

# Manitowoc Public Library Looking for Tutors for Their Literacy Program

Sep 1, 2021 | 3:00 PM  
[Local News](#)



*The following article was submitted by Margo Meyer, the One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners Coordinator at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

**Tutors needed!**

We have a growing waitlist of adults in our community wishing to improve their English skills and we would love to have you join our team of volunteer tutors here at Manitowoc Public Library.

## Adult Literacy Partners

Our One-to-One Adult Literacy Program is in place to help English-Language learners and those struggling with basic reading skills improve their ability to interact in the community and better their employment opportunities. Over time, we have helped our learners work toward things you and I might take for granted. Things like reading medication labels, obtaining a Driver's License, navigating Parent-Teacher conferences for our family members, improving conversation skills in the community and workplace, and countless other vital daily skills.

If this sounds interesting to you, we have a tutor training session coming up on Saturday, September 11, from 12 PM-3:30 PM here at Manitowoc Public Library.

Sometimes it's helpful to know a few of the details before diving into something new, so I'll answer some of the most commonly-asked questions about becoming a One-to-One literacy tutor:

### ***Do I need to have a background in teaching?***

No. We offer free tutor training to get you started on the right foot. We also pair each new volunteer with an experienced tutor that acts as a mentor, which is very helpful. Optional tutor meetings throughout the year allow an opportunity to network and chat with fellow volunteers, as well as learn about resources, teaching tips, and information relevant to everyone in our program. Also, I'm available here at the Library to field questions, search for material, and research ideas for you to use with your learner.

### ***Do I need to provide the materials?***

No. Through the generous support of the Manitowoc Public Library Foundation and a grant from LTC, we are able to provide teacher and student books for free. And should your learner's goal be to work toward citizenship, we have specific materials to help study for the test. Our Library is fortunate to have an abundance of material in the Literacy Office for you to utilize and I'm always happy to guide you to the right resources.

### ***When would I be meeting with my learner?***

Some of our students are available to meet during the day for English lessons, while others require evening hours. We take into account your schedule and availability in order to match you accordingly. We ask that our tutors and learners try to meet for an hour or two each week. All tutoring sessions take place in pre-approved locations, such as, our Library, LTC-Manitowoc Campus, some of our area churches, and even outdoors at local parks.

### ***How do I get started?***

A short application form, as well as the tutor training registration can be located on our website at <https://www.manitowoclibrary.org/alp/>. The Literacy Office can be reached at 920-686-3026, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have, as well as walking you through the sign-up process should you need any assistance.

Volunteering can have benefits not just to the people receiving help, but also to those who give their time and energy. In my work as the Literacy Coordinator here at MPL, I have observed this firsthand in the marvelous partnerships among our tutors and learners. Here's a quote from one of our tutors that illustrates this perfectly:



**Margo Meyer**

*"I feel so lucky to be a tutor with One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners. Over the last four years, I have been privileged to work with four wonderful women whose origins were Mexico, India, Thailand, and China. Together we spent many fantastic hours getting to know each other, learning about each other's cultures and life experiences, and working toward achieving goals that were so important to each of them."*

You could make a difference in the lives of adults who want to improve their literacy skills and secure better futures for themselves and their families. And as we tell all of our volunteers, you don't need to be perfect to be a great tutor—just be willing to show up, remember to laugh along the way, and ask for help when needed.

For more information, please contact Margo Meyer at 920-686-3026 or [mmeyer@manitowoc.org](mailto:mmeyer@manitowoc.org).

# Manitowoc Public Library Hosting Hmong Program Entitled “Stitching Our Story”

Sep 2, 2021 | 3:00 PM

[Local News](#)



## ENGLISH VERSION

*The following article was submitted by Krystina Yang, one of the presenters of “Stitching Our Story” at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Hello, everyone. My name is Krystina Yang. Allow me to tell you a little about myself.

