

Our mission is to provide exceptional one-on-one tutoring for students from economically disadvantaged families, to allow them to maximize their learning potential and to confidently pursue their educational and personal goals.

SHOULDERS TO STAND ON FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO REACH THE STARS

THE UNSEEN EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC by Cindi Dinkler, LTF Tutor



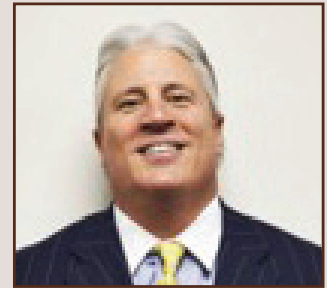
"School is the best home for some children," my mom said to me many years ago. I wasn't sure I believed her until this fall when I started tutoring for LTF. One of the students I am currently tutoring lives alone with her dad. She has food and shelter, but no car for transportation. Her dad loves her very much but is struggling with personal and financial issues. COVID has sentenced her to a virtual classroom, but Dad doesn't know how to log her on or navigate the technology challenges. This young student is a third grader who does not even know all of her letter sounds. Though we started our tutoring relationship in mid-October, she had not yet completed one assignment for school.

During our first in-home session, she resisted learning. If she couldn't immediately answer a question (What sound

does this letter make?), she would grab the item we were working with and not give it back, along with other destructive or uncooperative behavior. She responded to most questions with "I can't read" or "I can't write". I could sense she was embarrassed and very frustrated. Now, ten sessions later, she is trusting me. She blends letters together and reads simple words and sentences. Progress is slow, but she no longer says, "I can't read". And when she does read, her voice and face light up with delight.

"THE LTF ASSISTED OVER 160 STUDENTS DURING THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR! THE NEED IS EVEN GREATER THIS YEAR."

For some, being home with family during this COVID season might be a blessing. But for many children, being home means a loss of connection to people and resources that are stepping-stones toward a better life. Teachers are challenged, parents are challenged, and more students than ever are falling through the cracks. The services the Life Tools Foundation offers are critical. I am so thankful I've joined the team.



BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Matt Vanden Heuvel is a Life Tools Foundation Board Member and is also currently a Financial Advisor – Senior Vice President in the Senior Consulting Group at RBC Wealth Management in Appleton. His experience includes providing investment and wealth management services to families and closely-held businesses.

Matt's community involvement includes being a board member and current President of the St. Francis Xavier Foundation. He was a past member of the St. Pius X Finance Committee and the St. Bernard Endowment Committee. Matt and his wife are also strong supporters of the Kaukauna Quarterback Club and Xavier sports programs.

Matt has been a very engaged and valuable resource to the LTF during his time on the Board and shared, "It is a privilege to work with the talented Life Tools Foundation team in impacting young lives and meeting such a critical need within our community."

Matt resides in Neenah with his wife, Gina, and their two children.

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LTF ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN



Lindsay Fenlon
Executive Director
Big Brothers Big Sisters
of East Central Wisconsin

The Life Tools Foundation is very pleased to announce that we have partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Wisconsin to provide one-on-one tutoring services to their 'littles' who are struggling academically. BBBS provides mentoring and companionship for young people who may be struggling or who just need a friend to share some positive experiences. Although the volunteer mentors are very gifted in the areas of listening skills, selflessness and fun, they do not always come with a teaching or tutoring background. The tutors at the LTF are more than happy – and more than qualified – to fill that gap. Whether the student needs involve reading, math, study skills or organization, the LTF will match that student with the perfect mentor from our team of outstanding, passionate tutors. As many of BBBS clients come from financially

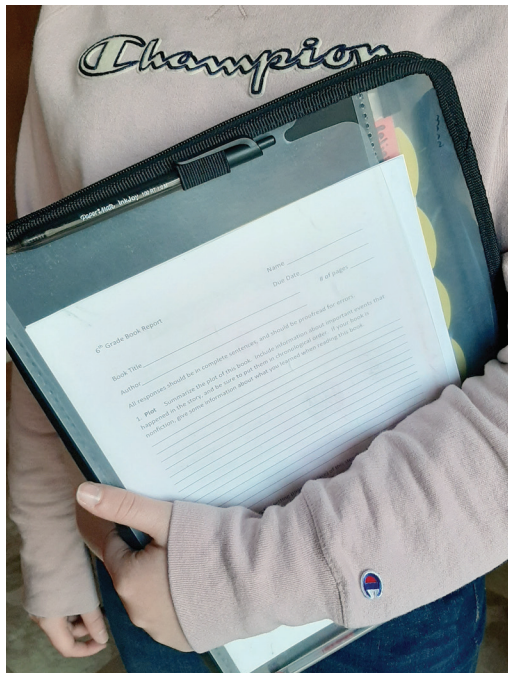
“WE ARE THRILLED TO BE ENTERING INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH LIFE TOOLS FOUNDATION.”

disadvantaged families, the partnership is a perfect fit for all aspects of our mission. Lindsay Fenlon, Executive Director of BBBS of East Central Wisconsin recently announced, “On behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters East Central Wisconsin, we are thrilled to be entering into a partnership with Life Tools Foundation to provide tutoring support to youth in our program.” Our thanks to the BBBS of East Central Wisconsin for making this collaboration effort a possibility; we truly can do more together.

A \$3 ACCORDION FOLDER

For those of you who have been out of school for some time and have not had the privilege of buying school supplies for a young person, you may be new to the accordion folder. The accordion folder is simply an expandable folder, typically made from a durable plastic, that has seven or eight dividers/compartments. The student can store individual subject materials in these compartments, which can be clearly labeled by subject. The students that come to the LTF for assistance are often lacking simple resources like the accordion folder. In many cases, their lives at home are unpredictable and messy, and their schoolwork often mirrors this disarray. We are often taken aback by how the simple act of providing an accordion folder (or a calculator or backpack) can make such a powerful impact on our students. They are first and foremost grateful and surprised that someone would spend the time and the dollars on them. We are also amazed by the transformation a simple tool like an accordion folder can make in a student's life both academically and personally. The sense of control over their schooling that develops over time with this simple organization strategy is inspiring

to be a part of. This understanding of control and structure can create life changing habits that will allow them to be successful in spite of their situation at home. Sometimes students just need a \$3 accordion folder and someone to believe that they can succeed.



Testimonial

I had a student who came in on the first day who told me that he couldn't read. I figured this was an exaggeration, as the student had already completed a few years of school. However, when I asked him to begin a book, he could hardly get through a word. He had gotten by the past few years by using the first letters of words and the pictures in the story to guess what it said. We worked on techniques together and put in a lot of time learning individual words. By the end of our time together, he was able to complete multiple word lists, read books 4-5 levels higher than when he began, and even write stories.

– Colleen, Life Tools Foundation Tutor

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