



Literacy KC

Changing lives beyond words

Annual Report 2018



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Spencer Fane

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The US Army Combined Arms Center,
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VanBebber Law Firm, LLC

Mike Van Booven
BKD

David Voorhees
Informa

BOARD OF *Directors*



THIS YEAR WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE BEST FOR LITERACY KC.

We are full of gratitude for the incredible support the community has shown as we moved into Operation Breakthrough's expansion building at 31st and Troost to more strategically situate ourselves for optimal student accessibility and community partnership. This culmination of our \$2.1 million Building Better Stories relocation and capacity building campaign has already brought incredible opportunities, allowed us to foster new partnerships, and increased the awareness in our community of the continued challenges of low literacy.

With the increased capacity, Literacy KC is positioned to better meet the needs of the near quarter million adults in our community who struggle with low literacy, and we can't wait to rise to the challenge through continued growth of current programs, as well as the addition of new programs like Entry to English and High School Equivalency preparation. Thank you to our supporters, volunteers, collaborators, and partners in mission. We are motivated by your alliance and thrilled to work alongside you.

Most of all, we are forever in awe and inspired by the joy, determination, and fortitude our students bring to our office and their classrooms each day. From incredible growth and continued student progress to adding additional programs and even moving to a brand new home, this past year has been one of meeting and overcoming challenges, and aiming high and surpassing our goals. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

In dedication to literacy for all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gillian Helm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**GILLIAN HELM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

WHY LITERACY KC?



CHILDREN OF LOW LITERATE PARENTS HAVE A **72%** *chance* TO BECOME LOW LITERATE THEMSELVES.

THROUGHOUT THEIR WORKING LIVES, *High School graduates* EARN

\$1M

MORE THAN NON-GRADUATES.

225,000

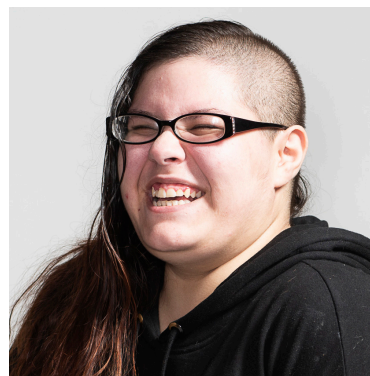
Kansas Citizens READ BELOW AN EIGHTH GRADE LEVEL.



80%

OF TODAY'S JOBS REQUIRE SOME LEVEL OF *digital* OR *computer* SKILLS.





MISSION:
*To advance literacy within the
Kansas City metropolitan area through
direct services, advocacy, and
collaboration.*

VISION:
Literacy for all.



YOU
ARE MAKING
Kansas City
MORE
LEGIBLE.

OUR *Impact* IN 2018



1458
TOTAL STUDENT GOALS
achieved

An icon showing a stylized human figure climbing a bar chart with three bars of increasing height.

2410
TOTAL PROGRAM
participants



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.

Literacy KC's signature program, Ticket to Read, served 324 students in 2018.



39

Students earned a raise, promotion, or employment

80%

Term to term retention

10

Students left public assistance



Now I'm able to find a job.

Jemie

PROGRAMS

ENTRY TO *English*

Launched in June of 2018, Entry to English classes help students learn to communicate fluently and effectively in English. Using instructor-led, tutor-supported instruction, and diagnostic assessment data, students gain the fundamental skills required to master the language.

My goal when I come to Literacy KC is to improve my English. My tutors and teachers are teaching me.

-Hussain, Entry to English Student



36

Students served

95%

Term to term
retention

160%

Increased
enrollment term to
term

LET'S *Read*

Let's Read is a multi-generational approach to address the inter-generational tendencies of low literacy. 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. Sites include Guadalupe Centers, Linwood YMCA, United Inner City Services, Ronald McDonald House, and several elementary schools.

There is nothing in life that you can do without having to read.