I fell in love with and in Manitowoc while studying at the local 2-year college. I am currently employed with the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension in the FoodWise program. Some things that I enjoy are gardening and learning languages, and I’m currently studying at UW-Green Bay in the Communication program.

I wanted to invite you to join myself and Nenglee Vang for a 4-week Cross-Stitching workshop where you will learn about symbolism in the traditional art of Hmong embroidery. We’re calling it “Stitching Our Story” because, honestly, that’s what the whole workshop is about. Best of all, the supplies that you’ll need to create a bookmark and coaster are provided for free!

One thing I noticed while living in Manitowoc was that many people—old and young alike—do not know much about Hmong traditions. I hope that “Stitching Our Story” will bring some

awareness to the community about the declining art of Hmong embroidery. We will discuss the evolution of Hmong embroidery,



Krystina Yang

including the different clans, regions, nearby influential cultures, and technological advances that have helped form the variety of Hmong textiles found today. Hmong embroidery is still used today on garments for celebrations such as weddings or New Year. However, Hmong clothing is less and less frequently hand sewn.

Though much knowledge has been lost through the years, much imagery has been identified on Hmong cloth. Intricate designs of traditional clothes display wealth or skill. Having well-made clothes will provide you with better chances of being matched up at the New Year, where many young people gather to find a soulmate after harvest.

So, come, observe, and participate in this casual sewing circle where you can make and keep two Hmong-inspired crafts. Expand your knowledge of Hmong embroidery.

Classes begin on September 16 and will be held every Thursday from 6 PM to 7 PM at the Manitowoc Public Library in the Idea Box makerspace on the Library's First Floor. We look forward to seeing you there!

## HMONG VERSION

*Cov kab ntawv hauv qab no tau xa los ntawm Krystina Yang, yog ib tus neeg tshaj tawm xov xwm ntawm "Stitching Our Story" ntawm Manitowoc Public Library.*

Nyob zoo, Sawv daws. Kuv lub npe hu ua Krystina Yang. Cia kuv qhia koj txog kuv tus kheej.

Kuv cia li nyiam thaum sijhawm kuv tuaj kawm ntawv nyob lub tsev kawm ntawv qib siab 2 xyoo nyob hauv lub zos Manitowoc no. Tam sis no kuv ua hauv lwm rau hauv lub tsev kawm ntawv qib siab University of Wisconsin-Madison division of Extension txog rau FoodWise Program. Tej yam ua kuv nyiam yog kev uas teb zaub thiab kawm lwm haiv neeg lus, thiab kuv tabtom kawm ntawv nyob hauv UW-Green Bay txog rau kev hais lus rau tib neeg (Communication Program).



Nenglee Vang

Kuv thov caw koj los koom kuv thiab Neeblis Vaj li 4 lub lim tiam (weeks) tom ntej no, lub rooj cob qhia kawm txog rau kev xaws paj ntaub Hmoob, koj yuav kawm txog Hmoob tej qauv paj ntaub. Peb yuav los xaws daim paj ntaub muaj lub npe tias "Xaws Txog Peb Lub Neej", vim tias lub rooj cob qhia no yog qhov peb yuav kawm txog xwb ntag. Qhov zoo tshaj, yog cov khoom thiab txhua yam siv los rau lub rooj cob qhia no los pub dawb rau peb los siv xwb!

Ib yam uas kuv pom yog thaum nyob rau hauv lub zos Manitowoc pom tias muaj neeg coob coob – cov laus cov hluas los zoo ib yam nkaus – tsis paub txog Hmoob. Kuv xav tias thaum peb "Xaw Txog Peb Lub Neej" yuav qhia kom peb paub txog Hmoob pab ntaub nyob rau hauv peb lub zej zog. Peb yuav tham txog qauv paj ntaub Hmoob tsim tawm, xws li ib cov Hmoob xaws lawm ib yam, ib lub teb chaws xaws lawm ib yam paj ntaub, ib lub teb chaws xaws lawm ib yam paj ntaub lawv li cov neeg nyob rau ntawm thaj chaw ntawd.

