



ANNUAL REPORT

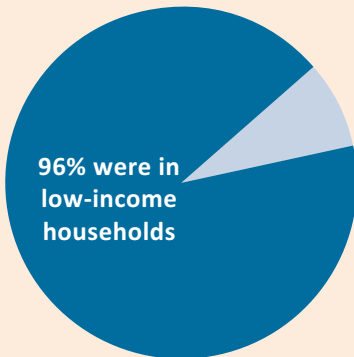
Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills,
reach goals, and connect communities.



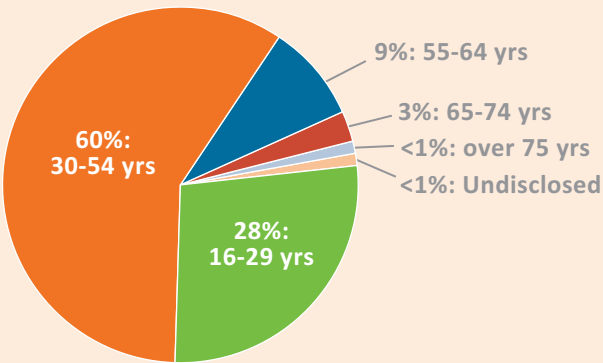
CONGRATULATIONS TO 2025'S NEW CITIZENS!

2025 STUDENT PROFILE

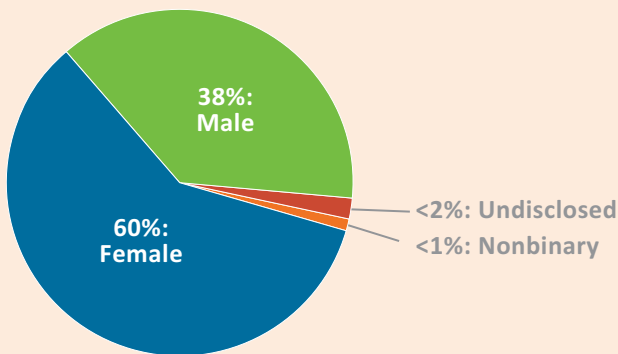
INCOME



AGE



GENDER



RACE / ETHNICITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Asian/SE Asian	83
Black/African American	276
Latinx	1085
Multiracial	51
Native American	4
White	105
Other	42
Undisclosed	73

★ BEYOND LITERACY GOALS

405 students reported achieving a goal related to health literacy, such as communicating with healthcare providers, making an appointment, or reading medicine labels.

683 people reported increased community engagement, including:

619 people who made new friends or connected with their neighbors

54 people who got library cards

★ RESPONDING TO STUDENT NEEDS

In response to the question “What other services do you want?” more than half of the students in our 2025 student survey asked for programming related to navigating life in the U.S. We are responding to this need by developing and incorporating a “Life in the U.S.” curriculum in all ESL level classes starting in Fall 2026.



“I felt frustrated when I had calls from my child’s school and also calls from the clinic because I didn’t know what to answer. Now I can speak without shame and also I have a better job and very good wage. I give all the credit to my tutor Willa for all these good things happening to me. I feel thankful to her and Literacy Network.”

— Saulo, Transitions ESL, ESL Tutoring student

Saulo and Willa have been working together for 13 years!!

Dear Literacy Network Friends,

We are proud to have maintained Literacy Network as a welcoming place for all community members to work on educational and life goals in 2025. Throughout the year, we preserved our buildings as safe spaces, hosted multiple Know Your Rights sessions with community experts and trusted partners, and embedded information on basic rights in our registration process and curricula.



For the third year in a row, a record number of individuals studied at Literacy Network. Plus, the average annual number of hours per student increased – not an easy accomplishment with so many new students enrolling throughout the year. We offered over 50 classes each trimester at 17 locations across Dane County.

Omega School's first year as a program of Literacy Network was a success! We continued Omega's legacy of providing individualized instructional support for students for whom traditional high school was not available or was not a good fit. Ezi Adesi, a former staff member at both Omega and Literacy Network, returned to serve as Program Director, and we retained all Omega staff along with the agency's contracts and grants. We created intentional pathways for students between Literacy Network and Omega. Thirty students studied at both Omega and Literacy Network in 2025, including four ESL students who obtained their high school diplomas through Omega's Spanish GED program. With the addition of Omega, we were able to serve more than four times the number of students in high school completion programming.

