

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



JoAnn Hitt

Dear Friends of Literacy Services of IRC,

Thank you for your support of Literacy Services of IRC! During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, LSIRC served more students who achieved more literacy goals than ever before in our 54 year history. Your financial and volunteer support made their achievements possible. By obtaining a GED, improving their English or becoming U.S. citizens, the lives of our adult students are improved immeasurably. Our services provide our students with the ability to thrive in our community benefiting us all.

For the first time in last year's annual report, we listed our tutors who have volunteered for multiple years. It was long overdue recognition. Our tutors are the heart of our organization. In addition to teaching, they become mentors and friends to their students and their families. Our tutors report that they receive much back in return including new friendships and a fulfilling sense of purpose. Please consider volunteering because we always need more tutors!

I'd also like to thank our financial donors for their generosity. In our Operating Overview, we report on our successful fiscal year financial results. The generosity of our donors provides us with the resources needed to pay our staff, purchase curriculum materials, recruit and train tutors and promote our services in the community.

Finally, I'd like to thank the dedicated and hardworking staff and my fellow Board members for all that they do on behalf of LSIRC. We have a great team for which I am very grateful!

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.

STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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.

Leadership

BOARD

JoAnn Hitt, CPA, President
Lauren Michaels, Vice President
Chris Locke, CPA, Treasurer
Captain Joseph Abollo
Samia Bennouna
Nick Bruce, CFP
Judge Paul Kanarek
Karen Malits
Sandy Mann
Jeff Palleschi
Christine Steinkrauss
Lorna Stengel

STAFF

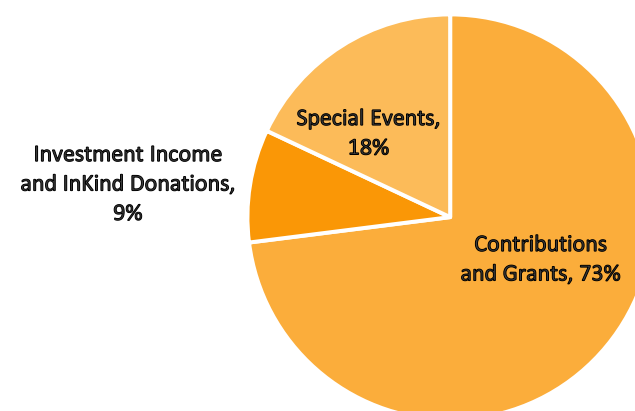
Valerie Kines, Executive Director
Elida Gomez, Program Manager
Andreina Curiel, Program Support Specialist
Kelly Bradley, Tutor Support Coordinator

2024-2025 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*

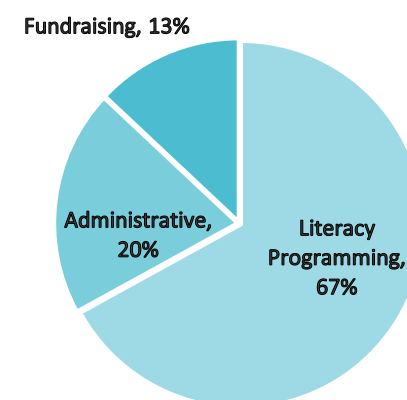
Literacy Services of IRC (LSIRC) received income of \$368,512 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. This amount includes \$270,938 in contributions and grants, \$65,630 from special events and \$31,944 from investment income and in kind donations. Expenses totaled \$317,682 of which 66.7% was spent on direct program services such as staff salaries, training our volunteer tutors and essential educational supplies; 19.9% was spent on organizational management; and 13.4% was spent on fundraising. LSIRC had net assets of \$545,507 on June 30, 2025, including \$68,563 in our endowment.

Thanks to LSIRC's 207 volunteer tutors, we served 416 students with 11,419 individual and small group class instructional hours.

INCOME



EXPENSES



*Audited financials available upon request or on our website



Valerie Kines

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

As the new Executive Director of Literacy Services of Indian River County, I take pride in sharing the remarkable progress we've made this past year. Our success stems from the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, the commitment of our staff, and the generosity of our donors. Together, we have expanded our reach and deepened our impact across the community.

