



Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc.

Local Partnerships in Learning
Serving Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties

**Barre Learning Center
(and Main Office)**
46 Washington St. – Ste. 100
Barre, VT 05641

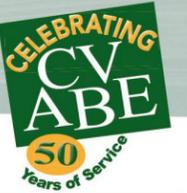


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CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Local Partnerships in Learning

Serving Washington, Lamoille, and Orange Counties



SPRING 2016

CVABE's 50th Anniversary Celebration

June 22, 2016 • 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Vermont State House, Montpelier

All are Welcome • No charge

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION, INC.

CVABE has learning centers throughout the three-county region. Please call your local learning center for more information about student services or volunteer opportunities. You can email us at info@cvabe.org or visit our website at www.cvabe.org.



Learning Centers

Washington County

Barre Learning Center (and Main Office)

46 Washington St. – Ste. 100
Barre, VT 05641
(802) 476-4588

Montpelier Learning Center

100 State St. – Ste. 3
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-3403

Waterbury Learning Center

141 South Main St. – Ste. 8
Waterbury, VT 05676
(802) 244-8765

Orange County

Bradford Learning Center

24 Barton St. – Ste. 1
PO Box 917
Bradford, VT 05033
(802) 222-3282

Randolph Learning Center

10 South Main St.
PO Box 84
Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-4492

Lamoille County

Morrisville Learning Center

52 Portland St. – 2nd Fl.
PO Box 478
Morrisville, VT 05661
(802) 888-5531

Programs & Services

- Basic Skills: Reading, Writing, Math, Computer Literacy
- English Language Learning; Preparation for U.S. Citizenship
- High School Diploma
- Preparation for GED and GED testing
- Academic skill readiness for work, technical training, college
- Volunteer opportunities for community service

In our learning centers, community locations, workplaces and homes, CVABE teachers and volunteers work with adults and teens to meet their basic education needs. All tutoring and classes are free to the student.

We believe that a person who is literate has the essential key for self-understanding and for full and active membership in the world.

Ours is a two-part strategy for the realization of full literacy:

1. Providing basic education for adults and teens and
2. Involving the entire community so that the hopes and efforts of our students will be championed every step of the way.



Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Katherine Paterson

Exciting News for CVABE's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Katherine Paterson, one of the world's most beloved children's book authors, has agreed to be the keynote speaker for our Wednesday, June 22nd, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, 50th Anniversary event to be held at the Vermont Statehouse. We are so blessed to have Katherine living in our midst (Montpelier) and for her devoted support of CVABE's efforts over many, many years. Governor Shumlin has been invited to say a few words and to introduce Katherine.



"Reading can be a road to freedom or a key to a secret garden, which, if tended, will transform all of life."
Katherine Paterson

Students, staff and volunteers alike have already begun selecting and reading some of Katherine's popular and engaging award winning books.

Transportation will be available to ensure that students can attend and participate in celebrating our 50 years of service to Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties.

Further planning and details will follow in the weeks ahead.

Generously Sponsored By:



We are proud to announce that National Life Group will serve as the sole sponsor for CVABE's upcoming 50th Anniversary Event, scheduled for June 22nd. This commitment will enable our community to celebrate the academic and life achievements of many thousands of CVABE students over the past 50 years. The event will also acknowledge past and present volunteers, community partners, and employees who have made CVABE's services possible.

Beth Rusnock, President of the National Life Group Foundation stated, "CVABE has done so much good for so many of our neighbors over the years, helping them achieve goals some never thought possible. National Life is thrilled to be able to celebrate this milestone anniversary and recognize the impact CVABE has made for the past fifty years and will make for the next fifty."

Throughout CVABE's history, National Life has provided exceptional support of our free education programs for central Vermont residents. In addition to sponsoring our anniversary celebration, the National Life Charitable Foundation has renewed its leading annual support for CVABE's math literacy instruction services. On behalf of all of the residents who have relied on CVABE's services, and all of those who will be helped in the years to come, **thank you National Life!**

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For the Love of Words



Dahria Messina presents her film *Anywhere* to friends, family and CVABE and MHS staff on December 4th.

Dahria Messina has always loved words. Even before entering kindergarten, she remembers begging her mother to teach her to write. Now she reports, "I am always writing. I keep filling notebooks."

For two years she has been working through CVABE's Montpelier Learning Center as a participant in the High School Completion Program (HSCP) and will earn her diploma this June from Montpelier High School. A sleep disorder made keeping up with a regular school schedule nearly impossible and she was intermittently home-schooled. Dahria did not care for home schooling and said, "I just wanted to be normal and have a normal education." She also missed the social aspect of attending school. Learning of the alternative opportunities available to her through HSCP, she became excited. "I got to design and control my own education which allowed me to figure out what worked best for me." With the ongoing help and support of many educators at the high school and CVABE, Dahria designed much of her own curriculum, enabling her to explore her specific interests and talents and develop her strengths, particularly in writing.

Dahria's career dream is to become a novelist. She has already built an impressive portfolio including writing articles for local newspapers, programming for a radio station, and creating two short documentary films. Her proudest achievement is her creation of the narrative film, *Anywhere*, a project conceived and executed as part of her HSCP Graduation Education Plan.

Dahria wanted writing to be a main component of her high school completion plan. When asked what she wanted to write, she immediately replied, "Can I write a screenplay?" Excited by the positive response, she then asked, "Can I produce the screenplay?" Again, the response was positive and the creative process was set in motion.

