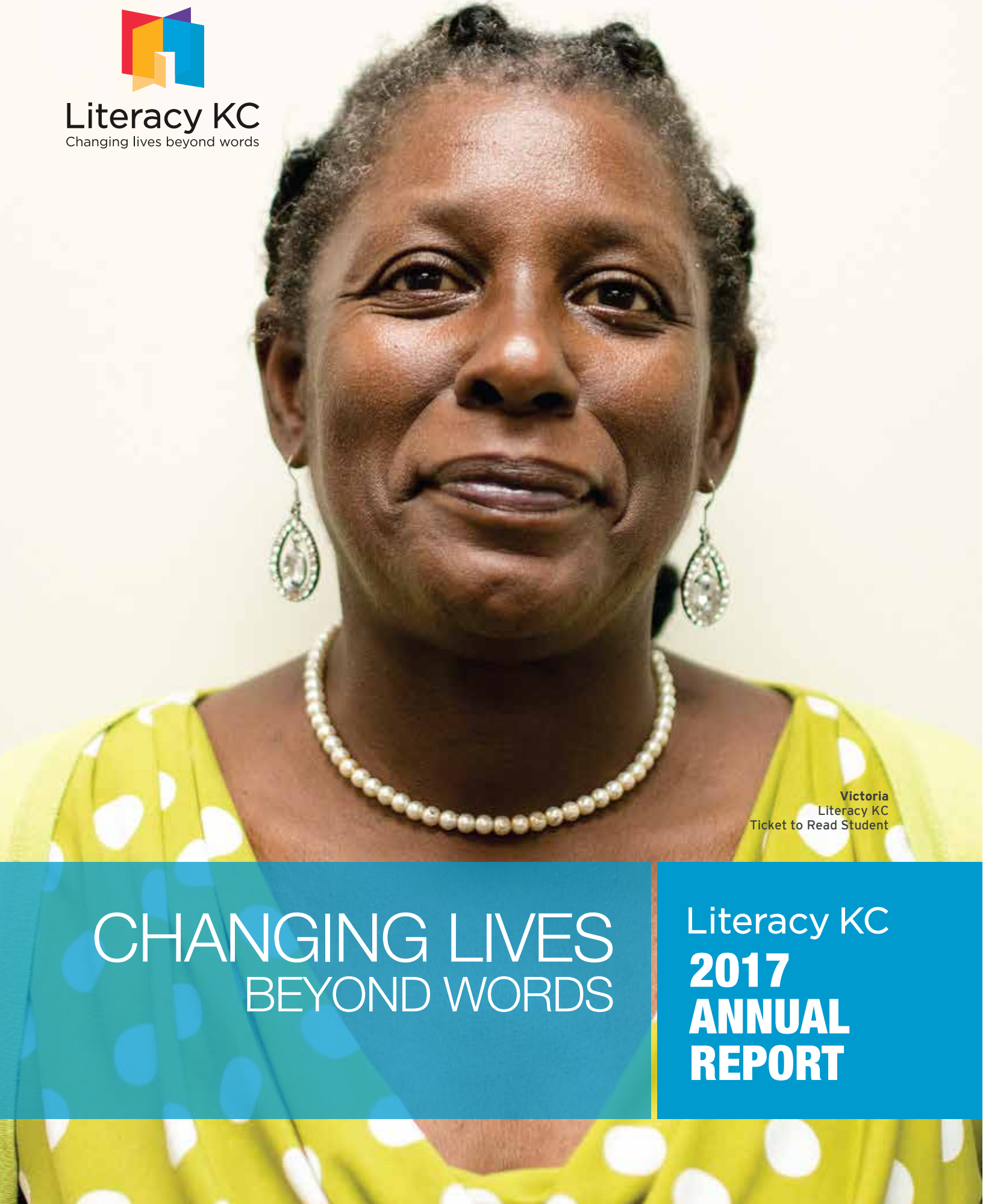




Literacy KC
Changing lives beyond words



Victoria
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student

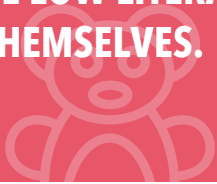
**CHANGING LIVES
BEYOND WORDS**

Literacy KC
**2017
ANNUAL
REPORT**

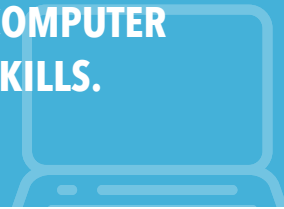
CHILDREN OF
LOW LITERATE
PARENTS ARE

72%

MORE LIKELY TO
BE LOW LITERATE
THEMSELVES.



