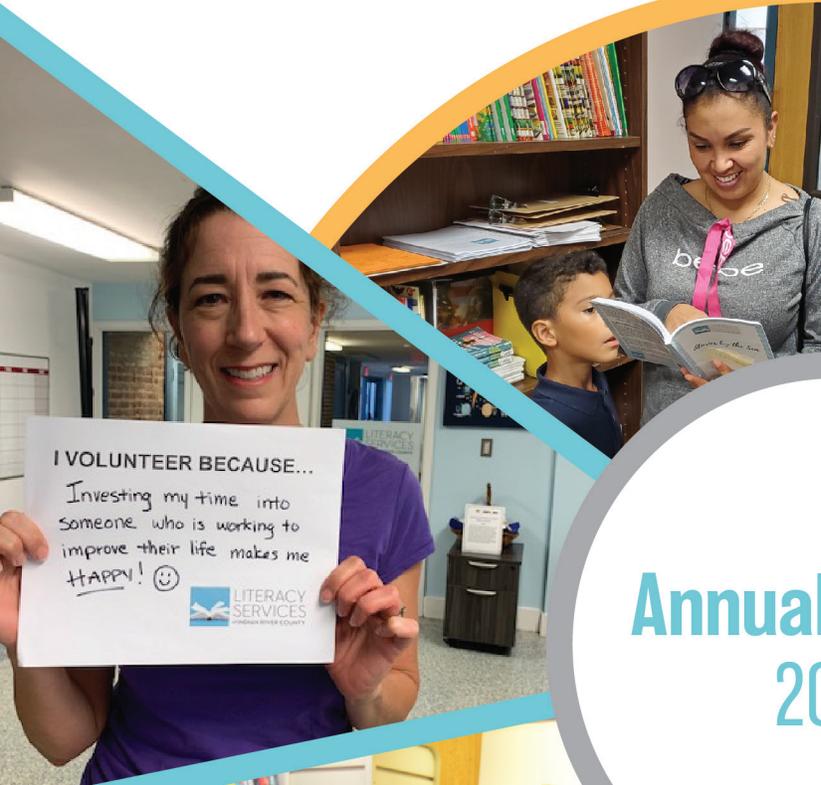




LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Annual Report 2022





Kent Jones

Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

Our 50th Anniversary year has been a time to celebrate! We began with a launch party, followed by a tutor social, a student celebration, our gala “Stories by the Sea”, and concluding with a donor reception at the Vero Beach Book Center.

Many individuals and organizations contributed to the success of our 50th Anniversary year: the members of our 50th Anniversary Committee, event sponsors, donors, students, tutors, staff, Board members and nonprofit partners. Thank you!

Impact. Influence. Capacity. These three words summarize our three-year Strategic Plan’s Goals. This Annual Report tells the story of Literacy Services’ growing Impact in the lives of those in our community who struggle to read and/or communicate in English. Our Influence throughout the community is spreading, following the media exposure we received during our Anniversary year. Finally, our financial and organizational Capacity is expanding, thanks to the generosity of Anniversary year sponsors and donors, and to the addition of three new dedicated Board members.

To secure our future, our Board voted to allocate \$25,000 as seed money to establish an endowment with the Indian River Community Foundation’s Endowment Partners Program. Soon, the Board will be collaborating to extend our Strategic Plan into the coming years. With your continuing support, Literacy Services is poised to increase its Impact in our community.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I express gratitude to Jessica Schmitt for her nearly five years as our Executive Director. Jessica has recently joined United Way of Indian River County as Director of Philanthropy. Her exceptional leadership has strengthened Literacy Services in all respects. Thank you, Jessica!

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

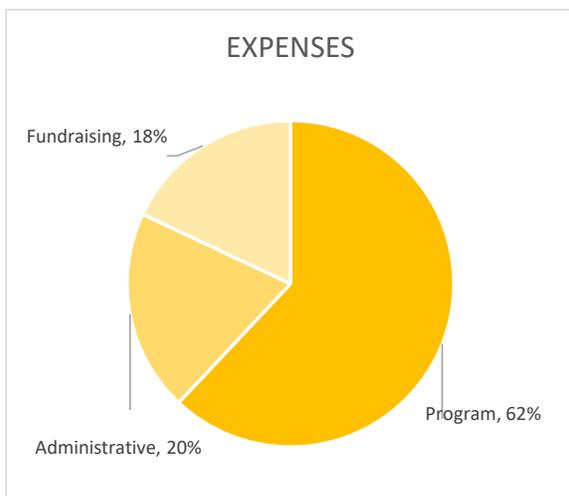
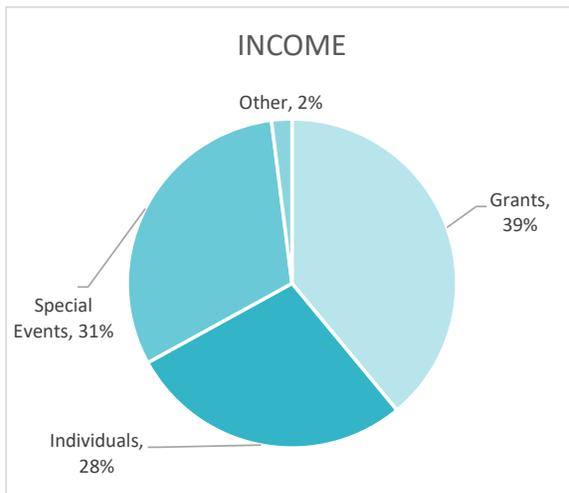
- Kent Jones, President**
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- Nick Bruce, CFP**
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- Chris Locke, CPA**
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- Chris Steinkrauss**
- Lorna Stengel**
- Diana Walker**

