



LITERACY ACTION

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# Empowering Adults to Reach Their Highest Potential



LETTER *from the* BOARD CHAIR

**A**s we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Literacy Action's founding, I am prompted to reflect on the profound impact the organization has had in the Atlanta community.

For five decades, adult learners at Literacy Action have found the tools and the confidence they need to make powerful changes in their lives. Some students enjoy increased independence as they learn to interpret a bus schedule, read to their children, or balance a checkbook. Others seek to sharpen the skills that will enable them to excel in the workforce or obtain their GED. Regardless of the circumstances that bring adult learners to Literacy Action, they will receive an education that enables them to pursue their goals and improve their lives.

Today, Literacy Action is at a pivotal point in its history, having recently relocated its main educational facility to a new space that will propel the organization forward by broadening its reach and impact. Literacy Action continues to grow, as evidenced by more than doubling our participants in just the last three years alone. While the growth is significant, so is the need, and the community can rest assured that our approach to it is strategic and disciplined. In fact, **in 2017, the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta named Literacy Action as a recipient of the prestigious Managing for Excellence Award.**

On behalf of our adult learners and graduates, our Board of Trustees, staff, and volunteers, we thank you! With your support, Literacy Action can continue to build a better future for Atlanta's undereducated adults and their families, for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Althea Broughton

**Our mission is to build better futures for undereducated adults by teaching literacy, life and work skills that empower them to reach their highest potential.**

*Literacy Action's vision is to set the standard of excellence in the field of adult basic education and to ultimately eradicate low literacy, a root cause of poverty, in the Atlanta area.*

## Program Areas

-  **Adult Basic Education.** Literacy Action offers free Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes annually across five levels of reading, writing, and mathematics, as well as GED preparation. With a strengthened foundation of basic educational concepts, adult learners find new confidence and skills to live independently, embrace life, and pursue their goals for the future.
-  **English for Speakers of Other Languages.** Literacy Action provides English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes at 12 different locations throughout metro Atlanta by collaborating with various partner organizations and local housing authorities. There are three levels of ESOL as well as English Conversation sessions and Citizenship preparation courses.
-  **Workforce Literacy.** The Workforce Literacy curriculum is designed for students who are seeking job advancement. Students receive training in the “soft skills” necessary to navigate a work environment, such as professional image, effective communication, collaboration, conflict resolution, customer service, strategic thinking, and time management.
-  **Family Literacy.** Family Literacy classes highlight the caregiver’s role in a child’s academic success and help foster a culture of learning within the family. The goal of the program is to equip adult learners with reading skills while encouraging literacy and academic success in their children and grandchildren.
-  **Digital Literacy.** The Digital Literacy program empowers adults to utilize technology as a tool to self-sufficiency. Adult learners are taught to become active participants in the digital age by acquiring skills such as accessing email, using word processing software, applying for jobs online, or navigating a smart phone.



# STUDENT STORIES

*of* TRANSFORMATION

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*“Literacy isn't just about reading, writing, and comprehension. It's about culture, professionalism, and social outlook.”*

— Taylor Ellwood

# BEN

**T**he inspiration for Ben to obtain his GED started with a simple question from his youngest son at a relative's high school graduation: "Daddy, do you have yours?"

*Ben dropped out of high school nearly 30 years ago to provide for his family. He found financial stability through providing services such as roof repairs, painting, and other jobs throughout the years. He came to Literacy Action in 2014 with two goals, to obtain his GED and to secure a better job to support his family. While taking classes, he met one-on-one with Literacy Action's Transitions Manager and participated in many of the department's offerings including Resume Building, Interview Skills, and Dressing For Success workshops.*

*In addition to faithfully attending Literacy Action courses, he completed the Department of Labor's GeorgiaBEST program. The GeorgiaBEST certification serves as validation to employers that students have displayed strong work habits that will foster success in higher education and in the workplace.*

*Today, Ben has completed his GED and is working towards his certification in residential wiring. When asked what he would tell his son in the future, he states, "It's not where you start, but where you finish!"*





## STUDENT STORIES *of* TRANSFORMATION

# DEBORA

**A**cclimating to life in a new country *is a challenge in and of itself. Originally from Argentina, Debora's native language is Spanish. When she arrived in the United States in 2016 with her family, she quickly realized the need to **strengthen her English skills to get a job.***

*She started taking English classes at the Literacy Action Decatur site in January 2017. She has already moved from Beginning to Advanced English courses in one year. Debora credits her teacher's patience and diligence for her quick advancement. In addition, she has taken advantage of the opportunities to learn American culture through class activities, as well as to make friends with international students from many countries around the world.*

*Growth in adult learners' self-confidence is nearly as important as their academic progress. She now feels confident, empowered, and ready to take on the language barriers that prohibit so many others from success. Debora now enjoys practicing English, reading with her children, and feeling confident enough to continue her job search.*

**“Thanks to my English knowledge, I now have a new voice!”**

# ANQUETTE

**A**nquette enjoyed learning until middle school. As an articulate and outgoing child, it was difficult for her to understand her learning challenges and why she was placed in special education. Despite these obstacles, she received her high school diploma, but knew there was more for her in life.

