Challenging the Narrative

2018 — 2019
Dear Friend,

As we reflect on last fiscal year, it signals a time to examine what we have achieved and what remains to be accomplished. With the support of individuals like you, Literacy Action offered 115 tuition-free and stigma-free classes at all levels of literacy, as well as programs to help our adult learners apply their new skills to the workplace, to higher education, and to help their children and grandchildren succeed in school. We also launched expanded digital literacy classes that will prepare students to enter the workforce with the technological foundation they need to succeed.

While we are energized by these outcomes, we are eager to embark upon methods for greater impact in the years to come. The start of this fiscal year kicked off a new strategic plan and deeper partnerships with workforce training providers, Georgia State University, and community allies to strengthen our wraparound services to identify and address barrier mitigation.

Each of our students comes to us with unique life circumstances and reasons they have not received the necessary education to move toward their goals. While we recognize the challenges that they face, we recognize that education is the platform that makes it possible to defeat all barriers and transform lives.

We thank everyone who has joined us on the journey to educate our adult population. We are grateful for our partners, funders and supporters. We challenge everyone to put adult literacy in the forefront of your thoughts, conversations and efforts. It takes a community to move a community.

Sincerely,

Addison Meriwether
Chair, Literacy Action Board of Trustees
2018-2019
BY THE NUMBERS

389 students participated in core adult education classes in reading, writing, mathematics, and GED preparation.

80 students participated in core ESL classes and 289 in conversation classes at local library branches.

100 students participated in digital literacy classes in keyboarding, word processing, tablet use, and more.

118 students participated in electives such as family literacy, citizenship preparation, and work readiness.

21 students earned their GED, with an additional 28 students passing at least one subject area of the exam.

67% of post-tested students made an academic gain.

59 students found new or improved employment with assistance from Literacy Action.

20 students enrolled in a post-secondary education or workforce training program upon graduating.

2 students obtained U.S. citizenship.
I think the best thing about Literacy Action is that the students encourage each other to keep pushing. Everyone here has their own story, own goal, and is looking to learn.

My favorite place here is the Success Center. When I need a break from studying for my math exams, I find myself browsing the books in there and finding a new novel to read. Books have always been my pass to another world. A world that is far from me but if I keep learning and keep pushing could be a reality someday.

Literacy Action keeps offering new opportunities for students to get new skills. While I am strengthening my math skills, I am also taking a Microsoft Office Certification test. My goal is to come out not only stronger in reading and math but with a certification that I can take to the next level!

Sara
ESL, Civics, & IT Fundamentals

Literacy Action helped me make a commitment to myself to achieve my goals.

In 2012, I moved to the United States hoping to find work and better opportunities than I had in my home country of Colombia. But because I spoke limited English, employers always underestimated my skills, and it was hard to find a good job. I knew I needed to make a change in my life. I wanted to improve my English, become a U.S. citizen, and advance my career.

At Literacy Action, I took classes in English and Civics, which helped prepare me for the citizenship exam. In February 2019, I passed the exam and became a U.S. citizen!

Now, I have just completed an IT Fundamentals class at Literacy Action. I am looking for an IT job that will increase my earnings in the short term and I have applied to degree programs in radiology as well. Literacy Action has helped me a lot to improve my English, my life, and my career. It’s never too late to start over!

Michael
Intermediate Math & Microsoft Office

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Shanaya
GED Graduate

What a difference a year makes! When I started Literacy Action in 2018, I was scared but knew that I needed to make a change for my future and for my kids. I was homeless, struggling to find steady work and raising two kids.

Although I was fighting many obstacles and so many curveballs were thrown at me, I still worked hard and studied as much as I could. I saw my goal of obtaining my GED and I refused to give up!

This year, I am proud to announce that I am a GED graduate and will be attending Atlanta Technical College in January 2020 for an Associate’s Degree in Phlebotomy. I am so thankful for the Literacy Action program and all that its staff has done to support me and push me toward a better future.

Financials
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Revenue and Support
Contributions $628,349
Grants $924,197
Investment income $17,725
Other income $77,322
Total Revenue and Support $1,647,593

Expenses
Program services $1,129,929
Management and general $325,374
Fundraising $181,053
Total Expenses $1,636,356

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
Assets
Cash and cash equivalents $494,719
Investments $232,114
Accounts receivable $998
Grants and pledges receivable $199,777
Prepaid expenses $23,927
Property and equipment, net $88,695
Other assets $22,969
Total Assets $1,063,199

Liabilities
Accounts payable and accrued expenses $93,155
Deferred rent $44,702
Total Liabilities $137,857

Net Assets
Without donor restrictions $727,221
With donor restrictions $198,121
Total Net Assets $925,342

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $1,063,199

For a full copy of our audited financial statements, email development@literacyaction.org

Revenue $1,647,593
Expenses $1,636,356
Our mission is to build better futures by empowering adults with literacy, life, and work skills.