

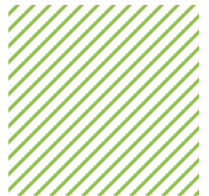
STANDING



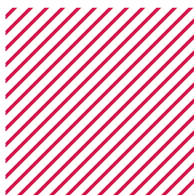
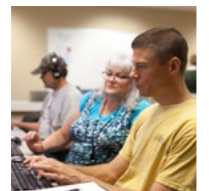
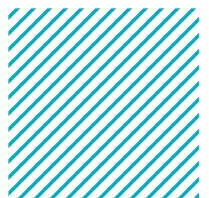
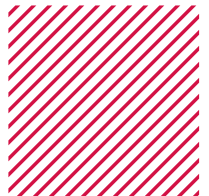
UP AND



STEPPING



IN



MINNESOTA
Literacy
COUNCIL

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



IT'S BEEN AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR.

A year of **STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN** for our children, our neighbors and our world.

A year shaped by the harmful rhetoric and shifting priorities of the new administration, but not defined by it. Instead, more than ever before, this year was defined by the incredible heart and generosity of our learners, volunteers, national service members, staff, donors, tutor trainees, literacy partners and YOU.

Together, we built a way forward.

In 2017, our services reached more than 75,000 children and adults in Minnesota, we trained and supported a record-breaking number of volunteers, and we built a remarkable community dedicated to strengthening Minnesota's families, workforce and future by improving literacy.

The Minnesota Literacy Council serves Minnesotans by teaching children and adults life-changing literacy skills and supports organizations by providing training, technical assistance and national service resources to strengthen literacy programs.

We believe sharing the power of learning transforms lives, empowers communities and inspires change. And after the year we've had – how could we not?

"My favorite thing about 2017 was seeing the huge increase in volunteers who got involved with literacy because they wanted to do something about the political climate and make their neighbors feel welcome. My parents are refugees, and they are the hardest working people I know. It was heartwarming to see how many people care."

– Wendy Vang Roberts, Volunteer Outreach Manager

Volunteers

In the literacy council's 45-year history, we've never seen such a dramatic turnout of volunteers. Not only did we field more inquiries about how to get involved with volunteering than ever before, we placed 57% more volunteers at organizations around the state. Across the board, we saw more people stand up and step in to help their community through volunteering.

3,557
volunteers trained



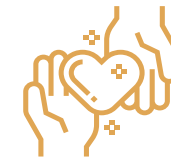
42%
increase from 2016



Donors

One quarter of our budget comes from federal sources, which leaves us vulnerable as administration priorities change. By standing up and stepping in to support us financially, you help ensure our work continues.

809
donors



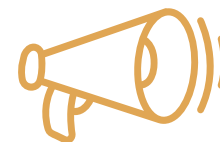
32%
increase from 2016

"Thank you very much for doing what you do every day. You have no idea whose life you will touch and change, just like mine. I began with being a volunteer, and now I actually have my own class to teach."

– Phichet Srimueng became an English teacher at Vietnamese Social Services after the literacy council referred him as a volunteer

Advocacy Alerts

We launched our Literacy Advocacy Alerts e-newsletter in January 2017 because we knew we needed a way to mobilize our community. We started with just over 150 subscribers, but our list quickly grew to more than 1,000! By standing up and stepping in for the literacy cause, we show our leaders that our students' educations and futures need to be a top priority.



Subscribers logged
OVER 200
calls and letters to
elected officials!

**Join the
movement!**

mnliteracy.org/LegislativeAction

Sign up for our
Advocacy Alerts



2017 – A YEAR OF STANDING UP AND STEPPING IN TO...

Promote the power of learning



2,432

adults representing 80 countries attended classes at our Open Door Learning Centers.

4 OUT OF 5

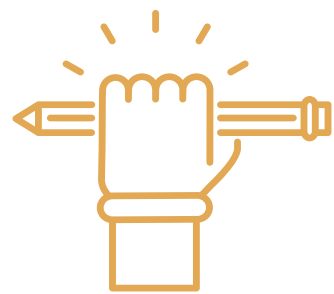
children tested maintained or improved their reading fluency over the summer. 2,903 children participated in Summer Reads.

92%

of preschoolers tested improved their English language abilities. 37 students were enrolled at our Open Door Preschool.

100%

of 125 adults enrolled in parenting classes at our Open Door Learning Centers increased their knowledge of what schools expect of them as parents.



Lead the way



1

GED® curriculum

We published *GED® Connections*, the first-ever GED® curriculum written for adults reading below an eighth grade level. It's now being sold nationwide on GED Marketplace™. This innovative new product addresses many of the challenges GED® teachers face in the classroom.