Paj Ntaub Hmoob niaj hnub nim no tseem siv los hnav thaum muaj no peb caug, tub ntxhais sib yuav, thiab muaj koob tsheej. Tsis tas li ntawd los neej kuj tsis tshuam hnav thiab xuas tes xaw pes tsawg lawm.

Cov paub thiab txawj ua paj ntaub kuj tau ploj zuj zus lawm, tab sis tej qauv paj ntaub tseem nyob ntawm peb tej khaub nkaus. Muaj tej qauv paj ntaub zoo nkauj los hnav yuav ua rau cov hluas muaj feem nrhiav tau tus txij knawm nyob rau tom lub tsiab peb caug.

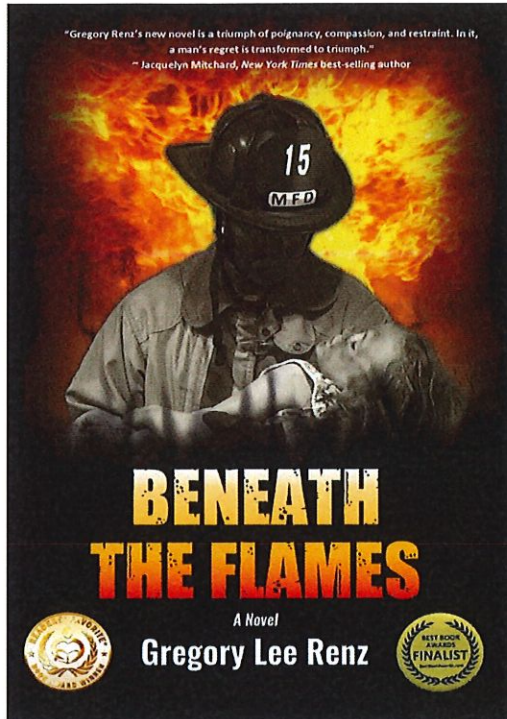
Yog lis ntawv tuaj saib thiab koom nrog peb kawm xaw paj ntaub ua ke rau ntawm no koj yuav xyaum thiab khaws tau 2 yam paj ntaub Hmoob. Koj yuav paub txog kev ua paj ntaub Hmoob paj ntaub ntau ntxiv.

Yauv pib kawm nyob rau lub 9 hlis ntuj tim 16 thiab yuav muaj kawm txhuas hnuv 4 (Thursday) thaum 6 pm mus txog rau 7pm nyob hauv lub tsev khaws ntaub ntawv (Manitowoc Public Library). Cias siab tias yuav tau ntsib nej hnuv ntawd nyob rau tod!

# Manitowoc Public Library Hosting the Author of “Beneath the Flames”

Sep 7, 2021 | 11:00 AM

Local News



*The following article was submitted by Therese Horstketter, an Adult Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Manitowoc Public Library is fortunate to have scheduled an appearance by retired firefighter and author, Gregory Lee Renz. His book, *Beneath the Flames*, vividly shows us what life as a firefighter is like—and what it's like to face life-and-death situations on a regular basis.

Greg is known for his heroic work as a Milwaukee Firefighter over the course of his 28-year career. In 2006, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Fire and Police Hall of Fame for his dramatic rescue of two boys from their burning basement bedroom. The boys were not breathing when he located them, but they were resuscitated on-scene by paramedics and miraculously recovered with no lasting effects.

After hearing the many emotional responses that occurred when audiences

took-in his stories at awards banquets, he decided to write a book about his experiences. Entering retirement, Greg took advantage of writing courses and workshops, and after numerous drafts over the course of ten years, he finally typed “The End” onto his manuscript.

