary cover Walker's and Johnson's salaries. Donations from the community contribute the remainder of the approximately \$15,000 needed for the program.

"We get a lot of help from \$5 and \$10 donations," Walker noted.

A spring flower and garden show to benefit the program will be held by the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program May 16 in the Cedarburg Community Gym.

**Their efforts to teach inmates will continue**

Even though the women are retiring, they said they would continue to be active in the local program.

But the program has shown them just how much educational programs are needed in every jail, they said. They are devoting part of their retirement to lobbying the state legislature to mandate literacy pro-

grams in local jails.

Currently, the state only requires these programs in prisons, they said.

"We're looking for alternatives to jails," Walker said. "We're on the cutting edge of it here. Why not implement these programs everywhere?"

"People have to realize nationwide that jail education is important."

Most of the people in jail are there on misdemeanor charges, she noted, and some studies have shown recidivism can be cut from 40% to 20% through education.

"If we can stop it here, you won't have that percentage of people going into prison," she said.

The inmates, many of them from the Kenosha County jail, also spoke of the need for educational programs.

"A lot of times in a lot of the jails and institutions you don't get the opportunity," Jordan said. "It gives me a lot to do. I'm glad we can make the best of our time."

Alberto, who has already passed five of the seven tests for his HSED, added, "Nobody wants to be in jail. It (education) can rehabilitate a person's mind. You don't feel when you get out that it was time wasted."

"Education is very important in life. You can't even get into a Burger King or McDonald's without an education."

"If I can finish school, I can further my education and get a better job and support my family and be a productive citizen."

Board of Appeals  
holds off on  
Marcus settlement

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THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1996

# OZAUKEE & WASHINGTON

OZAUKEE COUNTY

Complete  
Milwaukee  
news section  
is inside

SECTION B INSIDE

# Ex-inmate praises jail literacy program

50th graduate now has  
high school equivalency  
degree, job as sous-chef

By JEANNETTE HURT  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Town of Grafton — It took Lee Kral four trips to finally take his last test for his high school equivalency degree.

The teacher was either sick or on vacation, or the school was snowed out.

But Kral finally got to take his exam, and his passing grades made him the 50th graduate of the Ozaukee County Jail literacy program.

"It was something I wanted to do. It was something I had to get," Kral, 24, said.

His graduation was Tuesday at St. John Lutheran Church, 1193 Lakeland Road, in the Town of Grafton. State Reps. Mickey Lehman and Tim Hoven, Ozaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Breisford and Kral's father, Ron Kral, spoke at the commencement.

"It's really exciting to see (the program) grow," Hoven said.

"So many people are proud of you, Lee. So many people are counting on you."

Usually, the graduation is held in the Ozaukee County Jail, but Kral was released six months ago, before he could take the test, after he finished serving his time for driving without a license.

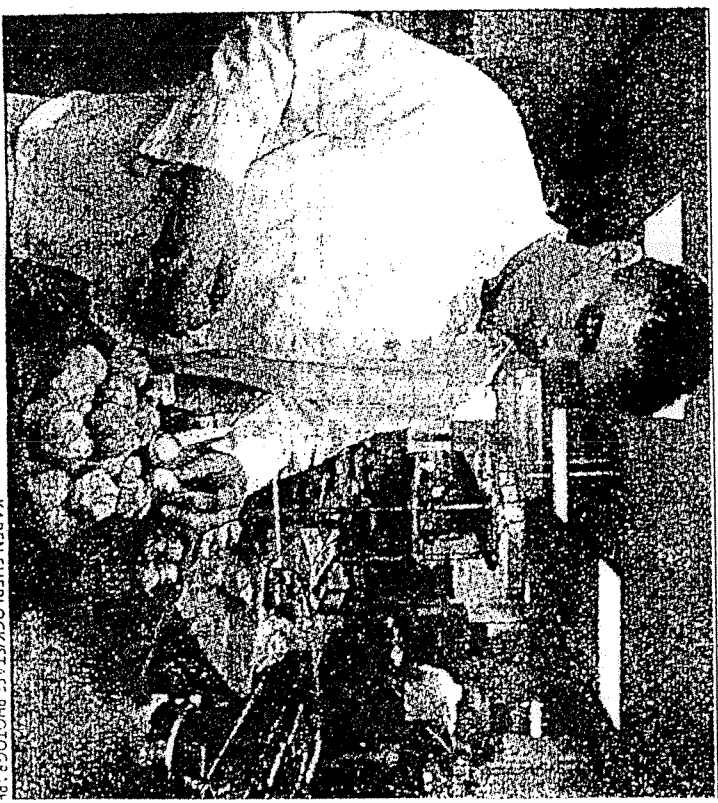
Kral's graduation is something of a touchstone for the program, which has served inmates of the Ozaukee County Jail since April 1992, said Nina Walker, one of the program's coordinators.