STAFF

- Jessica Schmitt, CFRE, Executive Director**
- Elida Gomez, Community Engagement Coordinator**
- Jordie Wooldridge, Education Coordinator**
- Andreina Curiel, Program Support Specialist**

2021-2022 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*

Literacy Services received income of \$321,107 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. This amount includes \$215,001 in contributions and grants and \$99,435 from special events. Expenses totaled \$288,923 of which 18% was spent on fundraising in recognition of our 50th Anniversary and 62% was spent on program services, including ongoing training of volunteer tutors and vital curriculum supplies. Literacy Services had net assets of \$445,734 at June 30, 2022.



Jessica Schmitt, CFRE

Dear Friends of Literacy Services,

It was an honor to serve Literacy Services for nearly five years. I'm proud of the organization's growth and grateful to have been a part of it. Great things are ahead thanks to the continued dedication of the donors, volunteers, Board and staff. I wish you all the best and appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the past year.

We celebrated five decades of service with meaningful, collaborative and festive events. Fifty years ago, Literacy Services' founders recognized a need for adult literacy tutoring and we have grown into an organization that provides one-to-one tutoring, small group and workplace instruction, citizenship and GED support, conversation clubs and online learning software to adults seeking English language literacy skills.

As part of our three-year Strategic Plan to empower students and build a more literate community, we introduced workshops and immersive learning opportunities for students to engage in their children's education with a session provided by the School District, build financial literacy skills with classes provided by iThink Financial and explore local resources like the Environmental Learning Center and Vero Beach Museum of Art with their families.

This 2022 Annual Report details the progress we made toward our vision. Without your generous support, none of the accomplishments over the past year, and five decades, would have been possible.

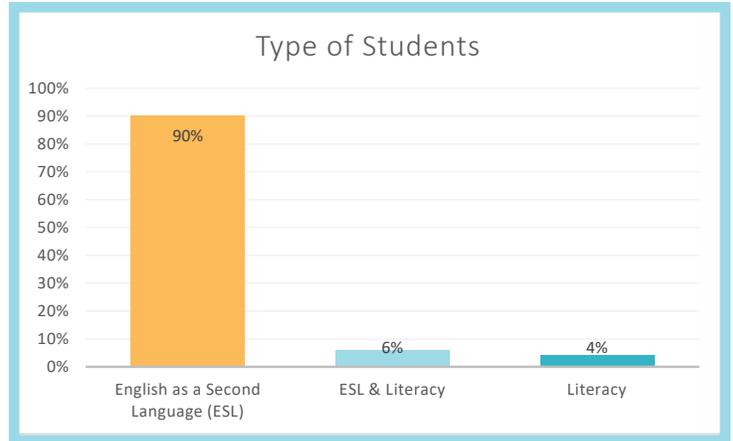
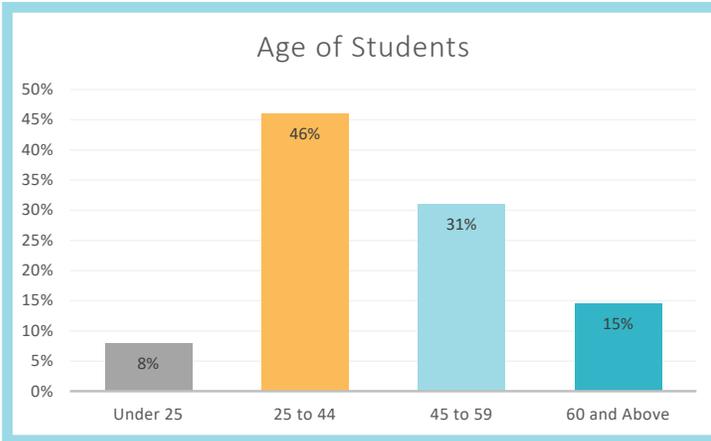
As you read through this report, we hope you recognize the positive impact made possible by your generosity and that your continued support is needed to help local adults achieve their goals.

Sincerely,
Jessica Schmitt, CFRE
 Executive Director

*Audited financials available upon request or on our website

Demographics

Our 256 students represented 24 countries, the United States and Puerto Rico this past year. Seventy-seven percent were female. Fifty-seven percent of students were employed but 59% of all students were living at or below the poverty level.



