



LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



JoAnn Hitt

Dear Friends of Literacy Services of IRC,

Our 2022-2023 fiscal year was a year of change in Literacy Services of IRC's leadership. Last fall, we said farewell to our former Executive Director of almost five years, Jessica Schmitt, and welcomed our new Executive Director, Shannon Maitland. At our annual meeting in January, Kent Jones, our Board President of three years, stepped down from that position and I am honored to succeed him as the new Board President.

We had a smooth leadership transition resulting in a successful year, with increased services provided to our adult students and a small financial surplus at year's end. We also hosted a sold-out Love of Literacy luncheon in March raising both awareness of the life-changing services that we provide to our adult students and much needed funds to make delivering those services possible. Many individuals and organizations contributed to the success of our year: event sponsors, donors, tutors, staff, Board members, students and nonprofit partners. Thank you!

One of Shannon's and the Board of Directors' first projects was to update and extend our Strategic Plan through June 2026. The timing of this process was ideal for Shannon and the Board to collaborate on the future direction of Literacy Services. Impact, Influence and Capacity remain our Strategic Priorities. Our literacy, ESOL, CED and US Citizenship exam programs have a positive **Impact** on our students' lives. Both our **Influence** in the community and our financial and organizational **Capacity** continue to strengthen. To that end, following the establishment of our endowment with the Indian River Community Foundation in June 2022, we have developed new planned giving initiatives and materials to grow our endowment in order to secure Literacy Services' future. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,
JoAnn Hitt, CPA
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

- JoAnn Hitt, CPA, President**
- John Musselman, Vice President**
- Nick Bruce, CFP, Treasurer**
- Captain Joseph Abollo**
- Kent Jones**
- Judge Paul Kanarek**
- Chris Locke, CPA**
- Karen Malits**
- Lauren Michaels**
- Christine Steinkrauss**
- Lorna Stengel**
- Diana Walker**

STAFF

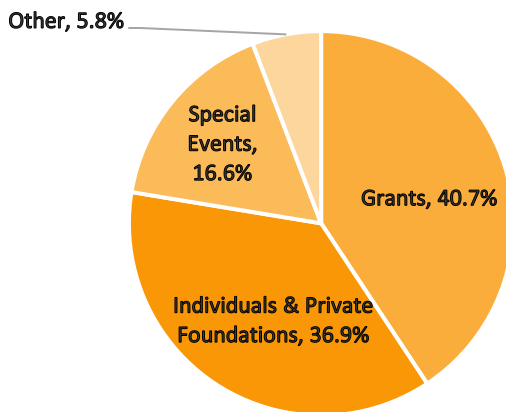
- Shannon Maitland, MPA, Executive Director**
- Elida Gomez, Community Engagement Coordinator**
- Andreina Curiel, Program Support Specialist**

2022-2023 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*

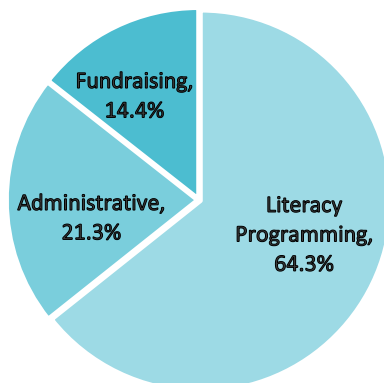
Literacy Services of IRC (LSIRC) received income of \$286,992 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This amount includes \$222,912 in contributions and grants, \$47,520 from special events and \$16,560 from investment income and in-kind donations. Expenses totaled \$264,033 of which 64.3% was spent on direct program services such as staff salaries, training our volunteer tutors and essential educational supplies; 21.3% was spent on organizational management; and 14.4% was spent on fundraising. Literacy Services of IRC had net assets of \$468,693 on June 30, 2023.

Thanks to LSIRC's 158 volunteer tutors, we served 284 students with 9,598 instructional hours.