80%
OF TODAY'S
JOBS REQUIRE
SOME LEVEL OF
DIGITAL/
COMPUTER
SKILLS.



NATIONWIDE,
ADULT ILLITERACY
COSTS THE UNITED
STATES OVER

\$500B.



225,000
KANSAS CITIANS
READ BELOW AN
8TH GRADE
LEVEL.



THROUGHOUT
THEIR WORKING
LIFE, HIGH
SCHOOL
GRADUATES EARN
\$1M
MORE THAN
NON-GRADUATES.

WHY

LITERACY KC?

2017: A YEAR OF GROWTH AND IMPACT.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Literacy KC works hard alongside our inspiring students and dedicated volunteers to provide a community for adults and families to learn the critical skills they need to accomplish their goals. The top three goals students come to us to achieve are earning a high school diploma, increasing their own skills so they can secure or advance in employment, and help their children with homework in order to improve each child's life and prospects. Literacy KC's suite of programs directly addresses each of these goals.

Our Ticket to Read students completed over 8,200 hours of classroom instruction. Four hundred forty-three of them improved their digital literacy skills along with their reading and writing. Ten were able to leave public assistance, 27 secured employment, and 45 got a better job with higher wages.

Through our Career Online High School program, students earn accredited degrees to fast-track them toward college and employment that pays a living wage. In November, we celebrated the 12 graduates of our inaugural year of the program, almost all of whom were single working moms setting the best kind of example for their children, and we applauded the almost 60 more who are currently active in the program and hard at work toward earning their degree.

This year in Let's Read, our multi-generational family reading program, we had over 750 families learn new reading strategies and come away with new books to build not only their own libraries, but also a stronger tradition of reading in their homes.

Like our students, Literacy KC has goals, as well. We look forward to increasing the numbers in our community whose lives are improved through our programs. We will diversify our programs to more specifically meet the literacy needs of our students. We remain dedicated to finding the most effective and meaningful ways to teach adults to improve literacy skills. We strive to be a leader in the field of adult education and a valuable, collaborative partner in our city's social service landscape. Above all, we are determined to change lives through literacy.

Thank you for joining us in this work and in dedication to our vision of literacy for all.

Gillian Helm
Gillian Helm



Ray
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student



The Ticket to Read program gives learners like Ray the power to achieve their dreams.

**MEET
RAY**

OUR PROGRAMS

TICKET TO READ

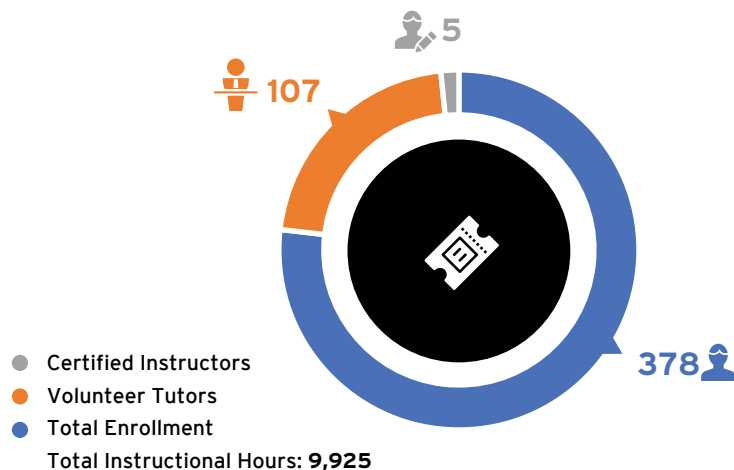
THE TICKET TO READ PROGRAM MEETS STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY. INSTRUCTOR-LED, TUTOR-SUPPORTED CLASSROOMS THROUGHOUT KANSAS CITY PROVIDE RESEARCH-BASED CURRICULUM, STUDENT-CENTERED INSTRUCTION, AND GOAL-ORIENTED OUTCOMES.

