



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS *of Rochester*

Annual Report

2014-2015

1600 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620-3036

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LiteracyRochester.org

LVR and Literacy

There's more to our story

The 2013/2014 program year marked our 50th anniversary serving Rochester and ended with a wonderful luncheon with Literacy Volunteers of America founder Ruth Colvin calling us to action. So how could we top that?

In 2014/2015 LVR answered Ruth Colvin's call to action by expanding the scope of our work and the number of individuals we serve. We began by revamping our website and making it more accessible to the community and those who wish to volunteer and to support literacy.

We grew our Digital Literacy Program with the help of partners including; Senator Joe Robach, The Greece Community Learning Center, the Rochester City School District, the Rochester Public Libraries and our volunteer Literacy Navigators. Throughout the community we helped hundreds of adults seeking assistance with job applications, resumes, forms and on-line access to information. Many in our community have discovered that computer illiteracy is a major hurdle in today's world as they seek to apply for jobs and benefits that were once on paper but are now on-line.

We continued to build our ACCESS program which gives lower level adult students entry level access to high school equivalency and vocational training programs. ACCESS not only helps improve reading skills but puts an added focus on the challenges that many face with math illiteracy (innumeracy). From adults looking to obtain a HS diploma, to those who wish to advance into careers like nursing, math is an important and necessary skill in today's world.

We took a fresh look at our volunteer tutor training and created new alternative methods that better fit the busy schedules of today's volunteer. Included in this approach is a three session set of Saturday workshops which gives volunteers a quicker path to helping our students and reduces waiting time for students.

With the support of the Bahler family we continued our efforts to revamp the "Bahler Library" and to provide resources for our students and their tutors. Major gifts from Kathryn Bahler and Stanley Dauphinee during the past year are helping to ensure future opportunities for those who seek assistance from LVR.

Our year was not without its challenges as staff and volunteers adjusted to changing requirements from the NYS Education Department while continuing to keep our program "student centered." As LVR begins its second half century of service, we remain committed to fostering literacy in the greater Rochester community. While the type of literacy challenges have expanded to include math, applying for jobs on line, health, financial and family literacy, the reasons why individuals seek our help have not changed. The people we serve everyday seek greater opportunities for themselves and their families. They are seeking to add more to **their** story.

Ray Martino
President, Board of Directors

Robert Mahar
Executive Director

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, "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.

2014-2015 Achievements

- 74% of LVR students demonstrated "literacy gain" as defined by standardized testing scores.
- 71 new tutors
- 644 individuals served by LVR programs (this includes tutoring, Literacy Navigator and Family literacy)
- 17,237 volunteer hours contributed

3,948 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 a 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 318 volunteers tutored, shelved books, helped in the office, assisted in fundraising efforts and guided the organization with **17,237 hours of service!** This is roughly equivalent to 430 work weeks. The value of these hours, as determined by Independent Sector, is \$462,986! 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

2014-2015 Income

Contributions	\$625,492
United Way	14,627
Grant revenue	191,040
Fundraising events	22,935
In-Kind Revenue	12,000
Workshop fees	2,200
Interest and dividends	1,742
Other income	48
Investment Income (loss)	<u>(3,755)</u>
Total Income	\$866,329*

