

Guide to the **Tompkins Learning Partners Collection**

The History Center in Tompkins County
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Accompanying Collection

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Tompkins Learning Partners' (TLP) purpose was to teach individuals who needed a better grasp of English in their work and studies. Teachers were certified unpaid volunteers. Instruction, at no charge, was in small groups, were computer-assisted or taught individually in reading, writing, math, computer skills and speaking English. Students were initially adults 18 and over who lived permanently in Tompkins County. An additional program later had volunteers working with juvenile offenders at the MacCormick Secure Center (males) or the Lansing Residential Center (females).

Originally called Literacy Volunteers of Tompkins County (LVTC) the organization began as an affiliate of Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA) in 1976. It was reactivated in 1980 with an office in a former janitor's closet in the GIAC (Greater Ithaca Activities Center) building. The group moved to an office in the Henry St. John building (301 S. Geneva Street) in 1989. At the time they served more than 250 students with some 230 volunteer tutors. Funding for the small paid staff and office space was always problematic, largely coming from the County, United Way and contributions.

By 1994 LVTC moved to an office in 124 W. Buffalo Street, renting additional space there toward the end of the century. In 2002 Literacy Volunteers of America accredited them. The name was changed to Tompkins Learning Partners (TLP) in 2004. In 2009, the building at 124 W. Buffalo was given to TLP.

This collection consists largely of minutes of Board meetings of LVTC/TLP from its beginnings around 1976 through 2012. It also includes: newspaper clippings from 1995 and 1996 when the organization was attempting to solidify funding from the County; a local cookbook contributed by Board members, friends and teachers; a scrapbook with photos from the 1980s; newsletters and annual reports; and some documents from the mid-1980s and material from a 2009-2012 fundraising campaign.

CONTAINER LIST

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