Adult Basic Education:

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

Pre-HiSET:

The Pre-HiSET Ticket to Read classes are for teens and adults preparing for a high school equivalency and for those who want to build skills in a safe, tuition free environment before launching into college. Pre-HiSET Ticket to Read students read and discuss books, write research papers, or work on Reading Plus, an online software program that helps students increase their reading speed and accuracy while building vocabulary.





Children of low-literate adults are 72% more likely to become low-literate adults themselves.



OUR PROGRAMS LET'S READ

LET'S READ IS A MULTI-GENERATIONAL APPROACH TO SOLVE THE INTER-GENERATIONAL TENDENCIES OF LOW LITERACY.

A FAMILY READING PROGRAM:

Built to inspire a tradition of literacy in the home, Let's Read offers an action packed hour each week for caregivers and children to laugh, read, and play together.

- PARTICIPATING SITES**
 Riverview Gardens Housing Authority
 Kansas City Neighborhood Academy
 Richardson Early Learning Center
 Columbus Park Head Start
 Thomas Roque Head Start
 United Inner City Services
 Operation Breakthrough
 State Street Project
 A Domestic Abuse Shelter
 Pathway Academy
 Metro Head Start



757
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

2,249
BOOKS HANDED OUT TO FAMILIES

Tierra
Literacy KC
Career Online High School Student



MEET TIERRA

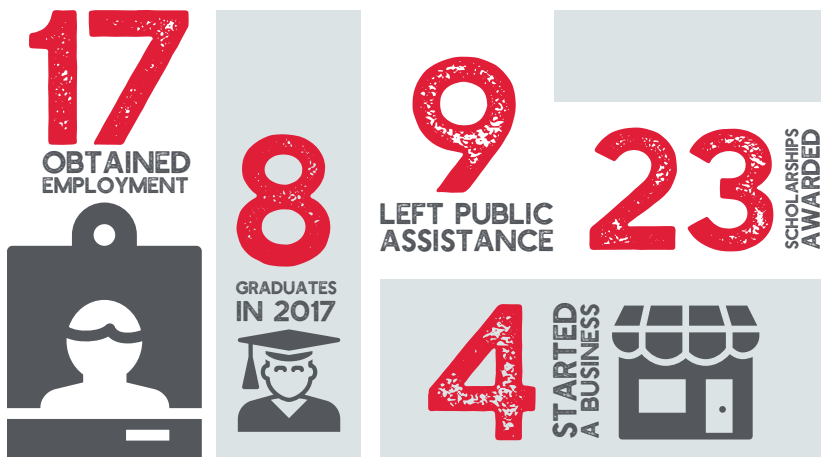
At Literacy KC, I have learned to set a routine and I am determined to stay focused on my goals while still having quality time with my two children.

OUR PROGRAMS

CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

EARNING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OPENS DOORS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND STUDENTS LIKE TIERRA CAN'T ACCOMPLISH HER GOALS WITHOUT YOUR GENEROSITY.

Literacy KC, along with Mid-Continent Public Library and Kansas City Public Library, offers a fully accredited program that allows adult learners to earn a high school diploma with an attached career certificate. Students benefit from an anytime-anywhere online learning platform, and academic coaches support students in reaching their educational goals.



Over the course of a lifetime, high school graduates will earn \$1 million more than non graduates.