A highlight of the year has been the launch of the Fellsmere Family Literacy Program. Our staff is doing exceptional work engaging with families and fostering a vibrant learning environment. Additionally, we have established strategic alliances, including a partnership with Indian River State College to assist higher-level students, addressing gaps caused by recent budget cuts. We're also exploring collaborations with local businesses in Indian River County, to reach new demographics of adult learners.

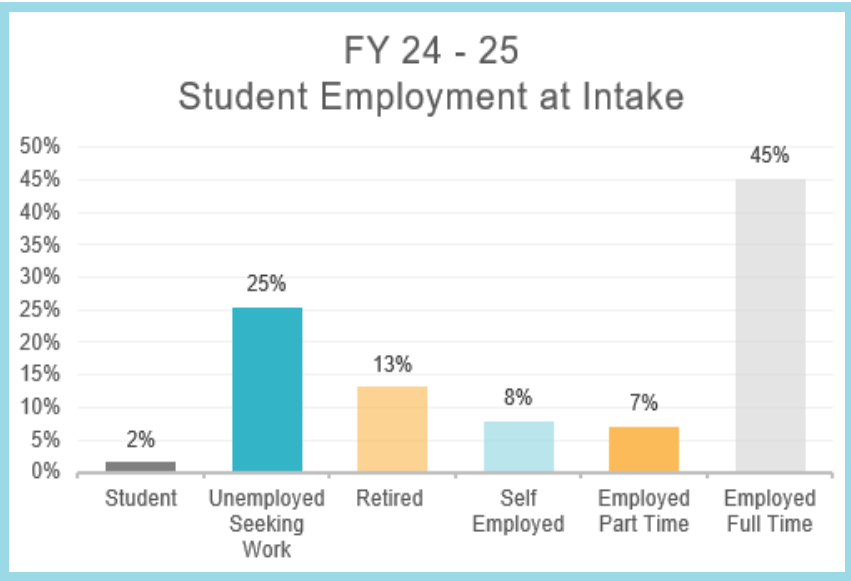
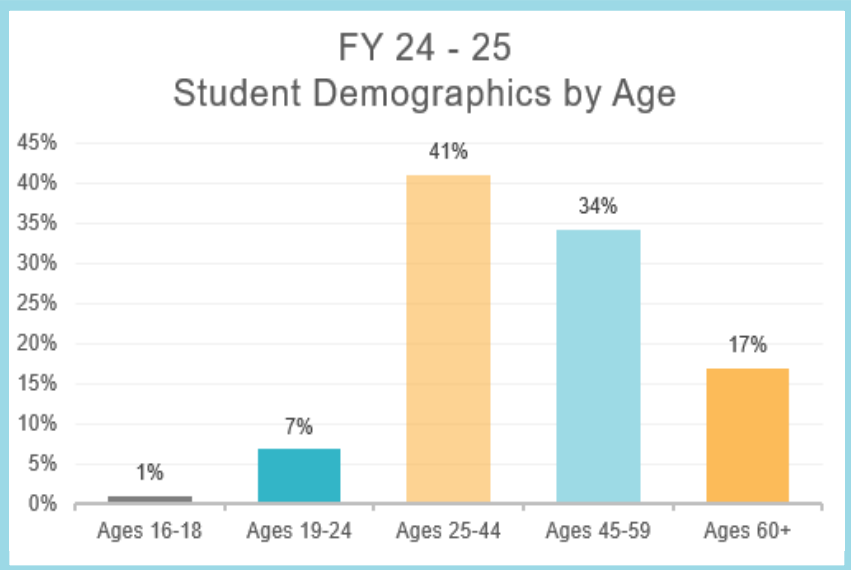
Our volunteers are truly the heart of our mission. Last year, they contributed over 11,400 hours, demonstrating their commitment to professional growth and student success. I want to express my gratitude to our LSIRC team—the staff and Board of Directors—for their tireless efforts during this transitional period. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and a renewed sense of purpose. Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we are transforming lives and building a stronger, more literate community for everyone.

