

Thanks to your support, you've joined us in...

...fighting the digital divide

## Madison needed to re-launch his career.

After working for the St. Paul Pioneer Press from age 18 to age 40, he was laid off in February 2014.

Unable to type and unfamiliar with computers, Madison knew he had to gain computer skills to re-enter the labor force. His employment counselor referred him to our [Open Door Learning Center - Midway](#), where he soon became a classroom fixture. "I came to class every day and did the lessons," he says, "and then I went home and practiced some more."



Madison graduated after earning a passing score on each of the [Northstar Digital Literacy Assessments](#) and completing a resume class.

But the sweetest payoff was when he saw a flyer for a position with Goodwill-Easter Seals. "I filled out the online application and had an interview the same day," he says proudly. He got the job, and on top of that he's now a computer skills volunteer tutor -- in the same classroom where he was once a student.

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# 232

adults at our Open Door Learning Center - Midway recieved at least one Northstar Digital Literacy certificate since July (see below).

# 1,221

hours of computer-based distance learning were accumulated by our adult students at Open Door Learning Center - Lake Street this fall.

# 19

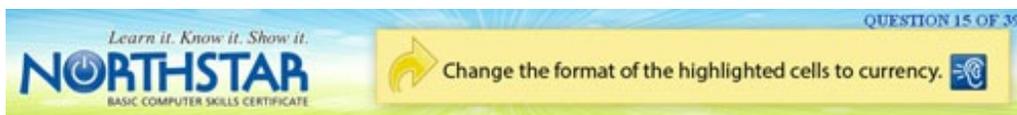
technology trainings were presented by the literacy council to Adult Basic Education professionals across Minnesota this fall.

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## Could YOU pass the Excel test?

The literacy council partnered with libraries, government agencies and other nonprofits to develop the [Northstar Digital Literacy Project](#). It's a first-of-its-kind assessment that defines digital literacy standards in eight categories, like navigating the Internet and Microsoft Word. It launched in 2012 and is now being used in more than 100 programs in 14 states.

The best part? It's FREE! So, visit the [Northstar site](#) and try it out! Can you pass?



amanda.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

Income		Expenses		
	Amount	Type of Expense	Amount	
3	Paycheck (first half of month)	\$1,500.00	Cable TV	87
4	Paycheck (second half of month)	\$1,500.00	Phone	111
5		Auto Insurance	112	
6		Health Insurance	230	
7		Clothing	40	
8		Rent	1750	
9		Food	400	
10				
11	Total	\$1,500.00	Total	2500
12				
13				
14				
15	Extra Income	\$ 350.00		
16				

# On our wish list

{You can make us stronger by giving goods, funds or services.}



## Funding for iPads

In honor of [Digital Learning Day](#) on March 13, we're raising funds for iPads. These tablets give adults in our lower levels of English classes -- many of whom have never touched a computer before -- a chance to acclimate to technology in an easy-to-learn, tactile way. Go to our GiveMN page to [give the gift of digital literacy](#) today!

Want to [donate an old iPad](#)? We will accept models from 2012 or later.

# Hope to see you!

{Mark your calendar for upcoming events}



## 6th Annual Power of Learning Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 noon - 1 p.m.

At St. Mary's Lake Calhoun Event Center

3450 Irving Ave. S. in Minneapolis ([map](#))

**Featuring special guest Kao Kalia Yang, author of *The Latehomecomer*!**

Our theme this year is Firsts. For many of our English language learners, some big "firsts" (first pencils, first promotions, first parent-teacher



conferences without an interpreter) are made possible through our programs.

Whether it'll be your first luncheon with us or your sixth, we hope you will join us.

[RSVP online](#) today!

**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING  
LITERACY!**

Stay Connected



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