INCOME



EXPENSES



Shannon Maitland

Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

I am honored and overjoyed to be serving as the new Executive Director of Literacy Services of Indian River County.

Shortly after moving to Vero Beach in 2015, I became involved with LSIRC as a student and tutor. Later as a partner in the local nonprofit community, I never imagined that I would become a leader of this awe-inspiring organization. It is a privilege to support our students as they improve their confidence, enhance their quality of life, and become more engaged in our community. The strong and enduring bonds that form between our tutors and students are an important factor in our students' successes. Over the past 52 years, LSIRC has built a mighty team of tutors, employees, board members, funding partners, and supporters. Our experienced team shares a passion for literacy and a desire to channel this shared passion to unite our community. Now, together, we are carrying on the legacy of making a positive and enduring difference in the lives of many IRC residents, with ripples that continue to inspire knowledge, growth, and positive change.

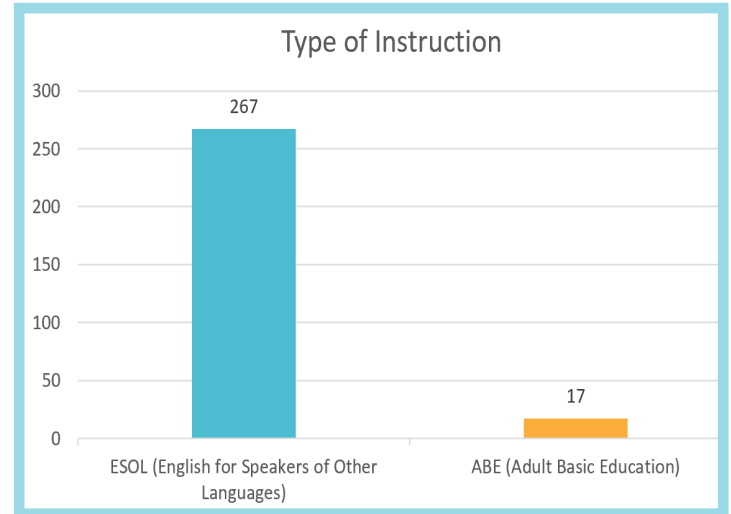
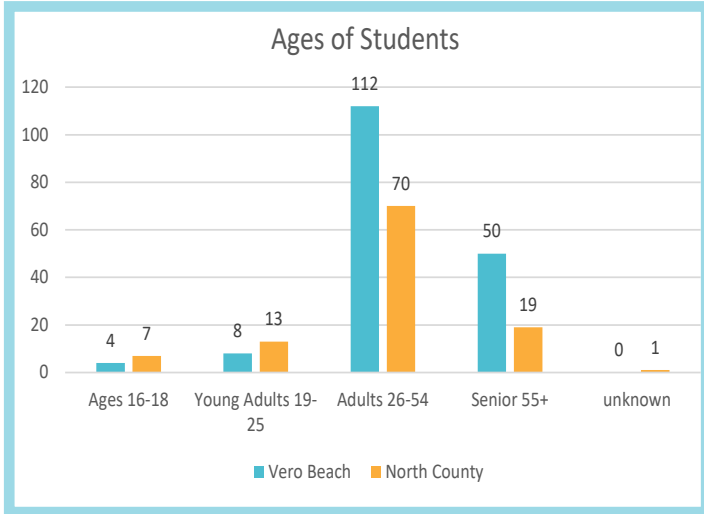
Thank you for supporting our mission and helping change lives through literacy.

Sincerely,
Shannon Maitland, MPA
Executive Director

*Audited financials available upon request or on our website

Demographics

Our 284 students come from 35 countries, including the United States and Puerto Rico, and speak over 20 different languages!



Our students accomplished over 940 literacy goals last year!!!

