



# Annual Report

1600 South Avenue, Rochester New York 14620-3036 (585) 473-3030 [www.literacyrochester.org](http://www.literacyrochester.org)

## Fabulous and Fifty

What a fabulous year 2014 has been for Literacy Volunteers of Rochester. We celebrated 50 years of service to our community in style. As we closed the 2013/14 program year on June 30 and I became President, succeeding my friend John Chapman, LVR both celebrated its heritage and was energized by some exciting new programs and services for our community.

The highlight of our year came on May 8 at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon, with a keynote address by Presidential Medal of Freedom winner and founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, Ruth J. Colvin. The 125 attendees also heard moving remarks from Bernard Brown, an LVR student who shared his struggles as a low-literate adult in today's world. We were all inspired by Bernard's courage and the enduring optimism and spirit of Ruth Colvin, who saw a problem in her community and created a national movement.

In the past year we: expanded our small group classes to assist more people in vocational training and High School Equivalency; offered more family literacy classes for low-literate parents and their children; expanded our Literacy Navigator program, providing help with forms, applications and on-line access at more locations in our community. And, we continued to

strengthen our one-to-one tutoring services in reading, writing, math and English.

Throughout our 50 years, the power of volunteerism has remained strong at LVR. Nearly 18,000 hours of service were provided last year by tutors, workshop trainers, preview presenters, board members, outreach callers, navigators, classroom assistants, librarians, office receptionists, assessment volunteers and many others at events, workshops and programs at LVR and throughout Rochester.

To all of our friends who support us in so many ways and contribute to the program through their time and financial support included in this report, we thank you for all you do for LVR.

Let's make the next 50 years fabulous as well.  
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ray Martino  
President,  
LVR Board of Directors

Bob Mahar  
Executive Director



### 2014 Ruth J. Colvin Award winners

Rose-Marie Klipstein, Ruth Colvin and Shirley London of Church Women United



LVR Student, Bernard Brown

## WHAT DO THE NUMBERS MEAN?

For many years we have been sharing statistics—behind these numbers are people! Their stories are what drive our mission. Ruth Colvin, the founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, said it most eloquently last spring, “the core focus of our programs is our students.” These numbers reflect real changes in the lives of real people. Their stories are the true measure of our success. Your participation in our efforts whether as a tutor, small group assistant, donor or advocate, is critical to changing lives.

## LVR’s Mission

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, Inc., founded in 1964 is an organization of trained volunteers, dedicated to providing one-to-one or small group tutoring to functionally illiterate adults and to others lacking English language or math skills.

## 2014 Accomplishments

- 69% of LVR students demonstrated “literacy gain” as defined by standardized testing scores.
- 664 individuals served by LVR programs (this includes tutoring, Literacy Navigator and Family literacy).
- 286 volunteers provided 17,582 volunteer hours.

3,827 Student Achievements as reported by LVR volunteers based on NYS secondary benefits of improved literacy. These achievements include, but are not limited to, improvements in the following areas:

1. Employment Services – obtaining, retaining or being promoted at work
2. Financial Literacy – paying bills, opening checking account, computing
3. Family well-being – improved home literacy, increased involvement in children’s education
4. Civic Engagement – citizenship, voting, accessing community services
5. Health Literacy – understood medical forms, completed insurance applications, understood medication instructions
6. Education Services – enrolled in HSE program, educational gain and access to vocational/educational programs
7. Technology — use of common software programs and technology

During the last program year **286 volunteers** tutored, shelved books, helped in the office, assisted in fundraising efforts and guided the organization with **17,582 hours of service!** This is roughly equivalent to 439 workweeks. The value of these hours as determined by Independent Sector is \$465,043! This is more than 30% greater than our annual operating budget, which includes operations of our library, tutor recruitment and training, testing and materials in addition to the very basic costs of opening the doors and turning on the computers.