*Beneath the Flames* follows the progression of the main character, Mitch Garner, beginning when he applies to become a firefighter in Milwaukee. Following the recent fire of a neighboring farmhouse and the tragedy that ensued, Mitch leaves the family farm, a brother, and his father behind. His decision also involves leaving behind his beloved girlfriend of several years, whom he promises to return home to visit often.

Renz explains: “The book is about a guilt-ridden firefighter and a courageous 12-year-old girl who join forces in the fight for their lives.”

Mitch is assigned to the busiest firehouse in the heart of one of the most blighted areas of Milwaukee—The Core. He is hazed by senior firefighters, feels he can't do anything right at fires he is called to, and is ready to give up and quit. His salvation comes in the form of Jasmine, a tough adolescent girl. Mitch is assigned to tutor her younger sister in a mentoring program. Their neighborhood is frequented by a local gang and, due to crushing poverty, is a zone of hopelessness. Jasmine's courage inspires Mitch to dedicate himself to helping her and the other neighborhood children.



Therese Horstketter

The novel is overflowing with drama, despair, hope, rural Wisconsin and inner-city Wisconsin settings, love and lust, family, failure, and redemption. As I read *Beneath the Flames* for a second time, it's brought me to tears of sorrow AND filled me with happiness—which also brought me to tears! It's a compelling, interesting, first-hand account of firefighting, family drama, existing in unknown territory, and always striving to do your best, even while being pushed down for all you attempt to do or manage to accomplish.



Gregory Renz

It's a "full" book. The characters are so real, that even if no description was given, just their language and attitude gives you a great picture of them. And the action brings you right into the heart of the scenes as they are happening.

I would recommend picking-up this book to any reader. Pick it up, read it, and then share it with someone else. We have a few copies at Manitowoc Public Library still available to check out!

And if you don't get a chance to read it before the presentation by Greg Renz, I have absolutely no doubt that you will want to read it after.

Greg grew up in Madison, worked as a firefighter in Milwaukee, and has retired in Wisconsin. He will be speaking, signing books brought by those in attendance, and will also have copies of his book for sale. He'll be appearing in the Balkansky Community Room on MPL's Second Floor on Thursday, September 9, at 6 PM.

I hope you will join us to hear Greg Renz share his work—both as a firefighter and as an author.

# Manitowoc Public Library Hosting Horticulture Program on Monday

Sep 9, 2021 | 3:00 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was submitted by Jordan Kabat, a Professional Horticulturist.*

Myths and misinformation abound when conversation drifts to the topic of gardening.

Unfortunately, it is all too often that the well-meaning hobbyist wants to be the bearer of sound advice, though has no real knowledge of the subject at-hand and perpetuates procedures that are wholly preposterous.

As summer leaves us and we enter autumn, a perennially ridiculous notion that I encounter is this: nothing more needs to be done to the garden in fall outside of pruning and cutting (and sometimes people don't even do that right!). While these are undeniably important tasks that ready the garden for winter and ultimately the following growing season, there are many other things we can be doing to help our gardens flourish for years to come.

As a professional horticulturist specializing in peonies, hemerocallis (daylilies), liliun (true lilies), and clematis, I have more than a few tips and tricks for both novice and experienced gardeners alike. As a result, Manitowoc Public Library has asked me to be a part of a special online broadcast to dispel some of the gardening myths that I have encountered—and offer to you some of my knowledge regarding autumn gardening.

Foremost, I'll be discussing fall clean-up—or in other words, what to cut down, what to leave alone, what to do with leaves and mulch, etc. I will also be answering viewer questions during and after the video broadcast if I am able, and giving a few short tutorials. Provided there is time, I would also like to discuss some fun fall garden activities. These may include propagating potentials, as it is the perfect time to dig and divide peonies.

Autumn is also the time for collecting seed, and I will be discussing what to look for, how to collect and store, and how different types of seed can be grown or germinated. You will also get some recommendations from me regarding participation in plant societies—while this is not only an activity for fall, it is a great one for this time of year as it's when many of them hold plant auctions where you can score some rare or seldomly available plants!

