



LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Literacy Services of Indian River County, Inc., is a nonprofit United Way agency partner. We were founded in 1971 and incorporated in 1975.

MISSION

Provide quality literacy tutoring to local adults so they and their family can become more contributing members of the community because of improved literacy.

VISION

End generational illiteracy in Indian River County.

Leadership

Jessica Schmitt
Executive Director

Elida Gomez
Community Engagement
Coordinator

Honorary Board Members

Judge David Morgan

Larry Reisman

Board of Directors

Kent Jones
President

Katy Healy
Vice President

Melissa Medlock, CPA
Treasurer

Sven Frisell

Donna Remsnyder

Diana Walker



Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

On a Sunday afternoon last February, nearly 200 students, family members and tutors gathered at Storm Grove Middle School to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. With the help of their tutors, some had learned to read a book to their children or communicate in English for the first time. Others prepared job applications, interviewed and obtained new jobs or promotions. And others obtained GEDs, started college, became U.S. citizens or registered to vote.

As the students' names were called, they made their way to the stage to receive their certificates from our staff members. Some had never had this experience before. Their smiles lit the room as their family members cheered. This event was the culmination of their hard work and was designed to inspire them to keep dreaming.

Our board is dreaming big too. Since 1971, providing quality literacy tutoring to local adults has been our focus. During the coming year, the board will be growing in size as we prepare to take a fresh look at how we can advance the literacy and language skills of adults and their families in our community.

As we look ahead, we're grateful for our volunteer tutors, dedicated staff, community partners and vital supporters. Thank you all!

Sincerely,
Kent Jones
Board President

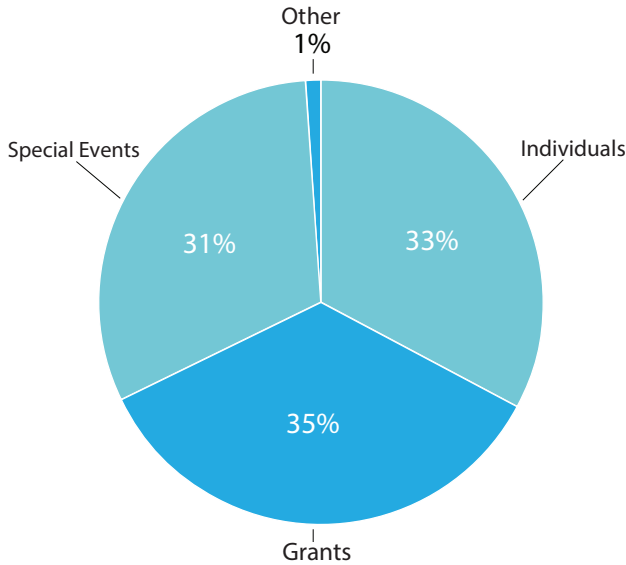


2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR

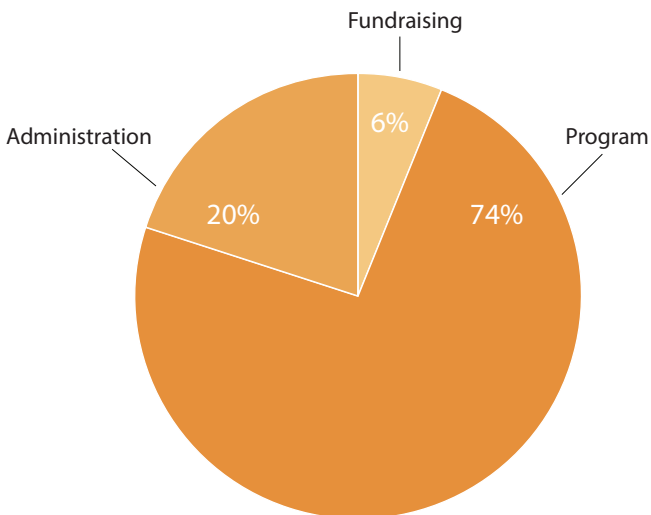
Operating Overview*

Literacy Services operated a budget of \$241,541. Nearly 74% went to programs, including ongoing training of volunteer tutors and vital curriculum supplies. Nearly \$80,000 was raised through individuals' contributions and over \$85,000 was received in grants. Special events saw an increase this year due to higher attendance, more contributions made at the event and two new events introduced in 2019. Net assets at end of year totaled \$242,130.