*She came to Literacy Action in 2014, seeking to enhance her core and test taking skills for the college entrance exam. While attending college prep classes at Literacy Action, Anquette maintained a supervisory role as a Security Console Specialist, where she was able to showcase her strong managerial skills. While sharpening her reading and math skills, she worked closely with the Transitions Department to plan for her post-secondary education and immediate goals.*

*She is currently enrolled in the Associate degree program for General Sociology at Georgia Perimeter College. She is still actively involved in the alumni program that serves to provide mentorship to currently enrolled students and is completing her work study placement with Literacy Action. When asked what her ultimate professional goal is, she stated, **“My goal is to wake up each day loving what I do, while making a difference in society.”***





# MARINA

## A Focus on Dual Generational Learning

**T**he causes of low literacy are inter-related and often originate early in life. As with poverty, there is an intergenerational cycle of low literacy that is difficult to break. Research has found that children whose parents have low literacy levels have a 72 percent chance of reading behind grade level themselves. In addition, more than five million children in the United States enter school each year speaking a primary language other than English. That amount is expected to grow to 25% by the year 2025.

Our role in this is to continue to bring literacy programming to adults and children in their communities. We provide these services to English and non-native English speaking parents through partnerships with Atlanta Public Schools and Dekalb County Schools, as well as partnerships with organizations like Emmaus House.

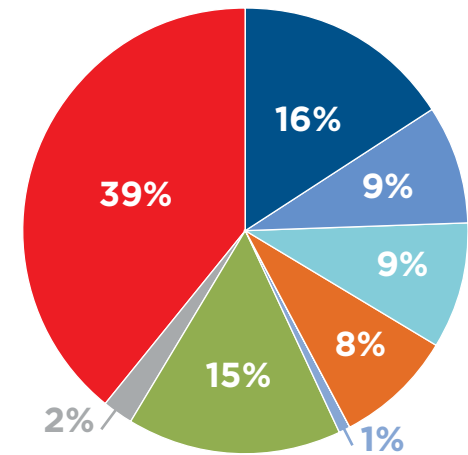


*At Literacy Action, one of the most rewarding accomplishments we witness is the increase in our students' confidence and understanding of how to support their child's academic journey.*



# Key Numbers

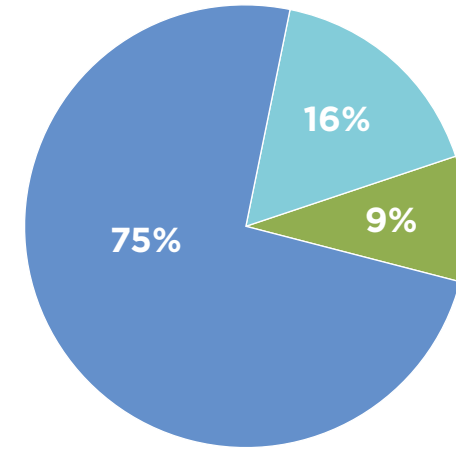
**Revenue**  
**\$2,957,412**



<b>Foundations</b> \$472,097   16%	<b>Investments</b> \$23,251   1%
<b>Individuals</b> \$255,534   9%	<b>Capital Campaign</b> \$455,300   15%
<b>Government</b> \$271,891   9%	<b>Special Events</b> \$67,758   2%
<b>Business</b> \$250,548   8%	<b>Other*</b> \$1,154,888   39%
<b>Fee for Service</b> \$6,145   0%	

*\*In FY 2017, Literacy Action received a one time financial transaction due to a move relocation. This figure is represented in the Other category.*

**Expenses**  
**\$2,117,702**



<b>Program</b> \$1,574,948   75%
<b>Fundraising</b> \$349,066   16%
<b>Administrative</b> \$193,688   9%

# Community Partners

**building a literate community together**



100 Black Men of Atlanta  
Alpharetta Library  
Atlanta Center for Self-Sufficiency  
Atlanta Housing Authority  
Atlanta Metropolitan State College  
Atlanta Mission  
Atlanta Technical College  
Boys & Girls Club  
Center for the Visually Impaired  
Center for Working Families  
City of Atlanta  
Clarkston Community Center  
Construction Education of GA (CEFGA)  
Decatur Housing Authority  
Decatur Rec Center  
DeKalb County HHS  
DeKalb County Schools  
DeKalb Library Systems  
Department of Labor of North Georgia  
Department of Labor of South Metro Atlanta  
Dress for Success Atlanta  
Educational Oportunity Center  
Emmaus House  
First Step Staffing

Fulton County HHS  
Georgia Department of Veteran Services  
Georgia Department of Labor  
Georgia DFACS  
Georgia Justice Project  
Georgia Law Center for the Homeless  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency  
GoodWill of North Atlanta  
Integrity Community Transformations Corporation  
International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
Junior League of Atlanta  
Lovett School  
New American Pathways  
NTEN  
Per Scholas  
Proliteracy  
Salvation Army/Joan Corps Community Center  
Social Security Administration  
TCSG  
Urban League of Greater Atlanta  
Westside Works  
WorkSource Georgia  
Year UP

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 Macy's  
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**\$25,000+**

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 Wells Fargo Foundation

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“I fell in love with the organization and its passion for providing adult learners the tools they need to make powerful changes in their lives. Serving on the Board of Trustees has allowed me to see the important work that Literacy Action does and its impact on the Atlanta community as a whole.”



*Ashley Hamilton*  
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## In Loving Memory of Terry Hollis

Terry began volunteering with Literacy Action and then moved into a teacher role several years ago.

Terry exuded joy and passion. He was incredibly dedicated to our organization, which allowed him to connect with students on a deeper level and partner with them to reach their academic goals.

We are grateful for Terry's impact on the lives of our students, staff, and community as a whole. He will be deeply missed.





**Thank you  
for your  
support!**