LITERACY SERVICES of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

















ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026



JoAnn Hitt

Dear Friends of Literacy Services of IRC,

Thank you for supporting Literacy Services of IRC! Literacy Services had another successful year improving the lives of our adult students and their families. By improving their basic education and English or becoming U.S. citizens, our students are able to be more productive members of our community and better role models for their children showing them that it is never too late in life to learn! We also set a record for the number of our students who passed the rigorous US Citizenship history and civics exam. Your financial and volunteer support made their achievements possible.

I can't say it enough...our tutors are the heart of our organization. In addition to teaching, they become friends to their students and their families. Our many retired tutors report that tutoring provides them with a fulfilling sense of purpose. Please consider volunteering because we always need more tutors! I would also like to thank our financial donors for their generosity which 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 Valerie, Elida, Andreina and Kelly for their dedication and hard work last year. It has been a privilege to serve as Board President for four years. Literacy Services was founded 55 years ago and I am confident that it will remain a vital member of the Indian River County nonprofit community for many more decades.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Hitt
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, driver's license, 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, President
Karen Malits, Vice-President
Bill Coleman, Treasurer
Nick Bruce
Paul Kanarek
Chris Locke
Sandy Mann
Lauren Michaels
Captain Linda Nolan
Jeff Palleschi
Lorna Stengel
Chris Steinkrauss

STAFF

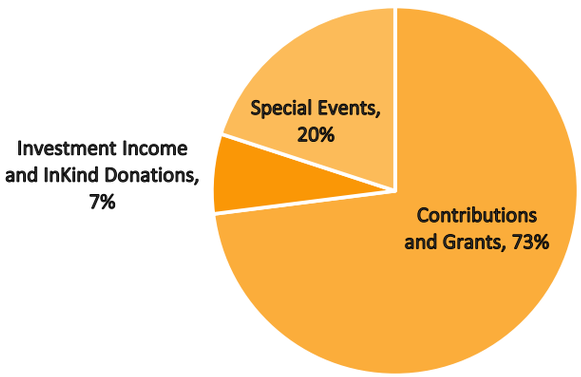
Valerie Kines, Executive Director
Elida Gomez, Program Manager
Woody Talley, Tutor Support Coordinator
Andreina Curiel, Program Support Specialist

2025-2026 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*

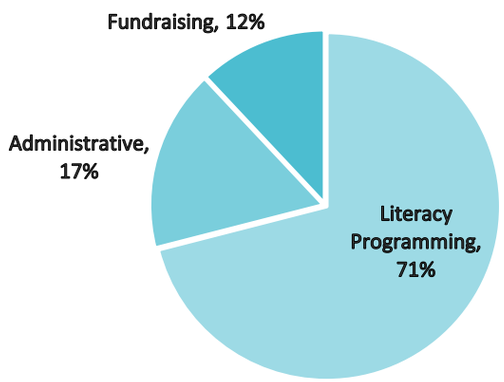
Literacy Services of IRC (LSIRC) received income of $401,331 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026. This amount includes $294,103 in contributions and grants, $78,209 from special events, and $29,019 from investment income and in-kind donations. Expenses totaled $345,990, of which 71% was spent on direct program services such as staff salaries, training our volunteer tutors and essential educational supplies; 17% was spent on organizational management; and 12% was spent on fundraising. LSIRC had net assets of $600,848 on June 30, 2026, including $74,841 in our endowment.

Thanks to LSIRC's 222 volunteer tutors, we served 472 students with 13,556 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,

Looking back on the past year at Literacy Services of Indian River County (LSIRC), our mission has never been clearer or more vital. Every day, we witness the life-changing power of literacy as adult learners gain the skills needed to secure better jobs, support their children's education, and fully engage in our community. This past program year was defined by measurable growth, purposeful partnerships, and a firm commitment to breaking down barriers to adult education across Indian River County.

Key Impact Highlights

- 472 Students Served
- Dedicated Volunteer Tutors: Our extraordinary network of 222 volunteer tutors delivered 13,556 hours of instruction
- In Fellsmere and surrounding areas, we continued our role as a master collaborator. By sharing our physical facilities with key partners—including the Mental Health Collaborative, Treasure Coast Food Bank, Youth Guidance, and many others—we ensure our students have access to wrap-around family support under one roof.

