



"I have the flexibility to teach in a way that makes sense for our students."

Ginny Dugan fondly remembers a student who enrolled at Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) to complete their high school diploma and learned they had an aptitude for accounting. Their "discovery" prompted high school completion followed by college studies in accounting. Ginny, a teacher at VAL since 1999, has seen many students use VAL as a launchpad to well-paying careers in health care, business and the trades. She loves teaching and cares deeply for her students.



"Students arrive excited by the possibilities," Ginny said, "and they want to finish their high school education. Sometimes, 'life happens' (a family obligation, an illness, a job change, etc.) and they leave and come back, and leave and come back again. We always welcome students back. Something, clicks for them—internally and in their external lives—and it's the right time for them to finish."

"I love attending graduations, seeing students' sense of accomplishment and being able to say to them, 'Look at what you've done for yourself...and your children.'"

Our Work

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) serves adults ages 16 years and older. Our programs include basic education and literacy, high school completion, GED tutoring and testing, courses for English Language Learners, workforce readiness and development, and transition to post-secondary education. Our services are free.

Visit us at www.vtadulthoodlearning.org.



From our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Somehow, the "new normal" is starting to feel "normal." We continue to deliver services. Our students are graduating. Our Learning Centers are reopening, following VT Dept. of Health

safety directives. The difference is that, now, students have more choices in how to access their education at VAL. Virtual services, offered in response to COVID-19, will remain an option. Students can choose online, in-person or blended learning pathways. Generous donors helped us make this transition by funding much needed technology that we are able to loan out to students.

VAL has a tradition of meeting students where they're at. I am glad to report that the tradition continues.

Be safe and be well.

Hal, hcohen@vtadulthoodlearning.org

Vermont Adult Learning Centers

Central Office

46 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
802-244-0634

Addison County

282 Boardman Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-546-0879

Chittenden County

29 Church Street, #9
Burlington, VT 05401
802-846-7245

Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

5 Lemnah Drive, Ste. 5
St. Albans, VT 05478
802-524-9233

Rutland County

16 Evelyn Street
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0617

Windham County

90 Birge Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-257-9449

Windsor County

White River Junction Location
225 Maple Street, Ste. 6
White River Jct., VT 05001
802-281-4311

Springfield Location
100 River Street, Ste. 102
Springfield, VT 05156
802-546-0879



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"I can read things in my mail. I can understand a bill, something my kids used to help me with."

~Lisa

VAL Class of 2020
 Age 59

Lisa worked as nursing assistant in Vermont for over 20 years

Thank you to our supporters

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Thank you to Rachel Jolly and Tiffany Keune for dedicated service on our Board of Trustees

VOLUNTEERS & STAFF SERVING AMID COVID-19

We offer a thank you to our volunteers and staff who, despite a global pandemic, find safe and creative ways to serve our students and participants. The learning continues

WAYS to SUPPORT OUR WORK

- Check or Credit Card
- Employer Matching
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- Lifetime Planning

Please contact Katherine Stamper, Development Director, at kstamper@vtadultlearning.org or (802) 735-1670 to discuss any of these options. We strive to thank all donors. Please contact Katherine if your name was, inadvertently, left off of our donor list. Thank you!

MISSION

Vermont Adult Learning's mission is to create an innovative, inclusive and equitable learning environment that provides personalized opportunities for education and career development for Vermont residents by building relationships, strengthening communities and fostering lifelong learning

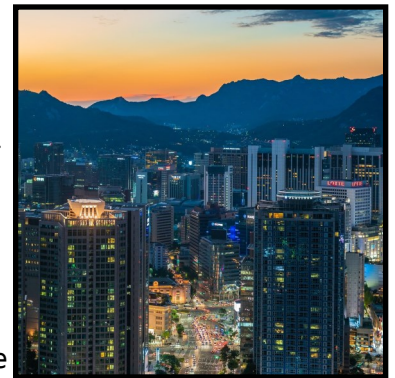
ELL Volunteer and Student: A Friendship Formed

"Nancy's class is just what I needed," Sunghee, a native of South Korea, said. "Before working with Nancy, it was difficult to find the right ELL class level. Nancy brings to the table exactly what I need. She'll say, 'This is a wonderful article,' and we will read it and discuss it."

