ANNUAL REPORT 2022
Here at Literacy Minnesota we’ve reached a milestone: 50 years of leading, learning and literacy – and we have much for which to be grateful, as well as many hopes as we look to the future.

I think about the founders and early leaders of Literacy Minnesota who worked tirelessly to ensure that adults in Minnesota had access to educational resources. The early leaders were all volunteers, and they championed the importance of getting adult educational opportunities out in the community. We as an organization are deeply grateful for their hard work, perseverance and dedication to literacy. My hope for tomorrow’s Literacy Minnesota is to re-ignite that championing spirit. As we steadily work to regain our learner community after the pandemic, we have an opportunity to reach a much wider range of students through intentional and inclusive outreach efforts.

Over time, Literacy Minnesota’s statewide leadership has grown to a national presence with learner-centered collaboration as the key. Our own Open Door Learning Centers and other hands-on programs inform what we share through our online educator resources, remote trainings, digital literacy resources, national service expansion and advocacy. I am grateful that educational equity, which includes digital equity, are gaining attention and investment across the country. There is so much hope when we think about growing our collaboration moving into 2023 and beyond. I envision stretching ourselves to develop creative partnerships to further our mission, both locally and nationally.

Open Door adult learners speak of our centers as “family,” and I am grateful for all they bring as part of our tightknit community. This year, our family includes new arrivals from Afghanistan and Ukraine who have left their war-torn homelands and all that is near and dear to start a new life here in Minnesota. And like all families, ours is multi-generational, and includes children who experienced significant learning losses due to the disruption caused by the pandemic; learning losses were greatest among children of color. Our preschool, parenting and Summer Reads programs are important resources for our next generation of readers, and Literacy Minnesota has incredible potential to cultivate this multi-generational approach so families are centered in our work.

Finally, I am grateful to each of you for your time, financial resources and shared vision for a community where life-changing learning is within everyone’s reach. Thank you for the honor of serving as interim executive director these past ten months. A special thank you to our engaged board of directors as they leaned into their governance role in hiring Literacy Minnesota’s next leader, Anton Jones, who will hit the ground running in 2023. With everyone in our literacy community working together, there is no doubt great things are in store for Literacy Minnesota as it heads into the future.

With gratitude and hope,

Renae Oswald-Anderson
Interim Executive Director
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<tr>
<th><strong>THE ’70s</strong></th>
<th><strong>VOLUNTEERS SPARK A MOVEMENT</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Volunteers use Laubach’s method (one-to-one literacy teaching);</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• 19 trained tutors form the Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC).</td>
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<td>• Multi-year operating grants are secured from the F.R. Bigelow,</td>
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<td>Bremer and Bush foundations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Minnesota Department of Education funds training activities, then</td>
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<td>later the first executive director position.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• By MLC’s 10th anniversary, 8,460 tutors have been recruited</td>
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<td>and trained across the state.</td>
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<th><strong>THE ’80s</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXPANSION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• MLC operates two Twin Cities literacy centers; four additional sites</td>
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<td>are opened with a U.S. Department of Education grant.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• English classes are introduced through a state refugee office partnership.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• MLC’s Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) national service program begins.</td>
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<td>• 1 million tutoring hours reached in working alongside adult learners!</td>
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<th><strong>THE ’90s</strong></th>
<th><strong>A TIME TO INNOVATE</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>• To Open Your Mind journal is published, precursor to the Journeys adult anthology.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• MLC takes operation of the Adult Literacy Hotline.</td>
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<td>• Budgetary challenges arise; three program sites close.</td>
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<td>• Summer Reads program kicks off.</td>
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<th><strong>THE ’00s</strong></th>
<th><strong>CHILDREN’S AND FAMILY LITERACY GROWS</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>• MLC partners with WordsWork! on literacy home visits.</td>
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<td>• Minnesota Reading Corps pilot is developed; by its spin-off in 2010,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>550 Reading Corps members are working with 14,600 children across the state.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• A first preschool opens in Minneapolis; a St. Paul preschool follows.</td>
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<th><strong>THE ’10s</strong></th>
<th><strong>INCREASING NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Northstar Digital Literacy launches and is soon in use across the U.S.</td>
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<td>• Libraries and Literacy Leadership Institute builds connections in the tri-state region of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• MLC works with other VISTA sponsor sites to change national policy and permit</td>
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<td></td>
<td>second jobs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Open Door Collective, a national network of literacy leaders, joins MLC.</td>
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<th><strong>TODAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>MLC is renamed Literacy Minnesota; a new website features an educator</strong></th>
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<td><strong>resources library.</strong></td>
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<td>• More than 6 million Northstar assessments taken since its start;</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>nearly 3,000</strong> Northstar locations exist in all 50 states and 6 other countries.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Literacy Minnesota publishes its <strong>English Unlocked</strong> curriculum; educator</td>
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| | resource downloads in all 50 states and 75 other countries.
MINNESOTA
EDUCATOR RESOURCES
Our curricula and teaching tools are created by teachers, for teachers. These resources are currently being used around the world by learning sites of all scales.