67 Students accomplished 155 total career enhancement goals

8 Enrolled in college or vocational classes

18 Passed the rigorous United States Citizenship Exam

45 Parents became more engaged with their children's education, completing 83 parental involvement literacy goals

1 Earned their GED

5 Passed a licensure test

4 Started their own business

21 Now have the skills to interview for a job

18 Improved their job vocabulary

5 Registered to vote/voted

2 Became homeowners

14 Earned their drivers license

Students of the Year



J. Daniel Betancourt Sanchez *Student of the Year*

Daniel, our 2022-2023 Student of the Year, has been on an incredible journey with Literacy Services of IRC. He moved to Indian River County from Colombia, entering as a senior in high school. With the help of his wonderful tutor, Daniel became proficient in English, encouraged his parents to study English, graduated high school with honors, volunteered to teach computer classes and basic English, was awarded a college scholarship, and now aspires to become an engineer!



Maria Alejandra DeBrandt *Student of the Year Finalist*

Maria Alejandra exemplifies the aspirations of so many of our students. In addition to getting a full-time job, she continued to work hard in order to improve her language skills. Her courage and motivation set a wonderful example for many to emulate. These are just a few reasons why her tutor nominated her.



Ruben Bolivar *Student of the Year Finalist*

Ruben has been a very motivated and engaged student. In addition to his weekly sessions, he also attended conversation classes. His perseverance paid off and he was proud to secure a full-time job. His tutor nominated him for his relentless efforts and achievements.

In June 2023, our Board of Directors approved an updated three year Strategic Plan, including financial projections, to guide our work for FY 2024- FY 2026. More details can be found on our website.

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
Impact	Offer comprehensive, innovative, and effective adult English language and literacy programming, including preparation for U.S. Citizenship and GED exams, to empower students and build a more literate community.
Influence	Be known throughout the community as a leading resource in adult English language and literacy programming, including helping students prepare for the U.S. Citizenship and GED exams.
Capacity	Ensure financial security and organizational capacity to fulfill our mission.

Did You Know?

- ◆ In Indian River County, the numbers of adults who struggle to read and write in English are startling: 36% of adults are low-literate and 19% of adults are very low-literate.[1] This means that more than 1 in 2 adults in our community struggle to complete a job application, read a newspaper, read directions on medications, or help their children with schoolwork.[2]
- ◆ Having at least one English-speaking adult in the home increases the likelihood of a parent or guardian attending a school or class event, parent-teacher conference, or meeting with a guidance counselor.[3],[4]
- ◆ Compared to communities across the nation, Indian River County has the 10th largest income gap between the top 1% and bottom 99% of earners out of over 3000 counties nationwide. Annually, the top 1% earn an average of \$2.9 million, and the bottom 99% earn an average of \$43,373. Yet, it costs \$63,145 for a family of four to afford to live in our community.[5] Literacy Services of IRC connects with individuals from all walks of life, income brackets, and backgrounds in this diverse community.
- ◆ Education and communication levels are directly correlated to a person's earning potential. [6] On average, a person with less than a high school diploma will earn \$19,000 less annually than a person with a diploma, equating to over \$700,000 during their lifetime working.[7]



FOOTNOTES:[1],[2] National Center for Education Statistics' Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC). (2017). U.S. Skills Map: State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy.. <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/skillsmap/>[3] U.S. Dept. of Education. (July 2020). Parent and Family Involvement in Education: 2019. <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020076full.pdf> [4] Education Week. (21 Jan 2020). "English Fluency Among Parents: Why it Matters for Student Success." <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/english-fluency-among-parents-why-it-matters-for-student-success/2020/01> [5] Indian River County Needs Assessment. (2019). <https://www.ircgov.com/boards/csac/documents/2019-Executive-Summary.pdf> [6] United States Social Security Administration. (Nov 2015). Research, Statistics & Policy Analysis. <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/research-summaries/education-earnings.html> [7] US Census Bureau. (2021). As cited by Statista - <https://www.statista.com/statistics/233301/median-household-income-in-the-united-states-by-education/>

How You Can Help

Give: Your tax-deductible donation is vital to our students' success.

Online: www.literacyservicesirc.org

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

Volunteer: We have a long list of students waiting for a tutor. It only requires 1-3 hours per week.