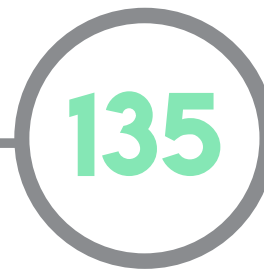
-Gerald, Let's Read Parent



Total program participants



Books given away



Parents assisted a child with school or homework

PROGRAMS

CAREER ONLINE

High School

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 goals.

Now that I am a high school graduate I plan to get a well-paying job and move into my own place.

-DeVonte, Career Online High School Graduate



53

Active Students

34

Scholarships
Awarded

8

Graduates



DeVonte, Career Online High School graduate, speaking at the Literacy for All Luncheon.

I can hear music playing
and people walking
fume
g by
of
ies
y hands.
putting
my
ey are
and
h, praying
thanks
s around
ee all
alking

PROGRAMS

WRITERS FOR *Readers*

Writers for Readers has produced two anthologies of student work.

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

A Human Voice is a Reason for Being Heard

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.

Life is beauty, admire it.

Life is a dream, realize it.

Life is a challenge, meet it.

Life is a duty, complete it.

Life is a game, play it.

Life is a promise, fulfill it.

Life is sorrow, overcome it.

Life is a song, sing it.

Life is a struggle, accept it.

Life is a tragedy, confront it.

Life is too precious, do not destroy it.

Life is life, fight for it.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

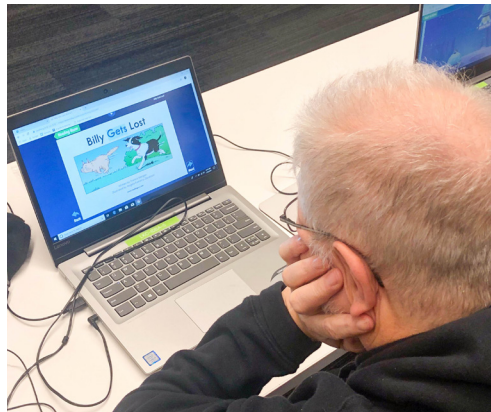
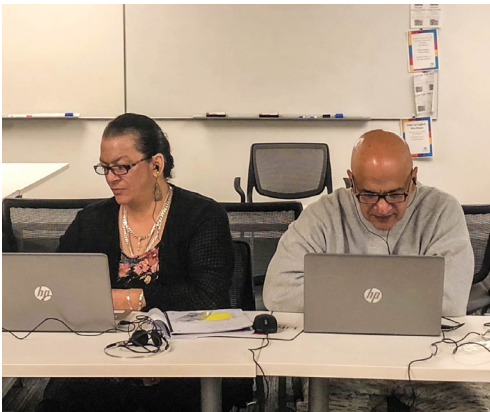
John, Ticket to Read Student
& Writers for Readers poet

DIGITAL LIFE Skills

When I first started computer class, I never held a mouse or knew anything about a computer. The teacher helped me a lot. Literacy KC helped me get a computer for my house for free.

-Daniel, Digital Life Skills student

While basic digital life skills are embedded into our core programs, additional classes such as Google maps, social media, and internet safety are offered. Through participation, students have the chance to earn discounted devices.



352

Total program participants

52

Students set up an email for the first time

1356

Total student hours spent on digital learning

**CHANGING
LIVES BEYOND
*Words.***



SUPPORTERS

CORPORATE *Giving*

ARC Physical Therapy +
Arvest Bank
BKD, LLC
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
BranchPattern
Burns & McDonnell
Citizens Bank & Trust
City of Kansas City, MO
Colliers International
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
Contract Furnishings
Country Club Bank
EPR Properties
e-Solutions
Euronet Worldwide
Google Fiber*
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
Guadalupe Centers
Infinitas
Interior Landscapes, LLC
JE Dunn Construction Company*
Johnson County Public Library
Kansas City Interactive Marketing
Association

