

LITERACY COUNCIL OF READING-BERKS

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks began in 1968 when a group of volunteers realized if one person taught someone to read, and that person taught someone to read, they could create a movement.

Today, the Literacy Council is recognized as a local and state leader and a driving force behind the latest developments in literacy learning. We continue to build a movement of learners, educators, literacy advocates and organizations in pursuit of a world where life-changing learning is within everyone's reach.

In this report on 2021, you will read about the Literacy Council's commitment to making quality workforce training and education available to all who want it. Our students' testimonials are in their own words with no editing from Literacy Council staff. We hope you will be as moved as we are! Knowing these individuals is one of the greatest privileges of my life.



Despite a year where we are still feeling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to bring about innovation in our work. We are working with community volunteers to do a financial capacity assessment, a technology assessment, and a fund development plan to make the Literacy Council a viable non-profit for many years to come. We hope that you continue your investment in our organization to help adults achieve their dreams of becoming successful members of our community.

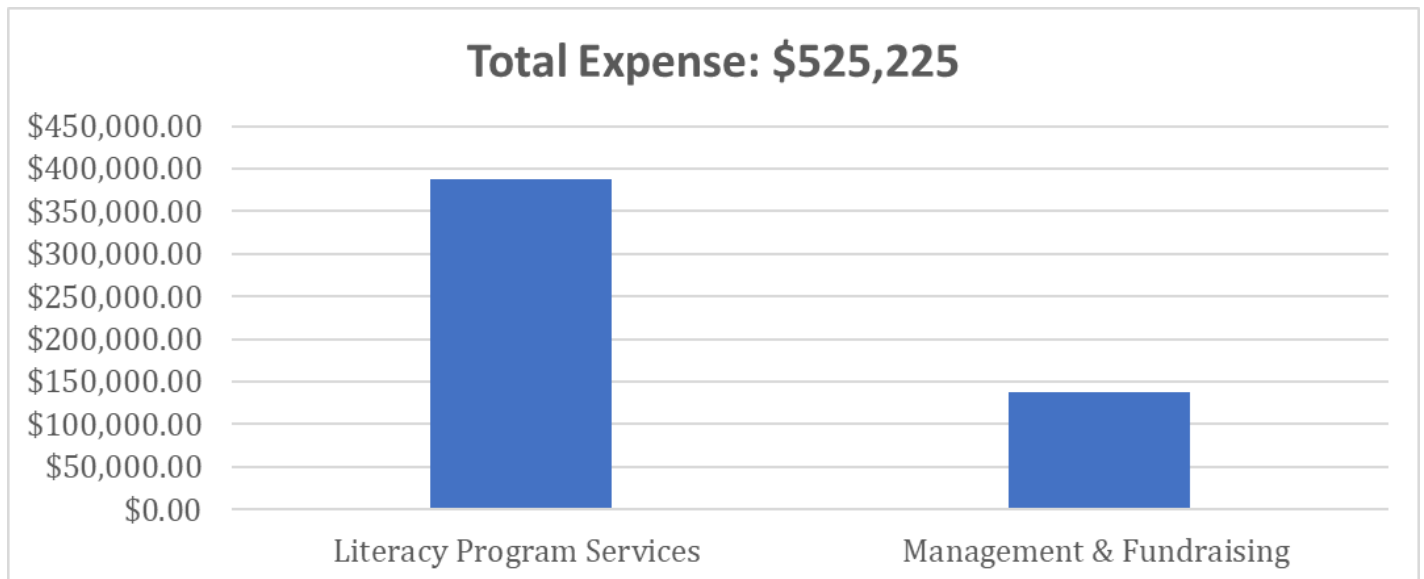
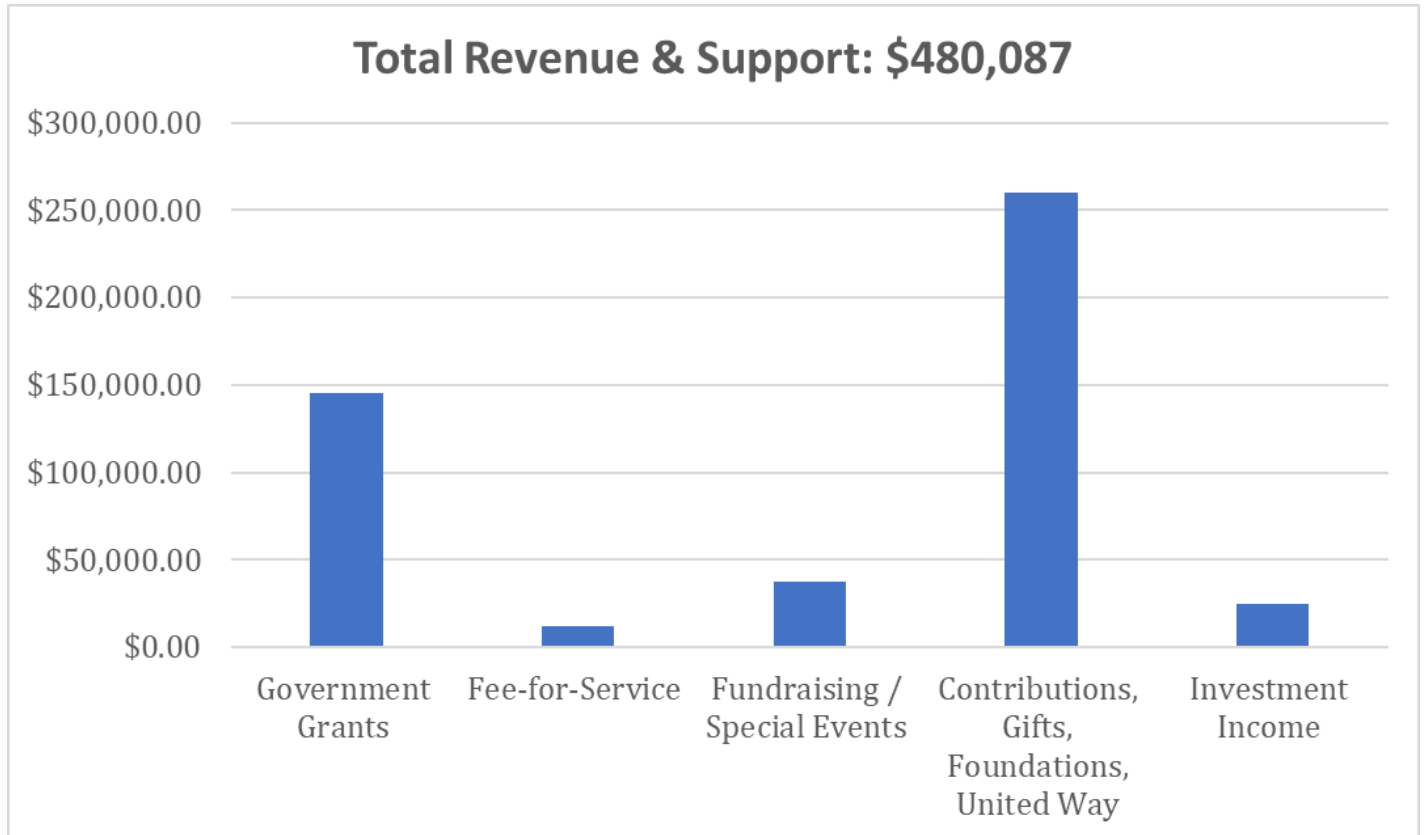
Thank you for all you do!

Ryan A. Breisch
Ryan A. Breisch
Executive Director



2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2020 audited financials are listed below. The 2021 financials will be available after audit. Our 990 is available on our website www.lcrb.org.



THANKS TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

37 Volunteers



856 Hours

Megan Adukaitis
Tracy Blunt
Bridget Cambria, Esq.
Stephen Carlson
Michael Deibert
Dr. Dn. Jim Elliker
Dr. Roula Elliker
Susan Fineman
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Jim Wood



WE **LOVE**
OUR VOLUNTEERS

FOUNDATIONS, BENEFACTORS, PATRONS, SPONSORS, SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHER DONATIONS 2021

The Following organizations and individuals made our programs possible in 2021. Donations received between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021 are recognized here. Every effort has been made to list donors accurately. Please inform the office of any corrections at 610-670-9960.