INCOME



EXPENSES



*Audited financials provided upon request



Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

Thanks to you, our students learn something new every day. The skills they are obtaining lead to more gainful employment, participation in their child's education and engagement in the community. Literacy Services is continuing to learn and grow alongside our students.

With your help, this past year 30% more students received tutoring from 26% more tutors than the previous year. In addition, a computer lab was introduced in Fellsmere. This community resource saw over 100 users spending more than 400 hours registering for services, applying for jobs, completing school work or check in on their parent portal from the School District.

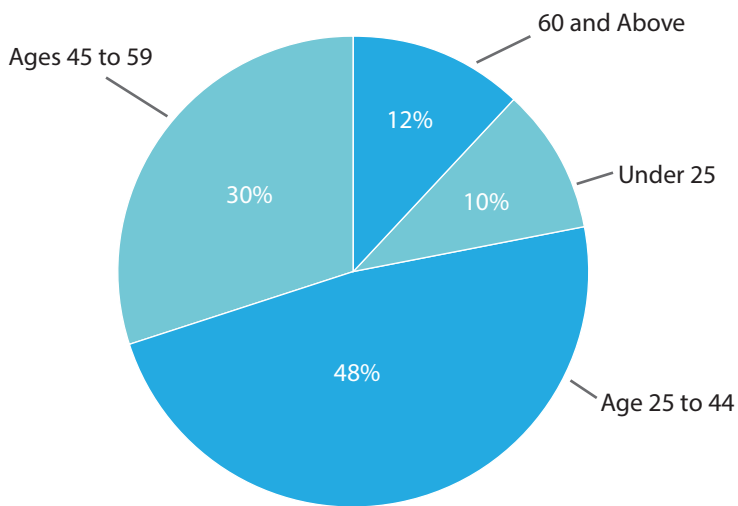
Your support has enabled us to provide more training opportunities which empowered more tutors with more knowledge to serve more students. Together they accomplished great things and we celebrated these achievements with the First Annual Celebration. This ceremony was designed to motivate and inspire students to continue working hard and dreaming big.

Because of your continued belief in our mission, Literacy Services continues to dream big. I believe the best is yet to come and I look forward to writing the next chapter with you.

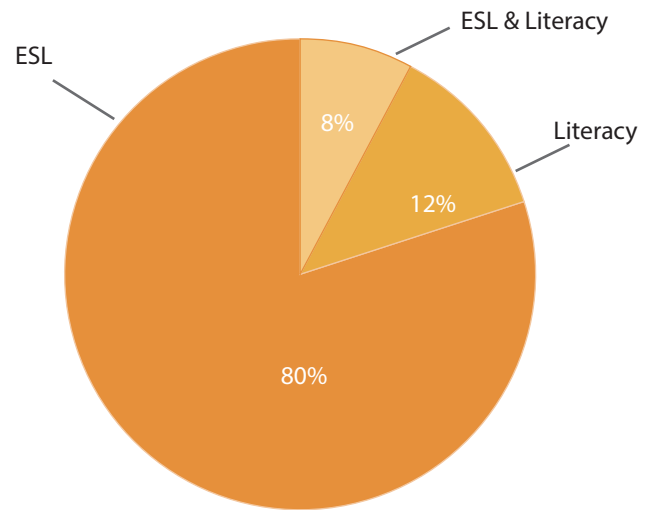
Sincerely,
Jessica Schmitt
Executive Director

Our 383 students represented 25 countries and the United States this past year. Nearly 76% were female. Fifty eight percent of students were employed but 55% of all students were living at or below the poverty level.

