



Be our guest at the Spring
PIZZA PARTY & annual meeting
with special guest
Susan Sokolinski

Victory Adult Family Literacy Program
(VALFP)

A Family Literacy Model for Supporting Refugee Families with Acquisition of the American Language,

Tuesday evening, April 20, 2010

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Lewis University Tinley Park Campus

Located at the crossroads of Interstate 80 and Harlem Ave. (Route 43)

**Come for the Pizza Party & annual meeting, stay for an
inspiring keynote speaker.**

No Admission Fee! RSVP for dinner count to Deb Augsburger by April 10.

The influx of families who seek refuge in U.S. communities from violence and persecution in their own countries has a profound effect on local education and social service agencies. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2008) the number of documented refugee arrivals in the U.S. increased from 41,053 in 2006 to 48,281 in 2007. The impact of refugee families on public school systems is staggering. Educators struggle to teach classrooms of young children who may speak as many as five or more languages. Understaffed social service agencies struggle to teach families how to access medical aid, transportation services, and employment assistance. Refugee families often struggle with adaptation to unfamiliar social practices and local languages. Cultural disparities may pose barriers to effective home school collaboration.

Susan Sokolinski presents Victory Adult & Family Literacy Program as a family literacy model that promotes collaboration among schools and other local agents that strive to support refugee families. VALFP is a nonprofit volunteer-based family literacy program situated in a large diverse Midwestern city. The center is on the site of an apartment complex where a large number of refugee families reside. The families originate from a wide variety of countries including, Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq, Russia, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Sudan. Victory has recently entered into a collaborative relationship with the local World Relief agency to promote the enculturation and English literacy development of local residents.