

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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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.

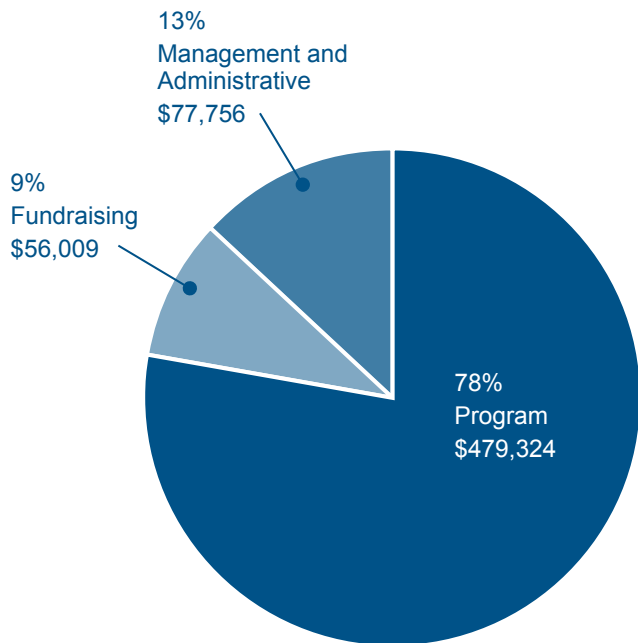
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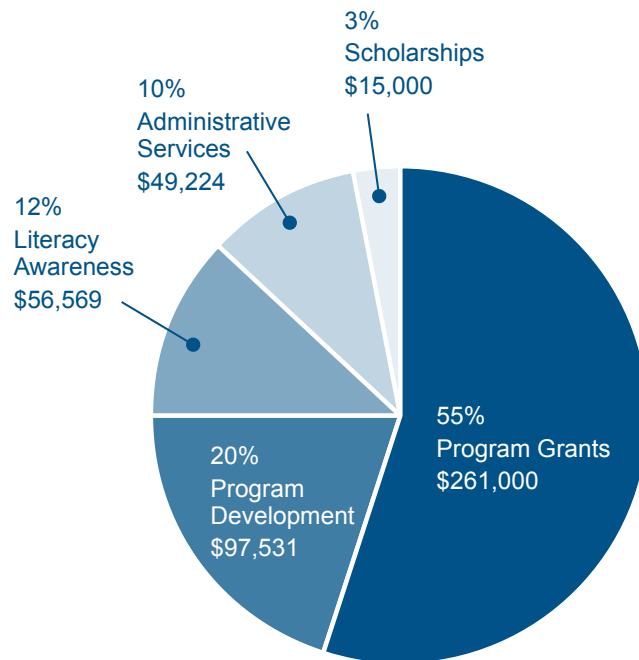
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financial information

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>	