



Center for Literacy

Learning for Life

Teach adults to read.
Create lasting change.

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Wanda Montgomery
What does this class and CFL means
to me?

This class and CFL means to me...
It's the beginning of an opportunity
and chance to enhance my reading
skills. It is giving me a better chance
to get a college degree. And giving
my parents and children the assurance
that I will have a good life in a
social work career.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter.....	1
Infographic.....	2
Successful Students	3
Learning Together	4-5
Tutors 2014-2015	6
Board and Staff.....	7
Donors	8
Finances.....	9

Writer and Production: Robin Robinowitz

Assistance: Janice Dobkin Kardon, Vicki Lynam, Matthew Nienas,
Maribel Ojeda, Kenneth D. Waters, Ed.D., Michael Westover

Design: Biddle Design

Photo Credit (cover, pages 5 and 7): Third Eye Productions

Printer: EnForm Graphic Productions, Inc.

Dear Friends,

This was a year of planning and creating new partnerships. At the same time, we were able to increase the number of students served and provide more comprehensive services.

With the strength of our staff, our dedicated volunteer tutors, and the generosity of our donors, we were able to serve 1,602 learners. A new outreach campaign spread the word about our services throughout the city, which resulted in a 20 percent increase of students who came to Center for Literacy compared to last year.

Case management and career coaching services were also expanded this year, reaching 263 learners, a 50 percent increase compared to last year. We now have three learning coaches who are responsible for our case management and career coaching, helping our students to improve their academic, social and professional outcomes.

We continue to offer classes in adult basic education, GED prep, English as a second language, and job readiness training. Instruction is also provided to youth and their families in collaboration with community-based organizations. Our tutoring program remains a vital part of our programming, hosting tutoring in small group and in one-on-one sessions.

We were able to plan with board members and staff to become a Career Pathways agency, which will increase job opportunities to our students. Under this new model we will be able to better link education and training services that will enable our learners to advance over time to successively higher levels of education and employment in a given industry or occupational sector.

In June 2015, we were approved by the Mayor's Commission on Literacy to become a "myPLACESM campus," joining Congreso, Community Learning Center and District 1199C to enroll and set appointments for adult learners, while assuring that their needs are being met. We also joined the KEYSPOt Network, now offering free computer use, Internet access and training to the public.

We are deeply grateful to our new partners; our donors, old and new; to our dedicated board of trustees; to our tutors for their many hours of service; to our committed staff; and to our friends who contribute in many other ways to improve the lives of our students and their families.

With greatest appreciation,



Peggy

Peggy Leimkuhler
Chair, Board of Trustees



Michael

Michael Westover
President and CEO

**CENTER FOR LITERACY EMPOWERS
ADULTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND
SKILLS TO SUCCEED IN POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION, TO COMPETE IN THE 21ST
CENTURY ECONOMY, TO ACTIVELY
ENGAGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND TO
SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL
ATTAINMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN.**

Center for Literacy Serves Those in Need...

37% of adults
in Philadelphia are considered
low literate



82% of CFL students
read at **6th grade level or below**

38% of those living
in poverty in Philadelphia
lack a high school degree



55% of CFL students
live in poverty

In 2020, 65% of jobs
will require education
beyond high school



60% of CFL students
are unemployed and
available for work



...and disrupts the cycle of poverty.

120 volunteer
tutors

spent 6,061 service
hours



66 hours
of instruction per
enrolled student,
on average



1,602
students

391 students
raised their literacy skills
by at least one grade level

43 community
classes

in Adult Basic Education (ABE),
GED test preparation, English as
a Second Language (ESL),
Out-of-School Youth, Family
Literacy, at Mastery Charter
School and
at EDSI



383 students entered employment

380 students
achieved U.S. citizenship skills

Above figures are from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Successful Students