Kansas City Live, LLC
Kansas City Power & Light
Kansas City Star
Kissick Construction Co.
Lamar Advertising
Lansing Trade Group
Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC
McCownGordon Construction
Mid-Continent Public Library
Midwest Trust
Polsinelli
Powerful Performance Solutions, LLC
Rotary Club 13 of Kansas City
Salcedo Talboy Consulting, LLC
Scaglia Law Firm, LLC
Scheels
Spencer Fane*
Terracon
Travois
Truss
Turn the Page KC
UMB Bank
US Bank

*Denotes annual sponsors
who support all events



Mike Brown (second from right) and the Euronet Worldwide team at Books, Brains, and Boulevard.

“Millie (my wife) and I are all about inclusion. All people should be included and represented in society, and that is enormously challenging without basic reading and math literacy. I’m so happy that Literacy KC is working hard to improve the lives of so many.”

-Mike Brown
CEO, Euronet Worldwide

FOUNDATION

Giving

Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation
 Catherine G. Mathews Charitable
 Fund
 Cloud Family Foundation
 Constance M. Cooper Charitable
 Foundation
 Curry Family Foundation
 Dollar General Literacy Foundation
 Francis Family Foundation
 George H. Nettleton Foundation
 Gary Dickinson Family Charitable
 Foundation
 Greater Kansas City Community
 Foundation
 Green Mountain Charitable
 Foundation
 H & R Block Foundation
 Hall Family Foundation
 Hallmark Corporate Foundation
 Hartley Family Foundation

J.B. Reynolds Foundation
 John J Sullivan, Jr. Charitable Trust
 Junior League of Kansas City
 Mariner Foundation
 Mary Elizabeth Martin Scholarship
 Massman Family Foundation
 McCullough Family Foundation
 O'Dell Family Foundation
 Oppenstein Bros. Foundation
 PNC Foundation
 R A Long Foundation
 Shumaker Family Foundation
 Terracon Foundation
 The Sherman Family Foundation
 United Way of Greater Kansas City
 Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte
 Foundation
 William T. Kemper II Charitable Trust

*Denotes annual sponsors
who support all events

“The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation maintains Mr.
 Kauffman’s conviction to support innovative programs
 that fundamentally change peoples’ lives through quality
 education. We believe in and support the work Literacy KC
 is performing to provide thousands of Kansas Citians an
 opportunity to reach their full potential through improved
 literacy skills.”

-Gloria Jackson-Leathers
 Senior Director of Kansas City Civic, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation



SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUAL Giving

Claire & Denton Bishop*
Peter Browne & Julie Walker
Browne
Kay & John Callison
Elise & Robert Chapline*
Cheryl F. Retrum Trust
Holly & Chris Combest
Philip Coughlin
Bill & Lindsay Creach
Elizabeth Danforth
Paul & Lauren DeFoe
Sandy & Susan Eeds
Dorothy Sanborn Elliott
Peggy Evans
Gillian Flynn
Matt & Judith Flynn*
Louisa Raich Grill
Emily Hane
Keith Harrington
J. Randall Hedlund
Judy Joss
Marilou Joyner
Jim Kissick
Bill Koenigsdorf & Kay Johnson
Karla Lee
Boots Leiter*
Henry Massman
Carrie McDonald*
Mary McNeive

Randy Moore
Jeannette Nichols
Lynne & Mark O'Connell*
Evelyn Otsuka-Davis
Judy Pfannenstiel
Mary Jo & Joe Saviano
Faye Sight
Ajay Singh
Tim Sweeny
William & Pamm Threatt
Frank & Ann Uryasz
Jim & Mickey Warden*
Paul Wurth
Best Sellers: Monthly Giving Circle
Mary Abbott
Tara Athmer
Christina Avery
Claire & Denton Bishop
Evan & Melissa Black
Heather Bortnick
Barb & Lynn Brown
Nancy Clay
Lauren Compton
Sandy & Susan Eeds
Natalie Gaunce
Melissa Gawf
Emily Hane
Robyn Hart