Kral admitted he is embarrassed about having spent time in jail, but he wanted to tell his story to help the program.

"If I can do anything to help the program, I will," Kral said.

The program's organizers are always looking for additional sponsors, and they would like to expand the program to help more inmates, Walker said, adding that the program helps about 50 inmates a year. For more information, call 377-0410.

Kral said that he'd frequently thought about getting his degree, but he never got around to it. He'd always held a job with-



KAREN SHERLOCK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lee Kral is the 50th graduate of the Ozaukee County Jail literacy program and now works as a sous-chef in Wauwatosa.

out having a high school diploma, so he didn't think it was necessary.

But going to jail was a turning point.

"Before I went to jail, I didn't really think about my actions. Now, I'm much more conscious

Please see LITERACY page 2

## Literacy/Man completes program

From Ozaukee/Washington page

of them," Kral said.

He credits a lot of his success to his mentors, Walker and Judy Johnson, the founders of the program.

"They were very caring," Kral said. "I have a lot of respect for them. It wasn't strict, but they knew how to relate to us."

Kral is working as a sous-chef for the Sheraton Inn Mayfair, Wauwatosa, and he plans to continue his education at the Milwaukee Area Technical College West Campus this fall, where he will study either welding or communications.





OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROJECT

**OPPORTUNITY IS THE KEY!**

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**Education Programs:**

- \* High School Equivalency Diploma
- \* Basic Skills (Math and Reading)
- \* Employability Skills
- \* Career Awareness
- \* Group Dynamics/ Problem Solving
- \* Goal Setting
- \* English as a Second Language

**Classes are held on a continuing basis at the jail. You may enroll at anytime**

**STUDENT COMMENTS:**

Michael---"Getting my H.S.E.D. has brought back a lot of self esteem and pride in myself."

Russell---"While attending class I've learned about how intelligent I really am."

Tony---"With my improved math and reading skills I have increased confidence in re-entering the work force."

***MAKE A POSITIVE DECISION FOR YOUR FUTURE.***

**ASK A DEPUTY FOR AN APPLICATION**

**SIGN UP NOW!!!**



# The State of Wisconsin

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

HONORING THE

OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROGRAM



ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN, I AM  
ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO SALUTE THE

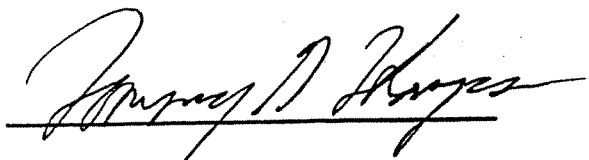
OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROGRAM

ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROJECT.

