

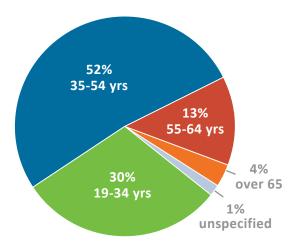
#### **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



LITERACY NETWORK HELPS ADULTS IN DANE COUNTY BUILD SKILLS, REACH GOALS, AND CONNECT COMMUNITIES.

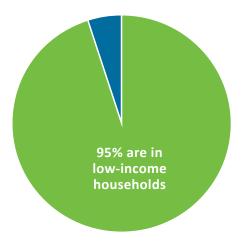
# **2021 LEARNER PROFILE**

AGE



Race / Ethnicity	(% of learners)
Asian/SE Asian	6%
Black/African American	17%
Latinx	67%
White	7%
Multiracial	1%
Native American	1%
Other or Unspecified	1%

INCOME



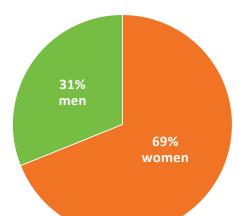
"The more educated I am, the more opportunities I can have. I can help my children reach their goals." Huber, Citizenship student



"The most important thing for me is to improve my English skills and find confidence to do better at

work." Leticia, Transitions ESL student

**GENDER** 



**PARENTS IN PROGRAMS** 

46% of learners have kids in school\*

\*75% are mothers, 25% are fathers

Dear Literacy Network supporter,

Your support of adult learners in 2021 made a significant impact as we expanded our services based on the changes that affected many adult learners.

Our vaccine education program was important because many learners are in jobs that do not allow remote work. Many of our students work in hospitality, housekeeping, food service, and other customer-facing industries. We



conducted a survey in April 2021 which found that our students were getting vaccinated at a rate that was 20% lower than that of the general population. We were curious to learn why and found that many students had questions about the vaccines and their safety. They wanted to know more about it before deciding, so we created lesson plans that supported learning so they could make informed decisions for themselves and their families.

After delivering the curriculum to more than 400 students, 78% of our students had gotten at least a first dose of the vaccine. I was surprised by the incredible increase in vaccination rates, but not surprised to see that our lessons were effective --Literacy Network staff and volunteers are trusted messengers with our students. We have built trust by showing that we truly care about the lives and goals of all our students.

Over the last two years, we have supported students by helping them access basic needs as well as the literacy skills they need. This is only possible with your loyal sustaining support. We are grateful to have such a caring and engaged community around adult learners in our programs.

To further demonstrate our commitment to adult learners, we revamped our mission statement to be learner focused, with learners' voices, their agency, and their dreams at the heart of it. It's about what we do together: Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.

With all the pandemic-related disruption in our programs, our team performed exceptionally well. Here are just a few highlights:

- The number of people who earned a high school diploma in 2021 was 147% of our annual goal.
- Participation in the high school completion program was 162% of our target.
- Participation in the pre-GED program was at 105% of the goal; 89% of students demonstrated gain in literacy or language.

I deeply appreciate your support of adult learners at Literacy Network.

Thank you so much,

Jeff Burkhart Executive Director

2021 Board of Directors Nicole Cuellar – President Summer Rector – VP Janet Berger – Treasurer Megan Heneke – Secretary Beatriz Aguilar Dori Botts Lotus Buckner Bea Christensen Lau Christensen Carol Cohen J. Corkey Custer Tana Elias Valeah Fov Kevin Grzebielski Sarah Horner Anne Karch Gabrielle Isabel Kelenyi Stephanie Le Lisa Lemberger Jen Neuls Stephanie Ortiz Anna K. Sainsbury **Charles Yates** 



"Growing up in a bilingual family, I quickly learned how literacy skills can impact one's educational opportunities and financial stability. As a volunteer ESL tutor and Board Member, I am thrilled to support Literacy Network's mission and unwavering dedication to improve literacy across Dane County."

- Charlie Yates, 2020-2022 Board member



**DAN KUMARI** came to refugee ESL (English as a Second Language) class in fall of 2021 with no English language skills and little confidence. With persistence and encouragement, she has learned the alphabet, how to spell basic vocabulary words, and can fill out questionnaires. Since starting refugee English class, Dan Kumari's hard work has improved her skills.