"Nancy is my teacher and she sees me as an equal," Sunghee said. "She's humble, thoughtful, respectful and a great listener --- she will always listen. She was a teacher and a principal and her ideas about education really inspire me."

"It takes a student who has the thirst and commitment to learning," Nancy said. We stretch a lot in the learning. Sunghee always wants to do better for her children."

"It's so difficult that I can't give Nancy a hug," Sunghee said. "I'm glad we're still doing this (ELL tutoring) online. Nancy and I try to do our best. I can't wait until we can meet in person again!"



**Leave a Legacy:
 Remember
 Vermont Adult Learning
 in your will.**



From Kinshasa to Burlington, meet Peguy

"Every day I dream to get my degree"

~Peguy

Hometown: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Education in the DRC: Peguy commenced studies in the DRC, intending to become a doctor.

Reason for Leaving: Education

Arrival in the United States: Peguy arrived in the United States on April 7, 2016 via the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. He emigrated, leaving his mother and sister behind in the DRC.

Languages: French, Lingala, Kikongo and English



Job(s) in Vermont: Peguy works full-time at the University of Vermont (UVM). He works a second job in food service. His typical work week is 64 hours.

Ambition: "I now dream to study business management and have my own business and an association to help people back home...to help orphans, to help widows, to help kids go to college. I'd like to help wherever people need help. Medicine is my old dream. I have a language barrier. It costs a lot of money here (in the U.S.). It takes a long time. I wish I was born here. Maybe medicine will be a dream for one of *my* children someday."

Education in Vermont: Peguy started English Language Learning (ELL) classes at VAL in 2016, mostly in the evenings, after work. He advanced to our High School Completion Program, and completed a computer science class at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) via Dual Enrollment. He earned his high school diploma in June 2020. Peguy plans to continue his studies at UVM, while retaining his job there.

Something he misses about home: *Fumbwa* is a Congolese Wild Spinach Stew in which green leafy vegetables are boiled down with onions, tomatoes, garlic, palm oil, peanuts and seasonings.

Happy Memory from home: "Friends. We have a different culture. African culture is so different. We are more social. Personally, I'm very funny and I would tell stories and make my friends laugh."

A challenge to overcome since arriving in the United States: "My challenge is to get my degree. Every day I dream to get my degree. I won't go back home to my country until I get my degree."

Something he appreciates about Vermont Adult Learning: "The staff at Vermont Adult Learning was there to help with my final project and my homework from CCV. They were pushing me to look forward."

Peguy will serve as VAL-Chittenden's Class of 2020 Graduation Speaker when it's safe to gather.



VAL Supports Solar Installation Apprenticeship Program

VAL is partnering with Ace Academy at Burlington Technical Center (BTC), Sun Common and the Vermont Dept. of Labor to host a Solar Installation Apprenticeship Program, training individuals for jobs in the growing renewable energy sector. With unprecedented unemployment, due to economic fallout from COVID-19, opportunities to train for in-demand, well-paying jobs are vital to re-energizing Vermont's economy. Participants will meet one evening per week from October 2020 to December 2021 and transition to full-time paid work from May to December.

"It's an Integrated Education and Training (IET) Program," said Ethan Maurer, Regional Director of VAL's Chittenden Learning Center, "allowing participants to strengthen academic and employment skills at the same time. We are always open to partnerships fostering workforce development."

VAL's role will be to work with New Americans recruited to the program. VAL teacher Chanon Bernstein, a former Peace Corps Volunteer with extensive experience teaching essential skills to adults, is co-designing a curriculum, with technical trainers, tailored to terms and concepts required for success in the construction field—with the added benefit of soft skills.

Applications are due September 13th. Contact Marni Leikin at BTC at mleikin@bsdvt.org or apply online at: <https://forms.gle/ticJ7jB3KaoX2Pxs6>



Email kstamper@vtadultlearning.org to receive this newsletter via email. Type GO GREEN in Subject Line.



Vermont Adult Learning

46 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05676