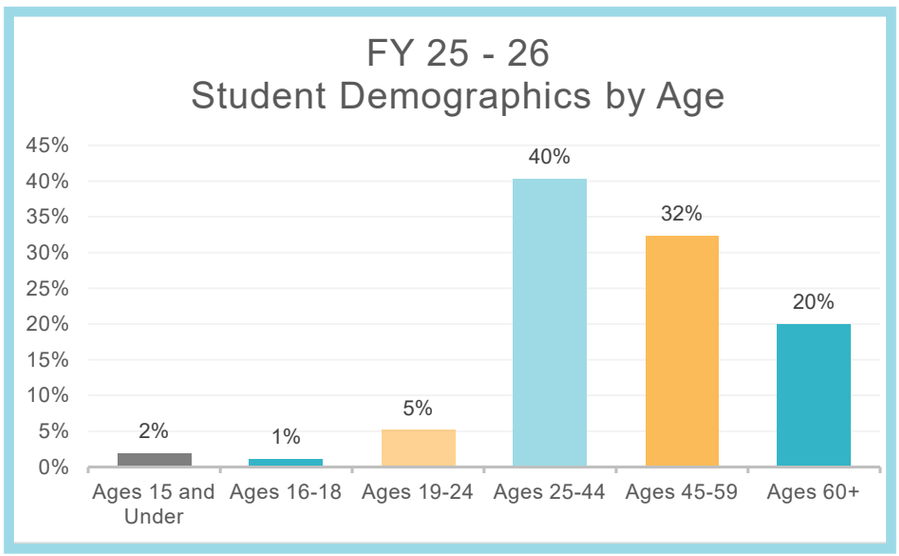
As we look to the year ahead, our priority remains clear: deepening our presence in high-need neighborhoods and ensuring every resident in Indian River County has access to life-changing education. With the steadfast support of our grant partners, faithful individual donors, and relentless volunteer tutors, we are poised to build on this momentum and transform even more lives through literacy.

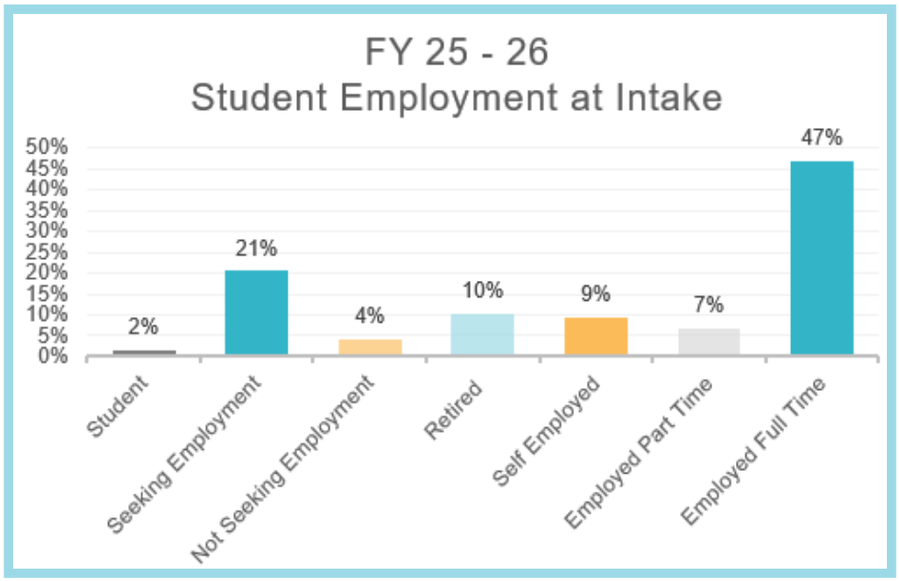
Thank you to our donors, tutors, community partners, and students for making this impactful year possible!

In Partnership,
Valerie Kines
Executive Director

Demographics

In FY 2025-26, our 472 students came from 39 countries, including the United States. They lived throughout Indian River County, with 63% in Vero Beach/South Vero Beach, 19% in Sebastian, and 18% in Fellsmere. 337 of our students were female, and 135 were male.