Kelsey Haynes
Emma Hecht
Scott Helm
Nicholas Hemes
Judy Joss
Christopher Jury
Cynthia Lamas
Rebecca Maddox
Laura Marcus Mountjoy
Krista McFerren
Jenna Nelson
Emily Overton
Chadd Peter
Travis Peter
Beth Petry
Nancy Pinkston
Bonnie Postlethwaite
Louisa Raich Grill
Julie Robinson
Doris Rogers
Robin Ryan
Mary Jo Saviano
Phoebe Schwabe
Amanda Smith
Jim Staley
David Walburn
Esther Walker-Young

*Denotes annual sponsors
who support all events



"I applaud Literacy KC's staff, Board, students, and tutors in the major accomplishment of securing the resources needed to envision and achieve the new facility, serve more students, and add more programs. My wife and I have been donating since the days of the church basement over a decade ago, and are amazed at what the organization does. I know my donations are well spent and make a huge difference in the lives of students and their families."

-Bill Threatt, Literacy KC supporter

In 2018, volunteers
donated 7694 hours which
equals \$189,965 or 5.5 full-
time staff members.

VOLUNTEERS

75+ lifetime volunteer hours

Collin Acuff
Ronda Allee
Tom Banks
Claudia Barewin
Helen Betts
Evan Black
Joann Blackburn
Don Bradley
Tom Brill
Perri Cagle
Amber Calhoun
Antionette Clayton
Richard Dalton
John DeSoto
Dean Dunham
Sandy Eeds
Dorothy Sanborn Elliott
Judy Evans
Pamela Felton

Kevin Foxworth
Lisa Garretson
Jillian Gotfredson
Nancy Hackett
Taylor Hamilton
Deborah Hays
Jo Heinzman
Beth Highland
Caitlin Holland
Janis Jarrett
Judy Joss
Barbara Kelly
Abigail Lambke
Tom Lancaster
Billi Lee
Charles Lillie
Laura Marcus Mountjoy
Jim Marshall
Joe McClernon

Carrie McDonald
Rosemary Moran
David Mullins
Sharlyne Narr
Janet Nease
Evelyn Otsuka-Davis
Emily Overton
Alan Purvis
Sharon Quigley
Rosemary Rice
Dennis Rilinger
Patricia Scott
Myllinda Scott
Debbie Sokoloff
Katlin Spoon
Larry Stice
Clara Van Draska
Charles Vitale
Ann Ziesman

"I started volunteering for Literacy KC because of my belief that literacy opens doors for all people, no matter their origins or their life circumstances. Those doors may be to knowledge, connection with others, pure joy or even escape. After years with Literacy KC I am still committed for all those reasons, but more importantly now because of meaningful relationships with our tenacious students, tutors, teachers and staff. We are pulling together, and the symbiosis is so much greater than the individual beliefs we all started with."

-Judy Joss, Ticket to Read tutor



CAMPAIGN

BUILDING BETTER *Stories*

HALL FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Ann and Gary Dickinson Family
Charitable Foundation



SUNDERLAND
FOUNDATION



O'CONNELL FAMILY
FOUNDATION



Evan Black
Marion & Henry Bloch Family Foundation
BMA Foundation
Robert & Elise Chapline Family Fund
Eeds Consulting
Dorothy Sanborn Elliott
EPR Properties
The Goppert Foundation
Greene Family Foundation
HDR Foundation
Houts Companies
JE Dunn Construction Company
KC CAN!
Enid & Crosby Kemper Foundation
William T. Kemper Foundation
Kirk Foundation