AGE OF STUDENTS



TYPES OF STUDENTS



GOALS ACHIEVED by Our Students Last Year

- 167 Reading levels advanced
- 131 Improved their communication skills
- 36 Became more involved in their child's education
- 64 Improved their writing skills
- 105 Improved a job situation or skills to obtain a job
- 15 Acquired their driver's license
- 15 Started college, trade school or Adult Ed courses
- 23 Improved their financial literacy
- 17 Improved their health literacy



This year we introduced a computer lab in our Fellsmere office which is open to the public two nights a week and has allowed for computer classes and virtual instruction. We counted 111 users who spent over 450 hours applying for jobs, completing school work, studying for their driver's license and logging in to the school district's parent portal.



Larry wanted to improve his literacy skills to help fulfill his dream of becoming a chef and to help his son who was struggling in school. Since studying with his tutor at work, Larry has been promoted from dishwasher to line cook, one step closer to his dream. He and his son now read together and encourage others in their community to do the same.



After becoming a widow, Aida had to create a new life for herself at the young age of 75 by first improving her English. Working with a tutor on vocabulary and grammar improved her confidence so much that she joined a book club and recently traveled to Italy to see family she has missed for 20 years. Aida is now a proud American citizen and most importantly, is able to read with her great grandchild.



DID YOU KNOW?

One out of five adults in Indian River County has substandard literacy skills and 13.5% of local households use a primary language other than English.

Children with parents having low literacy skills are more than three times as likely to drop out of high school compared to those with literate parents.

Employees with limited literacy skills cost businesses and taxpayers billions annually in lost wages, profits and productivity.

It costs approximately \$500 to serve one student. There is a waiting list and we are actively working to recruit more tutors.



Our Friends of Literacy are those donors who generously contribute \$500 or more to Literacy Services each fiscal year. Gifts at this level can include one-time donations or many gifts a donor makes throughout the year, including events.

The support from all of our donors, especially our Friends, is vital to our mission.

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Beardslee
Dr. Michael Beecham
and Ms. Susan Kamer
Ms. Barbara Butts
Ms. Deborah P. Clarke
Ms. Melinda Courtland
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Covill
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Cramb
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Detwiler
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Ms. Cindy Giroud
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Ms. Mary P. Graves through
the Indian River Community
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Ms. Susan Hale
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and Ms. Beverly Doherty
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and Ms. Mary Arnold
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Mr. and Mrs. Barry Wiksten
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Zunk

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Comfort Zone A/C & Heating of FL
Elliott Merrill Community
Management
George E. Warren Corporation
The Hill Group
John's Island Real Estate
Melissa M. Medlock, CPA, P.A.
United Juice Company
Vatland Honda

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Indian River Community Foundation
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John's Island Community
Service League
The Kahle Foundation
Kindness Foundation in honor of
Susan Chenault
Kimley-Horn Foundation
Robert F. and Eleonora W. McCabe
Foundation through the Indian
River Community Foundation
Ryan Family Foundation
Syde Hurdus Foundation Inc.
United Way of IRC

Organizations

Presbyterian Women
Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of VB

Become a Friend of Literacy, please call (772) 778-2223

| HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your tax-deductible donation is always appreciated and vital to the program's success. You can donate online at www.literacyservicesirc.org or by mailing a check made payable to Literacy Services of Indian River County to: 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Monthly donations are welcomed and can also be set up online.

Volunteer! Tutor, serve on a committee or help in the office.

Read to someone in your life and help build a community of readers.



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Sign up for our e-newsletter

www.literacyservicesirc.org





Literacy Services

of Indian River County, Inc.

1600 21st Street
IRC Main Library
Vero Beach, FL 32960

1001 Sebastian Boulevard
North County Library
Sebastian, FL 32958

56 N. Broadway Street
Fellsmere, FL 32948

(772) 778-2223
info@literacyservicesirc.org
www.literacyservicesirc.org



**United Way of
Indian River County**