Who is using our resources?

- Paid teacher: 23.5%
- Volunteer teacher: 10.6%
- Program staff: 2.9%
- Other: 63.0%

ENGLISH UNLOCKED
In May 2022, Literacy Minnesota launched a four-level, English learning curriculum and five FunWorks Workbooks that are informed by learner voice and designed to support adult English language learners and their instructors. This curriculum is College and Career Readiness Standards aligned, covering topics such as daily activities, health problems, celebrations, medicine labels and much more. English Unlocked is being used by programs in 18 states and two countries with continued growth expected into 2023!

NATIONAL SERVICE
LITERACY LEADERSHIP
2022 marks the first year of a national Digital Literacy cohort! In May 2022, Literacy Minnesota launched a four-level, English Unlocked program focused on reducing poverty in the U.S. by building partnerships between adult foundational skills programs and organizations supporting social and economic justice.

- 93 volunteers recruited and managed
- 2,700 children and 4,064 adult learners engaged
- 99 partnerships developed
- $151,200 total value of funds and in-kind resources generated

100% of sites are more effective and able to increase their reach as a result of VISTA resources.

NORTHSTAR DIGITAL LITERACY
NORTHSTAR’S NATIONAL REACH
The locally-based Northstar team has been busy managing the growth of subcontracts locations and creating new digital initiatives.

- Literacy Minnesota worked with Texas State Libraries to support program participants through a community of practice around digital navigation.

DISTANCE STRATEGIES
50% reported they have increased capacity to provide digital literacy skills instruction

TEXAS LIBRARIES
10 participating libraries in locations ranging from small rural areas to large urban communities

Program focus areas:
- Provided virtual navigation training and support to libraries building their own programs.
- Trained libraries on how to incorporate Northstar into programs.
- Worked one-on-one with program leaders.

1,500 Northstar locations around the globe reached

Libraries
Adult education
Nonprofit
Workforce centers
Businesses
K-12

NATIONAL LITERACY HOTLINE
16,952 website page views
Over 950 direct prospective student connections made

PARENTING PROGRAM
32 parents participated with 100 children
- Primary languages: Oromo, Somali and Swahili

TUTOR TRAINING
3,322 participants
112 webinars

TUTOR TRAINING CONTINUED
37% of participants were from outside Minnesota

NATIONAL SERVICE
SUMMER READS
2,875 children participated
93% of children maintained or increased their reading engagement

+6.99 words per minute average change for tutored students, increasing their reading fluency

MINNESOTA ROOTS
The locally-based Northstar team has been busy managing the growth of subcontracts locations and creating new digital initiatives.

Highlights for 2022:
- Spanish versions of our assessments and Northstar Online Learning.
- Launched a telehealth assessment focused on digital skills needed to access crucial health services; this is the first of several planned healthcare-related modules.

DISTANCE LEARNING
Developed a Hyflex Community of Practice to improve remote learning instruction in Minnesota.

7 teacher Verification Models (TVMs) workshops are in progress certifying 182 teachers.

433 Open Door distance learning students earned, 7,600 proxy hours through TVM

GREATER TWIN CITIES TEQUITY SERVICES
This pilot program provided digital navigation support to local nonprofits seeking to expand their own services.

97 people participated across 80 community-based organizations

80% reported they have increased capacity to provide digital literacy skills instruction

ADULT LITERACY
PRESECHOOL PROGRAM
Open Door Preschool returned to in-person learning as well. Our preschool has seen tremendous success creating a community within Open Door Arlington Hills. Parents appreciate the program that are informed

"Many parents share that their preschooler is the one who helps encourage them to come to school every day...4-year-olds can be very persistent!"