OUR IMPACT

OUR STUDENTS ARE ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS



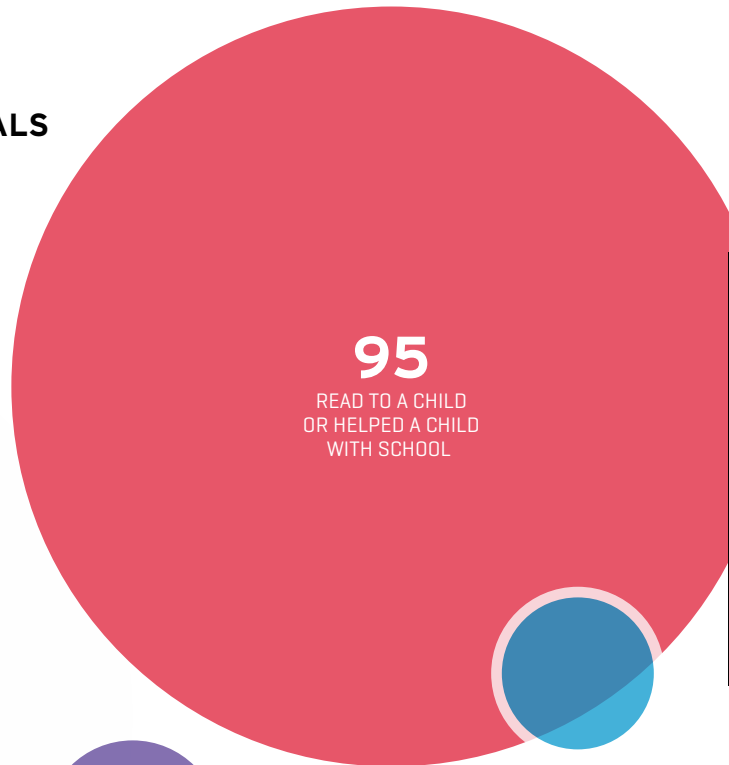
16

RECEIVED
A PROMOTION



10

LEFT
PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE



95

READ TO A CHILD
OR HELPED A CHILD
WITH SCHOOL



19

PURCHASED
A HOME COMPUTER
OR LAPTOP



22

SET UP
AN EMAIL
ACCOUNT OR
SENT AN EMAIL
FOR THE FIRST
TIME



101

WRITE CHECKS/
PAY BILLS

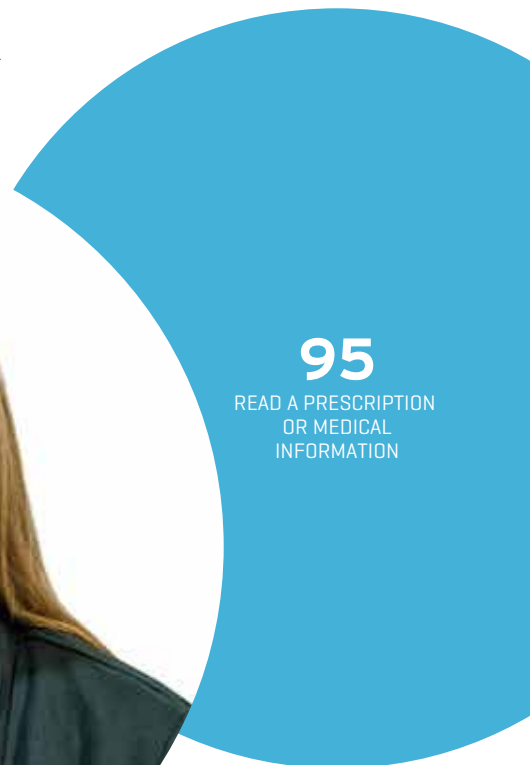
35

OBTAINED
A DRIVER'S
LICENSE



27

OBTAINED
EMPLOYMENT



95

READ A PRESCRIPTION
OR MEDICAL
INFORMATION

LeeRoy
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student



**MEET
LEEROY**

VISTA

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA



Literacy KC
Changing lives beyond words

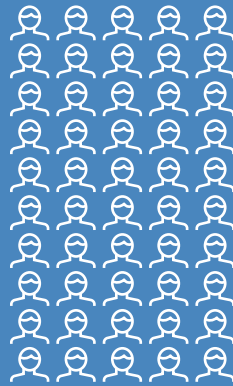


LITERACY KC SPEARHEADS A GROUP OF AGENCIES AND SUPPORTS EACH AGENCY'S AMERICORPS VISTA PROGRAM. THROUGH COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING, POVERTY IS ADDRESSED SYSTEMATICALLY THROUGHOUT THE KC METRO.

