Literacy KC’s mission is to advance literacy throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area through direct services, advocacy, and collaboration. Our vision is literacy for all.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Instructional Hours</th>
<th>8519.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours Logged in the Computer Lab</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of Families Reading Together in Let’s Read</td>
<td>860</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dear Supporter,

Literacy KC has come so very far from its humble beginnings, and as one year draws to a close and another begins, I’d like to take a moment to reflect on some of the things this journey together has taught us. With an unwavering focus on the fundamental and comprehensive effect improving literacy has on the lives of our students and families, Literacy KC remains dedicated to finding the most effective and meaningful way to teach adults various aspects of literacy. And over time, we have learned a lot.

First, we have learned that we have more friends than we ever knew. Folks like our community partners, event sponsors, and individual supporters, without whom our Spelling Bee, Literacy for All Luncheon, or Books, Brains, and Boulevard trivia night wouldn’t be nearly as successful, or nearly as fun.

Second, we have learned that people offer help in the most generous, surprising, and resourceful ways; people like our Board of Directors and our amazing Literacy KC volunteers and tutors, without whom the success of the organization and the realization of our mission wouldn’t be possible.

A third lesson that seems to be learned over and over again is that there is always more work to be done, work that would never be accomplished with such passion, competence, or success without our dedicated staff and classroom instructors.

But perhaps the biggest lesson we learn again and again throughout the years is the reason all of these other lessons have been learned: that this isn’t about what I’ve learned. It isn’t about what staff, volunteers, or even supporters have learned. This is the story of our students; the story of the families of our students; the stories of the lives of our students. It’s OUR story, collectively, together. And as you’ll see, we’ve dedicated this report to showcasing as many aspects of this combined story as possible. Because really, our mission may be changing students’ lives, but it’s this collective story that ends up changing each and every one of us.

Thank you for joining us in this story and in dedication to our vision of literacy for all. May we have many more chapters yet to come.

Gillian Helm, Executive Director
In 2016, literacy means more than the ability to read and write. It incorporates digital literacy, comprehension, and critical thinking. Now more than ever, a high school diploma or equivalency is a necessity for a successful career and living wage. Today's parents need the skills and resources necessary to support their children's education and combat the inter-generational effects of low literacy. Literacy KC's comprehensive suite of services has evolved to meet the literacy needs of the estimated 225,000 adults in the Kansas City area who read below an 8th grade level. All programs and classes are a free community resource.

**Ticket to Read**

offers a safe, welcoming classroom learning environment that breaks down educational traumas through supportive tutors and collaborative peer learning. Each learner sets specific goals. Instruction is tailored to that learner’s needs, and utilizes differentiated lesson plans and level-appropriate curriculum. Students have additional access to selected online learning software programs, math tutoring, computer classes, and writing workshops to help with personal goals. The Ticket to Read program gives learners necessary skills to achieve their dreams.

Families now have the opportunity to read together in our *Let's Read: Family Reading Program* sessions. Each week, parents and children spend an hour reading, laughing, and playing together. Parents learn reading strategies to incorporate into their daily lives, and families leave each session with a brand new book. In 2016, Let’s Read served 132 parents, 205 children, and distributed 559 books. By equipping parents with the skills and books they need, families can build a tradition of reading in the home. Many adult learners come to Literacy KC because they are deeply motivated by a desire to help their own children succeed in school.

**Families now have the opportunity to read together in our *Let's Read: Family Reading Program* sessions.**

In a nationally unique partnership, Literacy KC, Mid-Continent Public Library, and Kansas City Public Library teamed up to bring **Career Online High School** to Kansas City. Students benefit from an anytime, anywhere online learning platform, with academic coaches to support students in reaching their educational and career goals. Since its launch in January 2016, 309 individuals have started the COHS application process. Of the 309 that started the self-assessment, 30 possessed the skills, access, and motivation needed to become successful candidates in the program and were awarded full scholarships. The others are encouraged to join the Ticket to Read program or to develop their computer skills in our lab before attempting the application process again. In its first full year, Career Online High School boasts 3 graduates and 30 active scholarship students.

**Career Online High School**

boasts 3 graduates and 30 active scholarship students.

Literacy KC allows students multiple points of entry into services, increasing our reach and effectiveness. Parents in Let’s Read sessions may lack a High School credential, and so they choose to enroll in Career Online High School to show their children the importance of education. Our computer lab has become a safe space to practice computer skills, not only for Literacy KC learners, but also for our partner agencies’ clients, leading to countless referrals to our other programs. The mutually reinforcing programs work together to increase literacy in the Kansas City metropolitan area and provide adults and families with the foundational literacy skills needed to thrive.