KMDI
Lamar Advertising
Literacy KC Board of Directors
Lordi Marker Family Foundation
Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation
MMSGAJ Fund
Abel & Dyan Mojica
Populous
Dennis & Palle Rilinger Family Foundation
Ronald Deffenbaugh Foundation
Royals Charities Inc.
Superior Moving & Storage
Sherman Family Foundation
Sosland Foundation
Victor E. Speas Foundation
William & Pamm Threatt

Campaign Committee

Lynne and Mark O'Connell, Chairs
Elise Chapline, Robert & Elise Chapline Family Fund
Dr. Debbie Sosland-Edelman, Sosland Foundation
Susie Haake, Nonprofit Advisor and Disability Advocate
Dr. Scott Helm, Henry W. Bloch School of Management

Brian McGowan, Aerarius, LLC and William G. McGowan
Charitable Fund
Dennis Rilinger, Community Advocate & Literacy KC Tutor
Phyllis Stevens, Bernstein-Rein
Cora Storbeck, Hallmark Corporate Foundation



The \$2.1 million Building Better Stories campaign allowed Literacy KC to move into our new home at 3036 Troost on August 13, 2018 and expand programs to serve greater numbers.

PARTNERS

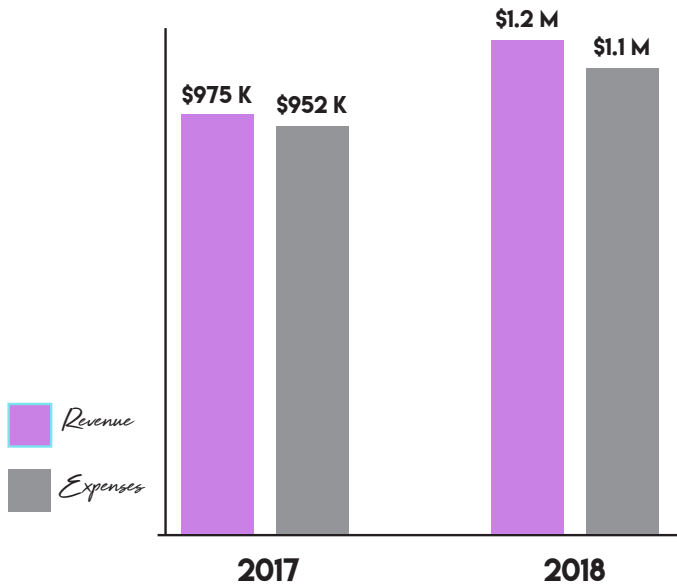
COMMUNITY Collaborators



FINANCIAL

Highlights

REVENUE VS. EXPENSE

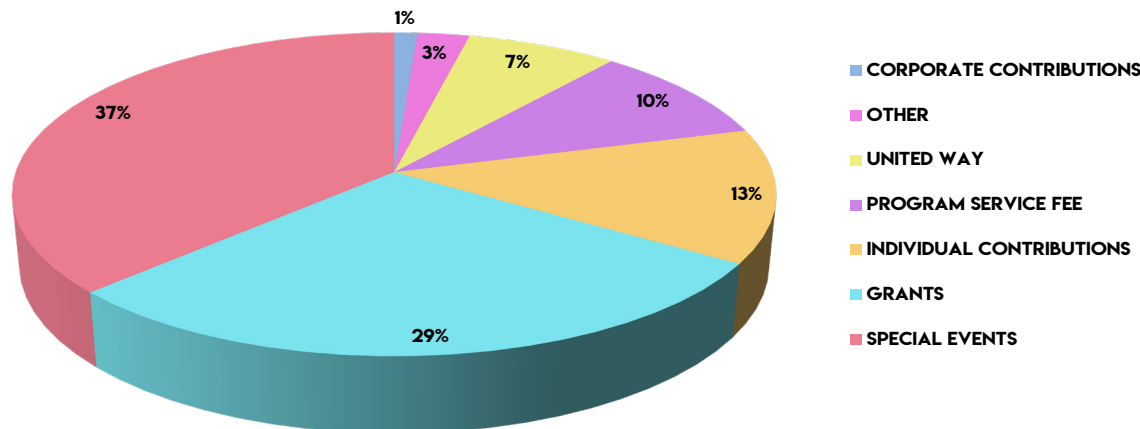


Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the annual report. We would appreciate notification of any errors or omissions in order to correct our records. To report errors or omissions, please contact John Teasdale, Deputy Director, at jteasdale@literacykc.org or 816-333-9332.