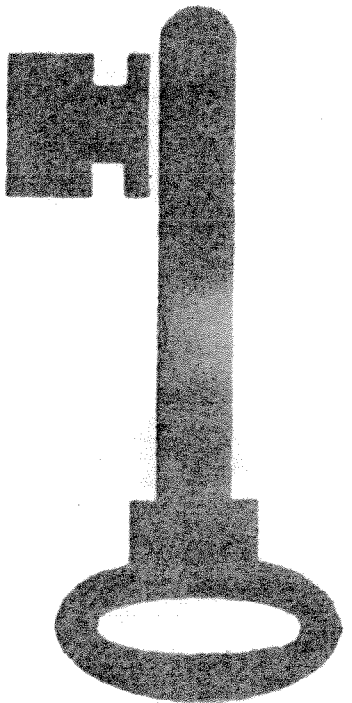
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY  
PROJECT IS MAKING EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO  
ARE WISHING TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES. THIS PROGRAM  
IS A PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT FOR  
ALL OF WISCONSIN'S CITIZENS.

PRESENTED WITH MY BEST WISHES.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL IN THE  
CITY OF MADISON THIS  
FOURTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE  
YEAR ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE.



GOVERNOR



**OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROJECT**

1201 South Spring Street

Post Office Box 245

Port Washington, WI 53074-0245

Phone: 414-238-8440 Ext. 646

Fax: 414-238-8490

**NINA WALKER**

Co-Director

*(414) 377-7468*

**Judy Johnson**

Co-Director



**Judy Johnson, Nina Walker  
Co-founders**

**Ozaukee Justice Center  
1201 South Spring Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
Phone: 414-238-8440 Ext. 646  
Fax: 414-238-8490**



*Opportunity Is The Key!*

**Corporate Address:  
P.O. Box 391  
Grafton, WI 53024**

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**OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROGRAM, INC.**

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**History and Services of the OCJLP, Inc.**

The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc. provides 45 weeks of instruction for adult individuals (18 years and over) incarcerated at the Ozaukee County Jail who do not have high school diplomas. Currently, two instructors each provide 12 hours of classroom instruction per week. Since April 8, 1992, ninety-four-inmate participants have received their HSEDs (High School Equivalency Diplomas) while incarcerated at the Ozaukee County Jail; in addition, many others have continued their education after leaving the Program. This grass roots educational initiative has had nearly 400 inmate participants since its inception.

The Program relies heavily on community support for materials, supplies and testing fees. An alternate tester from Milwaukee Area Technical College, Downtown Campus administers GED tests at the jail site to participants every other week.

The total annual budget for our own project is \$64,000 this year. Twenty-four percent (24%) of our funds come from the jail commissary (a match to get federal funds through the VTAE). Thirty percent (30%) is from the federal grant, and forty-six percent (46%) from monies raised in the community. Our concern at this point is the continued availability of matching federal funds for jail education. The current emphasis appears to be directed to family literacy. This brings us to our request.

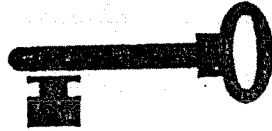
We are, therefore, requesting your help in securing state funds that the counties could match for their jail education programs. We would like \$1.7 million placed in the budget for educational programming for county jails. (This figure represents \$25,000.00 for each of the 71 county jails in Wisconsin and represents one-tenth of 1 percent of the annual prison budget.) We suggest a 70-30% match. The counties could pay their thirty-percent match through commissary funds, county budgets, and/or private fund-raising, and could be administered through the state office of Justice Assistance, which already oversees jails in Wisconsin.

Since the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc. has an excellent seven year track record, we recommend that it be used as a model for implementation of this request. The co-founders, Nina Walker and Judy Johnson would agree to act as consultants.



Judy Johnson, Nina Walker  
Co-founders

Ozaukee Justice Center  
1201 South Spring Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
Phone: 414-238-8440 Ext. 646  
Fax: 414-238-8490



*Opportunity Is The Key!*

Corporate Address:  
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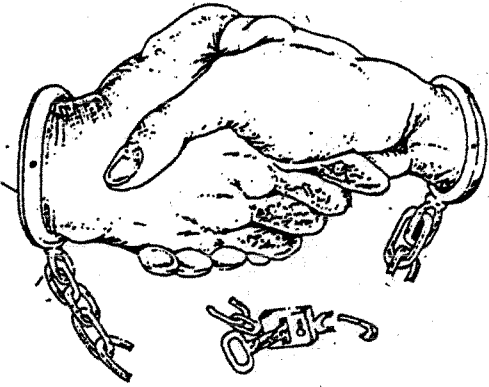
**OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROGRAM, INC.**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Project, located in the Ozaukee County Justice Center, will provide educational opportunities to incarcerated adults through compassionate delivery of services and community support. This will be accomplished by offering high school equivalency diploma completion, basic literacy skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and career awareness and employability skills courses; these offerings will improve personal and employment potential, leading to the reduction of recidivism at the county jail level.