Sincerely,
Valerie Kines
Executive Director

Demographics

In FY 2024-25, our 416 students came from 34 countries, including the United States. They resided throughout Indian River County with 67% in Vero Beach/South Vero Beach, 16% in Sebastian, 17% in Fellsmere. 309 of our students were female and 107 of our students were male.



Our 207 volunteer tutors provided 11,419 individual and small group tutoring hours to 416 students, last year! Our students achieved 1298 English language literacy goals including:

- 14

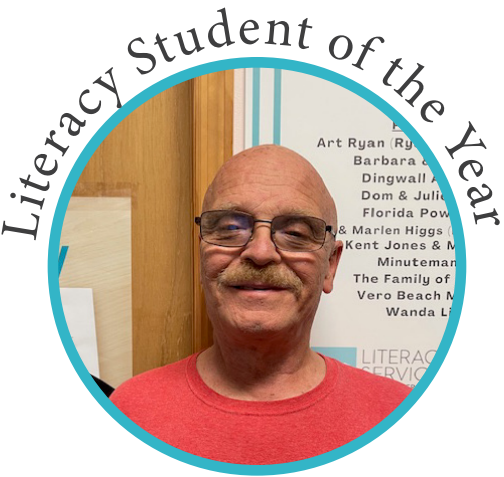
Students passed the rigorous United States Citizenship Exam
- 366

Students improved their soft skills (open bank account, communicate with health care provider, etc.)
- 42

Students improved their employment
- 118

Students engaged with their children's learning/ schooling

Students of the Year



Bernie Branigan

This year, we celebrated the inspiring journey of Bernie Branigan, a 73-year-old adult learner who set out to learn to read. From a young age, Bernie had an uphill battle for education since his father didn't see the benefit of sending Bernie to school. However, decades later, Bernie was determined to become more literate. Bernie dedicated himself to many hours of tutoring with our exceptional educator, Mary Ann Abruzzo.

By the time Bernie moved North to be close to his daughter, he had successfully learned to read, marking not just an academic achievement, but a profound sense of closure to his past. His story exemplifies the power of determination and the impact of our tutoring programs, reminding us that it's never too late to pursue one's dreams. We are proud to have supported Bernie on his journey to literacy and look forward to more success stories in the coming year.



Layla Posada

Layla has been a dedicated member of our Conversation Club since 2021 and has made impressive strides in her English skills. A native of Colombia with a master's in interior design, she returned to our group with renewed commitment. Her positive attitude inspires her classmates, and she frequently asks insightful questions that enrich discussions. Notably, while preparing for a challenging state licensing exam to become a commercial plans examiner, Layla brought study materials to class. She engaged in role-playing exercises, enhancing her skills and confidence.

Layla's hard work culminated in passing the exam, earning her state license, and receiving a promotion within the Indian River County Planning Department. She exemplifies the determination and growth we strive to nurture in our students.

Our Volunteer Tutors

Many thanks to our tutors for generously dedicating their time and efforts to assist our students on their learning and U.S. citizenship journeys. The list below recognizes those FY 2024-2025 tutors who have volunteered for multiple years.

15+ Years of Service

Carol Martin
Carol Robertson

10 - 14 Years of Service

Janet Amos
Linda Barker
Jeannine Cohoe
Kent Jones
Kathy Klein
Jenifer Mina
Betty Jane Moulton
William Moulton
Nancy Rea
Nancy Reichardt
Mary Ruege
Larry Salustro
Jim Schorner

5 - 9 Years of Service

Emil Barbosa
Christine Cram
Richard Detwiler
Ursula Duguid
Violante Fioravanti
Karen Formont
Marlene Fyffe

5 - 9 Years of Service

Marilyn Gartner
Mike Godown
Paul Goulet
Richard "Rick" Hanson
Eduardo Jacome
Lorraine Ledford
Thomas Maguire
Charles McNatt
Fabienne Modesitt
Pat O'Hara
Hugh Reichardt
Domenic Restuccia
Sheila Small
Alisha Smaniotto
Judy Stang
Chris Steinkrauss
Nancy Stiefel
Herminio Torres
Linda Villamil
James Wheeler
John Wolaver