Our 222 volunteer tutors provided 13,556 individual and small-group tutoring hours to 471 students last year! Our students achieved 2,312 English language literacy goals, including:

28 Students passed the rigorous United States Citizenship Exam

325 Students improved their soft skills (problem-solving and other cognitive skills, oral communication skills, personal qualities, and work ethic).

50 Students pursued further training or obtained employment as a result of participating in work experience activities.

Students of the Year



Lucia Garcia
ESL Student of the Year

Driven by a desire to build a better future for her family, single mother Lucia joined Literacy Services of Indian River County to improve her English. Her dedication quickly extended beyond the classroom as she mastered practical life skills—such as reading newspapers and managing emails—which helped her secure a better job as a painter and capably navigate the school system to enroll her daughter in a charter school. Lucia's growth culminated in a powerful two-generational milestone when, inspired by an LSIRC Family Literacy trip to the Museum of Art, she independently applied for and won a four-week art scholarship for her daughter, proving how adult literacy empowers parents to transform their careers and bring new opportunities for the next generation.

Patricha Jefferson
Literacy Student of the Year

Through her tireless dedication at Literacy Services of Indian River County, Patricha has achieved remarkable personal and work-related milestones, becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen and fulfilling her dream of owning a local business. Never stopping in her pursuit of growth, Patricha continues to work diligently with her tutor to strengthen her reading, writing, and communication skills so she can manage her business effectively and deal with daily life. Her inspiring journey demonstrates how adult literacy provides the foundation for civic integration, economic independence, and lifelong self-improvement.

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 2025-2026 tutors who have volunteered for multiple years.

15+ Years of Service

Pat Holland
Carol Martin
Mary Murray
Carol Robertson
Larry Salustro

10 - 14 Years of Service

Linda Barker
Jeannine Cohoe
Ursula Duguid
Violante Fioravanti
Alice Johnson
Kent Jones
Kathy Klein
Thomas Maguire
Jenifer Mina
Karissa Mokoban
Betty Jane Moulton
William Moulton
Nancy Rea
Nancy Reichardt
Mary Ruege
Jim Schorner
Chris Steinkrauss
Carol Williams

5 - 9 Years of Service

Emil Barbosa
Christine Cram
Richard Detwiler
Ann Dolin
Karen Formont
Marlene Fyffe
Marilyn Gartner
Mike Godown
Ellen Gold
Paul Goulet
Randy Groom

5 - 9 Years of Service

Patti Bunston Gunn
Richard "Rick" Hanson
Margaret Hearndon
Peter Hires
Judith Holmes
Eduardo Jacome
Lorraine Ledford
Karen Leedahl
Janine Manley
Miriam Marrero
Charles McNatt
Lauren Michaels
Fabienne Modesitt
Pat O'Hara
Hugh Reichardt
Domenic Restuccia
Robin Rutherford
Carol Seavor
Sheila Small
Alisha Smaniotto
Judy Stang
Nancy Stiefel
Herminio Torres
Linda Villamil
Patricia Warner
James Wheeler
John Wolaver

2 - 4 Years of Service

Nancy Arnold
Kathy Baldino
Tina Banta
Kelly Bradley
Steven Burgoon
Margaret Cericola
Jean Clinton
Linda Congdon
Laura Crosby

2 - 4 Years of Service

JoAnne Finnegan
Paul Halleran
John Hanauer
Reet Hayden
Beth Hewitt
Brian Hilton
JoAnn Hitt
Thomas (TJ) Hope
Eileen Jones
Renee Kay
Kitty Kennedy
Nancy Kerins
Connie Lewis
Adria Martino
Claudia Martino
Mary Anne Miller
Eugene O'Neill
David Pearson
Suzanne Pieri
Suzie Piraino
Allan Ramsay
Susi Saxl
Robert Schlamowitz
Barbara Snider
Linda Solomon
Miriam Soto
Murray Steinfeld
Mary Anne Sullivan
Judy Teague
Barbara Turner
Louis Vacolucci
Kathy Walsh
Lori White
Lindsey Woessner
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

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.