During 2017, the VISTAs generated nearly \$150,000 in financial contributions to their organizations.



Additionally, 20 new systems and processes were developed and implemented at the organizations, improving the organizations' management and performance.



Over 300 new volunteers began providing their time and assistance to the organizations as a result of the VISTAs.

THE VISTA PROGRAM AT LITERACY KC TAKES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ILLITERACY, AND ULTIMATELY POVERTY, IN THE KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN AREA THROUGH A CONCENTRATION ON LITERACY IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, AS WELL AS HEALTH LITERACY, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND DIGITAL LITERACY.



By the end of the year, every organization reported that VISTA activities were making the organization both more efficient and more effective.



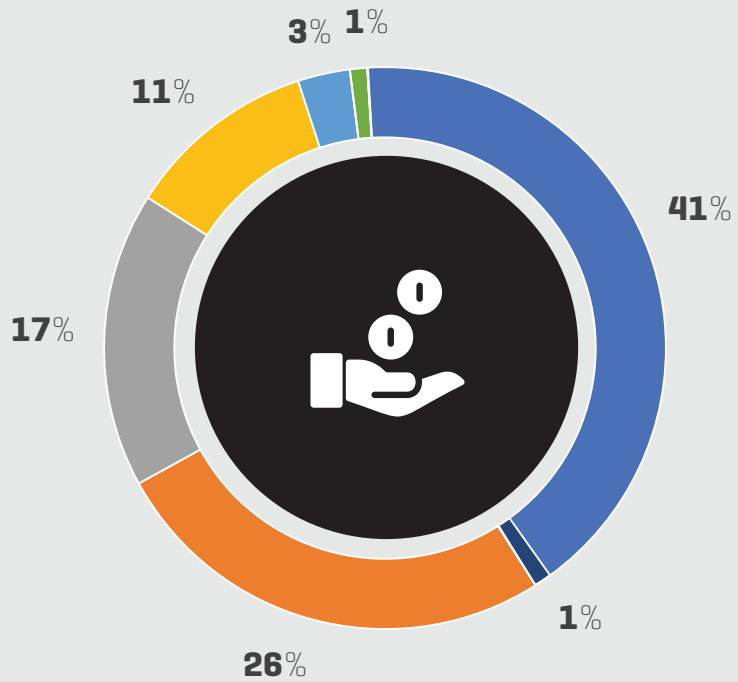
The VISTA members participating in the Literacy KC VISTA Program have proven to be beneficial to the organizations at which they serve.

OUR FINANCIALS

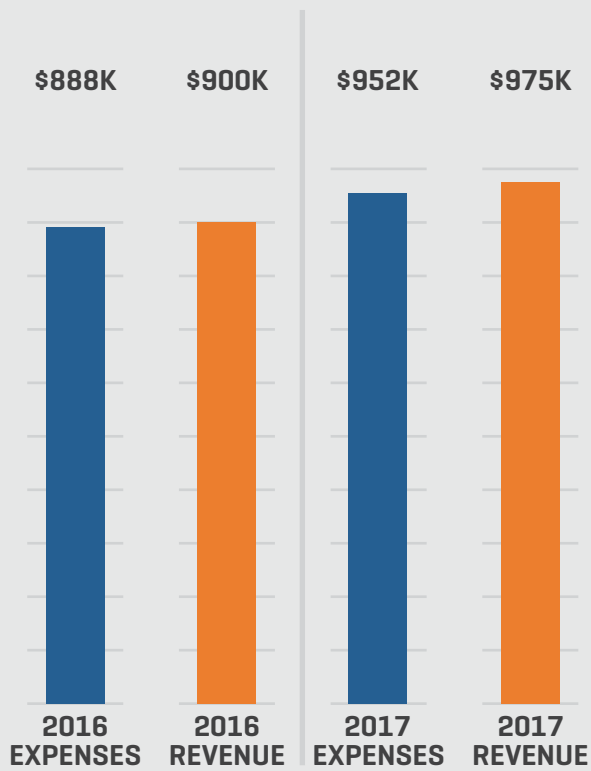
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

