

CELEBRATING
our
50th
ANNIVERSARY



LITERACY SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2021 Annual Report



Kent Jones

Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

Literacy Services is celebrating its 50th year helping local adults build their English language and literacy skills to achieve their personal goals! Founded in 1971 by a small group of impassioned women who began to train tutors, Literacy Services' longevity is attributable to the equally impassioned tutors who followed and to the generosity of those who have, over the decades, supported its mission.

We are now executing the 2nd year goals and objectives of our 3-year strategic plan. Immediate priorities include recruiting new tutors to reduce our waiting list of students and building collaborations in underserved communities to serve more students from those communities.

In addition, our Board of Directors is committed to supporting our 50th Anniversary Committee in meeting our development goals for this special year. The Board is actively recruiting additional Board members who will help us achieve our goals and objectives and has also created three new committees (Development, Finance and Governance) to ensure that the work of the Board will receive detailed attention.

We are grateful to our Executive Director, Jessica Schmitt, and our staff for introducing new ways for tutors to teach and students to learn during the pandemic. Finally, we are grateful to you for your continued support, which enables Literacy Services to remain financially secure. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Kent Jones
Board President

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

MISSION

Deliver comprehensive and innovative learning opportunities to local adults seeking English language and literacy skills to achieve their goals.

VISION

All adults are empowered with the literacy skills they need to thrive in our community.

CORE VALUES

Empathy: Show compassion and advocate for English language and literacy students.

Inclusiveness: Embrace diversity and create equitable learning and work environments.

Respect: Assume positive intent, keep an open mind and communicate with care.

Collaboration: Work as a cohesive team and be creative in our approach to teaching and learning.

Commitment: Dedicate time, talent and treasure to ensure the success of our mission.

Leadership

BOARD

- Kent Jones, President
- Karen Malits, Vice President
- JoAnn Hitt, CPA, Treasurer
- Lt Joseph Abollo
- Judge Paul Kanarek
- John Musselman
- Román Ortega-Cowan
- Chris Steinkrauss
- Lorna Stengel
- Diana Walker

STAFF

- Jessica Schmitt, CFRE, Executive Director
- Elida Gomez, Community Engagement Coordinator
- Jordie Wooldridge, Education Coordinator
- Leslye Casas, Program Support Specialist

2020-2021 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*



Jessica Schmitt, CFRE

Literacy Services received contributions of \$221,871 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. This amount includes \$102,916 in grant funding, \$104,816 from individuals, and income from special events of approximately \$14,000. A COVID-19 related PPP loan of \$29,816 was also fully forgiven during the fiscal year. Expenses totaled \$224,729 of which 78% was spent on programs, including ongoing training of volunteer tutors and vital curriculum supplies. Literacy Services had net assets of \$413,550 at June 30, 2021.

Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

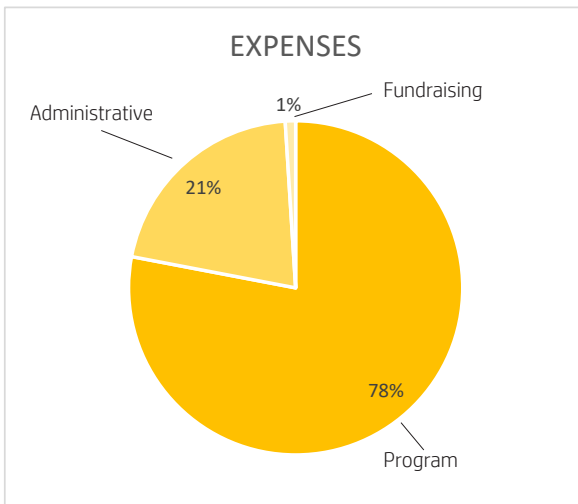
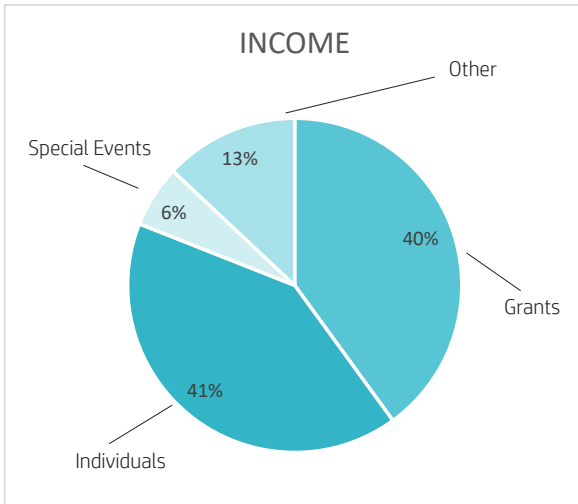
Our Strategic Plan has been a guiding light throughout the uncertainty of the continuing pandemic. Although the number of students we serve has temporarily declined, quality and innovation continue to improve. There is much to celebrate about the past, present and future of Literacy Services of Indian River County.