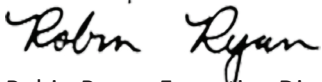
2025 saw the most ever Citizenship Program students pass the U.S. citizenship interview: 71. Our longstanding Citizenship Program teaches English, civics, and history to prepare students for the naturalization interview and test.

When we lost federal funding for our Citizenship Program last year, individual donors and local foundations stepped in to ensure we could continue citizenship classes and tutoring. We benefited not only from these financial gifts but also from the heartfelt words of support and the recognition of the importance and quality of the work that Literacy Network staff and volunteers provide. We are thankful to our supporters for sustaining our work through the good times as well as the more challenging ones.

As a result of community support, we were able to maintain all of our programs in 2025, including group and tutoring classes we added since 2023 and our sheltered English class for Afghan women in Northeast Madison, which saw increased participation as word spread in the community.

We are grateful to be part of the Dane County community that supports immigrants and adult education. While 2025 was a year of challenges and change, it was also a year of unity and strength due to support like yours, and for that, we extend our thanks.

Sincerely,



Robin Ryan , Executive Director

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tana Elias – President

Douglas Keillor – Vice President

Ryan Smith – Treasurer

Anne Karch – Secretary

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Jeff Boudreau

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Francisco Soza

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Lynn Silverman

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Seth Umbaugh

Seynabou Youm



"Being a literacy tutor is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I had many rewarding years as a public school reading teacher. The amount of change that literacy brings to an adult's life is profound. It is a joy to watch a student's life, and their own self-confidence improve. I appreciate that the Literacy Network offers seats on the board to those of us who tutor. This allows the passion we have for the work to spread throughout the governing body and keep us all focused on the importance of keeping the work going."

- Anne Karch



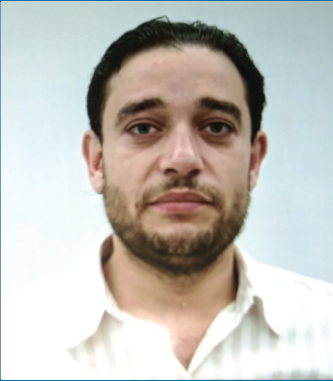
"Literacy Network helped me to strengthen my English, which opened doors to better jobs and boosted my confidence. Because of that growth, I now feel motivated to give back and support others so the help I once received can become the spark that helps others grow personally and professionally."

- Anabel Carruyo, Development and Marketing Committee member and former student



“From the very first event I attended, I knew I had to support Literacy Network’s work. The transparency of the organization – being able to see the direct impact classes and tutoring were having in the lives of students – really stood out to me. Reading, writing, and speaking well are fundamental skills that help people from all walks of life gain confidence, progress in their careers, and better advocate for themselves and their families. It’s been incredibly fulfilling knowing I play a small part in helping people’s lives change through literacy.”

- Liz Boyd, monthly sustaining donor



Mustafa has taken group classes with us for four years and works one-on-one with a tutor. He shared, “I came to America not knowing ABC, now I know how to speak a little and I know how to read a little. I benefited a lot from school and I thank everyone. **My dream is to get my citizenship so I can go back and see my family.**”

- Mustafa, refugee from Syria



“Rhonda is so determined and resilient! After not being in school for almost 40 years, she is learning so much all at once – how to use a computer and navigate the internet and word processing programs plus her course materials. She takes it all in stride, and it’s very inspiring.”

- Jamie, volunteer tutor

Rhonda worked with Jamie to earn her high school diploma, and is now taking classes at Madison College. Rhonda was recently named Madison College’s School of Academic Advancement’s Exemplary Learner of the Year! Read their 2025 interview here: litnetwork.org/rhonda-and-jamie

OF STUDENTS SERVED IN 2025

49 **Essential Literacy:** Build basic reading, writing, and computer skills with one-on-one tutoring

166 **Citizenship:** Work on civics and language skills to pass the U.S. naturalization interview and test

611 **Community English:** Attend ESL classes at host sites (schools, libraries, community centers) to accommodate parents and families

117 **Community Literacy:** Work 1:1 with a volunteer tutor in a group setting, with an individualized lesson plan prepared by a Literacy Network intern

642 **ESL Group Classes:** Focus on practical language skills for work and community life, in various class levels