Foundations

Altrusa Int'l Foundation
Berks County Community Foundation
Blue Mountain Foundation
Breidegam Family-East Penn Foundation
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Randy & Lori Hertzog
Christine M. Hess
Scott A. & Christa Hirneisen

Thank
you for
your
support

FOUNDATIONS, BENEFACTORS, PATRONS, SPONSORS, SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHER DONATIONS 2021 CONTINUED

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Sponsors \$25 - \$99 Continued

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Lisa Ann Chlebowski
Margaret Danowski
Gregg & Lisa A. Gault
Rachel Liberatore
Phyllis Moser
Tabitha Raicu
Linda A. & Mark J. Smith



In the last 5 years, thanks to your
generous donations,
849 students have met goals such as:

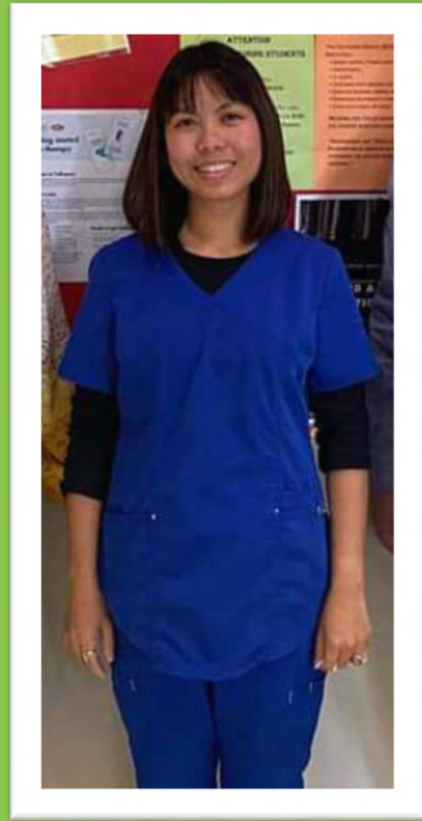
- completed job interviews
- achieved citizenship skills
- obtained better jobs
- improved their English
- helped their children with schoolwork

We can't thank you enough!

**THANK
YOU!**

Thao Huynh

ESL Student & High School Equivalency Graduate



Thao Huynh moved to the United States from Vietnam in May 2016 and soon enrolled in ESL classes with the Literacy Council. Thao quickly improved her English skills and obtained a food service position at the Reading Hospital, but she had to stop attending ESL classes after her daughter was born. After her daughter was able to go to preschool, Thao enrolled in the one-on-one tutoring program and began working with a tutor to improve her speaking skills and study for her citizenship exam. Thao proudly obtained her U.S. citizenship in May 2021. Her next goal was to become a phlebotomist, but her degrees from Vietnam were not recognized to begin in a phlebotomy class. Thao enrolled in GED class with the Literacy Council and was able to obtain her High School Equivalency Diploma in only 2 months. Thao then entered the Phlebotomy Certification program at R.A.C.C. and completed her internship at HNL Lab Medicine and was hired by them as a phlebotomist. She plans to continue to move forward in her career. Thao credits the Literacy Council with giving her the skills and confidence that she needed to become more productive in her life, work, and community.

2021 In-Kind Donations

Bingo Purse and Raffle Donors

A Wrinkle In Time
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Berks Lanes
Cambria & Kline PC
Crave Café
Cross Roads
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Bingo Purse and Raffle Donors Continued

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Penske Truck Leasing Company
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The Drawing Board
UPMC Health Plan
Workforce Talent Solutions
Wyomissing Foundation, Inc.
YMCA of Reading & Berks County

Misc. In-Kind Donations

Bang Nguyen
Betty's
Dr. Dn. & Dr. Elliker
Firefly Bookstore
Image Hair Studio
Mr. Harry Freeman
Penske
WEEU



