







































Literacy 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



IT'S BEEN AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR.

A year of STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN for our children, our neighbors and our world.

A year shaped by the harmful rhetoric and shifting priorities of the new administration, but not defined by it. Instead, more than ever before, this year was defined by the incredible heart and generosity of our learners, volunteers, national service members, staff, donors, tutor trainees, literacy partners and YOU.

Together, we built a way forward.

In 2017, our services reached more than 75,000 children and adults in Minnesota, we trained and supported a record-breaking number of volunteers, and we built a remarkable community dedicated to strengthening Minnesota's families, workforce and future by improving literacy.

The Minnesota Literacy Council serves Minnesotans by teaching children and adults life-changing literacy skills and supports organizations by providing training, technical assistance and national service resources to strengthen literacy programs.

We believe sharing the power of learning transforms lives, empowers communities and inspires change. And after the year we've had – how could we not?

"My favorite thing about 2017 was seeing the huge increase in volunteers who got involved with literacy because they wanted to do something about the political climate and make their neighbors feel welcome. My parents are refugees, and they are the hardest working people I know. It was heartwarming to see how many people care."

- Wendy Vang Roberts, Volunteer Outreach Manager

Volunteers

In the literacy council's 45-year history, we've never seen such a dramatic turnout of volunteers. Not only did we field more inquiries about how to get involved with volunteering than ever before, we placed 57% more volunteers at organizations around the state. Across the board, we saw more people stand up and step in to help their community through volunteering.

3,557 volunteers trained



42% increase from 2016

Donors

One quarter of our budget comes from federal sources, which leaves us vulnerable as administration priorities change. By standing up and stepping in to support us financially, you help ensure our work continues.

> 809 donors



32% increase from 2016

"Thank you very much for doing what you do every day. You have no idea whose life you will touch and change, just like mine. I began with being a volunteer, and now I actually have my own class to teach."

- Phichet Srimueng became an English teacher at Vietnamese Social Services after the literacy council referred him as a volunteer

Advocacy Alerts

We launched our Literacy Advocacy Alerts e-newsletter in January 2017 because we knew we needed a way to mobilize our community. We started with just over 150 subscribers, but our list quickly grew to more than 1,000! By standing up and stepping in for the literacy cause, we show our leaders that our students' educations and futures need to be a top priority.



OVER 200 calls and letters to elected officials!

Join the movement!

mnliteracy.org/LegislativeAction

Sign up for our Advocacy Alerts



2017 - A YEAR OF STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN TO...



2,432

adults representing 80 countries attended classes at our Open Door Learning Centers.

92%

of preschoolers tested improved their English language abilities. 37 students were enrolled at our Open Door Preschool. 4 OUT OF 5

children tested maintained or improved their reading fluency over the summer. 2,903 children participated in Summer Reads.

100%

of 125 adults enrolled in parenting classes at our Open Door Learning Centers increased their knowledge of what schools expect of them as parents.



1

GED® curriculum

We published GED® Connections, the first-ever GED® curriculum written for adults reading below an eighth grade level. It's now being sold nationwide on GED Marketplace™. This innovative new product addresses many of the challenges GED® teachers face in the classroom.

2.5 MILLION

Northstar assessments since 2012

We're home to the Northstar Digital Literacy Project, an online tool that assesses computer literacy and is used by more than 400 sites worldwide. To expand Northstar's accessibility, we began making the site mobile-friendly in 2017. Thanks to the support of several leading national foundations, this upgrade will be completed by 2020.



121

Tri-State VISTA Conference attendees

We planned and hosted the first tri-state conference for VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) and their host sites. The goal of the conference? To provide VISTAs with skill-building opportunities, practical tools and concepts to take back to their sites, and a chance to connect with others doing national service.

Were we successful? 91% of attendees thought so!



696

stories published in the 2017 edition of *Journeys: An Anthology* of Adult Student Writing

Published annually since 1990, Journeys is a platform for Adult Basic Education students in Minnesota to share their stories. "Journeys was a changing point in my life. It helped me come out of my shell and not be scared of what people think."

— Aaron Pike, Open Door student

18

Open Door students giving back as volunteers

40

docents at Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) trained to work with English language learners

We helped make Mia more accessible to all visitors by training its docents to give tours to English language learners. Mia then hosted two field trips for our Open Door students, providing many students with their first museum experience!

1,360

volunteer hours contributed by Open Door students

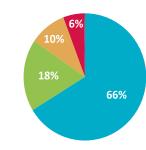


"I want to give back to the community and do something for change. And it's the best way for me to learn, too."

– Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed, former Open Door student, current Open Door volunteer

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 Complete financial statements available at mnliteracy.org Dollars in thousands



Where did our support come from?

\$2,987 Government grants
824 Program service fees; other
439 Corporate and foundation grants
248 Contributions; special events

11 In-kind contributions\$4,509 Total support and revenue

10% 41%

How did we spend our money?

\$1,850 Serving Minnesotans
1,814 Supporting organizations
453 Administration
355 Fundraising

\$4,472 Total expenses



Assets

\$1,112 Cash and cash equivalents

755 Endowment

546 Accounts/grants receivable

03 Other current assets

30 Long-term assets

\$2,647 Total assets

Liabilities and Net Assets

\$721 Board designated permanent endowment

518 Temporarily restricted net assets

15 Unrestricted net assets

00 Board designated net assets

4 Accrued expenses; other current liabilities

78 Accounts payable

\$2,647 Total liabilities and net assets

THANK YOU, DONORS!

Contributions from July 1, 2016 to June 30,

Provide life-changing literacy skills for future generations. Please remember the Minnesota Literacy Council in your will.

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\$20,000 - \$99,999

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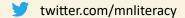




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