

first literacy annual report 2012

read between the lines

Dear Friends,

At First Literacy we believe that literacy is a human right and work to ensure that all adults who need to improve their literacy skills have the opportunity to do so. Thank you for sharing this belief. Your gifts make possible our grants to literacy programs, professional development workshops, scholarships, mentoring program, and activities that raise awareness of the importance of a literate society.

In 2012 we expanded the direct services that we provide to adult learners by revitalizing the mentoring program for scholarship recipients.

The words of a first year scholar highlight the importance of the connection:

I think that the college mentoring program helps amazingly as adult students enter, but the most important, STAY in college. A mentor is the person those adults can rely on, ask for support, and feel comfortable asking questions in order to seek their success.

We also created a series of professional development workshops for adult educators. The feedback from participants has been enthusiastic:

It was great to learn from and converse with current practitioners in the field, who opened my eyes to new methods, resources, and intensely practical knowledge. Besides the interactions and exchange of ideas fostered across programs, the content was readily transferable to share with our own staff who may not have been able to attend.

—Boston Higher Education Resource Center

We're proud of the progress we've made this year and the number of individuals and families we have helped. Together we are changing lives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Skye M. Kramer



Program Support

First Literacy's strength is our experience and expertise in the field of Adult Basic Education. Our unique position allows us to focus your dollars on activities that make the most difference in the lives of adult learners. Many of these innovative projects and positions are not eligible for state funding. First Literacy is leading the way by supporting the classes and services that adult learners need to improve their lives.

PROGRAM	PROJECT	AMOUNT
ESOL Classes and Instructors (\$58,000)		
<i>These teacher and program coordinator positions provide essential services to English language learners.</i>		
Boston Higher Education Resource Center	Stipends of Adult Educators	\$15,000
East Boston Ecumenical Community Council	Latina ESOL Class, Salary of Coordinator	\$15,000
Educational Development Group	Salary of Program Director	\$10,000
Project Literacy	ESOL Classes	\$13,000
Steps to Success Brookline Learning Project	ESOL Coordinator/ ESOL Program	\$5,000
Basic Education Classes and Instructors (\$55,000)		
<i>Adult learners preparing to take the GED need focused attention of experienced basic education instructors.</i>		
International Institute of Boston	Basic Literacy Classes	\$15,000
Julie's Family Learning Program	Salary of Teacher/Director of Education	\$15,000
Project Hope	Foundation Classes	\$15,000
X-Cel, Inc. Adult Education	Reading and Writing Instructor	\$10,000
Counseling (\$44,000)		
<i>Counselors are a vital support to students struggling to balance classes with life and plan their next steps.</i>		
Jamaica Plain Community Center	Educational Advisor/Bi-lingual Counselor	\$15,000
St. Mark Community Education Program	Bi-lingual Counselor	\$14,000
WAITT House	Counselor and Pre-ASE Teacher	\$15,000
Digital Literacy (\$36,500)		
<i>These classes help students learn to use computers and the internet to search and apply for jobs and college.</i>		
El Centro del Cardenal	Computer Literacy Classes	\$15,000
Haitian Multi-Service Center	Computer Tutor Program	\$8,000
YMCA International Learning Center	"Next-Steps" Computer Literacy Classes	\$13,500
Student Leadership (\$29,000)		
<i>These innovative programs empower students while enlisting them to help their peers.</i>		
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center	TAG Peer Tutoring and Empowerment Program	\$15,000
Community Learning Center	Student Leadership Classes	\$14,000
Childcare (\$16,500)		
<i>Childcare services make it possible for students to attend classes while their children learn and play.</i>		
Boston Centers for Youth and Families Perkins Community Center	Parent Support Project	\$8,000
Mujeres Unidas Avanzando	Childcare Program 1	\$8,500

First Literacy Scholarships

■ In 2012, First Literacy awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 16 adults on the basis of their educational achievement and potential, contributions to the community or their educational program, and their persistence in the face of hardship. Each of the scholars is pursuing an education that will lead to greater opportunities in their chosen field of study.

FIELD OF STUDY	SCHOLARS
Health Care Management	Cassia Silva
Nursing	Claudia Francisco, Blanca Gomez, Gillian Whittaker
Computer Science	Ludwig Reyes
Law/Paralegal Studies	Myrna Ortiz, Destiny Santana, Elona Toro
Education	Roxana Ramirez, Tagesech Wabeto
Finance/Accounting	Yohanna Diaz, Sandra Gaviria, Ainur Karybekova, Yamileth Lopez
Human Services/Social Work	Mark Moses, Dorease Walker

We are very grateful to American Stock Transfer Company, Bank of New York Mellon, and Citi for sponsoring the scholarships with their generous gifts.



