

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LITERACY
SERVICES
of INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



JoAnn Hitt

Dear Friends of Literacy Services of IRC,

I am delighted to report that LSIRC had another successful year helping our students achieve their literacy related goals! Whether it be passing the GED, the U.S. Citizenship exam, or learning to communicate in English, the lives of our adult students and their families are improved immeasurably through our tutoring services made possible by your support. I hope that you find the stories of four of our students included in this annual report heartwarming. We couldn't help students like Silvia, Glenn, Genesis and Jessica without our volunteer tutors who are the heart of our organization. Likewise, our tutors need the support of our staff and the educational materials and technology which our grantors and donors' financial support makes possible. The Board and staff extend our gratitude to our volunteer tutors and financial supporters for helping our students achieve their life changing literacy and citizenship goals!

The demand for our services remains high as demonstrated by a constantly long waiting list for a new student to be matched with a tutor. We are expanding our outreach for new tutors but we also ask you to spread the word. A few hours a week is all that is required to change a life for the better.

Finally, I'd like to recognize some recent changes to our hardworking staff. Elida Gomez was promoted to Program Manager and Rose Tomani has joined the team to support our volunteer tutors. I'd also like to thank Shannon for her leadership this past year and welcome Valerie Kines as our new Executive Director. We are thrilled to have Valerie leading the LSIRC team!

Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,
JoAnn Hitt, CPA
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

JoAnn Hitt, CPA, President
Lauren Michaels, Vice President
Chris Locke, CPA, Treasurer
Captain Joseph Abollo
Samia Bennouna
Nick Bruce, CFP
Kent Jones
Judge Paul Kanarek
Karen Malits
Sandy Mann
John Musselman
Christine Steinkrauss
Lorna Stengel

STAFF

Valerie Kines, Executive Director
Elida Gomez, Program Manager
Andreina Curiel, Program Support Specialist
Rose Tomani, Tutor Support & Volunteer Coordinator

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Operating Overview*

Literacy Services of IRC (LSIRC) received income of \$331,784 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This amount includes \$262,696 in contributions and grants, \$47,683 from special events and \$21,405 from investment income and in kind donations. Expenses totaled \$305,800 of which 67.6% was spent on direct program services such as staff salaries, training our volunteer tutors and essential educational supplies; 19.8% was spent on organizational management; and 12.6% was spent on fundraising. LSIRC had net assets of \$494,677 on June 30, 2024, including \$57,180 in our endowment.

Thanks to LSIRC's 135 volunteer tutors, we served 358 students with 10,380 individual and small group class instructional hours.



Shannon Maitland

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

This report is a celebration of our collective achievements and transformative impact through the power of education.

This year brought both challenges and opportunities. In the face of adversity, we witnessed the courage of our learners, the compassion of our tutors, and the unwavering support from our partners and donors. Together, we provided the tools, resources, and encouragement necessary to help adults strengthen their literacy skills, pursue their dreams, and open doors to new opportunities.

Whether through one-on-one tutoring, group classes, or innovative digital programs, our impact has been profound. We've seen individuals gain confidence, secure better employment, support their children's education, and improve their quality of life. Each success story reminds us of the vital role literacy plays in breaking the cycle of poverty, fostering independence, and creating a more inclusive society.

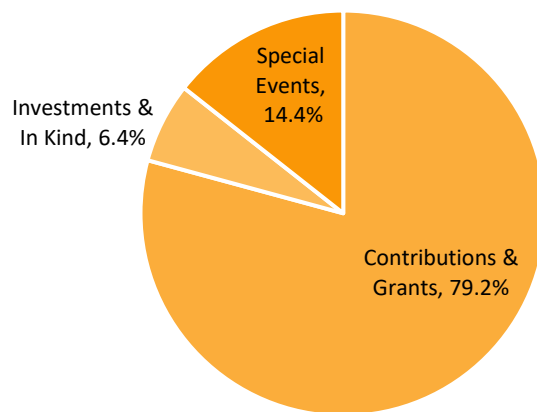
None of this would have been possible without your belief in our mission. Your generous support has fueled our ability to reach more learners, adapt to new challenges, and expand our services to meet the growing needs of our community.

It is difficult to say farewell to you all, as there is still much to be done to ensure that every adult has access to the literacy skills they need to thrive.