MELVIN EDWARDS

One would think that not passing the GED test in math by one point would be frustrating. Not for Melvin Edwards, who continued to take classes three or four days a week as part of the CFL's Family Literacy Program. With support from his learning coach, he landed a job as a cook at Movie Tavern in Flourtown, PA. Melvin believes it is a perfect fit for him. **"I work hard and can grow with the company."**

RONALD ERNST

A recovering addict, Ronald Ernest, 60, came to CFL in April 2014. He is determined to get his GED and is now taking classes two days a week to improve his writing and reading. Ronald has moved up two levels in reading, from 7.5 grade to 9.1 grade. He travels to the CFL on his bike, a 40 minute ride from West Philadelphia, to work in the computer lab before classes start. Before he got a bike he walked to the CFL, a two and half hour walk. His goal is to get his GED and then to enter a trade school where he can work as an electrician or as an auto repair technician.



ANISHA JEAN-LOUIS

"I was knocked down so many times. I took my talents for granted. Before I came to the CFL I had quit mentally and didn't believe in myself. When I landed at the CFL I had teachers, support staff and students encouraging me on. They believed in me." Anisha Jean-Louis received her GED from CFL and attended Newark Young Adults Pre-Apprenticeship Program, sponsored by New Jersey Health Care Employers District 1199J.

TAMIKA MCCLARY

When Tamika McClary was laid-off after 14 years as a customer service representative at an insurance company she seized the opportunity to get her GED. While at CFL she also received assistance with her job search. Tamika is now employed by a temporary staffing company where she has been assigned a clerical job that is close to her home in Darby, PA. Despite the long commute — one hour from her job to get to CFL — she continued to take GED classes in the evenings.



FILOMENA FERNANDES SANTOS

When Filomena Fernandes Santos started to take classes at CFL she spoke Portuguese and a little English. **"Studying in class has helped me in many ways such as improving my skills in pronunciation, vocabulary, and understanding what the teacher says. At the beginning I was too scared to get close to people because I was not able to understand what they were saying. Today, I feel more comfortable when someone speaks to me, I am able to observe and answer."** Filomena's goal is to become an American citizen.

Learning Together

There's a story behind each interaction between our volunteer tutors and adult learners. Individualized instruction offers the chance to connect beyond a lesson plan. Sometimes all it takes is an ally to accomplish life's goals.

Laura McNamara has always had a fondness for public libraries and adult literacy. When she got her master's degree in 2007 in library sciences from Clarion University the classes were held at the Free Library's central location. She found the Mayor's Commission on Literacy (MCOL), then located at the Free Library, volunteering with different students each time. From MCOL she went on to Center for Literacy (CFL) and was assigned a student in March 2015.

As an "electronic resources librarian" at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Laura McNamara knows computers and libraries. She put both skills to work — technology and the love of the written word — to help student James Zuber improve his reading and writing, and to show him how to better use his smart phone.

When James bought a new smart phone, Laura helped him learn how to use the features, including how to text and how to access the Internet. He enjoys texting positive messages. "I am now doing things that I never thought I ever would do," says James.

Laura calls James "one of the most motivated people that I have ever met. I'm in awe of his work ethic. His reading has improved, from memorizing words to breaking down the words into sounds. Now he can pronounce words that he didn't know before . . . He does a lot a work outside of our sessions."

James realized in 12th grade that he had a reading disability. He ended up dealing drugs and was in jail

for 10 years. Growing up in North Philadelphia, his family was always a big supporter and prayed for him. He changed his life for the better in 2005 and now, at age 46, he has a good full-time job on an assembly line "catching" boxes that fast food restaurants use to put the food in. He sees his nine-year old son daily and they read together. He would love to work for the City of Philadelphia as a sanitation worker or a laborer.