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**Literacy KC offers a welcoming community for adults and families to improve literacy skills and enhance quality of life. With support from volunteers, donors, partners, and the community at large, Literacy KC invests in Kansas City’s greatest asset - our people.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours Donated</td>
<td>7139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Enrollment</td>
<td>527</td>
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</table>

---

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...
Ticket to Read students enter our programs with diverse skill sets. In order to best serve our students, Literacy KC pre-tests capabilities to ensure enrollment into the appropriate level of instruction.

Adult Basic Education:
The Adult Basic Education Ticket to Read classes help emerging readers solidify their ability to sound out and break down words. Using the Pathways to Reading curriculum, Adult Basic Education students gain the foundational skills required for reading success. Students begin developing spelling and writing skills, work on specific life goals, and read relevant stories.

Pre-HISET:
The Pre-HISET Ticket to Read classes help teens and adults prepare for a high school equivalency, improve reading, and build literacy skills in a safe, tuition-free environment before launching into college. Pre-HISET Ticket to Read students read and discuss books, write research papers, and work on Reading Plus, an online software program that helps students increase their reading speed and accuracy while building vocabulary and comprehension.

Ticket to Read in 2016:
8 Certified instructors
107 Volunteer tutors
381 Total program enrollment

Ticket to Read Instructional Model

Following the successful launch of the Ticket to Read program model in January 2015, formalizing the standards-based curriculum taught at Literacy KC was the next step to grow our mission and community impact. Upon review of the U.S. Department of Education College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards, as well as Common Core standards from Missouri, California, and New York, our Curriculum Team developed the Literacy KC Learning Standards.

The Learning Standards articulate essential educational foundations students need in order to meet their personal, academic, social, and occupational goals. They define what a learner should comprehend and be able to do at each of the four Ticket to Read levels. The levels incorporate the National Reading Panel’s 5 components of reading instruction essential to a strong reading program: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. In addition, digital literacy is integrated into classroom instruction to strengthen students’ computer proficiency.

Within each level, the learning standards are grouped and sequenced according to skill. Each standard builds upon the previous, and allows for systematic growth in our students. The student’s knowledge base expands as he/she advances progressively up the levels, toward success.

Throughout each level, our certified instructors utilize ongoing assessments in order to inform their instruction and track the progress students are making through these learning standards. Through targeted information, research and standards-based curriculum, differentiated instruction, student-driven goal orientation, and a focus on community learning, Literacy KC gives each student the best chance to learn and succeed.

“Thanks to Ms. Sarah and the helpers in the lab showing me how to improve my typing, I can work on my skills. I come here every day before class to get help on the computer, even on days I don’t have class!” - Albert James, Literacy KC Ticket to Read Student

Career Online High School allows students to earn an accredited high school diploma and attached career certificate with the support of an academic coach and an anytime, anywhere online learning platform.
Dear Friend of Literacy Kansas City,

It has been my pleasure to recently visit and observe the program at Literacy Kansas City. Having visited hundreds of member organizations throughout the nation, I have been in a good position to review, comment, and make recommendations relative to the general structure and operations of adult literacy programs.

My most recent visit with Literacy Kansas City has underscored the clear leadership position the organization has taken within our network of over 1000 programs nationwide. A strong commitment and focus on student achievement, innovation, and accountability have propelled the organization to the forefront of literacy programs. The effective utilization of organizational resources is resulting in solid outcomes and efficient operations that are often lacking in our field.

The very strong staff, board, and general organizational infrastructure have ensured a continuity of service that is unique—and this is a credit to the leadership of the organization. With increased resources, the organization is well positioned to continue and to expand its outreach and service with state-of-the-art program models and instructional approaches that are based on solid evidence for success.

This unwavering commitment to student success and individual outcomes, coupled with careful measurement, is a key element to effective programs. Literacy Kansas City’s program and instructional model has clearly made this a priority, and they are leading nationwide efforts in this vital element of literacy programming.

I look forward to staying in touch with the organization as it further develops its innovative approaches, and I hope to share this with our network nationwide.

Most sincerely

PETER A. WAITE | Senior Vice President
Families participate in Let’s Read at Kansas City Neighborhood Academy.

“We are working together to make reading a family tradition through high-quality text engagement, exciting extension activities, and relevant conversations with caregivers that promote best practices in literacy.”

-Marquis Hall, Let’s Read Instructor

Let’s Read
A Family Reading Program

Let’s Read is a multi-generational approach to family reading. Built to inspire a tradition of reading in the home, Let’s Read offers an action packed hour each week for caregivers and children to laugh, read, and play together. Each session centers on an interesting theme and includes age appropriate books, crafts, and reading tips. At the end of each session, families possess strategies for reading in the home, a brand new book, and great memories!

