I was a volunteer tutor and tutor trainer with Literacy Green Bay for twenty years. I became acquainted with volunteer tutoring when I took a workshop sponsored by a group of women from Resurrection Lutheran Church. Following the training we were each assigned a non-English speaking student, usually Hmong at that time. Under the leadership of Bette Burkhart, The literacy Council of Brown County was formally established to continue officering assistance to students and tutors. NWTC staff supported our efforts, Way Wagner, a retired university professor living in Chilton was helpful in leading workshops and I worked with him through the process for certification. Eventually we prepared more Trainers to lead workshops.

Workshops were held in various churches until we were able to raise funds to open a center in our present site. Prior to that people came to my home to get their teaching materials as their students progressed. Tom Lutsey and Tom Brogan were key people in helping us in getting established financially. Evie Jensen became our first Administrative Secretary and Tori Rader our first Executive Director.

My years as a tutor were wonderful experiences. Getting to know students from another culture was both interesting and educational. I always went to the home of my student as many of the women had small children at home. We developed wonderful friendships. My husband and I were traveling in California later on and took the time to find the first Hmong family that I had worked with. It was rewarding to find them doing well in their community and the children succeeding in school. We were invited to family celebrations by both Hmong and Hispanics during my years of tutoring.

Literacy Green Bay has grown to be an amazing organization. I have met people deeply committed to reaching out to others and meeting their special needs educationally. Congratulations to the staff and all the volunteers who have given so much as you celebrate 35 years of offering lessons in literacy in our community.

Marilyn Knuth