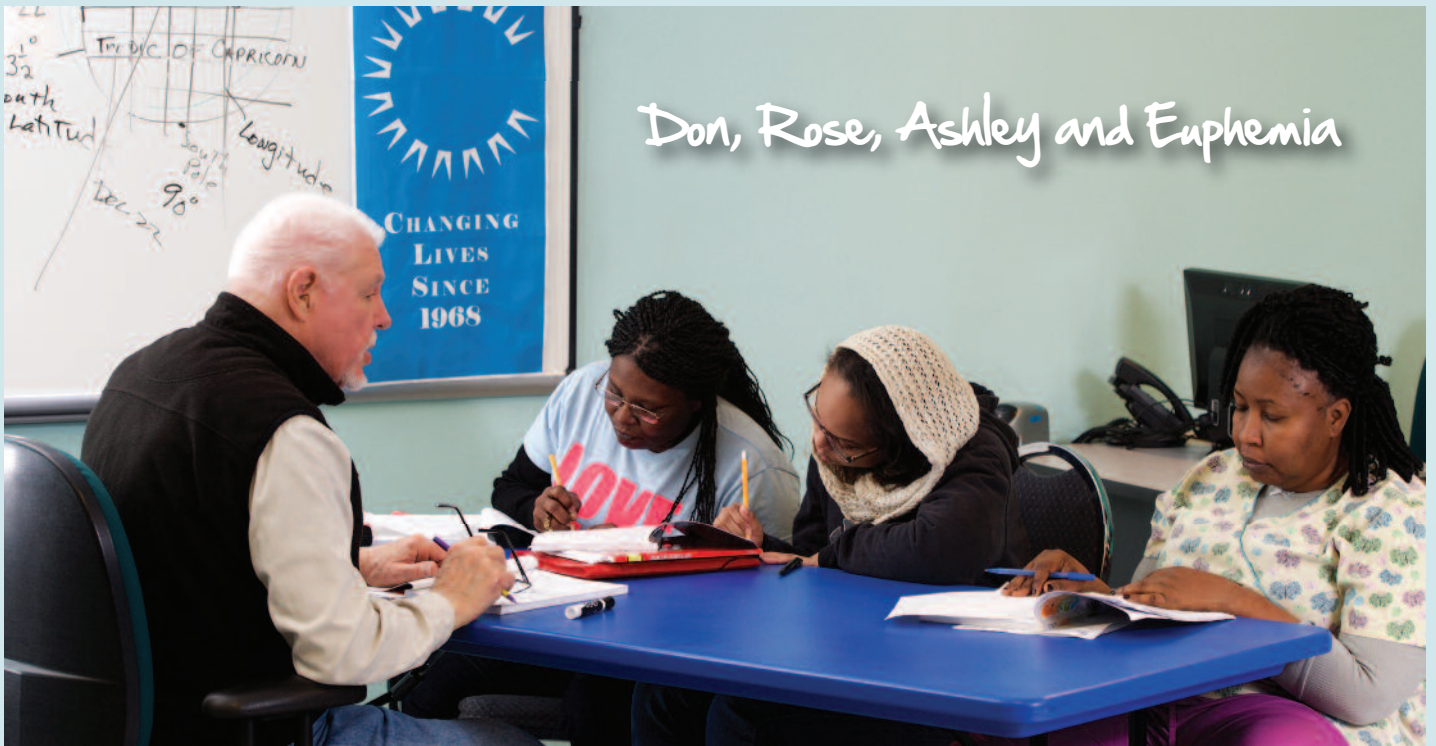
James feels blessed to get the tutoring and one of the exercises that he did with Laura was to write an essay for his church to become a deacon:



"I thank God For Blessing me to be A Deacon in the Church. I Feel Good about myself that The Lord Gave me a third Chance. My Mother Prayed For me to Get My life in Order and told me that iF I don't get my life together I will go back to Jail. My Sister stayed on my back and I Had to make a change and I asked myself do I want to live or die. Then I went to church and The

Lord Blessed my mind and I got Baptised in the name of Jesus. The Lord Blessed me to become A Deacon in the Church. I thank Jesus For Blessing My mind."

Laura values the opportunities that she received early in her career and wants to give back to the community. James and Laura now spend two evenings a week at CFL.