“We are working together to make reading a family tradition through high-quality text engagement, exciting extension activities, and relevant conversations with caregivers that promote best practices in literacy.”

-Marquis Hall, Let’s Read Instructor

Let’s Read in 2016:

132 Adults served
205 Children served
559 Books given to Let’s Read families

A mother’s reading skill is the greatest determinant of her child’s academic success.
Literacy KC Annual Events

“Google Fiber has been proud to engage with Literacy KC as they have led in narrowing the digital divide in Kansas City. Their hands-on and thoughtful approach to helping individuals be successful online is a great asset to our community.”

Rachel Merlo, Community Impact Manager, Google Fiber

Carrie McDonald was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her significant and inspiring work with Literacy KC.

Books, Brains, and Boulevard is an evening in January for Literacy KC volunteers, tutors, staff, and literacy advocates to come together and compete in a friendly trivia night. Attendees enjoy beer and wine donated by Boulevard, pizza, and entry to a trivia team. There is also a raffle, a series of sweet treats, and trivia life lines that are available for purchase throughout the evening.

In September, we celebrate National Literacy Month with the Literacy for All Luncheon, an event featuring community leaders, along with Literacy KC volunteers and students, speaking about the critical need for literacy in our homes, schools, and businesses – and how we are working to accomplish our vision of literacy for all.

Thank You to Our Supporters

American Century Foundation
Andrews McMeel Universal
Aubrey Vineyards
J. Eugene Balloun
Bank of America
Alan F. and Julie A. Barry Fund
Bartlett & Co. Charitable Foundation
Samuel Bennett
Jason and Bert Berkley Blue Heron Foundation
Claire and Denton Bishop
Even Black
Black and Vatch
Virginia Blanton
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
Boulevard Brewing Co.
Pete and Julie Browne
Patricia Buchanan
Burns and McDonnell Foundation
Cedar Creek Book Club
Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
Michele Chollet
Michael Churchman
Patricia Cleary Miller, Ph.D
Chris and Holly Combust
Coronado Bank and Trust
Consolidated Foundation
Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps VISTA
Curry Family Foundation
Dan’s Restaurant
Peter and Michelle DeSilva
Karl Deel
Delta Theta Chi Sorority
Eric and Cassandra Diebold
Dollar General Literacy Fund
NICK (Paul) and Lynn Douthat
Dunn Family Foundation
EBCFO
EPR Properties
Euronet Worldwide
Homer Evans
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Gary Fellows
Jim Foster
Francis Family Foundation
Judee and Daren Fox
Google Fiber
Ann Greene
Ted H. and Mary Lou Greene Foundation
Louisa Raich Grill
H & R Block Foundation
Half Price Books Community Services
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Hang Up’s in KC
Happy Faces Entertainment
Robyn Hart
Heartland Combined Federal Campaign
James Heberlein
Scott Helm
Peter Hendrixson
Henry (Hank) Herrmann
Hickok Family Foundation
Doug and Molly Hundley
Idenity
Ink Magazine
Sarah Jacobs
Stacy M. Jenison
Topper (John) Johnt
Judy Joss
Dr. Marilou Jojner
Kansas City Digital Inclusion Fund
Kansas City Human Rights Commission
Kansas City Parks and Recreation
Kansas City Public Library
Kansas City Public Schools
Kansas City Public Schools Board of Directors
The Kansas City Star
Kansa City Spaces
Kappa Kappa Gamma
William T. Kemper Foundation
Keri Kendrick
Kissick Construction Company
Jason and Beagynna Klamb
Bill Koonsigson Leo Kay Johnson
Lansing Trade Group
Ruth M. (Boots) Leiter
Majestic Rhinos, LLC
Dennis Marker
Mary Elizabeth Martin Scholarship Trust
Henry Massman
Catherine G. Mathews Charitable Fund
Stanley L. Maxwell Fund
MCC-Penn Valley
McCown, Rice, Smith, and Buchanan PC
Carrie McDonald
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund
Jane McQuerry
Susan Meier
Mid-Continent Public Library
Brenda Moore
Randy Moore
Multi Service
Gloria Murray
Jeanette Nichols
Ed Nickel
James B. Nutter & Co.
Diane Nunemaker
NTEN
Lyme and Mark O’Connell
Dr. Marilou Jojner
O’Dell Family Foundation
Oppenheim Brothers Foundation
Park University, Dept. of English
Steve Paul
Rekha Patnaik
Pompeo Hill School
Art and Susan Perry
Dj Pierre
Pierson Foundation
Judy Pfannenstiel
Earl Phillips
PNC
PNC Foundation
Andrea Porterfield
Pritchett Family
Gary and Chi Chi Puhl
Jeanne Pulsdon
Research and Training Associates
Dennis and Palle Rilinger
Brent Rogers
Paul and Amelia Rosenboom
Jean Rosenthal
Rotary Club 13 Royals Charities Inc.
RSM US LLP
Scharnhorst, Ast, Kenward, Griffin PC
Lisa Schultes
Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation
Mark Schweizer
Pat Sivee
Deneen Slack
Amanda Smith
Michael Sorenson
Toni Stancil
Morgan Stanley
State Street
Tim Sweeney
Whitney Terrell
Williams and Pam Threaten
Tension Envelope Foundation
The Temple Congregation B’nai Jehudah
Timber and Treats Inc.
Duke Tufty
UMB
UMKC Advancement
UMKC Dept. of Communication
UMKC Dept. of English
UMKC Honors College
United Way of Greater Kansas City
US Bank
US Bank Foundation
Alleen Van Bebber
Jim and Dawn Vaughn
James and Mickey Warden
Warden Grier LLP
David Waxse
Yelp Foundation