Tune into MPL's Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary)) on

Monday, September 13, at 6:30 PM for "Flower

Power: Pruning Your Perennials." You can virtually join me in my garden from the comfort of your own sofa (no bug spray necessary!) where I'll sow some seeds of knowledge and you can reap the benefits!



Jordan Kabat

If we are lucky and we don't see yet another deluge in the weeks ahead, we should all have plenty of opportunity to enjoy our gardens before the snow flies, as they say . . .

## Manitowoc Public Library to Host Volunteer Fair

Sep 15, 2021 | 3:00 PM

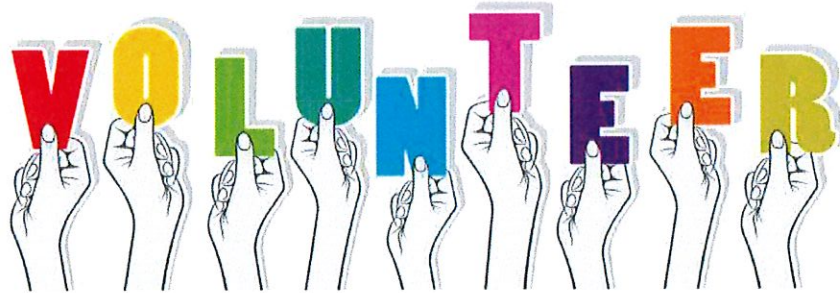
[Local News](#)



# Volunteer Fair

**Thursday, September 16, 11AM-2PM**

**Balkansky Community Room at Manitowoc Public Library**



*The following article was submitted by Therese Horstketter, the Volunteer Coordinator at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Hello to the many, many good-hearted people of our community!

Manitowoc Public Library is happy to share that we will once again be hosting our Volunteer Fair in-person, on Thursday, September 16, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Organizations that need volunteers: this is THE place to be! We set up tables in our huge Balkansky Room on MPL's Second Floor—to the left at the top of the steps, with ample room for appropriate distancing—and welcome groups that need volunteers. These groups will be setting up displays on their tables and be ready to talk to prospective volunteers.

Anyone looking to volunteer: we welcome and encourage anyone and everyone who wishes to devote some of their time to volunteering to come in and look over the possibilities. You'll be able to talk to actual staff or volunteers from every organization present. They're specifically there to share their organization's info with you.

There are plenty of great reasons to volunteer. Maybe you recently retired or changed work hours and now have more hours to donate. Perhaps you want to give back to a place that provided you with help or a hand-up when it was most needed. Or maybe you just want to try volunteering because you always thought you would enjoy it. Practically every reason is a good reason! This Fair is a great opportunity to join us and see the possibilities.

Some organizations need help daily, some not as frequently. Manitowoc Public Library has general volunteers that come in weekly—sometimes more often, if I ask. Some prefer to only work when we have bigger projects, like our huge Friends of Manitowoc Public Library Used Book Sales (public health permitting) or bigger events such as the “Wizarding World of Harry Potter.” Some volunteers have ducked-in to help us load tables and equipment into the building for a blood drive. They were here and gone in an hour. Some volunteers come in to dust once a week. Some water plants every week or two. Volunteers help put materials in order before our staff shelve them.

During our Friends Book Sales, volunteers move boxes of materials, unpack them, set them up on tables, and when the sale is done, do all of this in reverse order to clean out the room. Things that seem like small projects, such as pencil sharpening or photocopying are still a huge help to staff.

Along with our general volunteers, Manitowoc Public Library has two other areas that depend greatly on volunteers. The first of these areas is our One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners program, which is almost always seeking tutors. These volunteers provide adult learners with an opportunity to improve their English-language skills. This may sound a bit daunting, but there are free training sessions and you don't need to know any languages besides English. Nor do you have to be a teacher or former teacher. There have been some amazing results achieved with the tutor/learner pairings in this program, including helping more than one learner to pass their United States Citizenship Test.