**GENOVEVA AND MARIO** started taking ESL at Literacy Network in 2017. After years of hard work and with help from their tutors, in 2021 they each earned their High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) and continue to further their education at Madison College.

**ADRIAN**, his father, Benjamin, and his aunt, Maria all became U.S. citizens after enrolling in Citizenship class.

104

199

**LARRY** is in Essentials to improve his skills such as computer literacy. He received a computer through the Literacy Network computer loan program and after setting up internet at his home, he was able to send his first email ever.

**RADHIKA** started taking classes in our Community English program in Spring 2020 to improve her English skills in order to pursue her pharmacy career goal. After 40 hours of instruction over four semesters, she began applying to jobs in the spring of 2021. She diligently prepared by practicing mock interviews, email communication, note taking, and tips for making a good first impression. After months of hard work, Radhika began a job in data entry at a local biotechnology company.

# # OF LEARNERS SERVED IN LITERACY NETWORK'S PROGRAMS IN 2021

321

89

40 Essential Literacy: Building basic reading, writing, and computer skills with one-onone tutoring

> Citizenship: Working on civic and language skills to pass the U.S. naturalization (USCIS) interview and test

**Community English:** Meeting in the community for English as a Second Language classes for parents/families

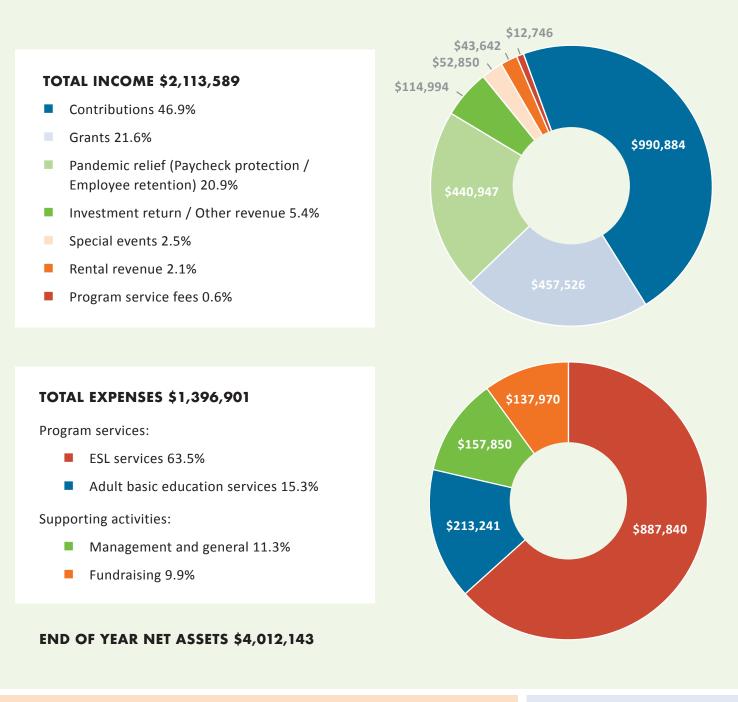
125 Community Literacy: Working with personal tutors on English as a Second Language skills in a classroom ESL Group Classes: Teaching various class levels that center on practical language and skills for community living and work (including basic English classes for refugees)

ESL Personal Tutoring: Supporting English Language Learners with personal tutoring

GED / HSED: Working toward high school credentials (High School Equivalency Diploma or GED) though personal tutoring

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Audited Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2021





"Because they are so trusted, a very large percentage of their learners are vaccinated. It is one of the best organizations we support."

Literacy Network donor, November 2021

Literacy Network is a Top-Rated Nonprofit by GreatNonprofits and has attained the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Approval.





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#### **MISSION:**

Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.

## 2021 AT-A-GLANCE

779 students served

24,692 instructional hours (28% increase over 2020)

**32** hours per student (19% increase over 2020)

total volunteers and 8,384 total 295 volunteer hours (average 28 hours per volunteer)

35 learners became U.S. citizens

**46** participants reported promotions



**28** received raises

22 learners earned a High School Equivalency Diploma/GED

40 got new jobs with better pay

**39%** of our learners identified gaining computer skills among their goals

22% increase in the total number of volunteers over 2020