

LITERACY TOGETHER

# ANNUAL REPORT

My students definitely have grown in their skills tremendously throughout the program.

~ Youth Literacy Tutor Intern

2020-2021

LIT-TOGETHER.ORG

LITERACY TOGETHER

# 

#### **OUR PROGRAMS**

### ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

English language tutoring for adults. When immigrants learn to speak and read English, they can participate in school conferences with their children, improve employment opportunities, learn to navigate the health care system, and/or prepare for the citizenship exam.

8,078 instructional hours | 177 students | 170 tutors

## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Free high-quality books mailed every month to children under the age of five to build a home library and ignite a love of reading.

Over 4,400 children receiving books monthly

#### **ADULT LITERACY**

Basic tutoring for adults at low literacy levels. With improvements in the ability to read, write, and do basic math, students gain the power to reach their educational goals, find sustainable employment, and better support themselves and their families.

1,847 instructional hours | 53 students | 45 tutors

#### YOUTH LITERACY

Intensive tutoring for youth in grades K to 5 who read below grade level and struggle to keep up with their peers. With support and encouragement, they gain the skills and confidence to achieve academic success and remain on the pathway to high school graduation and beyond.

1,592 instructional hours | 65 students | 37 tutors (includes summer camp, please see Special Report insert)



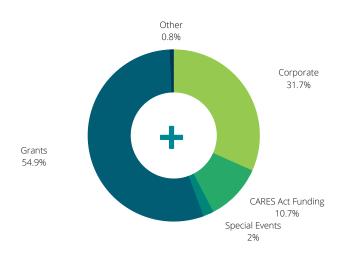
11,517 instructional hours 252 volunteer tutors 295 students Total served 4,711

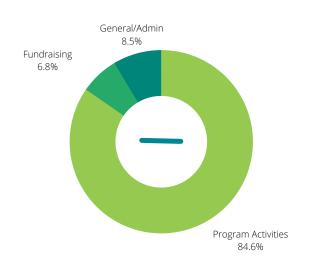
#### **STAFF**

Cindy Threlkeld, Executive Director
Erin Sebelius, ESOL Program Director
Rebecca Massey, Adult Literacy Program Director
Tonya Johnson, Youth Literacy Program Director
Irina Khasanova, Office Manager & ESOL Specialist
Laura Bernhein, Outreach & Communications Director
LuAnn Arena, Development Director

#### LITERACY TOGETHER

#### THE NUMBERS





#### REVENUE

Individual & Corporate \$121,022 Grants \$209,686 CARES Act funding \$40,975 Special Events \$7,607 Other \$2,907

Total: \$382,197

## CONTRIBUTED SERVICES \$269,475

84.6% of expenses go directly to program services\*

\*Includes the value of contributed services from volunteer tutors according to audited financial statements. The FY 2020-21 audit is available online at lit-together.org

#### **EXPENSES**

Program Activities \$270,120 Fundraising \$43,439 General/Admin \$54,435

Total: \$367,994



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Zurilma Anuel
Kevin Baxter
Anne Bleynat
Jo Chandler
Laurie Chess
Marilyn Cortes, Vice Chair
Aaron Dahlstrom, Secretary
John Hall
Barbara Kolack Veach, Chair
John Lansche
Debbie Motz-Bryenton, Treasurer
Page McCorkle
Susan Perone
Leah M. Quintal

LITERACY TOGETHER



#### **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

Angry Unicorn Entertainment Biltmore Wines Eblen Short Stop Stores IMC Investments, LLC iSciences, LLC J.B. Adams, Jr and Associates, Inc. Jesse Kitt Photography Kudzu Brands Lewis Real Estate Malaprop's Bookstore & Cafe Mills Manufacturing TD Bank WLOS/WMYA Thank you to the many individual donors that give throughout the year.

# PROGRAM PARTNERS

AB Tech
Asheville City & Buncombe County Schools
Buncombe Partnership for Children
Goodwill Industries
YMCA's Horizons Program
Youth Transformed for Life (YTL)

#### **FUNDERS**

Beattie Foundation
Buncombe County
Community Foundation of WNC
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Glass Foundation
Henri Landwirth Family Fund
North Carolina Community College System
Parsec Financial
Sisters of Mercy of NC
TD Charitable Foundation
United Way
WNC Bridge Foundation



#### **OF NOTE:**

2020 Parsec Prize for Literacy / Charity Navigator 100/100
Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency
Living Wage Certified
ProLiteracy member



At the beginning of the program, we read a book where my student with dyslexia could barely read three words in a row on one page without mixing up his letters. Last week we read the same book, and he did remarkably better and could read the book almost without fault. At this point, I could clearly see we had made progress.

~ Youth Literacy Tutor Intern

# 

#### YOUTH LITERACY

Our collaboration with YTL (Youth Transformed for Life) was initiated through conversations over the past six or seven months about how to reach more grade school students of color. Making those connections through the regular school year had its own set of challenges. Knowing that the impact of COVID left students with even larger gaps in reading levels, the Literacy Together team decided to find a way to step up.

We recruited young adults (age 16 to 20) for paid internships to serve as reading tutors for 46 students in the 8-week YTL summer camp program. Interns were trained in phonemic awareness and a multisensory approach to teaching reading and worked one-to-one and in small groups with the campers. The bond between interns and campers was instantaneous and the results were encouraging.

1,050 instructional hours | 46 students | 14 tutors

I understand more about how to empathize with those who view reading as a challenge. Reading has always been a fun activity for me, but this summer I was shown that this is not the case for everyone and I need to be sensitive to that.

~ Tutor intern

#### **FUNDERS**

TD Charitable Foundation WNC Bridge Foundation Dollar General Literacy Foundation WNC Returned Peace Corps

#### PROGRAM PARTNER

**Youth Transformed for Life (YTL)**Janell Lassiter, Co-Director
Parris Finley, Co-Director

One student in particular absolutely refused to read at the beginning of the program and got frustrated to tears after reading two words, but towards the end, she asked me if she could read extra sentences after finishing the ones I gave her.

~ Tutor intern



#### **RESULTS**

The students received pre- and post-tests to measure progress. Title I Reading Specialists from Asheville City Schools administered the tests incorporating the same series of tools they use to measure progress during the school year. Students were given between 2 to 6 tests each, depending on their grade. Of the students who completed both the pre-and post-tests, 41 out of 44 (93%) improved their test scores in at least one literacy area.

#### **STAFF**

Tonya Johnson, Youth Literacy Program Director Rebecca Massey, Adult Literacy Program Director Cindy Threlkeld, Executive Director Makenzie Bennett, Consultant LuAnn Arena, Development Director