2.5 MILLION

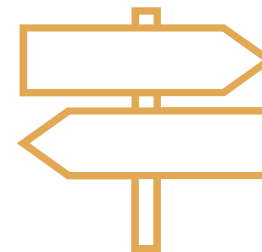
Northstar assessments since 2012

We're home to the Northstar Digital Literacy Project, an online tool that assesses computer literacy and is used by more than 400 sites worldwide. To expand Northstar's accessibility, we began making the site mobile-friendly in 2017. Thanks to the support of several leading national foundations, this upgrade will be completed by 2020.

121

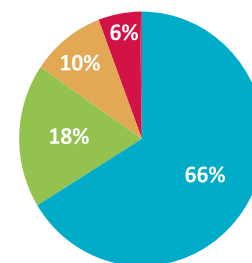
Tri-State VISTA Conference attendees

We planned and hosted the first tri-state conference for VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) and their host sites. The goal of the conference? To provide VISTAs with skill-building opportunities, practical tools and concepts to take back to their sites, and a chance to connect with others doing national service. Were we successful? 91% of attendees thought so!



FINANCIAL REPORT

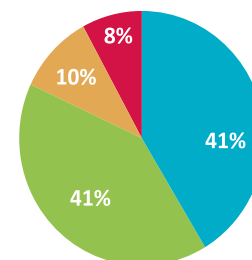
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2017
Complete financial statements available at mnliteracy.org
Dollars in thousands



Where did our support come from?

\$2,987	Government grants
824	Program service fees; other
439	Corporate and foundation grants
248	Contributions; special events
11	In-kind contributions

\$4,509 Total support and revenue



How did we spend our money?

\$1,850	Serving Minnesotans
1,814	Supporting organizations
453	Administration
355	Fundraising

\$4,472 Total expenses

Assets

\$1,112	Cash and cash equivalents
755	Endowment
546	Accounts/grants receivable
203	Other current assets
30	Long-term assets

\$2,647 Total assets

Liabilities and Net Assets

\$721	Board designated permanent endowment
518	Temporarily restricted net assets
515	Unrestricted net assets
500	Board designated net assets
314	Accrued expenses; other current liabilities
78	Accounts payable

\$2,647 Total liabilities and net assets

Foster inclusion



docents at Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) trained to work with English language learners

We helped make Mia more accessible to all visitors by training its docents to give tours to English language learners. Mia then hosted two field trips for our Open Door students, providing many students with their first museum experience!

"I want to give back to the community and do something for change. And it's the best way for me to learn, too."

– Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed, former Open Door student, current Open Door volunteer

696

stories published in the 2017 edition of *Journeys: An Anthology of Adult Student Writing*

Published annually since 1990, *Journeys* is a platform for Adult Basic Education students in Minnesota to share their stories. *"Journeys* was a changing point in my life. It helped me come out of my shell and not be scared of what people think."
– Aaron Pike, Open Door student

18

Open Door students giving back as volunteers

40

docents at Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) trained to work with English language learners

We helped make Mia more accessible to all visitors by training its docents to give tours to English language learners. Mia then hosted two field trips for our Open Door students, providing many students with their first museum experience!

1,360

volunteer hours contributed by Open Door students

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OUR BOARD

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Norberto Moran
Moran Financial

Jackie Prince
Community representative

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Olivia Quintanilla
Professional musician

Nathan Raygor
U.S. Bank

John Sanyamahwe
U.S. Bank

Representative – Volunteers
Bruce Singer
Singer Group

Representative – Adult Learners
Abdullahi Siyad
Trader Joe's

Sean Sweat
Hope Academy

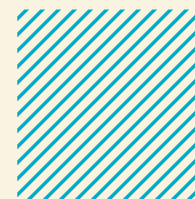
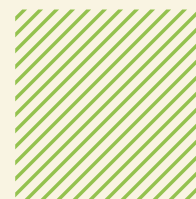
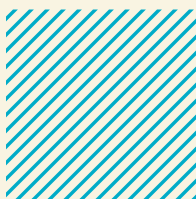
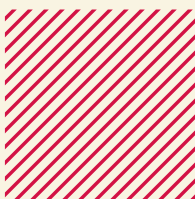
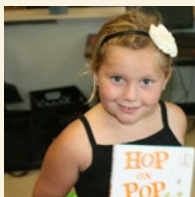
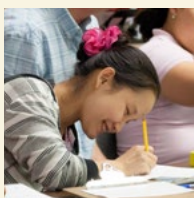
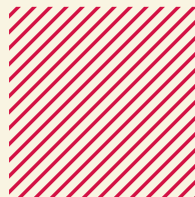
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*AmeriCorps VISTA member