2 - 4 Years of Service

Nancy Arnold
Kathy Baldino
Margaret Cericola
Linda Congdon

2 - 4 Years of Service

Laura Crosby
Ann Dolin
JoAnne Finnegan
John Hanauer
Reet Hayden
Margaret Hearndon
Beth Hewitt
Peter Hires
Thomas Hope
Kitty Kennedy
Nancy Kerins
Karen Leedahl
Connie Lewis
Janine Manley
Lauren Michaels
Eugene O'Neill
Suzie Piraino
Susi Saxl
Miriam Soto
Murray Steinfeld
Lori White
Susan Young
Gary Zierden

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. To report a correction, please call (772) 778-2223

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.

Story \$5,000+

Bernard A. Egan Foundation
Four-Four Foundation
J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust
Ms. Wanda Lincoln
Minotty Family Foundation
Robert F. and Eleonora W. McCabe Foundation
Larry and Susan Salustro
Syde Hurdus Foundation
Mrs. James W. Titelman

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

The Hitt Family Foundation
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. John T. LaDuc
Mike and Sue White

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

Ms. Marion Berry
Busch Family Foundation
Carol and Robert Christiansen
Ms. Deborah P. Clarke
Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Rene and Alice Donars
James and Diane Francis
Mary P. Graves Fund
Mr. and Mrs. George Higgs
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson
Johnson & Johnson Foundation
Robin Jones and Jack Mandato
Paul and Carol Kanarek
Ms. Martha Lemasters
Ms. Gaye McIntosh Ludwig
Barbara and Brett Maffett
The Family of Don Mann
Ed and Fran Mellett
The Michael J. Pierce and
Kathleen R. Pierce Foundation
Ms. Lauren Michaels

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

George and Ricki Michals
Dr. Yvonne Ottaviano
Ann and Tom Piper
Ms. Beryl Raff
Ms. Trudie Rainone
Dom and Julie Restuccia
Ms. Barbara Richey
Ms. Jennifer Russell
Mr. Art Ryan (Ryan Family Foundation)
Lorna and Bill Stengel
Mr. & Mrs. William P Stengel, II
Bob and Carmen Stork
Byron and Nancy Sugahara
Woodruff and Jennifer Sutton
Charitable Fund
Mr. Peter Walker

Verse \$500 - \$999

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Allen
Ms. Lois W. Appleby
Michael Beechem, Ph.D.
and Ms. Susan Kamer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bickford
Ms. Barbara Butts
Ms. Susan Caito
Ms. Geraldine Condon
Al Diaz and Angela Phillips Diaz
Janet and Michael Edwards
Katherine and Richard Kelley
Kathy and Alan Leahey
Peter and Susan Solomon
Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Severino
Ms. Cheryl Trotta

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Grantors & Businesses

Bruce Estate Law PLLC
Corbett Community Partnership Foundation
Dale Sorensen Real Estate
Dick & Betsy DeVos Family Foundation
Dingwall Architecture
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Elliott Merrill Community Management
Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program Inc.
Head, Heart & Hands of Indian River Club
Indian River Community Foundation
iThink Financial
J. McLaughlin
John's Island Community Service League
Minuteman Press
ProLiteracy
Sunrise Rotary Vero Beach
Sunshine Coin Laundry
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach
United Way of Indian River County
Vero Beach Mitsubishi

Gifts Made in Honor of

JoAnn Hitt by Yvonne Ottaviano
Lorna Stengel by Jennifer Russell
Sandy Mann by Ruth Ann Gillis
McGuinnis
Sandy Mann by Jackie Allen
Margie Zunk by Beryl Raff

Gifts Made in Memory of

Don Mann by Elaine Pisano
Don Mann by Suzanne Mellott



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.



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

(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



UNITED WAY
Indian River County

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.