

Annual Report 2020/2021



Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area

Improving our community by
advancing essential literacy skills for
adults through education and
advocacy





Note from the Executive Director

As we look back at the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year, I first wanted to take the time to thank all of our Volunteers, Donors, Board and Staff. Without their tireless support and dedication to our mission, there would be no way we could make such an impact on our community. This has been a year of firsts for LVWA. New Staff, new teaching methods, a new curriculum, and some new records all combined to successfully fulfill our mission of improving our community by advancing essential literacy skills for adults through education and advocacy. 2020 was a year of drastic change. Not only did we see changes in roles for staff members, Rebecca Gibson becoming the Director of Programming, but Pam Lam, Director of Business and Administration, and I, joining the organization. We also had to change the teaching model completely. The pandemic drove us to take all of our classes Virtual on Zoom. With the help of one dedicated tutor/board member, we were able to get both the cohort of volunteers and students all comfortable and trained using Zoom to teach. Despite the changes, this fiscal year, we helped over 500 students improve their literacy skills welcomed 24 new United States Citizens, all because of over 2400 hours of tutor time. This would not be possible without the help of our dedicated team of over 100 volunteers. We have continued to grow and expand our services. In January 2022, we adopted a new mission: Strengthening our community through literacy, education, and advocacy. This allows us to serve all ages in our community, from those just born to seniors. We have taken the lead in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, a national initiative to improve the outcomes for reading levels for Third Graders. We will support programming for the youngest while still keeping our tutoring focused on Adults. Literacy is alive and improving in our community, and we are excited to see where LVWA can go and how many people we can help!



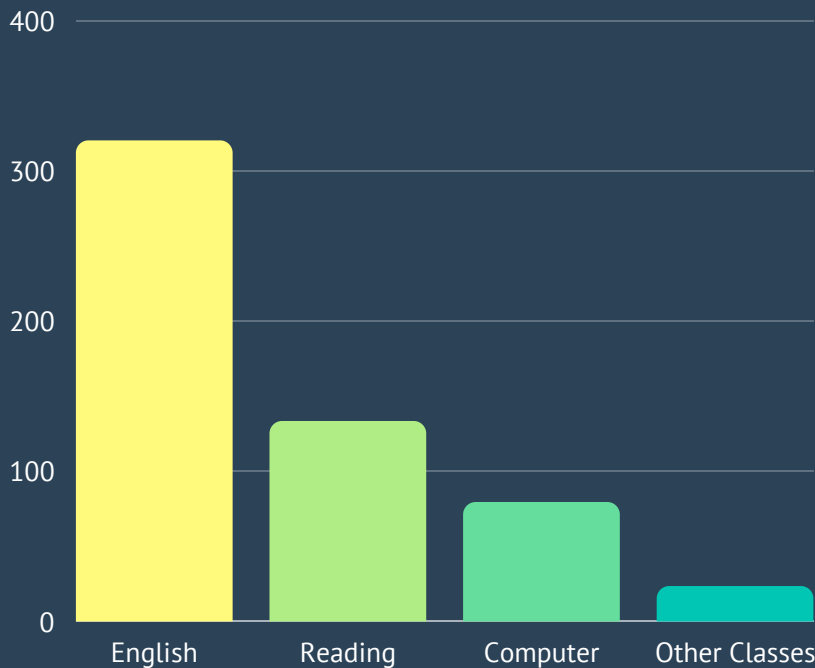
R. ANDY GAIL

Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area

- Officers
- Katrina Smith
President
- Bobby Herndon
Vice President
- Gail Pryde
Treasurer
- Directors
- Natalie Greenhalgh
- Diana Patterson
- Ginny Steele
- Elena Dryden
- Sara Gardner
- John Huddy
- Mary Tedrow
- Honorary Board
- Dawn Snow

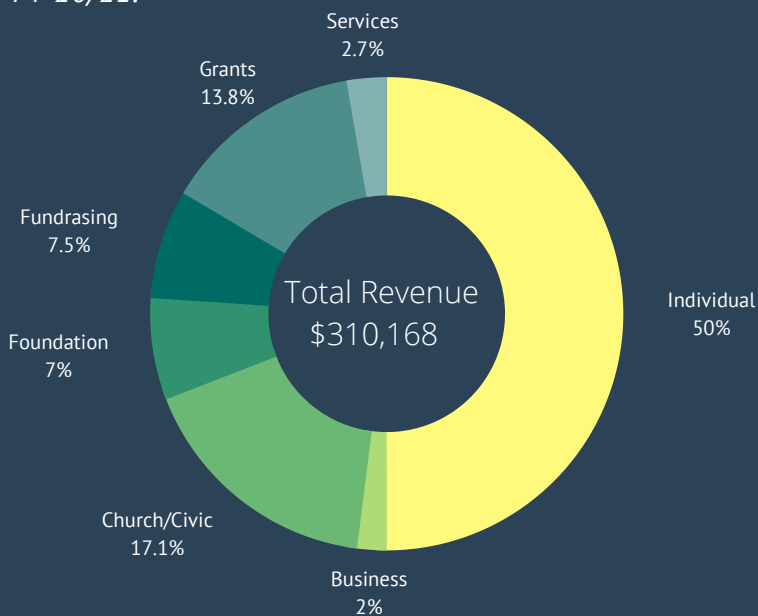
Our Impact

The desire to learn and the drive of our students and the passion of our Volunteer Tutors make everything possible. We served 395 students in the following areas:



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Below is a breakdown of the sources of funding of LVWA during FY 20/21.



EXPENSE OVERVIEW

Total Expenses: \$177,941

Fundraising Expense: \$13,996

Program Expense: \$116,891

Admin Expense: \$47,054

Ending Net Assets: \$150,017

Student Success Story:

Some people may be curious about why I am taking an English writing class. In fact, it's very simple. Besides learning English, writing is my habit. Writing is not just for professionals. Ordinary people can write, as long as we write our true feelings from the heart. Counting the benefits of writing, everyone's understanding and perception are different. Writing is definitely a good thing for the body and mind. The key for writing is to observe, think and write more.

For me writing in English is a great challenge. Because there is a big difference between Chinese and English grammar, grammar is the most difficult part for me, as well as as words and punctuation. Sometimes, Chinese cannot be translated directly into English. For example, sometimes I'm still confused about the use of verb tenses in my essays. When I write in English, I need to think in English. It is a wonderful brain exercise.

There are a lot of benefits for being a good writer in English. In our daily life, we need to send messages, e-mails and fill in worksheets in English, which all require us to strengthen our writing ability. Sometimes, good writing is also conducive to our promotion in the workplace. Thank you so much to the Literacy Volunteers for providing me the opportunity to improve my writing skills with my professional English teacher, Dave; learning writing skills is fun!

I think writing is a process of continuous thinking and improvement. People who are good at writing are generally people who love life, are good at observation and diligent in thinking. The more you write, the deeper you will feel about life. Writing is a happy thing. May writing accompany us all our lives. May each of us start, record every bit of life, write wonderful chapters of life and create a better life.

Heidi is one of our roaring Successes. She not only has found a love of reading and improved her English but she has since worked with another LVWA tutor and become a citizen this Summer!