Best Sellers List

Mary I. Abbott, Ph.D.
Spenser Becker
Claire and Denton Bishop
Even Black
Barb and Lynn Brown
Nancy Clay
Antionette Clayton
Sandy and Susan Eeds
Karie Fahrenholz
Juliee and Daren Fox
Robyn Hart
Scott Helm
Cynthia Lamas
Maura Lawrence
Rebecca Maddox
Krista McFerren
Emily Overton
Tim Phillips
Bonnie Postlethwaite
Steven Potter
Doris Rogers
Mary Jo Saviano
Phoebe Schewe
Amanda Smith
Kim Van Maren
David Walburn
Civia White

Proud Partners of United Way of Greater Kansas City

Proud Partners of United Way of Greater Kansas City
Meet Literacy KC Board and Staff

Board of Directors
Lynne O’Connell, President
DJ Pierre, Vice President
Paul Rosenboom, Secretary
Julee Fox, Treasurer
James Warden, Past President
Judy Pfannenstiel, Member at Large
Laura Isabel Alvarez
Janelle Bailey
Spenser Becker

Advisory Council
Mark Schweizer, Chair
Mary I. Abbott, Ph.D.
Rachel Brown
Ruth M. (Boots) Leiter
Louisa Raich Grill
Dr. Marilou Joyner
Carrie McDonald
Dennis Siefers

“Learning to read at any age is a gift of knowledge for a lifetime. Learning to read as an adult enhances independence and improves one’s quality of life – just ask any of our students.”

Lynne O’Connell, Literacy KC Board of Directors President

Staff
Gillian Helm, Executive Director
John Teasdale, Deputy Director/Chief Development Officer
Sarah Bell, Digital Inclusion Fellow
Kate Brown, Volunteer/Community Outreach Coordinator
Nancy Clay, Instructional Assistant
Robert Day, Administrative Assistant
Phil Denver, Instructor
Kevin Dermahanian, Marketing/Communications Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA
Alice Flowers, Public Relations, AmeriCorps VISTA
Xavier Hankins, Executive Administrative Assistant
Rachel Henderson, Programs Support Coordinator
Leslie Holliday, Instructor
Angela Lutz, Writers for Readers Program Coordinator
Kim Rogers, Operations Manager
Gabriell Smith, Ticket to Read Coordinator, AmeriCorps VISTA
Lazona Stovall, Instructor
Amy Trautman, Instructional Team Leader

Meet Literacy KC Board and Staff

Financial Overview

Revenue Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Revenue vs Expenses

*$38,295 In-Kind Support

Spotlight on Events and Individual/Corporate Revenue Growth

150+ Lifetime Volunteer Hours

In 2016, 311 volunteers donated the equivalent of $195,472 or 4 full time employees.

Claudia Barwin
Jane Beasley
Helen Betts
Steve Campbell
Angie Clark
Donna Clark
Sandy Eeds
Annette Embrey
Christi Emery
Jan Forney
Eve Grant
Alice Gutierrez
Nancy Hackett
Taylor Hamilton
Wayne Hamton
Deborah Hayes
Beth Highland
Leitia Hopkins
Ronne Jennings
Judy Joss
Vicki Kolb
Charles Lille
Mary Ann
Matheis
Joe McClernon
Carrie McDonald
Mary McMeneny
Jim Mellem
Brenda Moore
Rosemary Moran
Dana Moriarty
Jeffery Moss
David Mullins
George Neas
William Patrick
Antonia Pennisi
Janice Pound
Alan Purvis
Rosemary Rice
Amanda Riley
Marla Riner
Heather Roman
Faye Sight
Allen Simon
Debbie Sokoloff
Michele Stewart
Larry Sice
William Threat

Lynne O’Connell, Literacy KC Board of Directors President