While the pandemic continued, our students and tutors persisted. Many continued sessions virtually and five students received tablets and hotspots to bridge the digital divide. A new workplace group started meeting outdoors. We offered a virtual office hour and staff continued improving infrastructure to strengthen the quality of services offered. We hosted a Virtual Author Series in November and a joyful Drive-Through Student Celebration in April.

We have begun celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a season of events throughout the community and we invite you to help us recognize this historic moment for the organization. As we launch into the next 50 years, we will continue to work towards the goals set in our Strategic Plan so that all adults are empowered with the literacy skills they need to thrive in our community.

Without you, the past 50 years of serving local adults with comprehensive and innovative learning opportunities to achieve their goals would not have been possible. Your continued support will help us continue to fulfill our mission for the next 50 years.

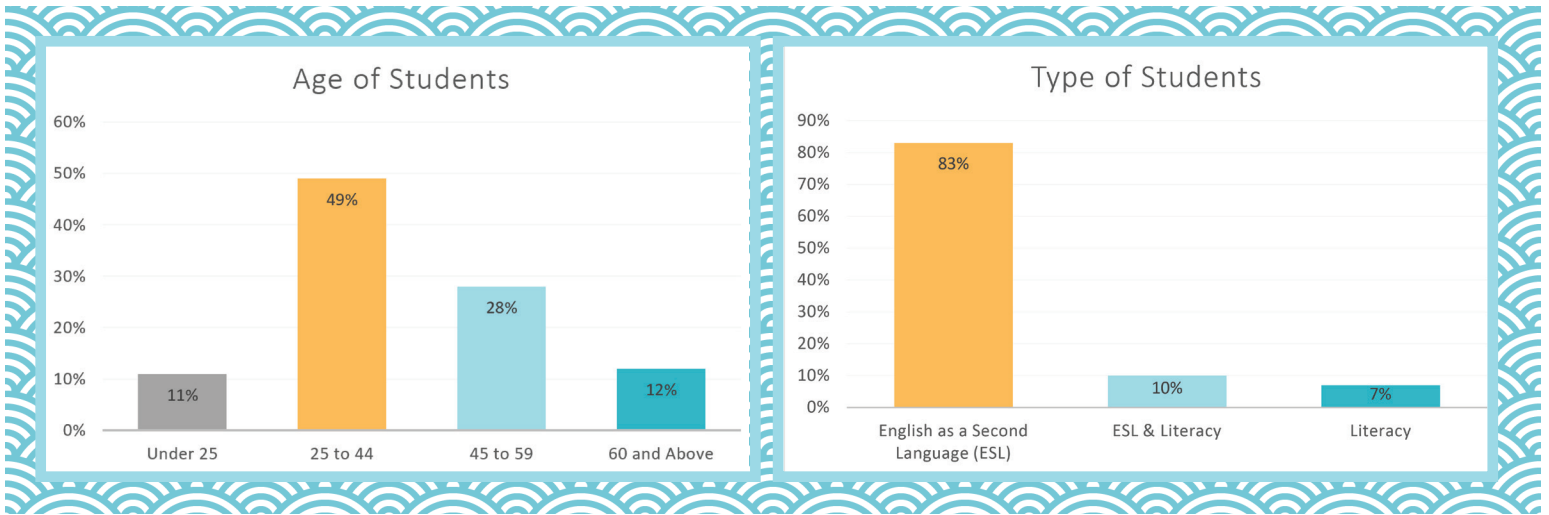
Sincerely,
Jessica Schmitt, CFRE
Executive Director



*Audited financials available upon request or on our website

Demographics

Our 185 students represented 19 countries, the United States and Puerto Rico this past year. Eighty percent were female. Fifty-nine percent of students were employed but 48% of all students were living at or below the poverty level.



Over 455 Goals Were Achieved by Our Students Last Year

- 43** Reading levels advanced.
- 57** Improved their communication skills.
- 21** Became more engaged in their child's education.
- 26** Improved their writing skills.
- 47** Improved a job situation or skills to obtain a job.
- 4** Acquired their drivers license.
- 185** Students spent 4,714 hours learning with 92 volunteer tutors.
- 8** Started college, trade school or Adult Ed courses.
- 23** Improved their financial literacy and 24 improved their health literacy.
- 13** Became United States Citizens.
- 2** Achieved their GED.
- 10** Are now actively volunteering.
- 43** Computer lab users in Fellsmere spent 275 hours completing schoolwork, filling out applications, signing up for services and learning how to use the school district's parent portal.