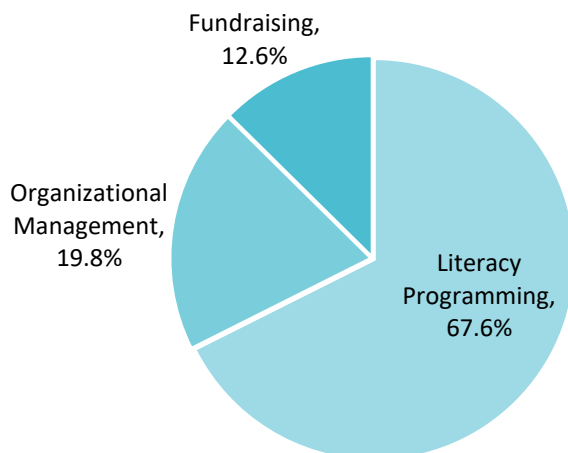
Thank you for being a part of this important journey. We changed lives, together, one word at a time. I will miss you all and am grateful for the time we had together.

Sincerely,
Shannon Maitland, MPA
Former Executive Director

INCOME



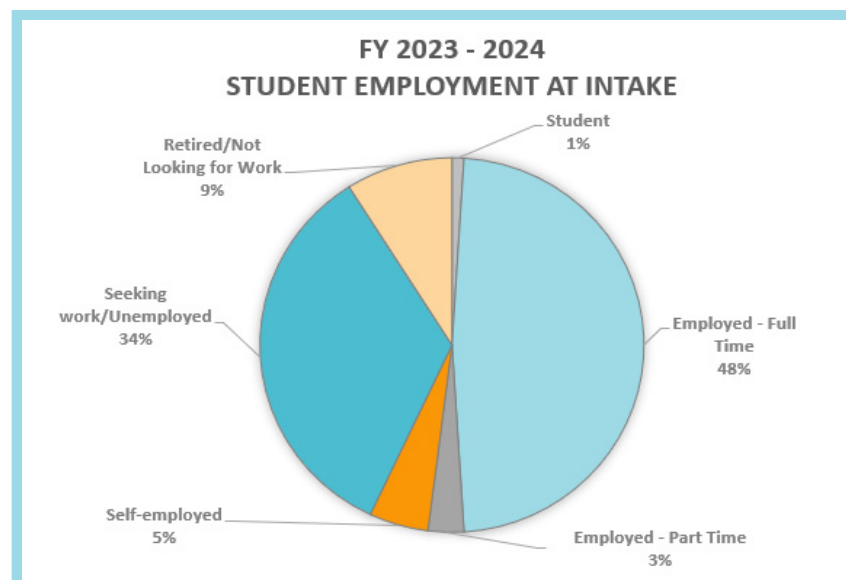
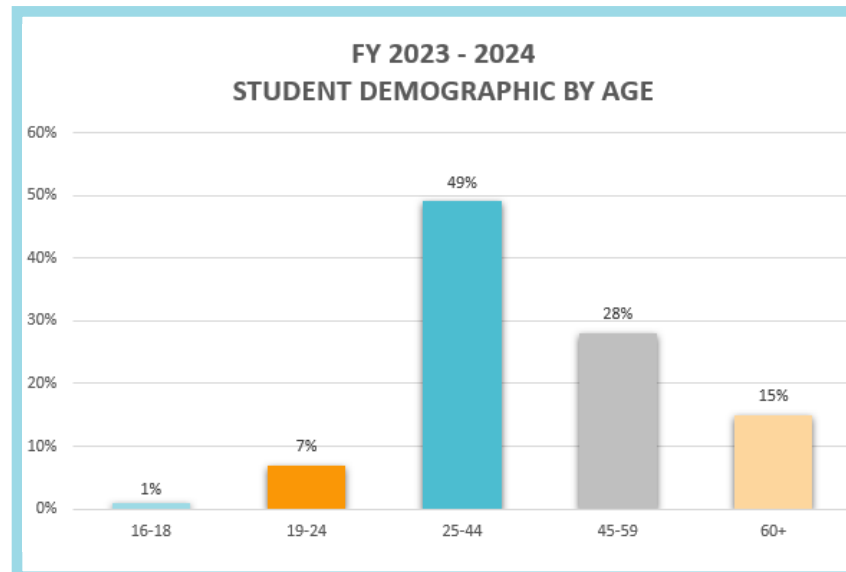
EXPENSES



*Audited financials available upon request or on our website

Demographics

In FY 2023-24, our 358 students came from 33 countries, including the United States. They resided throughout Indian River County with 33% in Central Vero, 23% in Oslo/South Vero, 19% in Fellsmere, 13% in Gifford/Wabasso and 12% in Sebastian. Seventy-five percent of our students were female and forty-three percent of our students were the parents of young children.