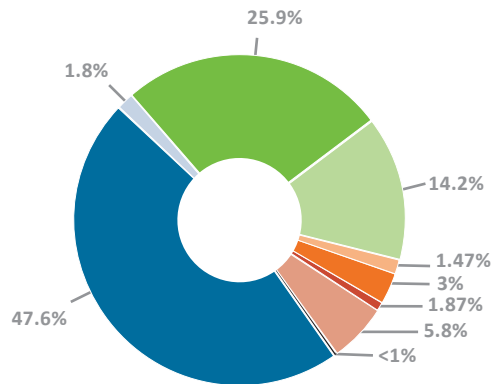
18 **ESL Personal Tutoring:** Study 1:1 with volunteer tutors who write personalized lesson plans, in locations around Dane County

280 **GED/HSED:** Work toward high school equivalency completion (GED/HSED) through individualized instruction or personal tutoring

94 **Workplace English:** Learn English through customized lessons on-site at employers to increase communication for safety, productivity, and morale

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

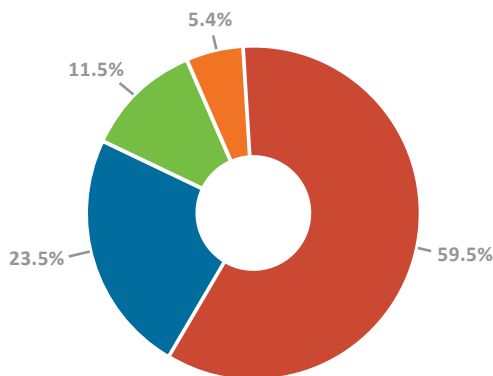
Audited Statement of Activities for the Year Ended
December 31, 2025



TOTAL INCOME \$3,006,541

- Contributions - \$1,404,966
- Special events - \$54,795
- Grants - \$778,769
- Contributed assets from Omega School, Inc - \$427,188
- Donated services and materials - \$44,257
- Program service fees - \$92,897
- Change in value of beneficial interest in assets held by MCF - \$26,396
- Investment return, net - \$174,278
- Other revenue - \$2,995

**Includes pledges made in 2025 for multi-year gifts and grants*



TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,587,471

Program services:

- ESL services - \$1,540,501
- Adult basic education services - \$608,750

Supporting activities:

- Management and general - \$297,283
- Fundraising - \$140,937

END-OF-YEAR NET ASSETS \$4,473,684

2025 FUNDERS

GOVERNMENT

City of Madison
Dane County Department of Human Services
Public Health Madison & Dane County
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
Wisconsin Technical College System

FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS

2nd Market Capital Economic Opportunity Foundation
Alliant Energy Foundation
Brooks Point Foundation
Connexus Association
DeAtley Family Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation
Evjue Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
Hooper Foundation
John J. Frautschi Family Foundation
Kayser Automotive Foundation
Lau and Bea Christensen Charitable Foundation
Lu Family Foundation
Madison Community Foundation
Madison Community Foundation – A Fund for Women
Madison Investments Foundation
MGE Foundation
Nimick Forbesway Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
Oscar Rennebohm Foundation
Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation
Schlecht Family Foundation
TruStage Foundation
United Way of Dane County Foundation Loaned Executives
Widen Family Foundation

OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

100+ Women Who Care Madison
Altrusa Club of Madison
Ascendium Education
Bayview Community Center
Dane Manufacturing
Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)
Epic Systems
Madison Metropolitan School District
Madison Public Library
Middleton Public Library
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District
PLATO
Poynette Ironworks
Reach Dane
Sauk Trails Optimist Club Youth and Community Foundation
Strand Associates, Inc.
Sun Prairie Community Schools
United Way of Dane County
Vera Court Neighborhood Center
Verona Public Library
Waunakee Public Library
Wisconsin Literacy



Literacy Network[™]

www.litnetwork.org
608-244-3911

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Madison, WI 53713

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2025 AT A GLANCE



1,724 students served
(11% increase over 2024)



52,815 instructional hours
(14% increase over 2024)

31 average hours per student



394 total volunteers

11,749 total volunteer hours
(average 30 hours per volunteer)



180 refugees participated
in programming



66 home languages represented
in student population



81 countries of origin represented in
student population



71 students passed their citizenship test



114 people in employment-related
programs achieved their goal
of a new job or promotion

397 employed students achieved
a workplace goal (raise,
improved on-the-job communication,
used a computer at work)



53 students earned their high school
equivalency diploma (GED or HSED)