

Maryhaven Staff Offer Literacy Program

Among the core values at Maryhaven Center of Hope is the belief that everyone can learn and grow at any age, regardless of disability or other circumstances. This principle has been put into action every day for more than 80 years. One example is a weekly language arts group that meets in a classroom at the agency's administrative headquarters in Port Jefferson Station.

Every Wednesday, several adults study the fundamentals of reading, writing and speaking under the tutelage of Maryhaven faculty member Tom Conklin, with colleagues Olinda McGee, Jessica Young, Kristine Urციuollio, Stacy Trezza-Humphrey and Nancy Belnick providing assistance. The group was formed in response to a request from Maryhaven's Medicaid Service Coordination Team in 2012. In addition to practicing language skills, program participants enjoy camaraderie and fun, sharing laughter, smiles and everyday life experiences with each other.

"Our staff continually challenges our individuals to reach their potential," said Maryhaven's Chief Executive Officer Lou Grossman. "I am so impressed by their relentless effort and creative approaches."