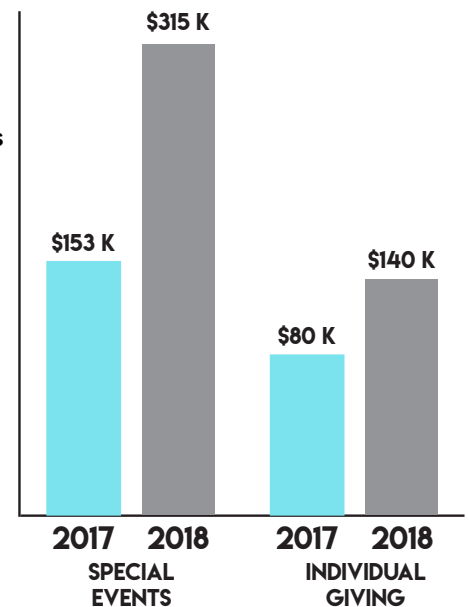


Literacy KC & Operation Breakthrough were awarded \$50,000 as a part of the Royals' 50th Anniversary season.

REVENUE SOURCES



SPECIAL EVENTS & INDIVIDUAL GIVING



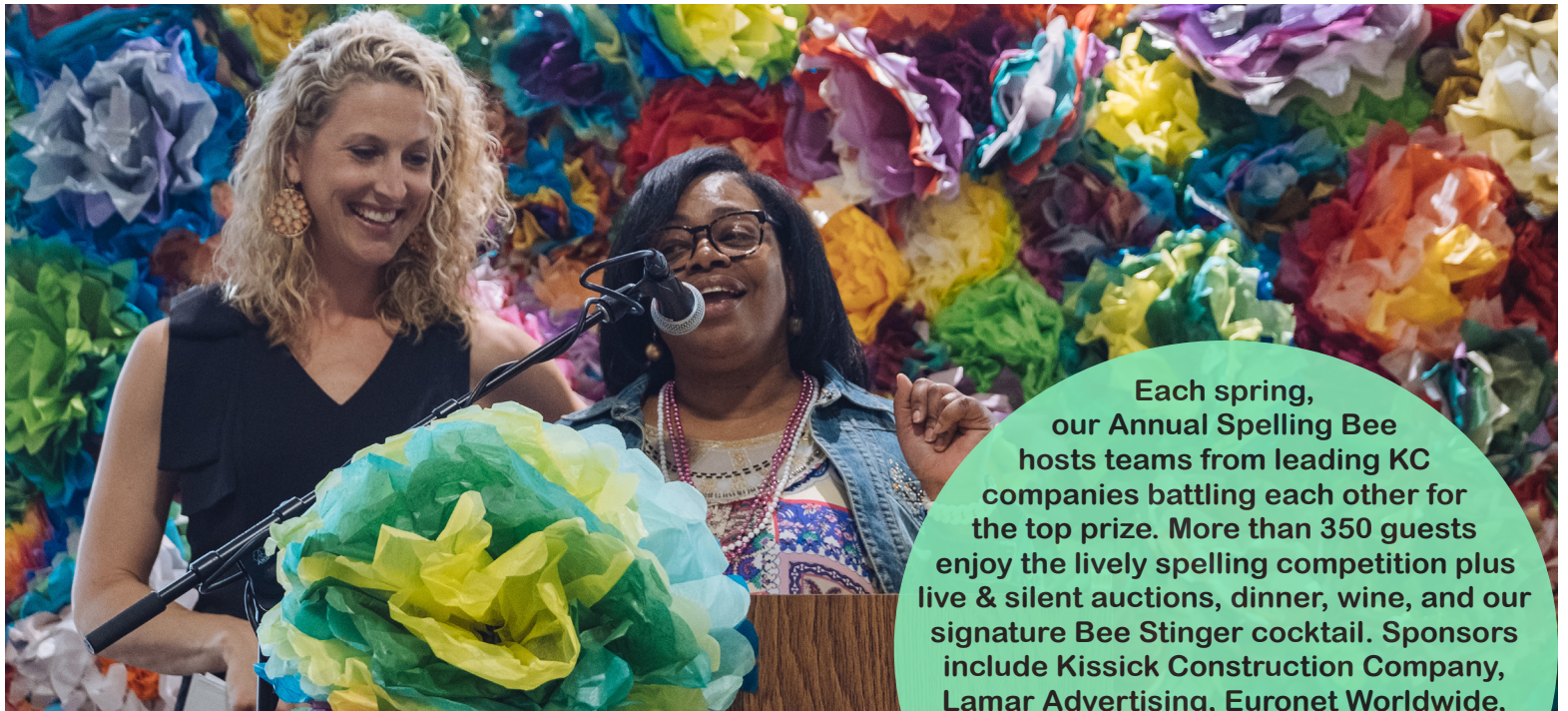
EVENTS

BOOKS, BRAINS, AND *Boulevard*



Boulevard Brewing Co. hosts an evening 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 and pizza. There is also a raffle, a series of sweet treats, and trivia lifelines that are available for purchase throughout the evening. Congratulations to the 2018 trivia competition winners KC Estate Planner!





Each spring, our Annual Spelling Bee hosts teams from leading KC companies battling each other for the top prize. More than 350 guests enjoy the lively spelling competition plus live & silent auctions, dinner, wine, and our signature Bee Stinger cocktail. Sponsors include Kissick Construction Company, Lamar Advertising, Euronet Worldwide, CommunityAmerica Credit Union, Blue Cross Blue Shield KC, EPR Properties, and many more! Congratulations to spelling champions, Kissick Construction Company!



SPELLING *Bee*
EVENTS



In September, we celebrate National Literacy Month with this event that features 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. In 2018, Literacy KC recognized Populous as Corporate Partner of the year and Evan Black as Volunteer of the Year.



