

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

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

**ABOUT US**

Literacy Volunteers of Morris County (LVMC) offers free in-person literacy instruction to help adults function independently in society. We have 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, LVMC students have achieved over 10,000 personal goals.

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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 60 different countries.

**Our Tutors**

Volunteers are trained by our experienced staff. Our comprehensive training prepares tutors with basic teaching skills and cultural awareness. Tutors receive customized support from our staff and access to a library of materials designed for the adult learner.

**Each Year**

Together, tutors, students, and staff accomplish thousands of individual goals. In the last five years, students have achieved over 10,000 goals: More than 250 were able to find jobs; 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**

**2018 PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

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| **648**  **Students**  **Served** | **LVMC**  **FACTS** | **305**  **Active**  **Tutors** |
| **84% of Students met one of their goals after 12 hours of instruction** | **41 unemployed Students**  **found**  **a job** | **161 Students were better able to perform their current job** |
| **24 Students became U.S. citizens** | **61 Conversation groups met throughout Morris County** | **400 students were better able to handle their every day survival needs** |
| **280 Tutor/Student Pairs met during the year** | **LVMC Students came from 60+ different countries** | **89**  **New Tutors**  **Trained** |

**REFLECTIONS FROM TUTORS AND STUDENTS**

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| --- | --- |
| *“After the age of 50, I never thought I could immigrate to another country and start a life from ground zero. There are so many difficulties of attempting such an endeavor besides just finding a job and place to live. I’m so lucky to have found such a national treasure that is LVMC. No other institution is even close to it, and everyone volunteering and offering his or her help to me and my family is the reason why we are who we are as a family today. We cannot be more thankful.” Nilgun Uysal, from Turkey*  *“Thank you for the help and support that you have given to me, to be a part of this country. I not only learned English but solidarity and a desire to make a better world.” Marta, from Argentina*  *“LVMC is important to me because it helps me to communicate with people. Everyone at LVMC is friendly, I feel comfortable at LVMC, and my English is improving. I really like the teachers and staff here. They help me to adapt to my new life in the U.S.”*  *Jenny from China*  *“The ESL volunteer help means a lot to me. It was a big change in my life. After coming to classes, I started to feel more confident in my practical ways during my everyday life. I can communicate much better and understand what is happening around me.”*  *Norma, from Mexico*  *“You did not only teach me what is good here is US But you also inspired me to do good in life. You are a great teacher and a good human being. Talking to you is always like taking a deep dive into an ocean full of knowledge and wisdom. You are the best. You are more than a teacher to me. You have been a wonderful mentor and an amazing person for me. I feel grateful having such a wonderful teacher.”*  *Tejal, from India* | *“I have lived in NJ for almost 6 years, for the first 4 years of my residence I didn’t know LVMC which was sad and made me struggle in many parts of my life. I’m now so happy to attend LVMC’s English class. In the past 2 years, I’ve made big progress in my speaking skills and listening comprehension. With LVMC’s tremendous help, I felt very comfortable during my naturalization. Now I’m a U.S. citizen. I couldn’t have done such an achievement without LVMC’s help.” Wei, From China*  *“LVMC is important to me because I want to learn English so I can be independent. When I came to the U.S. I couldn’t speak English. Now I can write, read and I can speak very well.” Fatema, from Afghanistan*  *“I am very happy and thankful that I became a US citizen. It took a long time and was stressful for me, but now I’m feeling part of this beautiful country which I respect and love already. My independent life started here so I hope I can keep building my family, feeling safe and blessed.”*  *Soledad from Chile*  *“I am proud to be associated with an organization that offers free and accessible education with respect and value for every individual. I realize that many English language learners would be faced with very limited options but for the effort of agencies like LVMC. But mostly, this experience has provided me with new perspective, a boost to my confidence, and an increased awareness and appreciation of custom and culture.”*  *Pam Cucco, Tutor since 2017*  *“I am so fortunate because I get to travel the world every week with my students. As they learn to speak English, I learn of their countries, cultures, food, political issues, etc. Most importantly, I am rewarded by their excitement as they conquest the new vocabulary, grammar, idioms etc. of*  *their new country.”*  *Nancy Cunningham, Tutor since 1998*  *“I’ve been a tutor for a while now and it has been a wonderful experience. I love tutoring and teaching. I’ve had a lot of wonderful students and have learned a lot form them. LVMC is a wonderful organization that is trying to help people move forward and have a better life****.”***  *Roy Morance, Tutor since 2011* |

**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 because we support 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 gratitude that is healthy, fun, and has become a tradition for many Morris County residents. The event raises money for each organization and also helps raise awareness of the need for new volunteer tutors.

**Thanksgiving Potluck Supper**

To celebrate our community, LVMC holds a dinner each November at Thanksgiving time. More than one hundred tutors, students, staff, and volunteers come together and acknowledge the accomplishments of the year. The event includes a basket raffle and award ceremony. Our 2018 Tutors of the year were Doug Drosin, Christine Hasenbein, Eileen Ceconi and Russ D’Italia. Library Director Chad Leinaweaver and the Morristown and Township Library were also recognized for their amazing support of literacy.



From Left: LVMC Board President Karin Kruse, Doug Drosin, Christine Hasenbein, Morristown Library Director Chad Leinaweaver, Eileen Ceconi , Russ D’Italia and Executive Director, Debbie Leon

**Raise a Racquet for Literacy**

In May, The LVMC Board, led by Emi Chalker, organized a fundraiser at the Mendham Health and Racquet Club that raised more than $3,000 to support LVMC. Friends and Tutors had a great time playing tennis and pickleball, and bidding on gifts at our Silent Auction. Get your tennis whites ready so you can come out and support us at our next Raise a Racquet for Literacy fundraiser.





LVMC Board members German Gomez, Jennifer Thackery, Karin Kruse, Diane Miller, Danielle Shannon and Susan Ticker

**Wine Tasting**

LVMC Assistant Director, Bevin Tierney, tending bar



The LVMC board was busy raising money during the year, sponsoring a wine tasting event at Cambridge Wines in Morristown. In October, Tutors and friends were invited to taste a variety of wines and buy their favorites for their holiday table. Thank you to Marci Silbert for organizing this event, which raised more than $2,000 for LVMC.



**Morristown Fall Festival**

Every year, LVMC participated in the Morristown Fall Festival, as a way of spreading the word of our programs to potential tutors and students, and publicize our upcoming Turkey Trot.

LVMC Executive Director Debbie Leon and board member Susan Ticker gamely wearing Turkey hats at the LVMC booth

**Scenes from our Classes and Workshops**

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Amparo’s birthday celebration

An International Potluck with Christine’s class

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Dana’s conversation group

Bob with his beginner class



New citizen Wei celebrating with tutor Nancy

In the News Class with Pamela and Students

**2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Revenues**

Foundations and Corporate Grants $ 70,222

Individual Contributions $ 21,374

Program Fees $ 3,873

Special Events $ 54,595

**Total $ 150,064**

**Expenses**

Program $ 147,664

Management $ 20,620

Fundraising $ 5,869

**Total $ 173,973**

Decrease in in Net Assets $ (23,909)

Net Assets, beginning of year $ 176,793

Net Assets, end of year $ 152,884

**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  
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**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 subscription for a newspaper designed for the ESL student

$100 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 preparation materials for the US Citizenship test

$1,000 trains 25 new volunteer tutors

$3,000 pays our rent for one month

**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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