**EDUCATION**

**BREAK THE CHAINS FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

**Contributions are tax deductible.**  
Make checks payable to:  
Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc.  
P.O. Box 391  
Grafton, WI 53024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

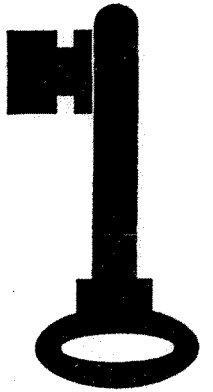
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ Please contact us for a speaking engagement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Educate-an-Inmate - \$150.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other- please enter amount

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Jane Beck  
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CPA
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Business Owner
- Mina Walker  
Program Co-founder
- Martie Watts  
Community Volunteer
- Harmony Welsbach  
Project Advocate



**OPPORTUNITY  
IS THE  
KEY**

"By and large criminals are social failures. They cannot hold a steady job. They have alcohol and drug problems. They lack a high school education. When we return these individuals back to society, we need to have provided to them the opportunities to change into productive citizens. Education is the cornerstone of these opportunities."

"By supporting programs like the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc., Your investment will show greater dividends."

Lt. David C. Lorenz  
Ozaukee County Jail Administrator

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program Inc., located in the Ozaukee County Justice Center, has been in operation since April 8, 1992. The Program will provide educational opportunities to incarcerated adults through compassionate delivery of services and community support. This will be accomplished by offering high school equivalency diploma completion, basic literacy skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and career awareness and employability skills courses; these offerings will improve personal and employment potential, leading to the reduction of recidivism at the county jail level.

The total yearly budget for the Program is approximately \$52,000 which serves more than 50 inmates per year. This compares to the annual cost of incarceration for two individuals which is nearly \$24,000 per inmate per year. The Program relies on private donations to achieve its goals.

The co-founders welcome the opportunity to speak to groups and organizations that are interested in supporting this vital educational initiative.

## OZAUKEE COUNTY JAIL LITERACY PROGRAM, INC. GOALS

- ◆ Offer an opportunity for change
- ◆ Improve reading, math and writing skills
- ◆ Increase employability
- ◆ Encourage positive decision making/ problem solving skills
- ◆ Reduce recidivism

## SPECIFIC PROGRAM NEEDS

- ◆ Educate-an-Inmate- \$150.00  
Covers books, testing fees, and supplies for one inmate
- ◆ Basic skills materials  
Reading, math, and writing books
- ◆ Funds for educational videos  
Civics, social studies, career awareness, employability skills
- ◆ Funds for computer software
- ◆ Library books, dictionaries, magazine subscriptions
- ◆ Supplies- paper, folders, pencils

-Judy Johnson and Nina Walker-

## PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

"I just recently received my HSED at the Ozaukee County Jail. The school program has helped me strive to be a better person and a smarter person. Not having a high school diploma is very hard as far as getting a job."

"This program improved my education, self-esteem, and self-respect. I really can't say enough good things about this program. It has given me a new start in life."

-Mike C.

"Coming to jail has been the biggest waking-up to reality for me. I am extremely grateful for being here to straighten out my life. Thanks to the Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc., I am a high school graduate and am more focused on my life that ever before. I owe a lot to my teachers."

-Garrett S.

"I was able to get my HSED while I was incarcerated in the Ozaukee County Jail. Before I came, I could not read or write. Now, I can read books instead of just looking at the pictures. It will be easier to read and fill out job applications. I also learned how to set goals in my life and work to get them."