Over 570 Goals Were Achieved by Our Students Last Year

- 84** Reading levels advanced.
- 9** Started college, trade school or Adult Ed courses.
- 97** Improved their communication skills.
- 26** Improved their financial literacy and 24 improved their health literacy.
- 25** Became more engaged in their child's education.
- 15** Became United States Citizens.
- 29** Improved their writing skills.
- 2** Achieved their GED.
- 62** Improved a job situation or skills to obtain a job.
- 17** Are now actively volunteering.
- 11** Acquired their drivers license.
- 14** Computer lab users per month in Fellsmere spent 563 hours completing schoolwork, filling out applications, signing up for services and learning how to use the school district's parent portal.
- 143** Volunteer tutors spent 7,500 hours teaching their students.
- 54** Used our online learning software for 966 hours.

Students of the Year



Micheld Moreno

Student of the Year

Micheld Moreno was a finalist for this honor last year. She continued to further her education and enrolled at Indian River State College taking English Composition and difficult math classes. In addition to school, she worked full time and met with her tutor weekly. She wrote a story that was published in the 50th Anniversary book for Literacy Services and was a featured storyteller at the event. Her tutor nominated her for all of Micheld's efforts and accomplishments.



Yuxia Simmons

Student of the Year

Yuxia Simmons has been active in our Virtual Conversation Club as well as tutoring one-to-one and participating in English speaking book clubs. Her persistence in learning English has helped her get a new job and become a US citizen. She also wrote a story for the 50th Anniversary book and volunteered to teach a child her native language of Mandarin. Her commitment, motivation and resilience are just a few reasons why two of her tutors nominated her.



Everilda Charry Guerra

Student Volunteer of the Year

Everilda Charry Guerra served on the Student Advisory Committee, conducted student surveys and helped in the office. She also became a tutor and her student recently became a US Citizen!

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 economic 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 and increases 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*
Sandy and Don Mann
Larry and Susan Salustro
Byron and Nancy Sugahara
Mrs. James W. Titelman

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

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Carney
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. John T. LaDuc
Wanda Lincoln
Tom and Doreen Mead

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

Mrs. Lois W. Appleby
Ms. Deborah P. Clarke
Chuck and Francie Cramb
Mr. and Mrs. John Curley
Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Ms. Joan Edwards
Mike and Mary Fuller
Mary P. Graves Fund
at the Indian River
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Carol and Paul Kanarek
Steve and Josie Lieberman
David and Amy Mankuta
Charles Mappin and
Robert Franklin
Trudie Rainone
Dom and Julie Restuccia
Ms. Barbara Richey
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Robbins
Ms. Susan R. Sheehan
through the Indian River
Community Foundation
Lindsey and Jeff Smith
Lorna and Bill Stengel
William and Wendy Stengel
Peter and Simone Walker
Mr. Kenneth L. Wessel
Judith Whittaker
Ron and Margie Zunk

Friends \$500 - \$999

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Michael Beechem, Ph.D.
and Susan Kamer
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Ms. Barbara Butts
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Susan and Peter Solomon
Mr. Michael Stork
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Woodruff and Jennifer Sutton
Charitable Fund

Friends \$500 - \$999

Maryjo Thompson
Cheryl Trotta
Mr. and Mrs. Denis Turko
Mike and Sue White
Nancy Wolcott
Hope Woodhouse and
Richard Canty
Martha Wright

Foundations & Grantors

Ayco Charitable Foundation
Bernard A. Egan Foundation
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Commissioners
Camp-Younts Foundation
Dayton Family Fund
Dick and Betsy DeVos
Family Foundation
Dollar General Literacy
Foundation
Exchange Club of Fellsmere
Four-Four Foundation
Grand Harbor Community
Outreach Program, Inc.
Head, Heart and Hands of
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The Hitt Family
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Indian River Community
Foundation
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J.M. Hopwood
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The Kahle Foundation
Presbyterian Women
Rotary Club of Vero Beach
Sunrise
Ryan Family Foundation
Schwab Charitable
Syde Hurdus Foundation Inc.
United Way of IRC
Vero Beach Rotary Charities
Foundation

Businesses

A Pampered Life
Art of Dentistry
Billero & Billero Properties
C&C Jewelry
Comfort Zone A/C & Heating of FL
Communications International Inc.
Crab E Bills Seafood Market
Dale Sorensen Real Estate
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Management
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Sebastian River Farms, LLC
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SouthState Bank
Sunshine Health
Vero Beach Outlets
Windsor Properties

Gifts Were Made in Memory Of

Thomas J. Mason by
Ms. Kelly Alger
Diana Mitchell by
Bill and Linda Beardslee
Lorain Thomas by Jane Scheffres

Gifts Were Made in Honor Of

Elida Gomez by Janet Amos, Linda
Barker, Sue Justice, Karen
Leedah, Linda Lemay, Vilma
Maduro de Davy, Hugh & Nancy
Reichardt, Diane Tinkleman and
Martha Wright
Cecilia Sanchez by Diamond Bright
Cleaning
Jessica Schmitt by Christine
Schmitt and Lindsey and Jeff Smith
Lorna Stengel by Ms. Jennifer Russell

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

*Deceased



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www.literacyservicesirc.org

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IRC Main Library
Vero Beach, FL 32960

1001 Sebastian Boulevard
North County Library
Sebastian, FL 32958

21 S. Cypress Street
Fellsmere, FL 32948