Share: Tell your friends and family about our life-changing work.



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+

Ethel Kennedy Foundation
Four-Four Foundation
Minotty Family Foundation
Mrs. James W. Titelman
Syde Hurdus Foundation Inc.

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

Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Bernard A. Egan Foundation
Ms. Deborah Good
The Hitt Family Foundation, Inc.
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. John T. La Duc
Wanda Lincoln

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

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Ms. Marion A. Berry
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Rene and Alice Donars
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Carol and Paul Kanarek
Friends of Lindsey Kerkela
Kindness Foundation
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Gaye McIntosh Ludwig
David and Amy Mankuta
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Robert Franklin
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Dom and Julie Restuccia
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Charitable Foundation
Cheryl Trotta
Mike and Sue White

Friends \$500 - \$999

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Mr. Kenneth L. Wessel

Grantors & Businesses

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Dick and Betsy DeVos Family
Foundation
Dingwall Architecture
Dollar General Literacy
Foundation
Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival
Fleet Title Group LLC
Florida Power & Light Company
George E. Warren Corporation
Grand Harbor Community
Outreach Program, Inc.
Head, Heart & Hands of Indian
River Club
Indian River Community
Foundation
Indian River Firefighters
Benevolent Association, Inc
IRSC Law Enforcement Recruit
Class # 172
iThink Financial

Grantors & Businesses

John's Island Community
Service League
Melissa M. Medlock, CPA, P.A.
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Pointe West Women's Golf
Association
Presbyterian Women
Proctor Construction Company
ProLiteracy Worldwide
Rossway Swan Tierney Barry
Lacey & Oliver
Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise
Schacht Groves & Market
SouthState Bank
The Exchange Club of Fellsmere
Treasure Coast Cruises
Treasure Coast Pilot Club of
Vero Beach FL
UBS Financial Services
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Vero Beach
United Way of Indian River County

Gifts Made in Memory and Honor of Donald Mann*

Jackie Allen
Helen Attenello
Dr. and Mrs. John Bartlett
Bill and Linda Beardslee
Jason Becker
Sarah Blaisdell
Anne Bossi
Anna Brodeur
Ms. Susan Caito
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Christiansen
Deborah Crum
James and Cynthia Falardeau
Barbara Frey
Mike and Mary Fuller
John Gardner & Tim Whelan
Kristi Gilreath
Doug and Lesia Graybill
Caitlin Greatrex
Ms. Barbara Green
Mr. and Mrs. George Higgs
Edward Hildebrandt

Gifts Made in Memory and Honor of Donald Mann*

Larry and Geri Hillpot
Amy Hodak
Trish and Ron Joaquim
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Carol and Paul Kanarek
Friends of Lindsey Kerkela
Rich and Gail Kinney
Steve and Josie Lieberman
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Barth Construction Inc
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Junior League of Indian River
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Gifts Made in Memory and Honor of

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Kerry Bartlett
Mary Killian by Katie Bill
Len Marcy* by
Mr. Mario Cutierrez and
Ms. Beatriz Labastida Guerrero
Lorna Stengel by
Ms. Jennifer Russell
Peter and Simone* Walker by
Ms. Marion A. Berry
Wayne & Maggie Wall
by Cynthia Scherpf
Margie Zunk by
Maclean Vaz Charitable Gift
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Become a Friend of Literacy. Call (772) 778-2223 or visit us online at www.literacyservicesirc.org
YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

*Deceased



For his inspiring dedication to LSIRC,
this year's Annual Report is dedicated to
our beloved former Board President,
Donald Mann.



(772) 778-2223

info@literacyservicesirc.org

www.literacyservicesirc.org

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

North County Library
1001 Sebastian Boulevard
Sebastian, FL 32958

Brackett Library
6155 College Ln
Vero Beach, FL 32966

Fellsmere City
Administration Building
21 S. Cypress Street
Fellsmere, FL 32948