REVENUE SOURCES

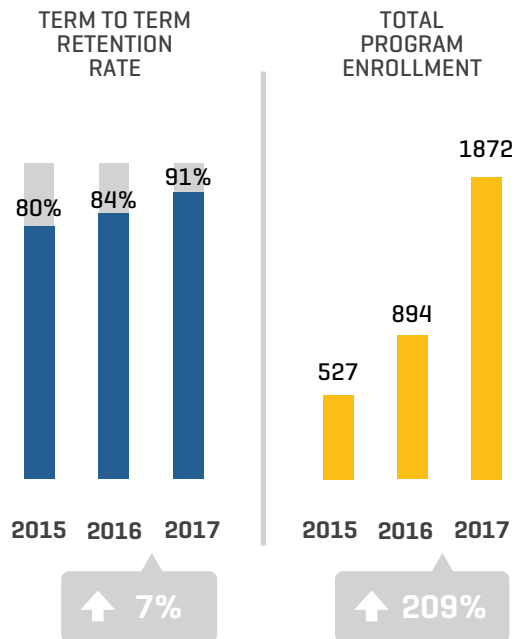
- Grants
- Special Events
- Foundation Contributions
- Individual Contributions
- United Way
- Corporate Contributions
- Other



REVENUE VS EXPENSES



PROGRAM GROWTH AND IMPACT



Travis
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student

I WAS AT WORK AND THEY CAME UP TO ME AND SAID I WASN'T FILLING OUT THE FORMS RIGHT. THEY ASKED ME WHAT'S WRONG AND I WENT STRAIGHT UP TO THEM AND TOLD THEM THE TRUTH THAT I CAN'T READ AND I CAN'T SPELL. THEY TOLD ME THEY FOUND THIS SCHOOL AND IT'S CALLED LITERACY KC. NOW EVERY TIME I COME TO SCHOOL AND GO HOME, I FEEL LIKE I DID A GOOD JOB. I FEEL SMART.

MEET TRAVIS



SUPPORTERS

2017 FOUNDATION PARTNERS

THE SUCCESS STORIES AT LITERACY KC ARE NUMEROUS. THE HARD WORK OF BOTH CLIENTS AND STAFF/VOLUNTEERS IS EVIDENT AND EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO LEARNING. HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION THANKS THE COMMUNITY AT LITERACY KC FOR THE RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE DECADES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY SUCCESS STORIES TO COME!

- Angela Andresen Smart, Vice President, Hall Family Foundation

HALL FAMILY FOUNDATION

- American Century Foundation
- Bank of America
- Alan F. and Julie A. Barry Fund
- Bartlett and Co. Charitable Foundation
- Burns and McDonnell Foundation
- Consolidated Foundation
- Curry Family Foundation
- Dollar General Literacy Fund
- Dunn Family Foundation
- Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- Francis Family Foundation
- Ted H. and Mary Lou Greene Foundation
- H & R Block Foundation
- Hallmark Corporate Foundation
- Heartland Combined Federal Campaign
- Hickok Family Foundation
- Joan and Bert Berkley Blue Heron Foundation
- Kansas City Digital Inclusion Fund
- William T. Kemper Foundation
- Catherine G. Mathews Charitable Fund
- William G. McGowan Charitable Fund
- O'Connell Family Foundation
- O'Dell Family Foundation
- Oppenstein Brothers Foundation
- Pierson Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Royals Charities Inc.
- Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation
- Stanley L. Maxwell Fund
- State Street
- Tension Envelope Foundation
- US Bank Foundation
- Yelp Foundation

Lisa
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student

SUPPORTERS

2017 CORPORATE PARTNERS

UNITEDHEALTHCARE'S MISSION IS TO HELP PEOPLE LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES. READING IS VERY POWERFUL BECAUSE IT PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN THEIR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, WHICH IS WHY WE SUPPORT IMPORTANT PROGRAMS SUCH AS LITERACY KC.

- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Missouri



Andrews McMeel Universal
Aubrey Vineyards
Black and Veatch
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
Boulevard Brewing Co.
Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
EBCFO
EPR Properties
Euronet Worldwide
Google Fiber
Half Price Books Community Services
Hallmark Cards, Inc.
Hang Ups in KC
Happy Faces Entertainment
Ink Magazine
James B. Nutter & Co.
Kansas City Public Schools
Kansas City Public Library
The Kansas City Star
Kansas City Spaces
Kissick Construction
Majestic Rhinos, LLC
McDowell, Rice, Smith, and Buchanan PC
Mid-Continent Public Library

MCC-Penn Valley
Multi Service
NTEN
Park University Dept. of English
Pembroke Hill School
PNC
Research and Training Associates
RSM US, LLP
Scharnhorst, Ast, Kennard, Griffin PC
Morgan Stanley
The Temple Congregation B'nai Jehudah
Timber and Treats Inc.
UMKC Advancement
UMKC Dept. of Communication Studies
UMKC Dept. of English
UMKC Honors College
Warden Grier LLP



Teresa
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student



Debra
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student

SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS

I HAVE MADE LITERACY KANSAS CITY A BENEFICIARY OF MY ESTATE PLAN. I CAN SEE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS HELPING NON-READERS IN MANY WAYS WE COULD ONLY DREAM ABOUT WHEN I VOLUNTEERED THERE SOME 20 YEARS AGO.
- David Norton

B J. Eugene Balloun
Samuel Bennett
Claire and Denton Bishop
Peter Browne and Julie Walker Browne
Patricia Buchanan

C Cedar Creek Book Club
Michael Churchman
Chris and Holly Combest

D Karla Deel
Delta Theta Chi Sorority
Eric and Cassandra Diebold
Nick [Paul] and Lynn Douthat

E Homer Evans
F Mary Fellows
Jan Fortney

G Julee and Daren Fox
H Louisa Raich Grill
Robyn Hart

James Hebenstreit
Scott Helm
Peter Hendrixson
Henry "Hank" Herrmann

J Stacy M. Jenison
Topper [John] Johntz
Judy Joss

Dr. Marilou Joyner
K Kappa Kappa Gamma
Jason and Begonya Klumb
Bill Koenigsdorf

L Ruth M. Leiter
M Dennis Marker
Henry Massman
Carrie McDonald
Brenda Moore
Randy Moore

N Jeannette Nichols
Ed Nickel

O Lynne and Mark O'Connell
P Steve Paul

Rekha Patnaik
Art Perry
DJ Pierre
Judy Pfannenstiel
Earl Phillips
Pritchett Family
R Dennis and Palle Rilinger
Brent Rogers
Paul and Amelia Rosenboom
Jean Rosenthal
S Deneen Slack
Michael Sorenson
T William Threatt
V Alleen Van Bebber
W Jim and Dawn Vaughn
James M. and Mickey Warden
David Waxse

SUPPORTERS

VISIONARY PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS,
WHO SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO
ADVANCING LITERACY WITHIN THE
KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN AREA. HERE
WE RECOGNIZE OUR MOST
COLLABORATIVE 2017 PARTNERS.



Google fiber



Francisco
Literacy KC
Ticket to Read Student



BOOKS, BRAINS, AND BOULEVARD

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.



Jan



SPELLING BEE

Our Annual Spelling Bee hosts teams from leading KC companies battling each other for the top prize. More than 300 guests enjoy the lively spelling competition plus live & silent auctions, dinner, wine donated by Aubrey Vineyards, and our signature Bee Stinger cocktail. Congrats to the 2017 Spelling Bee co-champions, Euronet Worldwide and EPR Properties.

ANNUAL EVENTS



Nov



SAVE THE DATE!
2018 SPELLING BEE
MAY 5, 2018
UMKC'S PIERSON AUDITORIUM



Apr

LITERACY FOR ALL LUNCHEON

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.



SAVE THE DATE!
2018 LITERACY FOR ALL LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
GRAND HALL AT POWER & LIGHT

Sep



WRITERS FOR READERS

Writers for Readers is a collaborative partnership between Literacy KC and UMKC's Creative Writing Program. This innovative program employs a creative writing graduate student to create, implement, and teach writing to teens and adults enrolled in Literacy KC classes. Writers for Readers gives our students the opportunity to express themselves in new, exciting, and more imaginative ways all while improving basic reading and writing skills.

