

10 Pine Street, Morristown, NJ 07960 [www.lvmorris.org](http://www.lvmorris.org)

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**ABOUT US**

Literacy Volunteers of Morris County (LVMC) offers free in-person literacy instruction to help adults function independently in society. The organization has provided foundational support for one-on-one and group lessons for more than 30 years. LVMC is one of the largest literacy programs in New Jersey and maintains certification by ProLiteracy, a national adult literacy standards group.

“In the last five years, our students have achieved over 10,000 personal goals.”

With the dedication of volunteers and part-time staff, LVMC is able to keep expenses to less than $1 dollar per student, per day. In addition to individual and small group tutoring, we provide instruction in pronunciation, US history, preparation for the US citizenship test, American customs and manners, math, basic essay writing, resume guidance, and GED preparation.

**Our Students**

We serve any person who needs help with foundational English communication or math skills. This includes people who were born in the United States and those who have come here speaking other languages. Our ESL students come from over 70 different countries.

**Our Tutors**

Volunteers receive comprehensive training on basic teaching skills and cultural awareness. Tutors receive logistical support from our staff and access to a library of materials designed for the adult learner.

**Each Year**

Together, tutors, students, and staff help accomplish thousands of individual goals. In the last five years, students achieved over 10,000 goals: more than 250 were able to find a job; more than 150 became US citizens; hundreds were able to start college, vote, use a computer, handle their medical care, and become more independent, engaged, and self-sufficient members of our community.

Please continue reading for more details on our work this past year. Thank you for helping us give the gift of literacy!

***Debbie Leon***

Executive Director

**We open more than books, we open doors**

**2016 PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**In 2016,**

More than 1,000 students attended our programs.

90% studied English as a second language

104 Basic Literacy learners worked to improve reading, writing and basic math skills

Of the students with regular attendance, 72% achieved their literacy goal

Overall, 44% of our students achieved their literacy goals

36 of our unemployed students were able to find jobs

86 improved their ability to perform their job

13 who received a promotion as their skills improved

43 individuals improved their parenting skills

28 students became citizens

24 students were better able to manage their health care needs

334 reported being better able their basic survival needs independently

**LVMC Changes Lives**

Our students’ inability to communicate impacts negatively upon their ability to work, raise their families, and fully function as members of society. We aim to help each student reach his or her own individual goal, whether it is to find a job, become a US citizen, or help their child with their homework. With personalized instruction, our students can progress at their own pace and begin to gain confidence in their communication skills.

**REFLECTIONS FROM TUTORS AND STUDENTS**

“I have learned a lot about America through LVMC; like their culture, the complicated voting system, the current issues, etc. It really helps me understand about America and their customs. I am thankful to all the staff at LVMC, because they always say, “Hello, how are you?” with very smiling faces, so I feel comfortable and welcome to come to LVMC. I remember the first day I visited the building. I hesitated to go in, but your warm and nice smiles blew my worries away. Most of all, I’m thankful to meet all the teachers and people there. They are so valuable to me. I’m so happy that I have a chance to be at LVMC. Thank you all.

*Kimberly from Korea*

“It made us feel welcome to America. It makes me feel there are so many wonderful people who are willing to take extra time to help others.

*Liyun from China*

“Thanks to the LVMC I have accomplished my school goals. Fifteen years ago I did not speak any English or have a high school diploma; but today, I am 5 classes away from finishing my college degree and LVMC has helped me through it all. I am also thankful to LVMC for helping me pass my classes and giving me hope for the future, because I did not quit. I really would like to thank all the team that makes this amazing program a success, but especially to my dear tutor and mentor, Mrs. Janice. Thank you.”  *Simone from Brazil*

“I get to share some of the skills that have helped me be successful, and I get to meet interesting people from my own community and around the world!” *Lynn Dolan, Tutor since 201*6

“I am thankful to LVMC because for the first time in my life I have the opportunity to study for free and I have finally become fluent in English. This is only possible due to the impressing dedication, patience and passion for all the teachers at LVMC. Besides this, it is a unique experience due to all the great professors. I have also met people from all over the world. They are all awesome and very friendly.”

