

first literacy annual report 2011

read between the lines



**“Basic literacy skills matter more than ever—to our economy, our international competitiveness, and the well-being of our citizens.”**

— David C. Harvey, President/CEO, ProLiteracy Worldwide

# From the CEO

I take pleasure in presenting First Literacy's 2011 Annual Report. This was a transitional year for us, one that has presented First Literacy with opportunities for both renewal and growth. While the faces are new, First Literacy's mission remains the same—to open life-changing educational opportunities for adults and their families by providing support to Adult Basic Education programs, scholarships to adult learners, and awareness of the importance of both.

Thank you for believing that adults who want to improve their lives through education should be given that opportunity; for understanding that a mother's reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's academic success; for knowing that in order to go to college, adults first need to be able to speak, read, and write English; and for accepting that personal goals are as varied as the adults themselves. Your belief in our work sustains us.

Together we are changing lives.



**Literacy, functional English skills, and high school credentials are essential in our society.** First Literacy envisions a city in which adults who want to learn are able to do so without barriers. Our grants and technical assistance to community-based Adult Basic Education programs, and the scholarships that we award to adult learners, help adults as they work to improve their lives, their communities, and their children's futures through education.

## Program Support

In 2011, First Literacy partnered with 18 community-based programs to provide 1,500 learners with a range of classes and services. Classes included basic literacy, GED, and ESOL, as well as life-skills classes to give the adults every chance of success. Services included child care, and educational, career, and personal counseling. First Literacy also provided partner-programs with ongoing program development support, including feedback on teaching strategies and advice on evaluation and planning.

| PROGRAM  | PROJECT                               | AMOUNT   |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center                 | Take and Give Program                 | \$20,400 |
| Boston Centers for Youth and Families Perkins Center | Childcare Program                     | \$8,000  |
| Boston Higher Education Resource Center              | Coordinator and Childcare Support     | \$15,750 |
| Cambridge Community Learning Center                  | Learner Leadership Class              | \$14,000 |
| East Boston Ecumenical Community Council             | ESOL Classes                          | \$18,000 |
| Educational Development Group, Inc.                  | Administrative Support                | \$10,000 |
| El Centro del Cardenal                               | Computer Literacy Class               | \$15,000 |
| Haitian Coalition                                    | English and Native Language Classes   | \$12,000 |
| Haitian Multi-Service Center                         | Computer Learning Project             | \$8,000  |
| International Institute of Boston                    | Basic Literacy Class                  | \$18,000 |
| Jamaica Plain Adult Learning Program                 | Bilingual Counselor/Advocate          | \$18,850 |
| Julie's Family Learning Program                      | Adult Education Director              | \$18,500 |
| Mujeres Unidas Avanzando                             | Childcare Program                     | \$8,500  |
| Project Hope   | Foundation Classes                    | \$18,000 |
| Project Literacy                                     | ESOL Classes                          | \$13,000 |
| WAITT House  | Classes and Teacher/Counselor         | \$21,500 |
| Workers' Education Program                           | English Classes for Cafeteria Workers | \$13,500 |
| X-Cel, Inc. Adult Education                          | Basic Education Classes               | \$10,000 |

*Now I feel that the sky is the limit! I believe that with my effort and commitment, I will be able to start the career that I always wanted. I would like to be an example to my daughter and show her that if you want something, you can do it with dedication and determination.*

— Yamileth Lopez



## First Literacy Scholarships

Each year First Literacy awards scholarships to adults who have completed their basic education or English as a Second Language (ESOL) studies and who are beginning higher education or technical training. The \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on the basis of the candidates' educational achievements and potential, contributions to the community or their educational program, and perseverance in the face of hardship. In order to increase the students' chances of success in school, First Literacy pairs each with a mentor who is a former scholarship recipient. Mentors support students' efforts to succeed in college, to do well in their classes, and to reach their goals.

The 2011 First Literacy Scholars are:

| NAME                 | GRADUATING FROM                      | ATTENDING                     |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kathleen Cahill      | Julie's Family Learning Program      | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Manbik Chan          | Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Hong Xia Chen        | Asian American Civic Association     | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Kelly Githendu       | Community Learning Center            | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Viola Hunter         | WAITT House                          | Roxbury Community College     |
| Ainur Karybekova     | JVS Bridges to College               | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Michel Pierre LaRose | Educational Resource Group           | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Nathan Leriche       | JVS Bridges to College               | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Yamileth Lopez       | JVS Bridges to College               | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Lucinda Morais       | Community Learning Center            | Bunker Hill Community College |
| Cassia Silva         | Community Learning Center            | Bunker Hill Community College |

First Literacy's Continuing Scholars Program recognizes and rewards First Literacy Scholars who have completed their first year of higher education and are continuing work toward their degree.