LITERACY FOR ALL *Luncheon*

EVENTS

EVENTS

WRITERS FOR *Readers*



Writers for Readers is an evening celebrating the power of expression through creative writing and reading. Sponsors and attendees meet and mingle during a reception and seated dinner, and enjoy a program featuring Literacy KC students and acclaimed authors.



Gillian Helm
Executive Director

Peter Hanes
VISTA Team Leader

John Teasdale
Deputy Director/Chief Development Officer

Xavier Hankins
Volunteer Coordinator

Bri Blocker
Let's Read Instructor

Erika Mendence
Let's Read Instructor

Dianne Brewington
Ticket to Read Instructor

Mary Kay Morrow
Digital Program Coordinator

Kate Brown
Marketing & Special Events Manager

Kim Rogers
Director of Operations

Autumn Burton
Director of Programs

Samantha Sagastume
Entry to English Instructor

Nancy Clay
Instructional Specialist

Erin Saxon
Writers for Readers Fellow

Karen Coccioli
Instructional Coach

Lazona Stovall
Ticket to Read Instructor

Tekisha Edwards
Student Advocate

ToiSheona Thomas
Office Coordinator

Veronika Fournier
VISTA Program Coordinator

Lindsey Weishar
Entry to English Instructor

Marquis Hall
Let's Read Instructor

Megan York
Let's Read Instructor

TEAM *Members*



Cheryl

Toi Sheona

**WORDS
WILL TAKE ME
WHERE MY
WILL NEVER**

feet
GO.

-Shirley, former Literacy KC student