*Thank
you*



Hector Ucles

High School Equivalency Graduate



Hector Ucles Lopez is originally from Honduras and is a non-native English speaker. Hector is self-employed as a remodeler. Hector has four children that range in age from 8 to 14 years old. Hector improved his Educational Functional Level from Level 2 to Level 4 since beginning in our program. Hector works 40 hours per week and has three children at home. He was always on time for class and pleasant to staff, instructors, and other students. Life was very difficult for Hector in Honduras with very high unemployment and an enormous poverty rate. Although it was arduous to leave his home country, he felt that moving to America was the only choice for a better life. Hector came to the United States in 2007 and had to learn English and navigate a new country and a new culture. Hector is a role model for our other students. He was always willing to help other students with any tasks and always encouraged his classmates' efforts. Hector is a polite and soft-spoken young man who leads quietly. He is very eager to improve himself and his enthusiasm is contagious. His instructor notes that he is attentive, completes all assignments, and participates in class. Hector began attending class in the High School Equivalency Program on March 15, 2021; he consistently attended class twice a week for almost three semesters. He passed each of the GED® exams on his first attempt.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to PA State Senator Judy Schwank, the Literacy Council received a Keystone Communities Program grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for \$50,000 in 2019. From January 2019 through December 2021, the Literacy Council made much-needed capital improvements to our building in West Lawn.

Projects we have completed include:

New Telephone System - \$4,920.76
Office Window Replacement and Remediation - \$5,899.00
Carpeting of First Floor - \$10,120.00
Renovation of Downstairs Bathroom- \$3,400.00
Replacement of HVAC System in Classroom 1 and Kitchen- \$6,890.00
Parking Lot Maintenance-\$13,420.00
Remediation of stairwell-\$1,685.58
Removal of Deck and Trailer- \$3,664.66

Literacy Council by the Numbers:

2021

13 **students** | 678.5 hours
tutor volunteers

198 **students** | 2016 hours
in ESL classes

59 **students** | 546 hours
in GED, CHW, Basic Skills classes

9 **students** | 6 hours
in Citizenship classes



Martha Gajon
ESL Student

My name is Martha Gajon I'm from Mexico I moved to Pennsylvania five years ago. I choose the Literacy Council ESL Program to continue with my English Improvement to feel confident enough for a job interview and in the end, I succeeded. Today I'm very happy working in the purchasing department at Reading Community College (RACC). I loved the Literacy Council and its teaching style. They use spelling and grammar that is used on a day-to-day basis, but they teach it and exemplify it colloquially. I think this teaching style helps us better understand the English language. Thank you Ryan Sue and Elisa for being great teachers!



Hernan Delgado
ESL Student

I have been taking ESL classes at the Literacy Council for more than two years and I can just say I enjoy the system they implement for teaching English. It is imperative for me to create the best scenarios in my life and for that, I need to synchronize all the most important aspects of my life: work, skills, health, family, and friends. The Literacy Council advocates for all its students to continue learning and developing new and great skills, and if any non-native English speaker wants a better life here in the USA, one of the most important aspects is to be proficient in the English language. This opens doors for better jobs or to being an entrepreneur. The Literacy Council combines not only a great building where you have the best atmosphere to study, but also the best staff I've ever had during my years of school, here in PA and in New York years ago. The Literacy Council is tenacious with its main goal: to improve the English skills of all the students. They facilitate, in most cases, participation in classes in two different ways: in person or online. I appreciate the great opportunity of being part of this institution, to be in Mr. Ryan's classroom, to share good times with all the staff, and make great friendships with excellent people.



LITERACY COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Retired

Reading Area Community College

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Beverly Hirneisen

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Support Specialist

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Pat Rittenhouse

Volunteer Coordinator

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Nancy Graff

Guadalupe Kasper

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Pamela Sonon

Ramona Turpin

Mission

The mission of the Literacy Council of Reading Berks is to help people better communicate, collaborate, and contribute to their workplace and community.

Vision

To eradicate illiteracy in Berks County by teaching people the vital reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills needed to improve their quality of life and enable more productive employment and community citizenship.

Values and Goals

- Respect for all
- Empower volunteers and staff to provide quality services
- Provide a spectrum of literacy services
- Develop curricula to respond to the changing literacy needs of the community
- Implement innovating technology and techniques
- Network to identify resources and partnerships
- Guide all participant in achieving their goals

Follow us on social media:



Community Partners & Funding:



35 S. Dwight St. | West Lawn, PA 19609

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