The 2011 First Literacy Continuing Scholars are:

| NAME                 | ATTENDING                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wood Coteau          | University of Massachusetts Boston |
| Rose Murielle Cyrile | University of Massachusetts Boston |
| Donald Levy          | Bunker Hill Community College      |
| Vitalis Osuji        | Northeastern University            |

*Simply put, without the grant, we would not have been able to establish the program, which relies on a model of paid student teachers and stipends to encourage student involvement and develop student leadership skills.*

— Catholic Charities/El Centro del Cardenal

**First Literacy recognizes the many individuals, corporations, and foundations whose generosity enables adults to receive the education that they want and need to improve their lives. The following lists those supporters who made gifts between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.**

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\* Literacy Leaders supported the 22nd Corporate Spelling Bee, the most successful in our history.

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*Because of First Literacy support, we are able to offer appropriate instruction for immigrants and refugees in our full-time English for Employment Program. If this funding were not available, most of these students would be on a waiting list for classes in our part-time evening program.*

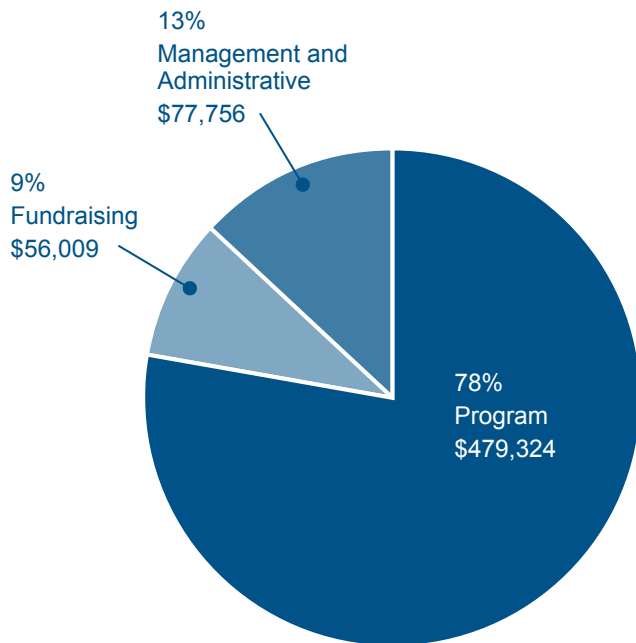
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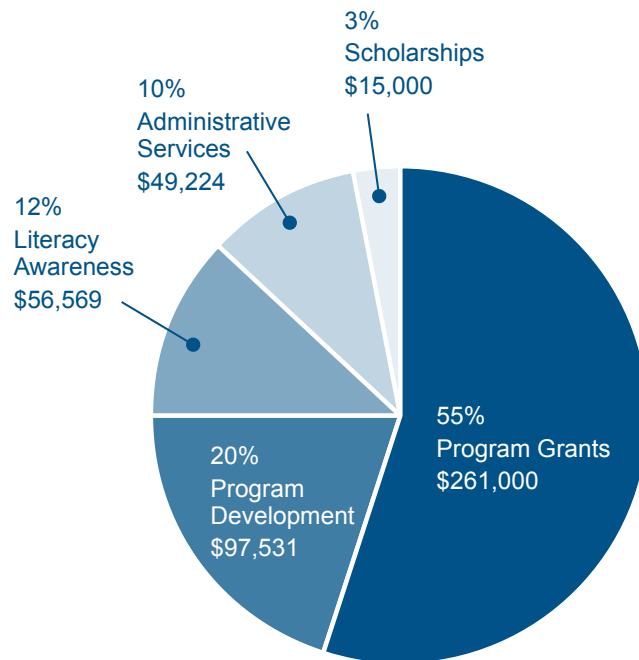
# fiscal year 2011

## financial information

### Total Expenditures | \$613,089



### Program Expenditures | \$479,324



## 2011 by the numbers

### Learners Served

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Classes              | 575 |
| Counseling           | 347 |
| Coordination         | 369 |
| Tutoring             | 174 |
| Childcare            | 40  |
| Scholarships         | 15  |
| <i>1520 learners</i> |     |

### Learner Accomplishments

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Made measureable progress towards goals           | 636 |
| Improved computer skills                          | 538 |
| Obtained GED or high school diploma               | 70  |
| Entered skills training program                   | 113 |
| Entered college                                   | 46  |
| Received a promotion                              | 152 |
| Found a job                                       | 255 |
| <i>Some learners achieved more than one goal!</i> |     |