

# 2019 Be More Award Recipients are VITAL

## Be More Awards 2019

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network Be More Awards is the local community's way of honoring and applauding the outstanding, but often unrecognized efforts of its volunteers. Ten awards are presented annually during a celebration honoring nominees in which a \$500 check is presented to each of the recipient's volunteer organizations in honor of their outstanding service. [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on March 27, 2019

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## VITAL Conversations



*For the first of an ongoing series of conversations with our volunteers and learners, we asked VITAL volunteer LuAnne to chat with tutor Dennis Davoren and learner Adam Garmon about what makes their partnership successful.*

*Adam has worked in construction and other hands-on trades, although these days he is on medical leave awaiting open-heart surgery. "I can make just about anything," he says. "I could build you a house." Dennis is retired, and while he has spent only a year as a VITAL tutor in literacy, prior to moving to Bloomington from Louisiana, he was a math tutor for more than a decade. Adam and Dennis have been meeting for weekly sessions since July 2018. [Read more](#)*

Posted by Jackie L. on December 14, 2018

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## VITAL: Winner of the 2018 Tom Zupancic Literacy in Libraries Award



The ILF Tom Zupancic Literacy in Libraries Award recognizes community advocacy for literacy by an individual or organization in cooperation with a library. VITAL received this accolade for promoting the importance of literacy and adult education at the library. Since VITAL's inception in 1977, our program has helped over 6,500 learners achieve their personal learning goals. [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on October 30, 2018

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## Editorial Cartoons as a Teaching Tool



[The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists](#) is where you can find weekly lessons using current editorial cartoons, from Newspapers in Education and the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on September 27, 2018

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## Best Way to Learn a New Language Quickly

while the most effective way to learn a new language quickly is to learn the 800 to 1,000 most common lemmas (word families). A lemma is a root word and all its variations, for example: do, does, did, doing; blue, bluer, bluest, blueish, etc. If you know the 800 most frequently-used lemmas in English, you'll understand 75% of everyday spoken English. From [How Many Words Do You Need to Speak a Language?](#) [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on July 12, 2018

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# 2018 VITAL Quiz Bowl in Review

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VITAL extends our sincere thanks for the 2018 Quiz Bowl, the fun, fast-paced trivia tournament that raises funds for VITAL and awareness of adult literacy. VITAL's 35<sup>th</sup> annual competition was a great success, thanks to the assistance and generosity of all those involved. [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on May 31, 2018

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## VITAL Volunteer Mary DePew Featured on WFHB

Mary DePew and learners in VITAL  
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Thanks to [WFHB Community Radio](#) for featuring VITAL volunteer Mary DePew recently on their [Activate!](#) news program. Mary's herculean volunteer efforts in VITAL have directly impacted the lives of nearly 100 English language learners locally.

Posted by Jackie L. on May 11, 2018

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## Digital Technology: It's Everywhere

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**Digital technology is everywhere, and it's here to stay.** Applying for jobs, paying bills, or checking the weather can be done anywhere there is internet access?if you know how to do it.

Digital learning tools also help adult learners succeed, for a number of reasons: [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on February 28, 2018

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## VITAL Learners in the News

vital-reva-map.png  
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VITAL's impact in the community is highlighted in "[Beyond Reading, Adult Literacy Is Survival](#)," by Michelle Gottschlich in *Limestone Post*. The article, featuring an interview with VITAL learner Reva Duke (above), also discusses the broader topic of adult literacy and new services for readers.

Posted by Jackie L. on November 29, 2017

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## Listening to English

dog-headphones.jpg  
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Listening to English is essential for improving reading skills. But what sounds more engaging?learning about the silent 'e' rule, or the thrilling adventures of Sherlock Holmes? Both are important, but hearing the written word satisfies the brain's thirst for knowledge and information, even beyond our ability to read independently. Exposure to the sound of expressive reading, dramatic pauses, and phrasing helps with reading comprehension (understanding what we're reading). And hearing new vocabulary in context requires us to draw conclusions, improving our critical thinking skills. [Read more](#)

Posted by Jackie L. on November 20, 2017