CVABE volunteer, Barbara Cormier, embraced helping Dahria to manage the large task of writing a screenplay and producing the film. Barbara is a full-time Project Management Professional for the State of Vermont's Department of Information and Innovation. Barbara's skill set proved the perfect match for Dahria's needs. They met almost every week for a year. The project management model they used will undoubtedly prove invaluable to Dahria in the future and will serve as "a repeatable roadmap for her next projects," Barbara says. Dahria adds, "I learned a lot about project management through creating *Anywhere*, and Barbara kept me on track when I was working on a timeline and managing the other people involved."

Dahria has received much praise for her completed film project and even hosted a Film Debut at CVABE's Montpelier Learning Center. She says, "It was so gratifying that people were curious about my film and asked so many good questions. It was heartwarming. It was a formal closure and celebration of something really big!"

Dahria's sleep disorder is resolved and she reflects that it "turned out to be the best thing that could have happened. It led to so many things I never would have done". Most importantly, "at a time when my education seemed out of my control, it led to me believing that I could control my life." Dahria has fully re-engaged at the high school to complete the bulk of her remaining credits, but still checks in regularly with her CVABE teacher to ensure successful completion of her graduation education plan. She is passing and excelling in all classes, has a GPA of 3.93, and has applied to several colleges. She plans to major in either English or Cinema.

Best of luck, Dahria! You have what it takes to succeed.

Khan Academy Workshop

During a recent monthly staff in-service, volunteer, Nick Landry, offered his expertise on using Khan Academy, an online tool for supplementing math instruction. Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard allowing learners to study at their own pace.



Studying Native Americans and Vermont History

While reading about a modern day Navajo woman, students in Montpelier's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) writing class started asking questions about Native Americans. This launched a unit exploring the history of several native tribes using online sources and books from the Vermont Humanities Council. The tribe closest to home, the Abenaki, was the last tribe studied. A class visit to the Vermont Historical Society on January 14th was timed to coincide with the transition from Native Americans to the topic of Vermont history. Thanks to Victoria Hughes, Education Director at the Vermont Historical Society, the students were actively engaged in learning about the early history of Vermont, from the Abenaki to Ethan Allen.



Shown in the photo from left to right are Neiza Verges, Saul Amigo, Mariham Amigo, Shobha Gentela, Sammy Yang, and Keli Yang.

Tricia Petraro Joins CVABE

Patricia Petraro (Tricia) joined CVABE as a full-time Teacher/Community Coordinator in Montpelier on November 30th. Tricia moved to Vermont from Brooklyn, New York, and now lives in Montpelier with her teenage daughter. She comes to us with an AS in Communications, a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies (K-8), an MS in Special Education (K-12), and was recently licensed in Vermont as a Special Educator. Tricia's skill, enthusiasm and easy going nature have proven to be a strong asset to the Montpelier teaching team. We all welcome her and enjoy working with her!



Norma Spaulding Retires

Norma Spaulding, a CVABE Teacher/Community Coordinator in Lamoille County for 19 years, retired on December 30, 2015. CVABE staff, students, and volunteers alike will miss Norma's teaching expertise and her long-standing dedication to the work of the organization.

The staff celebrated Norma's long CVABE career during the December 7th monthly meeting. Norma's love of travel inspired her colleagues to present her with an Airbnb gift card and a box full of travel-related small gifts. We wish Norma many years of happy, healthy retirement and many rewarding trips to exciting destinations. Happy trails!



Kate Nicolet Joins CVABE

Kate Nicolet joined the CVABE staff in early January as the Supervisor of Education Quality and Student Outcomes. She came to us directly from the Vermont Agency of Education where she worked for eight years supporting Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) teachers and program directors as the Agency's Professional Development Coordinator. Additionally, Kate was a long-standing English Language Learner volunteer through CVABE's Montpelier Learning Center.

Kate has a master's degree in Adult Learning and Leadership and supervisory experience. She is highly respected by AEL staff around the state and in AEL circles throughout New England. Kate has been a perfect fit here at CVABE where she has hit the ground running. She lives in Montpelier with her husband, Nick, and their young son, Rocco.



Learning about Politics

Michele Gonzales has been helping her Bradford students to learn civic responsibility through their exploration of the current presidential primary season. Student Katelynn Keough, left, prepared the following statement of her learning.

Before I became a student at CVABE I had little to no knowledge about the political steps of running in a presidential election. With the 2015-2016 presidential elections coming up, this presented the perfect opportunity for me to expand my knowledge in politics. I have since watched every debate between the Democrat candidates and the Republican candidates. In doing this, I have learned about the various backgrounds of each candidate, as well as their plans for America, and their plans for dealing with situations concerning our relationships with other countries.



After watching these debates I have realized the importance of voting, and taking my time to follow each candidate. I do this to assure myself that I will be voting to the best of my ability. Following this election has expanded my knowledge on speaking about politics in an accurate, knowledgeable manner. I now understand much more about the difficulties we face in America, the road-map of our government, and the problems that we, as a country, face in world politics.

Financial Literacy Instruction

Wendy Rea (left), Community Banking Officer at Northfield Savings Bank teaches students Richard Torre and Liem Lam (right) about best practices for maintaining checking accounts and handling credit card use. With skilled volunteer help from banking professionals like Wendy, financial education is offered to CVABE students to help them reach their learning and life goals.