Professional Development Workshops

■ In response to a need expressed by our partner-programs, in 2012 First Literacy launched a series of professional development workshops for the staff members of literacy programs throughout Greater Boston. These workshops strengthen the programs by encouraging the sharing of knowledge, experience, and proven best practices between staff from different programs.



We are very pleased with First Literacy's initial year of professional development. This was something we were asking for over the past couple years and this is definitely meeting a need in the adult education community in Boston. There was a broad range of topics covered this past year and First Literacy did a good job of ensuring that there were appropriate offerings for both ABE and ESOL programs.

—X-Cel

I feel fully motivated to start studying because I will be the first in my family to graduate from college, so I will be the inspiration for the rest of them. I want to show them if you have dreams you have to work hard to make these dreams come true, no matter the obstacles in your life.

—2012 Scholar

Fridays at First Literacy

2012 Workshop Topics:

- Developing ESOL Students' Writing
- Using Learner Input in the ABE Classroom
- Student-Centered, Participatory Classroom
- Adult Basic Education Grant Writing
- Teaching Reading to Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities and the Adult Learner

First Literacy thanks the individuals, corporations, and foundations who believe in and support our work.

The following list recognizes those donors who made gifts between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

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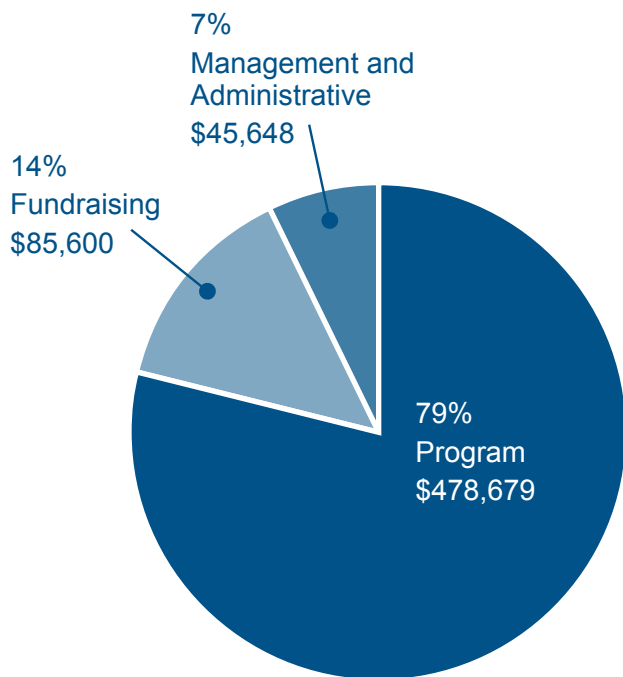
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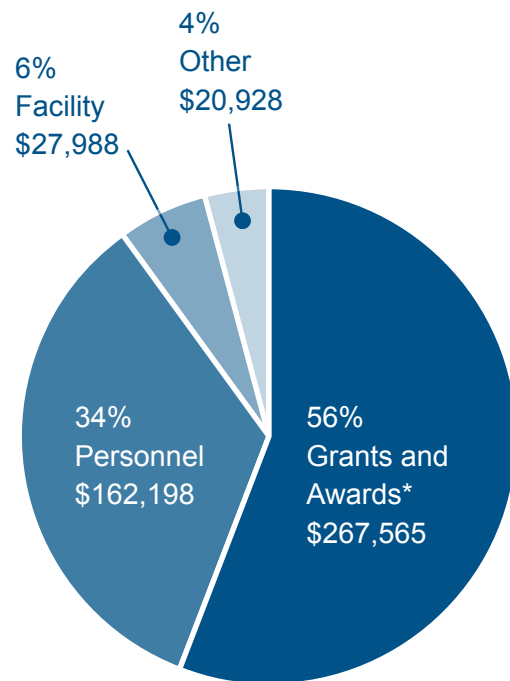
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financial information

Total Expenditures | \$609,927



Program Expenditures | \$478,679



*Includes \$239,000 for program grants, \$16,800 for scholarships and mentors, \$9,374 for literacy awareness activities, and \$2,391 for program development assistance.

2012 by the numbers

Learners Served

Classes	569
Counseling	265
Coordination	132
Tutoring	233
Childcare	63
Scholarships	16
<i>1278 learners</i>	

Learner Accomplishments

Made measureable progress towards goals	589
Improved computer skills	477
Obtained GED or high school diploma	26
Entered skills training program	47
Entered college	33
Received a promotion	59
Found a job	164
<i>Many learners achieved more than one goal!</i>	