Students of the Year



Victor Rojas *Student of the Year Winner*

Victor has been a student with Literacy Services since October 2020 after moving to Fellsmere from Costa Rica. From the beginning, Victor was a diligent student with a thirst for knowledge. He persevered over many challenges with virtual tutoring and supplemented it with our online learning software. He regularly attended a Virtual Conversation Club to practice with other English language learners, volunteered in the office and attended grant site visits. His ambition and hard work paid off when he obtained his GED, passing each exam on the first try, and getting accepted to an internship program at Piper Aircraft. Now Victor is not only employed, but his employer is paying for his college classes. We can't wait to see what else he accomplishes!



Marisela Godinez *Student of the Year Finalist*

Marisela had someone in her life who told her she was too old to learn English. She was determined to succeed and began working with a Literacy Services' tutor to build her language skills. At the time, she was working long hours in a packing house and raising her daughters. She is now a business owner and serves on our Student Advisory Committee.



Micheld Moreno *Student of the Year Finalist*

Micheld also became a Literacy Services student in the Fall of 2020. Originally from Colombia, she had limited English language skills but an abundance of ambition. She worked almost daily with her tutor, advancing quickly through books and levels. Micheld was recently promoted at work and hopes to attend college to study math.

In addition to the updated Mission and Vision statements, the Board-approved Strategic Plan identified three priority areas and set goals for each. More details can be found on our website at www.literacyservicesirc.org.

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
Impact	Offer comprehensive, innovative and effective adult English language and literacy learning opportunities that empower students and build a more literate community.
Influence	Be known throughout the community as a leading resource in adult English language and literacy learning.
Capacity	Ensure financial security and organizational capacity to fulfill our mission.

Did You Know?

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



- Improving adult literacy would have enormous benefits. Bringing all adults to the equivalent of a sixth-grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country.



- Children with parents having low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at a low reading level themselves.



- Less than 10% of adults in need are receiving services. At Literacy Services, we have a waiting list of at least 60 students who need a tutor.



- Only 52% of immigrants are proficient English speakers. This severely limits their access to jobs, college and citizenship thereby increasing their vulnerability to living in poverty.



How You Can Help

Give - your tax-deductible donation is vital to student success.

Online: www.literacyservicesirc.org

By Mail: Literacy Services of Indian River County, 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Volunteer - there is a waiting list of students and tutors are needed.

Read - share your love of literacy and help build a community of readers.



Friends of Literacy

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 cumulative gifts a donor makes throughout the year, including events.

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

Trailblazers \$5,000+

Stella Covill
The Hitt Family Foundation
Larry and Susan Salustro
Mrs. James W. Titelman

Luminaries \$2,500-\$4,999

Mr. and Mrs. John T. La Duc
Sandy and Don Mann
Steve and Sallyan Pelletier

Partners \$1,000-\$2,499

Mrs. Lois W. Appleby
Mr. and Mrs. William Bullock
Ms. Deborah P. Clarke
Chuck and Francie Cramb
Mr. and Mrs. John Curley
Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Susan and Peter Solomon
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Mr. and Mrs. George Higgs
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Jackson
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Virginia Powers
Dom and Julie Restuccia
Ms. Susan R. Sheehan through the
Indian River Community Foundation
Lorna and Bill Stengel
Mr. Kenneth L. Wessel

Friends \$500 - \$999

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Gifts Were Made in Honor Of

Marisela Godinez by Mr. Daniel Richey
Lorna Stengel by Ms. Jennifer Russell

Foundations & Grantors

Bernard A. Egan Foundation
Camp-Younts Foundation
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Four-Four Foundation
Gannett Foundation
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Program, Inc.
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River Club
J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust
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League
John's Island Foundation
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Presbyterian Women
Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise
Ryan Family Foundation
Syde Hurdus Foundation Inc.
The Kahle Foundation
United Way of Indian River County

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iThink Bank
Melissa M. Medlock, CPA, P.A.
SouthState Bank
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Gifts Were Made in Memory Of

Alexandria Guarnaschelli by
Mr. and Mrs. George DiBenedetto
Jake Sandford by Ms. Shirley Reul
Daniel Schmitt by
Ms. Christine Schmitt

**Become a Friend of Literacy. Call (772) 778-2223
or visit us online at www.literacyservicesirc.org
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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

1001 Sebastian Boulevard
North County Library
Sebastian, FL 32958

21 S. Cypress Street
Fellsmere, FL 32948

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