*Milena from Brazil*

“They are making a big difference in our lives. We learn the language, customs and a lot of other things about the Country who adopted us. Because of you, we are feeling here like …home. Your motto is, “we open more than books, we open doors”. You are doing much more than that, you are opening your hearts and everything you are doing for us makes us to feel welcome and HOME. We can speak same language now and we can express our feelings of gratitude. Thank You. “ *Vio from Romania*

“My students enrich my life and teach me so much!”

*Pamela Estevez, Tutor since 2014*

“I am thankful to LVMC because it has enlightened me with knowledge of the world. The ability to communicate in reading and writing; and to express my thoughts.”

*Norman from Jamaica*

“I no longer fear learning the English language. It has helped me greatly at my career and all aspects of my life. I am thankful to LVMC because I got to meet my wonderful mentor Sarah!”

*Ken from China*

“It has given me the opportunity to help others and give back to my community. It’s so fulfilling.”

*Rebecca Karger, Tutor since 2015*

“I am learning a lot, not only the English language; but about the American history and culture. Our tutor, Mr. Russ, is a very dedicated person and we are very thankful to LVMC for giving us this opportunity. “ *Maria from Cuba*

**ANNUAL EVENTS**

**Turkey Trot**

****Every year, LVMC partners with the Interfaith Food Pantry to host a 5K race on Thanksgiving Day. Our organizations come together to suppose those who are less fortunate, which is something that many of us think about each year at Thanksgiving. Running for these causes provides an opportunity to celebrate that is healthy, fun, and has become a tradition for many Morris County residents. The event raises more than $30,000 for each organization and also helps raise awareness of the needs in our community.

**Thanksgiving Potluck Supper**

To celebrate our community, LVMC holds a dinner each year at Thanksgiving time. More than one hundred tutors, students, staff, and volunteers came together to enjoy great food and company, and acknowledge the accomplishments of the year. We also celebrated our 2016 tutors of the Year: Alice Long, Pat Libak, and Kay Kribs, and recognized Ann and Bruce Stachenfeld of the Sweetie Pig Foundation for their generous support of our program.



Ann and Bruce Stachenfeld from the Sweetie Pig Foundation



**2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Revenues**

Foundations and Corporate Grants $ 151,420

United Way $ 9,923

Individual Contributions $ 27,471

Program Fees $ 6,361

Special Events $ 53,179

Other Income $ 170

**Total $ 248,524**

**Expenses**

Program $ 209,898

Management $ 24,903

Fundraising $ 2,225

**Total $ 237,026**

**Net Assets $ 151,007**

**CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS**

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Every attempt has been made to recognize the generous contributions of our donors.   
We apologize for any errors. If you feel that your name should appear on this list, or if it appears  
 incorrectly, please let us know!

**YOUR DONATION**

LVMC receives no government funding, and relies completely on support from individual and corporate donors. Contributions help us provide the infrastructure to make each lesson possible. Overhead costs are kept low to ensure that funding can support our tutors and students.

**100%** of our funding comes from community supportand **.90 cents** of every dollar directly supports our students and tutors

**How do we use the money you donate?**

$40 provides a one year newsletter subscription for a student

$50 helps a student prepare for the General Equivalency Diploma (GED)

$150 sponsors an English as a Second Language student for one year

$250 sponsors a Basic Literacy student for one year

$200 pays for test preparation materials for US Citizenship

$1,000 trains 25 new volunteer tutors

$2,275 supports our facility cost for one month

$2,500 updates our lending library for an entire year

**OUR MISSION**

**Literacy Volunteers of Morris County** believes that the ability to read, write, comprehend and speak English is essential for personal freedom and the sustainability of a democratic society. Our mission is to provide free instruction to Morris County adults in literacy, English fluency and American culture.

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