Don, Rose, Ashley and Euphemia

Don Simmons' first job after college was to teach English and French to high school students in Long Beach, California. While a teacher, he used his French speaking and reading skills and signed on to be a tour guide for the National Education Association (NEA), taking NEA members around the world. "I toured in over 100 countries, in all seven continents, including Antarctica," he said.

After teaching for 14 years he decided that he was ready for a change. "It was a quite a leap," he recalled, to give up teaching, California and enter the corporate world.

He moved to Philadelphia and worked at Strawbridge & Clothier as a personnel manager for six years, then became a bank corporate trainer in 1983 at First Pennsylvania Bank, now Wells Fargo. Don retired from the bank after 21 years and began looking for other opportunities.

While he loved traveling, he wanted to do more to help the community. He spotted an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* about a retired dentist who was volunteering at Center for Literacy (CFL) and thought volunteering at CFL would be a good fit for him.

Not only was it a good match for Don, volunteering at CFL turned out to be an excellent choice for the students that he began to tutor. Rose Hopkins' fear of reading vanished after several sessions with Don. "Before I came to CFL I told myself I would never be able to read. I'm no longer afraid. Now, I'm on a roll for improvement. I no longer have a fear of reading."

"Any money that is spent to support CFL for someone to arrive at the point that they can overcome the fear of reading and writing is worth every penny spent. That is the reward that I get, for someone to overcome their fears," said Don.

Don asked to tutor a small group of students instead of having the usual one-on-one sessions. In addition to Rose, he tutors Euphemia Yormie and Ashley Wilson twice a week. He sets up a situation which he describes as "an environment in which the learners will value the learning themselves. I show interest, put the burden of learning on the students." He has been tutoring all three for over a year.

For the first time, Euphemia was recently able to fill out a job application on her own. Rose did not realize that she is very good at math. Ashley, who has a high school diploma and needs to beef up her math skills, plans in three months to go to Community College of Philadelphia or take on-line college classes, and study early childhood education.

"The highest compliment is that they come to class," said Don. Euphemia, who is from Liberia and has four children, comes to tutoring after a 12-hour evening shift as a certified nursing assistant. Ashley works two part-time jobs, then comes to tutoring. Rose takes a bus part-way, then walks to her sessions.

Despite these hardships, the doors at CFL will always be open for Rose, Euphemia and Ashley to pursue their dreams.

Tutors 2014-2015

WE THANK OUR TUTORS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION.

Marybeth Acac
Vivica Aycox
Maureen Baum
Richard Behr
Bruce Bonner
Christopher Brennan
Anjali Bushan
Ronald Cahan
Lisa Callahan
Susan Chernin
Lydia Christopher
Di Chung
Marian Colcher
Rita Coleman
Mary Conaghan
Kelly Coughlin
Kerry Coughlin
Bogdan Cristea
Lilly Dorsa
Nina Dudash
Arlene Elfman
Timothy Fahey
Junwei Fang
Junwei Fung
Danielle Gardner Wright
Rachel Gartner
MaryBeth Gevin
Micah Gilbert
Carina Gill
Whitney Goncalves
Alyssa Goodin
Pat Gorchov
Peggy Gordon
Mark Gross
Lacy Gwynn
Barbara Halpern
Sarah Hanarahan
Susan Hart
Judith Harwood
Lynda Henry
Clayton Hereth

Alexa Hoffman
Jeremy Holtzman
David Kalkstein
Roberta Kangilaski
Mara Kennedy
Jane Kim
Molly Knowles
Alex Koch
Sarah Kuniholm
William Ladd
Elizabeth Lakata
Donna Lambert
John Landry
Kim Lawlor
Tiffany Leigh
Linda Littlejohn
Sicheng Liu
Cynthia Lopata
Eric Lutz
Joan Markow
Arlene Marron
Kathy Matheson
Laura McNamara
Jay Meadway
Barb Meagher
Samantha Melamed
Michael Miles
Daniel Monagle
Melissa Morgan
Giselle Mottley
Loretta Newell
Trang Nguyen
Lawrence Ninerell
Fatemeh Norouzi
Frank Novak
Ozioma Nwofor
Kelli O'Neil
Tara O'Neill
David Oppenheim
Rebecca Paini
Virginia Patton