Therese Horstketter

The other major program at MPL for which volunteers are needed is called Homebound Services. Homebound Services delivers books to people that aren't able to come into the Library themselves.

I can't speak for the multitude of needs that other organizations may have, but they all have a definite need for volunteers! They'll all be on-hand, hoping to find good-hearted people to help them out.

During the Volunteer Fair, you'll be able to sign-up on the spot if you so choose. You'll also be able to speak with an organization, take home their information, and find out where you might fit in best. With this option, you can contact them when you're ready and able to start.

And don't be shy about talking-up the Volunteer Fair. You may discover that your spouse or a friend would like to volunteer with you! Right now, there are a lot of options at a lot of places!

As MPL's Volunteer Coordinator, I have had people that are volunteering with us also find another place or two to help out during this event. I've seen some nice friendships develop between volunteers, too. We have projects for individuals and projects for volunteers to work together. I try to make volunteering a fun experience for people, as well as providing them with a get-the-job-done experience. I hope that both aspects of their involvement are fulfilling!

Here is the list of organizations that you can learn about during the 2021 Volunteer Fair:

- **Grow It Forward**
- **CASA of East Central Wisconsin**
- **Holy Family Memorial Hospital**
- **American Red Cross**
- **Pink Heels of Manitowoc County**
- **Hope House**
- **The Haven**

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of WI Shoreline**
- **Girl Scouts**
- **Wisconsin Maritime Museum**
- **Felician Village**
- **Clipper City Co-op**
- **Manitowoc Public Library**
- **Two Rivers Senior Center/Parks and Recreation Dept.**
- **One Stop Shop—Maritime Metro Transit/ADRC of the Lakeshore**
- **Golden Kiwanis**

Please consider volunteering! These organizations are filled with good-hearted people that need the help of others!

Also, tables are still available for organizations that need volunteers and would like to join us!

The 2021 Volunteer Fair takes place at Manitowoc Public Library on Thursday, September 16, from 11 AM-2 PM. Should you have any questions about this event, please contact Therese Horstketter at 920-686-3044 or [thorstketter@manitowoc.org](mailto:thorstketter@manitowoc.org).

# Manitowoc Public Library Now Offering a Free Storywalk Program

Sep 21, 2021 | 3:30 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was submitted by Manitowoc Public Library Youth Services Manager Julia Lee, and Youth Services Associate Betty Schwede.*

What could be better than walking around downtown Manitowoc on a fall day? How about reading a story as you walk and shop? From September 15 to October 15, that is exactly what you can do! Manitowoc Public Library is partnering with downtown businesses to provide a FREE fall Storywalk that is a perfect diversion for the whole family.



Julia Lee

A Storywalk is a delightful way for families to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Staff at Manitowoc Public Library have literally taken a picture book apart (Don't worry! It wasn't a library book! We purchased copies of the chosen book specifically to deconstruct for this event). Pages from the picture book, *In the Middle of Fall*, by Kevin Henkes, have been numbered and placed in the storefront windows of fifteen different downtown businesses! As you stroll downtown, you'll be directed to the next page in the story.

How do you participate? Easy peasy! Your family can pick up a FREE Storywalk kit by visiting Manitowoc Public Library between September 15 and October 15. Come on up to the Youth Department to checkout your Storywalk kit, which includes a map, a fall-themed pencil, and a Special

Gift. Everything in the bag is yours to keep—we just ask that you return the bag!

Once you have your map, you can enjoy the Storywalk anytime from September 15 to October 15. For an added challenge, we included a Secret Question for you to discover! Simply collect the letters on each of the Storywalk posters and put them together to find out what the secret question is. Submit your answer by October 20 to be included in a special raffle! One lucky winner will receive \$25.00 in Chamber Bucks!

