

May 1, 2012

Mary Leahy
Hollister Hill Road
Marshfield, VT 05658

Dear Mary:

I read the article in yesterday's paper about your retirement from Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, and was incredibly impressed with what you've done for Central Vermonters over the last 25 years. Too often, the everyday hard work and talent of dedicated people like yourself aren't properly recognized until we have an opportunity to look back.

Your work struck a particular chord with me, because one of my strongest beliefs is in the truth of that old saying, that teaching someone how to fish is much more beneficial than providing them a meal. I've tried to promote the importance of self-reliance and of communities coming together to support each other; you've demonstrated that firsthand. You've empowered Vermonters of all ages to be more successful in their lives and careers, to set a better example for their children, and (in the case of the 90-year-old woman mentioned in the story) to not be intimidated or made irrelevant by a changing world. In so many ways, you've made an incredible difference.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Phil Scott