-Robert H.



My name is Jane Pearlmuter. I am the President of the Wisconsin Library Association. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Association and the 60 library boards of trustees that have endorsed WLA's legislative agenda. A list of these organizations is attached to my testimony as a reminder that I come here before you to represent them. Now, let me share with you our position on the Governor's biennial budget proposal.

We are extremely pleased that Governor Thompson included funds in his state budget proposal to increase the materials budget for the UW libraries. We hope you will support his request. We also urge you to support BadgerLink funding as outlined in the recent letter on this subject from State School Superintendent John Benson and Administration Dept. Secretary Mark Bugher to this Committee. I am also asking your support for several other important library-related initiatives that were somehow not included in the governor's budget.

**Funding for public library systems.** In 1998 the legislature passed and the governor signed SB 269 (Act 150), which required the Department of Public Instruction to request funding for library systems at 13% of local and county expenditures for public library service. Currently the index of state aid to local and county aid for public library service has dropped to approximately 10%. Continued inadequate state funding for public library systems places at risk a program of library access, resource sharing, and improvement that the state has worked to develop since 1972. I am asking you to support the DPI request for increases in the library system aid **as required by this law**. Why is this funding so important? No individual public library can provide the knowledge and information resources necessary to meet all the needs of its community. A key purpose and responsibility of our 17 state-funded public library systems is to promote and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and information resources among all 381 public libraries in the state. Through the services provided by our library systems, local libraries are better able to meet the information needs of their residents in a very cost-effective manner. These funds provide a wide range of services to Wisconsin residents through their local libraries, including interlibrary loan, programs and grants to enable open access, delivery, automation, central collections, consultation, continuing education, and resource library services.

**Library service contracts.** The Department of Public Instruction contracts with the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Interlibrary Services and Milwaukee Public Library to supplement materials held in local Wisconsin libraries. Through these contracts, citizens in the state have access to over 16 million titles. DPI has requested modest increase in these service contracts, and we hope to see these increases in the budget.

**Restore the Common School Fund Income:** Initiatives in the Governor's budget proposal to improve the TEACH Wisconsin program are certainly worthwhile. However, to continue to pay for this program with revenue from the Common School Fund robs our school libraries of the resources essential to their mission. As a state, we cannot continue to invest in educational technology with money that was meant to buy schoolbooks. WLA endorses the restoration of the full amount of the Common School Fund income to its original purpose, namely "the purchase of library books and other instructional materials for school libraries" [Wis. Stat. § #43.70(2)]. WLA strongly opposes the use of interest on the Common School Fund for any other purpose.

The above library initiatives will significantly help increase access to information for all our state's residents. Better access to information is also critical to keep our state's businesses competitive in the evolving global economy. I hope you will give these library initiatives your full support.

Thank you.

**Wisconsin Library Association Board of Directors, 1999**

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Madison

The following Wisconsin organizations have gone on record in support of the 1999 WLA Legislative Agenda:

Abbotsford Public Library Board of Trustees  
Albany Public Library Board of Trustees  
Algoma Public Library Board of Trustees  
Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees  
Aram Public Library Board of Trustees, Delavan  
Arrowhead Library System Board of Trustees  
Beloit Public Library Board of Trustees  
Caestecker Public Library Board of Trustees, Green Lake