While our programs experienced a decline in in-person learning, we spent the past year working to rebuild and adopt. Several creative approaches are here to stay:
- Options for in-person, remote or hybrid classes
- Almost use of distance learning platforms
- Computers and tech support for all students who need it.

OPEN DOOR COLLECTIVE
The Open Door Collective (ODC) is a national literacy Minnesota program focused on reducing poverty in the U.S. by building partnerships between adult foundational skills programs and organizations supporting social and economic justice.

- 162 national members
- Evidence-Based Adult Education System (E-BAES), a task-force of ODC, published a paper. From rapid emergency response to scaling and sustaining innovation: Adult foundational education in the time of COVID-19

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50 years ago, Literacy Minnesota started as a small group of individuals with a drive to share the power of learning.

50 years later, our organization has expanded its leadership across the United States and beyond, creating an international community of individuals who champion the education field.

We continually challenge ourselves to live out our core values of lifelong learning, equity & justice, leadership & innovation and individual dignity.

Literate Minnesota’s resolve strengthens with every new year, and so do our incredible local and national program initiatives that define our work.

“My year of service with VISTA helped me grow both personally and professionally. The emphasis on sustainability has given me a larger perspective on different ways to support an organization or community. My previous experience had been focused on direct service. Now I see more clearly how both direct and indirect service can build and strengthen our communities.”

— Lucinda, a literacy Leader at Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota

“Summer Reads made a huge difference for our organization. Literacy Minnesota Summer Reads mentor Cell assisted our Reading Program Coordinator with distributing hundreds of books to another local library that was very empty. It was great to get [the library] some extra books for their youth to read.”

— Dawn Strohmeier, Director at ELLA Center on English Unlocked

“Before taking [the parenting class], I didn’t understand how to ask a question when I met my child’s teacher in a parent teacher conference. Now, I know what to ask. When I see my child’s report, I understand what it means, and I can help my kid.”

— Nouria A., a parent at Northside parenting class

“My level 2 class this year plans to use Phonic Workbooks 3 & 4 along with the Beginning Literacy Curriculum to give students a well-rounded learning experience of phonics and practical conversation about American culture. I am very impressed with the time and commitment from Literacy Minnesota to really find out what topics are important to English language learners and to create units that are applicable in their day-to-day life. Students feel successful right away as these topics can be put into action as soon as they leave the classroom.”

— Dawn Skinner, Director at ELLA Center

“Because literacy has the power to advance equity and justice, and we envision a world where life-changing learning is within everyone’s reach...”

We believe literacy has the power to advance equity and justice, and we envision a world where life-changing learning is within everyone’s reach. Where life-changing learning is within everyone’s reach. Where life-changing learning is within everyone’s reach.

“Three days, every employee needs basic computer skills to perform even most entry-level jobs. NorthStar Digital Literacy helps job seekers demonstrate to employers that they have mastered basic skills.”

— Dan Stuthrman, President/HRM and Services on NorthStar Digital Literacy

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— Dimit A., Summer Reads site supervisor

Words from our Community

You’re invited to read about our initiatives - now hear what people are saying!

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

2021-2022 FINANCIALS

Financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

See our 2022 donor list and full audited financials online at literacymn.org/annual-reports-financials.
OUR STAFF

Ebyan Abdulle
Cai Anderson
Therese Badenoch
Elizabeth Bennett
Charles Borom
Meghan Boyle
Jason Brazier
Dani Brown
Lloyd Brown
Nikki Carson
Jesse Chang
Yixiu Chen
Kirsten Collins
Heather Cook
Debbie Cushman
Annelisa Donlan
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Andy Francis
Susan Godon
Leah Hauge
Ted Hewes
Jessica Horning
Nick Houlson
Emily Jahn
Jessica Jones
Azul Kmiecik
Sheri Lear
Stevie Lewis
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Rachel Lyness

Morgyn Martins
Christian McCleary
Joseph Miller
Barb Murphy
Isaac Muscanto
Eric Neshim
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Khalaan Phillips
Rob Podlasek
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Christian Preston
Ellie Purdy
Lindsey Pust
Kelly Rynda
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Manee Thao
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Michelle Vidovic
Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt
Mariah Wika
Burgen Young
Courtney Zaato

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