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READER SUBMITTED: Collaborative Adult Literacy Program Opens In East Hartford

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Greater Hartford

7:10 PM EDT, September 2, 2014

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford (LVGH) and East Hartford Adult Education advertisement recently announced a new partnership with New Covenant United Methodist Church to host basic literacy, English (ESOL), GED, and U.S. citizenship classes for adults.

The new Wickham Literacy Center will be located in the educational wing of the church, located at 16 Church St., East Hartford. A variety of free classes for adults will be offered on weekday mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Literacy Volunteers and East Hartford Adult Education have both hosted classes in separate locations in the city, but leaders say they're excited about the possibilities that this new, shared space will bring.

"We are thrilled to partner with New Covenant Church and East Hartford Adult Education to offer adult learners a full continuum of educational services, on a variety of days and times to meet their busy schedules," said Carol DeVido Hauss, executive director of Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford.

"We are very excited to start this new partnership," added Anthony Mangiafico, director of East Hartford Adult and Continuing Education. "It's a great location, and enables us to target students who may not have had the opportunity to reach our previous locations. I am very excited to grow our daytime classes and see where this new partnership can lead our organization in the future."

"Our congregation has invested in making the church building a community resource," said D. Scott Stewart, Chair of the New Covenant United Methodist Board of Trustees. "So having a community-based adult literacy and education partnership located in the church makes perfect sense."

LVGH previously offered ESOL classes at the Wickham library branch, just around the corner from the new location at the church, in addition to its other literacy centers in Hartford and Bloomfield. East Hartford Adult Education will continue to offer classes and programming at East Hartford High School, 869 Forbes St., with the new church location serving as a satellite site.

The most recent data available suggests that approximately forty percent of adults in the Greater Hartford region lack basic English literacy skills. For adults struggling with English literacy, everyday tasks such as helping a child with homework, deciphering a bus schedule, or completing a job application can be almost impossible.

Those interested in classes should call 860-233-3853 for more information or to register. Classes are

open to residents of East Hartford and the surrounding towns. A complete class schedule is available at <http://www.lvgh.org>.

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