Chippewa Falls Public Library Board of Trustees  
Council on Library and Network Development  
Door County Library Board of Trustees  
Public Board of the Durand Community Library  
Eastern Shores Library System Board of Trustees  
Fox Valley Library Council  
Friends of Wisconsin Libraries  
Hortonville Public Library Board of Trustees  
Indianhead Federated Library System Board of Trustees  
Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees  
Kenosha County Library System Board of Trustees  
Kenosha Public Library Board of Trustees  
Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library Board of Trustees  
La Crosse Public Library Board of Trustees  
Lakeshores Library System Board of Trustees  
McMillan Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Wisconsin Rapids  
Madison Public Library Board of Trustees  
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System Board of Trustees  
Manitowoc Public Library Board of Trustees  
Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees  
Marinette County Consolidated Public Library Board of Trustees  
Marion Public Library Board of Trustees  
Marshfield Public Library Board of Trustees  
Mead Public Library Board of Trustees, Sheboygan  
Middleton Public Library Board of Trustees  
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System Board of Trustees  
Monona Public Library Board of Trustees  
Neenah Public Library Board of Trustees  
New Glarus Public Library Board of Trustees  
New Holstein Public Library Board of Trustees  
New London Public Library Board of Trustees  
Nicolet Federated Library System Board of Trustees  
Northern Waters Library System Board of Trustees  
Oconto Falls Community Library Board of Trustees  
Oregon Public Library Board of Trustees  
Outagamie Waupaca Library System Board of Trustees  
Pauline Haass Public Library Board of Trustees, Sussex and Lisbon  
Racine Public Library Board of Trustees  
Rhineland Area Joint Library District Board of Trustees  
Rosemary Garfoot Public Library Board of Trustees, Cross Plains  
Sauk City Public Library Board of Trustees  
Shawano City-County Library Board of Trustees  
South Central Library System Board of Trustees  
South Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees  
Sturm Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Manawa  
System and Resource Library Administrators of Wisconsin  
Waukesha County Federated Library System Board of Trustees  
Waukesha Public Library Board of Trustees  
Waupaca Area Public Library Board of Trustees  
Winding Rivers Library System Board of Trustees  
Winnefox Library System Board of Trustees  
Wisconsin Valley Library Service Board



Middleton Public Library • 7425 Hubbard Avenue • Middleton, WI 53562  
Paul Nelson, Director • 608/831-5564

**Testimony of Paul Nelson  
Director, Middleton Public Library  
to Joint Finance Committee  
Thursday, April 15, 1999**

My name is Paul Nelson, and I am the director of the Middleton Public Library. I also am here on behalf of the South Central Library System, of which my library is a member, and the Wisconsin Library Association, for which I serve this year as Past President.

**UW Library Collections and BadgerLink**

First of all, I am pleased that Governor Thompson has included funds in his state budget to increase the materials budget for UW libraries. I sincerely hope that you will support this request. I also ask that you support the Governor's proposal to fund BadgerLink with funds from the TEACH Wisconsin's telecommunications access program. The BadgerLink databases have quickly become an important component of the service program of all Wisconsin's libraries. I ask you to please support this initiative.

Now to the more difficult part of my testimony, asking for General Purpose Revenue funds when you'll probably tell me there just isn't any money available. But let me persist.

**Public Library System Aids**

An increase of \$11,385,900 for public library system aids over the next biennium might seem extreme, but I assure you this will be money well-spent, the benefits of which will be felt throughout the entire state. System funds provide a wide range of services in a cost-efficient manner to Wisconsin residents through their local libraries. In 1998, the legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 269 (Act 150), which required the Department of Public Instruction to request funding for library systems at 13% of local and county expenditures for public library service. I ask you to support the DPI request for this increase in public library system aids.

**Statewide Library Service Contracts**

The Department of Public Instruction contracts with the Regional Library for the Blind and Physical Handicapped, Wisconsin Interlibrary Services, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, and the Milwaukee Public Library to supplement materials in local Wisconsin libraries. Through these contracts, citizens of our state have access to over 16 million titles. Avoiding unnecessary and costly duplication of services at the



local level is an important result of these contracts. I urge you to support the modest increase (\$111,900) in these service contracts.

#### **Local Impact**

The availability of BadgerLink has already strengthened the service program of the Middleton Public Library. Additional funds for public library systems will have a similar effect, especially in the areas of library automation, sharing of resources, physical and electronic delivery of materials and information, and, ideally, open access to all of the public libraries in our state. Additional dollars for the service contracts allows Middleton to continue to meet the special service needs of our customers.

Please give these requests serious consideration during your final deliberations on the 1999-2001 budget. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.