

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Morris, Assistant Director, Operations
(860)233-3853 stephen.morris@lvgh.org

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford Partners with ShopRite for Cake Decorating Class

Hartford, CT – February 15, 2021 – Students in the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford (LVGH) Food Services Job Training Program had the opportunity today to further develop their culinary skills with a cake decorating class at the ShopRite grocery store in Vernon. Students learned decorating techniques under a ShopRite senior baker, and also have the opportunity to gain internship hours to further apply what they learned.



Kaleena Frutuoso, human resources manager at ShopRite of East Hartford and Tri-City Plaza Vernon said, “ShopRite of Tri-City Plaza Vernon is very excited to partner with Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford to provide students with some hands-on training in a retail bakery environment. We will focus on base icing cakes, flower and boarder designs, and writing techniques. Hopefully, this will spark some student's interests and potentially lead to a career opportunity within our organization.”

Students practiced the basics of frosting their cakes, freezing and applying a crumb coat to prevent crumbs from mixing with the frosting decorations. Students learned different piping techniques and even were able to practice making roses on a rose nail.



Rebecca Hawkins, director of programs at LVGH, said, “We are excited to partner with ShopRite to bring our Food Service trainees an excellent opportunity to learn a new skill. This learning experience will make our students more attractive candidates in a very difficult job market, and ShopRite often has open jobs that our students will be able to apply for with this valuable skill on their resumes.”

The Food Services Job Training Program prepares LVGH students for careers in food service, and graduates have gone on to work in schools, restaurants, and hotels and conference centers. Students take a course on basic food safety in preparation for ServSafe® Food Handler certification, and gain practical skills by learning to prep, cook, and serve free meals for the local community.

In addition to the Food Services Job Training Program, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford offers volunteer-led, small-group classes in basic reading and writing, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), GED preparation, math, digital literacy, U.S. Citizenship, and other topics at literacy centers in Hartford, East Hartford, and virtually. The organization serves adults from 20 cities and towns in the Greater Hartford region. For more information, please visit www.lvgh.org or call 860-233-3853.