Our 135 volunteer tutors provided 10,380 instructional hours, including 17 small group classes, last year! Our students achieved 648 English language literacy goals including:

11

Students passed the rigorous United States Citizenship Exam

3

Students earned a GED or a high school diploma

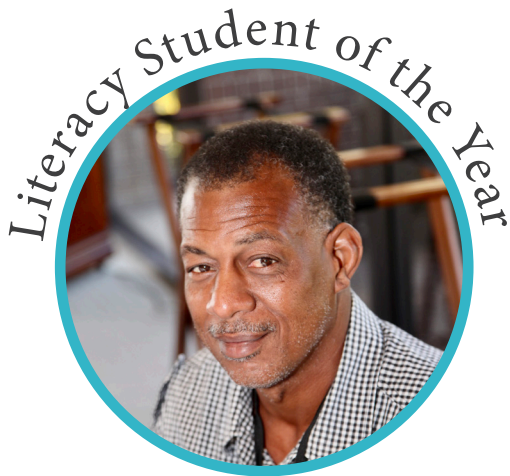
41

Students improved their employment

10

Students enrolled in College or Technical School

Students of the Year



Glenn Brown

Glenn grew up in Gifford and has a high school diploma. He aspired to be a personal trainer but struggled with technical language in the Personal Trainer Certification exam. After working with a LSIRC tutor for several months, Glenn passed the exam and secured employment with a local fitness studio! He then set a new goal and worked with his tutor to pass the Track Official Certification exam. He can now officiate track and field events!



Silvia Monreal

After working with a LSIRC tutor for six years to improve her English, Silvia recently earned her high school diploma and Home Health Care Certificate through the IRC Library's Career Online High School. Providing a good life and education for her children motivates Silvia! She plans to keep studying and work in health care.



Jessica Gutierrez Rodriguez

Jessica grew up in Colombia where she earned a college degree and was a social worker. She spoke minimal English when she started to work with her LSIRC tutor. Her tutor describes Jessica as a "model learner/student." Jessica's English language skills have improved considerably in less than a year and she is focused on becoming fully bilingual and expanding her employment opportunities.



Genesis Patino

Genesis was a doctor in Venezuela. When she started with her LSIRC tutor in early 2023, she could read and write intermediate English but she needed to improve her listening comprehension and speaking skills. As a result of her improved English, Genesis has become a certified Medical Assistant and now works at a local medical facility. She aspires to become a licensed physician in the U.S.

Our Volunteer Tutors

Many thanks to our tutors for generously dedicating their time and efforts to assist our students on their learning and U.S. citizenship journeys. The list below recognizes those FY 2023-2024 tutors who have volunteered for multiple years.

15+ Years of Service

Carol Martin
Carol Robertson

10 - 14 Years of Service

Janet Amos
Emil Barbosa
Linda Barker
Jane Bentley
Jeannine Cohoe
Penelope Devereux
Ursula Duguid
Violante Fioravanti
Herb Fitzgibbon
Karen Formont
Marlene Fyffe
Mike Godown
Peggy Goodknight
Janie Gould
Paul Coulet
Richard Hanson
Ann Hill
Pat Holland
Judith Holmes
Kent Jones
Suzanne Jones
Kathy Klein
Lorraine Ledford
Linda Lemay
Thomas Maguire
Miriam Marrero
Charles McNatt
Ricki Michals
Jenifer Mina
Fabienne Modesitt

10 - 14 Years of Service

Betty Jane Moulton
William Moulton
Pat O'Hara
Mary Pflieger
Hugh Reichardt
Nancy Reichardt
Larry Salustro
Jim Schorner
Faye Sheppard
Emily Sherwood
Sheila Small
Alisha Smaniotto
Vicki Snell
Judy Stang
Christine Steinkrauss
Nancy Stiefel
Herminio Torres
Linda Villamil
Carol Williams
John Wolaver

5 - 9 Years of Service

Marguerite Barbuti
Christine Cram
Dick Detwiler
Marilyn Gartner
Ellen Gold
Dick Gordon
Randy Groom
Margaret Hearndon
Peter Hires
Eduardo Jacome
Karen Leedahl
Janine Manley

5 - 9 Years of Service

Lauren Michaels
Domenic Restuccia
Robert Schlamowitz
James Wheeler

2 - 4 Years of Service

Kathy Baldino
Rebecca Barnhouse
Terri Bittner
Margaret Cericola
Linda Congdon
JoAnne Finnegan
Kim Gaponiuk
Joy Gates
Reet Hayden
Kitty Kennedy
Nancy Kerins
Connie Lewis
Eugene O'Neill
Nancy Parson
David Pearson
Suzie Piraino
Nancy Rea
Rita Richardson
Rob Volsky
Kathy Walsh
Lori White
Susan Young
Gary Zierden

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this tutor list. To report a correction, please call (772) 778-2223

How You Can Help

Give: Your tax-deductible donation is vital to our students' success.