While you are reading and strolling downtown, don't forget to support our local businesses! Manitowoc Public Library's *Libraries Build Strong Communities* campaign is running until the end of September. We are encouraging folks to shop local all month—simply bring in your receipts for any purchases made during the month of September from any business in Manitowoc County and exchange them for raffle tickets. Each ticket gives you a chance to win \$500 in local gift cards! And there's no limit to the amount of receipts that you can bring in! Bring in 3 receipts, get 3 raffle tickets. Bring in 24, receive 24 chances to win the raffle to win the Grand Prize! And if you have more, bring in more. When we say no limit, that's exactly what we mean! You can also receive raffle tickets for getting or renewing a library card and checking out materials—books, DVDs, CDs, cake pans, ukuleles, anything that's available for check-out.

There has never been a better time to enjoy our community! Get outside, read, and shop local with Manitowoc Public Library. Pick up your free Storywalk kit anytime between September 15 and October 15. It's an amazing opportunity to see just how many delightful things we have here in our downtown.

See you at the Library!

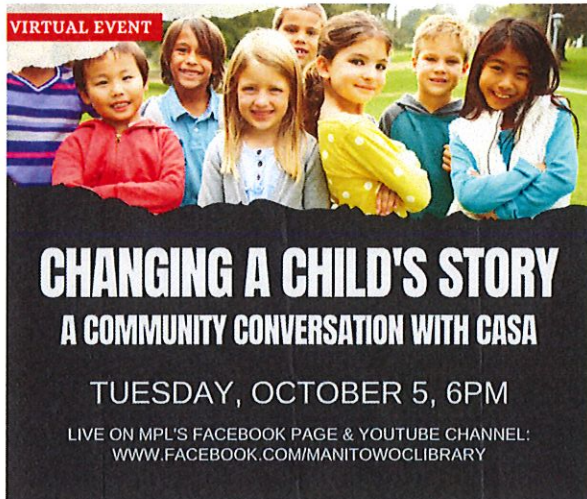


Betty Schwede

# Manitowoc Public Library Hosting an Event with CASA of East Central Wisconsin

Sep 30, 2021 | 2:00 PM

Local News



*The following story was submitted by Darian Kaderabek, an Advocate Coordinator for CASA of East Central Wisconsin.*

Did you know that right now in Manitowoc County there are more than one hundred children on a waiting list for a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)? CASA of East Central Wisconsin provides and supports specially-trained, court-appointed special advocates to act solely in the best interest of children who have experienced abuse or neglect, who are in need of court protection to ensure they have a safe and permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect fare better with a CASA volunteer by their side. Studies have shown that they are more likely to achieve permanency, succeed in school, and are half-as-likely to re-enter the foster care system. CASA is a friend of the court, working as an extra set of eyes and ears to ensure that children that have been deemed in need of protection or services by a judge are having their needs met.

As our waiting list continues to grow, we are actively looking to recruit new volunteers to step into the role of an advocate. A pertinent part of advocacy involves collaboration from the community and we are so grateful that Manitowoc Public Library accepted our request to host a virtual community conversation with us!

We're calling this event "Changing a Child's Story: A Community Conversation with CASA." It will be taking place on Tuesday, October 5, at 6 PM. It's an online, live-streamed panel discussion that will broadcast on both the Library's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary)) and their YouTube channel.

We've put together a great group of people for "Changing a Child's Story." Since it's going to be happening live, if you have any questions about CASA or for our panel, feel free to type them into the "Comments" section of either platform. If we don't get to them immediately when you type them in, we'll certainly address as many as possible at the conclusion of the evening.



Darian Kaderabek

Our next CASA Pre-Service Training begins the second week of October and our panel will help provide insight on how everyday citizens can make an important impact.

We hope that you will join us virtually on October 5 to hear from our panel of CASA volunteers and staff on their experiences advocating for the best interest of children in our community and what you can do to get involved.

Together we can help to change a child's story right here in Manitowoc.