ANNUAL EVENTS



Nov



OUR LEADERS

LITERACY KC IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE DEDICATED LEADERSHIP COMMITTED TO MAKING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duvel Pierre, President
Attorney
Spencer Fane

Paul Rosenboom, Vice President
Business Development
PNC Real Estate

Spenser Becker, Treasurer
Strategic Planning
EPR Properties

Lynne O'Connell, Past President
Community Activist

Eric Diebold, Secretary
Community Activist

Judy Pfannenstiel, Member at Large
President & CEO
Research & Training Associates Inc.

Laura Isabel Alvarez
Program Director-Latino Operations
H&R Block

Claire Bishop
Vice President of Marketing
Children International

Sandy Eeds
Community Advocate

Shelly Olufson
Finance & Insurance Program
Underwriting Manager
Zurich

Rekha Patnaik
Executive Vice President/Director of Bank
Strategy & Administration
UMB Financial Corporation

Tricia Scaglia
Attorney
Scaglia Law Firm, LLC

Alleen Van Bebber
Attorney
VanBebber Law Firm LLC

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

OUR TEAM MEMBERS

LITERACY KC'S TEAM WORKS TIRELESSLY TO BUILD A WELCOMING, SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.

STAFF

Dianne Brewington

Ticket to Read Instructor

Kate Brown

Marketing & Special Events Manager

Autumn Burton

Director of Programs

Rachel Carnes

Let's Read Instructor

Nancy Clay

Instructional Specialist

Karen Coccioli

Instructional Coach

Phil Denver

Ticket to Read Instructor

Veronika Fournier

VISTA Leader

Marquis Hall

Let's Read Instructor

Jacob Halpern

*Marketing & Communications Coordinator
AmeriCorps VISTA*

Xavier Hankins

*Volunteer and Administrative Support
Coordinator*

Gillian Helm

Executive Director

Rachel Henderson

Programs Support Coordinator

Dianne Hradsky

Ticket to Read Instructor

John Moessner

Writers for Readers Fellow

Mary Kay Morrow

Digital and Program Coordinator

Kim Rogers

Director of Operations

Lazona Stovall

Ticket to Read Instructor

John Teasdale

Deputy Director/Chief Development Officer

ToiSheona Thomas

Office Coordinator

Caitlin Troutman

*Grant Writer
AmeriCorps VISTA*



OUR VOLUNTEERS

LITERACY KC VOLUNTEERS ADD VALUE, EXPERTISE, AND HELP US KEEP COSTS LOW SO MORE RESOURCES CAN GO DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS. MANY THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED IN COUNTLESS WAYS THIS YEAR.



IN 2017, VOLUNTEERS DONATED A TOTAL OF 6514 HOURS WHICH IS EQUAL TO \$157,248* OR 4.5 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES.

**According to the Independent Sector's value of volunteer time.*



"I volunteer with Literacy KC because it is inspiring to see people's lives being transformed."

Clara Van Draska, Tutor



From **literacy tutoring** and **teaching math** to helping with **special events**, **office support**, and **computer classes**, we couldn't do what we do without our volunteers.

JIM WARDEN WAS NAMED THE 2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AT THE LITERACY FOR ALL LUNCHEON IN SEPTEMBER. JIM JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2010 AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIS PASSION, DEDICATION, AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE PAST 7 YEARS.



"I volunteer my time with Literacy KC since I want to empower others to live their best lives possible."
Evan Black, Tutor



THANK YOU

YOUR SUPPORT
HELPS US
CHANGE LIVES
BEYOND WORDS

Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate.

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.

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Literacy KC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit recognized by the IRS.

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the annual report. We would appreciate notification of any errors or omissions in order to correct our records. To report errors or omissions, please contact Kim Rogers, Director of Operations, at krogers@literacykc.org or 816.333.9332.



Literacy KC
Changing lives beyond words

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(816) 444-6628 F
info@literacykc.org