Online: www.literacyservicesirc.org

By Mail: Literacy Services of Indian River County, 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Volunteer: We have a long list of students waiting for a tutor.

It only requires 1-3 hours per week.

Share: Tell your friends and family about our life-changing work.



SCAN TO DONATE

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.

Trilogy \$25,000+

Kingsbury Family Fund
Susan R. Sheehan Charitable Fund

Book \$10,000 - \$24,999

Mrs. James W. Titelman

Story \$5,000-\$9,999

Four-Four Foundation
Minotty Family Foundation
Larry and Susan Salustro
Syde Hurdus Foundation Inc.

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

Mr. and Mrs. John Curley
Bernard A. Egan Foundation
The Hitt Family Foundation
Kent Jones and Mary Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. John T. La Duc
Ms. Wanda Lincoln
Mike and Sue White

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

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Carney
Deborah P. Clarke
Chuck and Francie Cramb
Barbara and Dick Detwiler
Rene and Alice Donars
Mary P. Graves Endowment Fund
George and Marlen Higgs
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson
The Kahle Foundation
Carol and Paul Kanarek
Gaye McIntosh Ludwig
The Family of Don Mann
Robert F. and Eleonora W. McCabe Fund
Ms. Lauren Michaels
Yvonne Ottaviano
The Michael J. Pierce & Kathleen R. Pierce Fund
Dom and Julie Restuccia
Art Ryan (Ryan Family Foundation)
Barbara Snider

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

Lorna and Bill Stengel
William and Wendy Stengel
Woodruff & Jennifer Sutton Charitable Fund

Verse \$500 - \$999

Ms. Lois W. Appleby
Ms. Shirley Becker
Michael Beechem, Ph.D. and Ms. Susan Kamer
Samia Bennouna
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bickford
Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Susie Brinckerhoff
Mr. and Mrs. Suzy Bromwell
Susan Caito
Jennifer Cole
Janet and Mike Edwards
Ms. Roxanne Leighton
Ms. Martha Lemasters
Mr. Robert F. B. Logan
Charles Mappin and Robert Franklin
George and Ricki Michals
Toby and Charles Milner
John and Linda Musselman
Mike and Susan Neilson
Ms. Barbara Richey
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Severino
Susan J. Smith
Bob and Carmen Stork
Cheryl Trotta
Mr. Peter Walker

Grantors & Businesses

B&W Quality Growers, LLC
Bruce Estate Law PLLC
Camp-Younts Foundation
Dick and Betsy DeVos Family Foundation
Dingwall Architecture
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Exchange Club of Fellsmere
Florida Power & Light Company
Florida Top Shield Roofing
George E. Warren Corporation

Grantors & Businesses

Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program, Inc.
Head, Heart & Hands of Indian River Club
Indian River Community Foundation
iThink Financial
J.M. Hopwood Charitable Trust
John's Island Community Service League
John's Island Foundation
Lulich & Attorneys
Melissa M. Medlock, CPA, P.A.
Minuteman Press
Nora Roberts Foundation
ProLiteracy
Rotary Club of Vero Beach Sunrise
United Way of Indian River County
Vero Beach Mitsubishi

Gifts Made in Memory and Honor of

Ms. Lois W. Appleby in Memory of Alma Lee Loy
George and Marlen Higgs in Memory of Don Mann
Mrs. Sandy Mann in Memory of Simone Walker
Toby and Charles Milner in Honor of Lorna Stengel
The Michael J. Pierce & Kathleen R. Pierce Fund in Memory of Kathie Pierce
Larry and Susan Salustro in Honor of Elida Gomez
Woodruff & Jennifer Sutton Charitable Fund in Memory of Simone Walker
Mr. Peter Walker in Memory of Simone Walker

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. To report a correction, please call (772) 778-2223

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

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

*Deceased



(772) 778-2223

info@literacyservicesirc.org

www.literacyservicesirc.org

IRC Main Library
1600 21st Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

North County Library
1001 Sebastian Boulevard
Sebastian, FL 32958

Brackett Library
6155 College Ln
Vero Beach, FL 32966

Fellsmere City
Administration Building
21 S. Cypress Street
Fellsmere, FL 32948

