

My name is Robyn Hallet, executive director of Literacy Green Bay. Literacy Green Bay is a non-profit organization in downtown Green Bay. This organization was built from the ground up in the 1990s to aid immigrants from Vietnam with their basic English skills. We are proud to say that we have helped thousands of immigrants adapt to the culture of the United States, and more importantly help them achieve their literacy goals.

Today we want to address an issue of Social Justice in the United States of America. We believe this is the best nation in the world, but unfortunately, not all our citizens are treated equally under the law. Social justice is an issue that we as a nation have battled for years and continue to battle. Literacy Green Bay wants to effect change and we demand change for the betterment of our fellow Americans, and for the betterment of the nation.

This is an issue we feel very strongly about because we work with minorities and people of color daily. We hear their stories; we hear their struggles and their cry for help. Social Justice is an issue that this nation hasn't put enough time and effort into solving. This idea and belief that it will just solve itself is the reason that we keep taking a step in the wrong direction. Backward! Social Justice is an important issue that needs to be given the right amount of attention, otherwise, we will never reach the pinnacle of the nation we dream of.

This nation can do better, and we will do better together. Literacy Green Bay will take the right steps to work on Social Justice by donating ten thousand dollars annually to Social Justice reform in America. Although this is just a small step towards this ginormous issue, we are proud to get it started. We will be advocating for Social Justice daily because we understand this is not an issue that will stop without conversating regularly. We will be holding a weekly discussion about Social Justice in the lobby room here at Literacy Green Bay. We urge anyone in the community to please come and listen to the voices of those who need to be heard within your

community. The biggest change and difference are made in a small community like this one in Green Bay. This is a tightly knitted community that can impact the world more than they believe. Literacy Green Bay believes change can be made starting in a small community, which can eventually reach a larger platform.

All we ask from our community members is that you show up with an open mind and supportive energy. We have many speakers that will share their experiences with racial profiling, police brutality, unfair treatment at work, and much more issues that our fellow brothers and sisters experience in this same world we live in. Racial prejudice is something that still exists today in America, and we want to take a step forward in the right direction. We ask that we be patient with our speakers because they are not native English speakers, along with the topic can be difficult for them to speak on. We ask our community members to be encouraging and genuine to the speakers at this event. All members of the community are invited, and any people of color that are not a part of our Literacy Green Bay are also welcome to come to attend and share their stories.

Many of our students are people of color, which allows us to understand this issue at a much deeper sense. I understand this issue firsthand because I too am a person of color and an immigrant into this country just like everyone else. I have been told to go back to my country, to speak proper English, and so much more ignorant and idiotic nonsense. I have been called racially derogatory terms, I have been racially profiled and looked at as inferior because of my race and cultural heritage. I know firsthand that this is an issue that truly exists, the only difference between racism today and racism in the past is that today is more systemic racism compared to the in-your-face racism back in the 1960s. Some folks believe that racism doesn't exist because the racism that appears today is not the same racism that they are aware of, which

is understandable, but the ignorance that continues to occur from some people even after hearing someone's personal experience is unacceptable. We are a community that is proud to be living together. We are a community that wants all members of its community to feel welcome and wanted. We are a community that wants injustice to be eliminated. We are a community that wants equal opportunities for all our citizens. We are a community that fights for equal rights and privileges. We are a community that welcomes differences of all shapes, sizes, ethnicity, cultures, and race. We are a community that wants change.

Social injustice is real, and we want all our community members to be aware of it. There are many opportunities presented for our community members to educate themselves on social justice issues in America. The Green Bay Packers are a big advocate for this program as well, and they have been one of our sponsors for many years. The Packers have programs for people to go and attend to learn more about this issue. The change will only come if we are willing to make it happen. For starters, we must be open-minded, we must be respectful, and we must be willing to get out of our comfort zone. Open-mindedness means we are open to hearing other people's stories, we are open to asking questions, and more importantly we are open to listening. Respect is the key factor to any task being completed as a group no matter the significance of the issue being dealt with. Lastly, we must be willing to be uncomfortable, meaning, we must be able to communicate effectively in a brave space, not a safe space.