STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN

MINNESOTA LITERACY COUNCIL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT
“My favorite thing about 2017 was seeing the huge increase in volunteers who got involved with volunteering 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

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.

Subscribers logged OVER 200 calls and letters to elected officials!

“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
2017 – A YEAR OF STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN TO...

Promote the power of learning

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.

Foster inclusion

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

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!

18 Open Door students giving back as volunteers

1,360 volunteer hours contributed by Open Door students

“Parle-moi d’une étoile” by Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed, former Open Door student, current Open Door volunteer

“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

Lead the way

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!

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

Complete financial statements available at mnliteracy.org

Dollars in Thousands

Where did our support come from?

- Government grants $2,987
- Program service fees; other 824
- Corporate and foundation grants 439
- Contributions; special events 248
- In-kind contributions 11

Total support and revenue $4,509

How did we spend our money?

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

Total expenses $4,472

Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents $1,112
- Endowment 755
- Accounts/grants receivable 546
- Other current assets 203
- Long-term assets 30

Total assets $2,647

Liabilities and Net Assets

- Board designated permanent endowment $721
- Temporarily restricted net assets 518
- Unrestricted net assets 515
- Board designated net assets 500
- Accrued expenses; other current liabilities 314
- Accounts payable 78

Total liabilities and net assets $2,647

$4,472 Total expenses

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.

$4,509 Total support and revenue

$2,987 Government grants

$1,850 Serving Minnesotans

$4,472 Total expenses
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