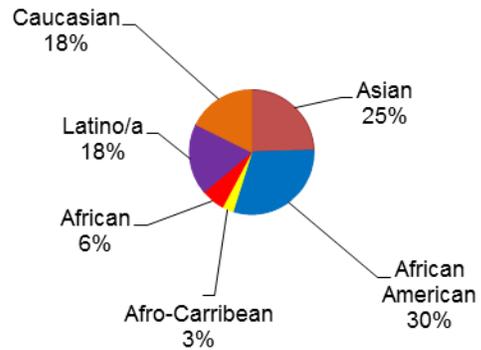
## Financial Information

2013-2014 Income		2013-2014 Expenses	
Contributions	\$65,111	Program Services	\$207,508
United Way	\$13,443	Management and General	\$47,616
Grant revenue	\$165,701	Fundraising	\$39,420
Fundraising events	\$26,969		
Workshop fees	\$2,840		
Interest and dividends	\$18		
Other income	\$696		
Investment Income	\$32,316		
		Total Expenses	\$294,544
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$307,094</b>		

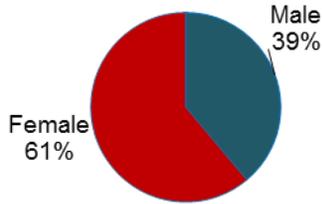
Change in Net Assets \$12,550

# Student Demographics 2013-2014

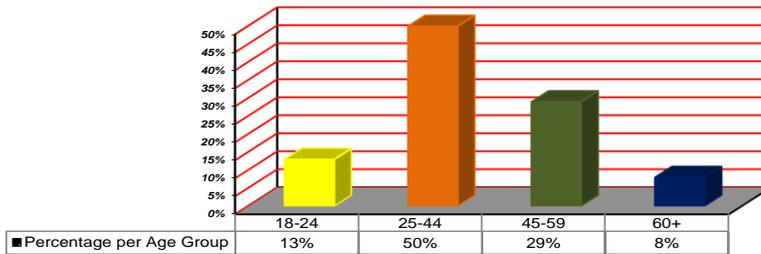
Learner Ethnicity



Student Gender



Student Age

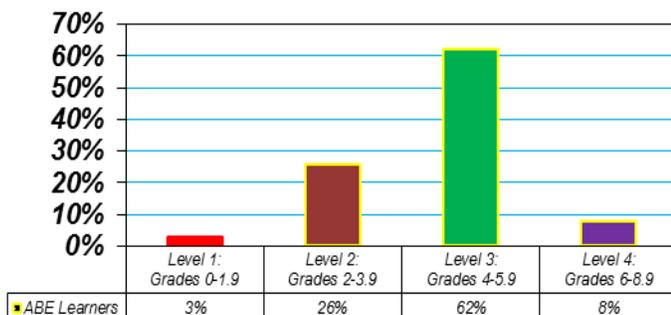


There are functioning levels for ABE (Adult Basic Education) and ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) learners. Standardized assessments (tests) place learners in one of these levels. Additional assessments measure gain in skills.

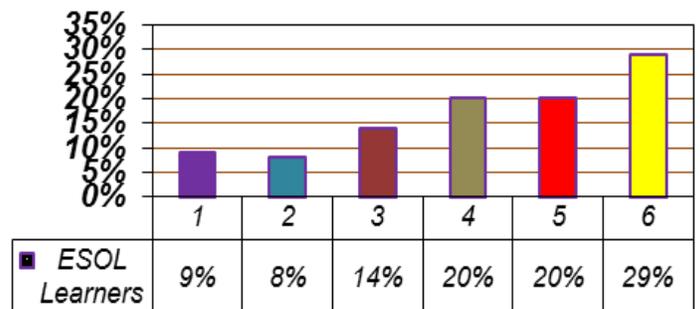
For ABE Students, Level 1 is equivalent to grade 0 - 1.9, Level 2 is grade 2 - 3.9, Level 3 is grade 4 - 5.9, and Level 4 is grade 6 - 8.9.

For ESOL Students, BEST Plus assessments measure English speaking and listening skills. The scores determine the levels. Level 1 is below 401, Level 2 is 401-417, Level 3 is 418-438, Level 4 is 439-472, Level 5 is 473-506, and Level 6 is 507-540.

ABE Educational Functioning Levels



ESOL Educational Functioning Levels



# Photos from Our 50<sup>th</sup> Year