Book $10,000- $24,999

The Estate of Leonor Lobo de Gonzalez
J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust
Camp Younts Foundation

Story $5,000- $9,999

Four Four Foundation, Inc.,
The Hitt Family Foundation
Syde Hurdus Foundation
The Kahle Family Foundation
The Family of Don Mann
Norris Family Fund
Larry and Susan Salustro

Chapter $2,500-$4,999

Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Mr. and Mrs. John T. La Duc
Bernard A. Egan Foundation
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Wanda Lincoln
Michael J. Pierce

Page $1,000-$2,499

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Carney
Carol and Robert Christiansen
Deborah P. Clarke
Bill and Jane Coleman
Amy and Cecil Conlee
Chuck and Francie Cramb
Rene and Alice Donars
James and Diane Francis
Mary P. Graves
Mr. and Mrs. George Higgs
H & J IRCF Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson
Robin Jones
Paul and Carol Kanarek
Barb and Jim Lawler
Brad and Joan Lorimier
Gaye McIntosh Ludwig
Ms. Lauren Michaels
Linda Nolan
Mr. Jeff Palleschi
Robert and Gail Parson

Page $1,000-$2,499

Ms. Trudie Rainone
Dom and Julie Restuccia
Ryan Family Foundation
Susan Sheehan
Salli Snyder
Susan Solomon
Dale & Matilde Sorensen
The William P. and Lorna G. Stengel Charitable Fund
Bob and Carmen Stork
Byron and Nancy Sugahara
Woodruff and Jennifer Sutton Charitable Fund
Mr. Peter Walker (The Family of Simone Walker)
Mike and Sue White

Verse $500 - $999

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Allen
Ms. Lois W. Appleby
Ms. Susan Caito
Ms. Geraldine Condon
Gene and Jean Cravens
Janet and Mike Edwards
Robert Franklin & Charles Mappin
Elizabeth Friman
JoAnn and Adam Hitt
Barbara P. Maffett
Ruth Ann Gillis McGuinnis
Toby and Charlie Milner
James and Joanne Mitchell Foundation
Thomas and Sophie Rhodes
Ms. Barbara Richey
Barbara Ruddy
Ms. Jennifer Russell
Rory and Betsy Smith
Lorna and Bill Stengel
Marie Stiefel
Cheryl P. Trotta

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Grantors & Businesses

A Caring Family Fund
Bruce Estate Law PLLC
Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta
Corbett Foundation
Dale Sorensen Real Estate
21st Amendment Distillery
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
George E. Warren LLC
Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program
Greater Horizons
Head Heart & Hands of Indian River Club
ImpactAssets Inc.
Indian River Community Foundation
John's Island Community Service League
MinuteMan Press
Nora Roberts Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Sebastian River Farms
Stonelake Wealth Management LLC
Sunrise Rotary of Vero Beach
Unitarian Universalist of Vero Beach
United Way of Indian River County
Vero Beach Mitsubishi

Gifts Made in Memory of

Janet Amos by Renee S. Kay
Mary Foote by Kathleen and Michael Connolly
Don Mann by Carol and Robert Christiansen
Don Mann by Cynthia and Jim Falardeau
Don Mann by Ruth Ann Gillis McGuiness
Gertrude Terry by Kerry Bartlett
Gertrude Terry by James and Laurie Carney
Gertrude Terry by Jean and Gene Cravens
Gertrude Terry by Donna Duval
Gertrude Terry by Mott and Mary Call Ford
Gertrude Terry by Elizabeth Friman
Gertrude Terry by Ray and Tiffany Howard
Gertrude Terry by Waldo Kidd
Gertrude Terry by Dorothy and John Laurenzo
Gertrude Terry by Riddell Family Charitable Fund
Gertrude Terry by Christine Ryall
Gertrude Terry by Marie Stiefel

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

CORBETT FOUNDATION
TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY

DOLLAR GENERAL LITERACY FOUNDATION
GIVE. DREAM. HOPE.

UNITED WAY
Indian River County

INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GRAND HARBOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.

Sunrise Rotary Vero Beach

JOHN'S ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE
EST. 1980

nrf

Indian River Club
Head • Heart • Hands

Platinum Transparency 2026
Candid.