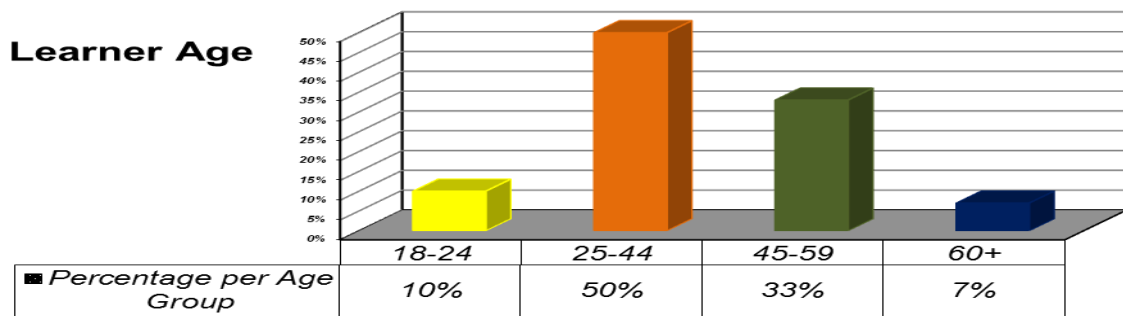
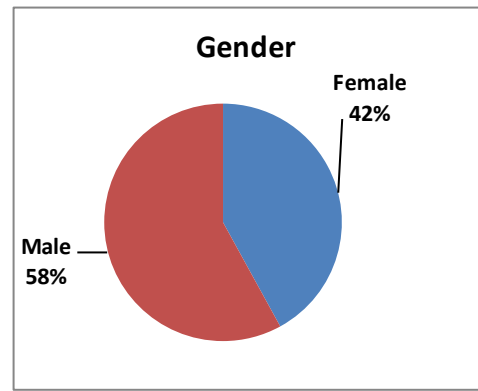
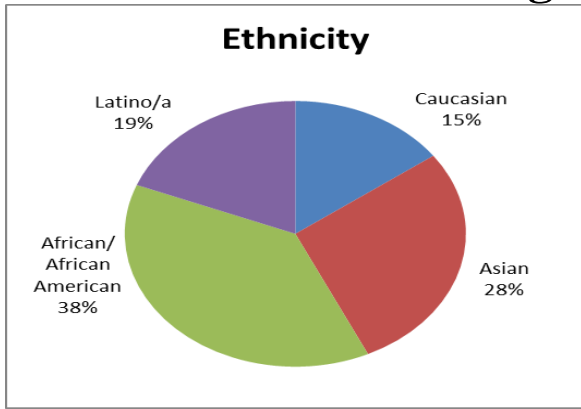
2014-2015 Expenses

Program Services	\$222,227
Management and General	62,328
Fundraising	<u>40,301</u>
Total Expenses	\$324,856

Change in Net assets \$541,473

*Note: One time gifts that totaled \$543,000 are included in this figure.

Learner Demographics 2014-2015

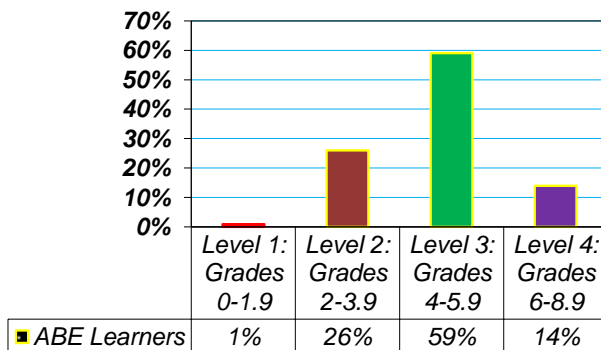


There are functioning levels for ABE (Adult Basic Education) and ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) learners. Standardized assessments (tests) place learners in one of these levels. Additional assessments measure gain in skills.

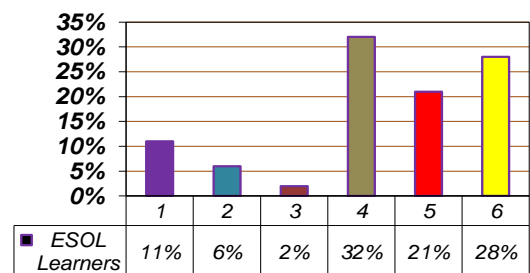
For ABE Learners, Level 1 is equivalent to grade 0-1.9, Level 2 is grade 2-3.9, Level 3 is grade 4-5.9, and Level 4 is grade 6-8.9.

For ESOL Learners, 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



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Happy Holidays!
from the staff at LVR



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