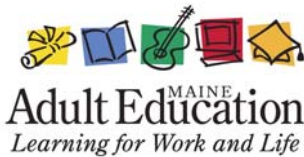


# MSAD #27 ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS BRIEF

July, 2009



*Providing Multiple Pathways to Lifelong Learning*

- High School Diploma
- GED Preparation and Testing
- College Transitions
- Workforce Development \*
- Adult Literacy
- Family Literacy \*
- Northern Maine Community College Courses
- Custom-Designed Workshops
- Personal Enrichment Programming

*\* Program Components Featured in this News Brief*

**“Lighthouse Grant recipients are well established, model Family Literacy programs ... selected for their experience and success in providing Family Literacy programming.”**

*Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, 2008*

## CHIPPY PROGRAM GETS SECOND YEAR OF LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT FUNDING FROM BARBARA BUSH FOUNDATION

The MSAD #27 CHIPPY Even Start Family Literacy Program is one of only five “exemplary” Family Literacy programs in Maine that recently received a second year of Lighthouse Project grant funding from the Maine Family Literacy Initiative through the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Lighthouse Projects initially were invited to apply for funding in 2008 and received \$25,000 grant awards based on their capacity to serve as models for other programs by sharing their experiences and practices through a variety of outreach activities.

As a Lighthouse grant recipient, the CHIPPY program is eligible to receive \$25,000 per year for a maximum of three years, pending an annual review.

Also, as a Lighthouse Project, the CHIPPY program serves as a demonstration project that both current and prospective Family Literacy projects can seek out for guidance, direction, advice, and consultation.

Guidance and consultation includes hosting visits at the CHIPPY Center for Learning by other programs or planning committees, providing staff development sessions regionally and at state conferences and events, conducting consultation visits to other program sites, and engaging in local, regional, and state advocacy activities in support of Family Literacy.

During the 2008-2009 program year, key activities engaged in by the CHIPPY program included the following:

- serving on a committee planning the **Literacy Connections Conference 2009** held in Augusta on March 13, 2009;
- hosting visits at the CHIPPY Center for Learning by Family Literacy staff and planners from Ashland/Washburn and Van Buren; and

- delivering a regional staff development entitled, **Family Literacy: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?** in Presque Isle for current and prospective Family Literacy providers from throughout Aroostook County.

It is worth noting, as Becky Dyer, Director of the Maine Family Literacy Initiative (MEFLI) grant program pointed out, that Ashland/Washburn, Van Buren, and Presque Isle all received MEFLI grants from the Barbara Bush Foundation at the MEFLI awards ceremony held in Biddeford on June 22, 2009.

Presque Isle received a \$5,000 planning grant and already has contacted CHIPPY staff to schedule a consultation visit to the CHIPPY Center for Learning.

Ashland/Washburn and Van Buren each received \$25,000 implementation grants.



MSAD #27 Director of Adult and Community Education and Family Literacy Coordinator, Peter Caron, receives a Lighthouse Project grant award from former First Lady Barbara Bush at the Maine Family Literacy Initiative Grant Awards Ceremony held in Biddeford in June.

*“I’m looking to the future with hope, because I’m taking the time to learn.”*


## MSAD #27 HOSTS SECOND WORKREADY™ CREDENTIAL TRAINING IN THE ST. JOHN VALLEY

“More workers must demonstrate higher levels of literacy, technology proficiency, and self-management to function successfully in the workplace.

Trends and Implications for the Maine Workforce  
*Maine Department of Labor, 2005*

Our workforce isn't yet ready for tomorrow's jobs. Compounding the challenge are thousands of workers laid off by downsizing companies. All of that points to an enormous challenge of retraining ourselves for the new economy.”

Charting Maine's Future  
*The Brookings Institute, 2006*

  
**Adult Education** MAINE  
*Learning for Work and Life*

The MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education program teamed with the Madawaska/MSAD #33 and MSAD #24 Adult and Community Education programs, Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community, and the Aroostook/Washington County Local Workforce Investment Board to deliver the St. John Valley's second **WorkReady™** Credential training session from June 15-July 1, 2009.

Participants in the session actively engaged in a rigorous, comprehensive 60-hour training program specifically designed to address the “soft skills” necessary to be successful in the workplace.

To complete the program, participants had to consistently demonstrate a number of key competencies and qualities including:

- ▶ a healthy self-image and positive self-esteem;
- ▶ appropriate appearance and attire;
- ▶ time and stress management skills;
- ▶ effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills;
- ▶ interpersonal relationship skills;
- ▶ anger management and conflict resolution skills;
- ▶ the ability to work with others and solve problems as members of a team;
- ▶ an understanding of wages, benefits, and taxes; and
- ▶ the ability to interpret, understand, and adhere to work-related safety information.

The **WorkReady™** Credential training program is a state-approved workforce development initiative governed by a state-wide steering committee.

The program was designed and developed with extensive input from private businesses and employment leaders from across Maine.

The St. John Valley **WorkReady™** Credential session was held at the Northern Maine Medical Center Wellness Center located in Fort Kent.



Participants who completed the **WorkReady™** program (see photo above) include: Marc Jandreau, Lori Levesque, Sholah Mullins, and Jessica Riley, all of Fort Kent. John Metz of MSAD #27 coordinated the program.

## PROGRAM CONDUCTS 10TH ANNUAL SUMMER FUN READING BOOK GIVEAWAY

In June, the MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education program, through its community literacy project, **Ready to Read**, conducted its 10th annual **Summer Fun Reading Book Giveaway**, distributing 211 three-book book-sets to all Pre-K and Kindergarten students in the district, to all children in the district Family Literacy program, and to all district pupils in grades 1-3 who received Title I services in reading during the 2008-2009 school year. The 633 total books, made available through a grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, were packaged in book-bags by the CHIPPY Family Literacy project Parent Action Group (see photo below).