Tia Plummer
Carson Ramsdell
Jacob Reis
Victoria Reis
Jessica Rivera
Cameron Robinson
Charles Ruderman
Nina Scherrei
Mitch Schwartz
Christopher Shadek
John Sheerin
Rachel Shelar
Don Simmons
Michael Simone
Digvijay Singh
Ed Smolen
Larry Spector
Sunita Sreeharannair
Emily Staskowicz
Peter Stevens
Andrew Svelka
Edward Tawyea
Richard Taylor
Francis Terpening
Barbara Tobin
Carroll Toney
Thieu Kim Bich Tran
Victoria Turlik
Christina Warner
Danielle Watkin
Carole Weathers
Dan Welker
Heather Whiffin
Katie Wildes
Deborah Williams
Joseph Williams
YuXing Xia
Leah Zindel

Board and Staff

**WE THANK OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THEIR VISION AND LEADERSHIP.
WE THANK OUR STAFF FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.**

Peggy Leimkuhler, CHAIR | COO, Firsttrust Bank

Ashley Del Bianco, VICE CHAIR | Chief Grants Officer, Mayor's Office of Grants

Michael Rainone, TREASURER | Market President, BB&T

Michael McCourt, SECRETARY | Vice President, BNY Mellon

Fareeha Arshad | Vice President, Glenmede Trust

Maureen Clancy | Vice President of Human Resources, Comcast

Pelayo Coll | Partner, Blank Rome LLP

Hope Comisky | Partner, Pepper Hamilton, LLP

Eric Cramer | Attorney, Berger & Montague, P.C.

James Giles | Of Counsel, Pepper Hamilton, LLP

Donald Haskin | Community Volunteer

John Huh | Attorney, DLA Piper LLP

Barbara Kaplan | Community Volunteer

Jason Kramer | Vice President, Binswanger

Jana Landon | Chair of E-Discovery Team, Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young

Jennifer Mantini | Partner, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP

Frederica Massiah-Jackson | Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

Manish Nagar | IT Line Manager, Vanguard

Carol Saline | Director, Saline Solutions

Karen Shoener | Senior VP & Client Manager, Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Blair Thompson | Financial Advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

Michael Westover | President & CEO, Center for Literacy

Marion Wyce Sindoni | Director of Associate Communications, Independence Blue Cross

Staff

Cynthia Allen

Michael Antosch

Tina Baker-Gee

Mitchell Berger

Samuel Bianco

Scott Bostwick

Amy Brueck

Cortney Bruno

Melinda Canter

Autumn Childs

Shaquanda Clemons

Allie Cobb

Denise D'Angelo

Bess Davis

Jemal Davis

Graeme Dean

Vann DeLaine

Jamie Dobbins

Mark Edmonds

Krystal Gilchrist

Jeffrey Goncalves

Jessica Guzzardo

Lawrence Hastings

Roberta Hodges

Michelle Jensen

Barry Johnson

Musheerah Jones

Shaina Kapeluck

Stacey Kirkland

Stephanie Korber

Laura Lehman

Victoria Lynam

Michael Mander

Marcia Mayfield

Jane McGovern

Kerry McKenzie

Julie Mesaros

Tonya Monroe

Jacqueline Monts

Matthew Nienas

Maribel Ojeda

Jeanna Raleigh

Vandella Reid

Robin Robinowitz

Francis Rocchi

Anurag Sagar

Hanna Schlosser

LaTrina Swinson

Chandra Waters

Michael Westover

Mary Wilson

Samira Woods



Staff Leadership Team, l to r: Matthew Nienas, outreach and communications coordinator; Cynthia J. Allen, assistant director of instructional quality; Maribel Ojeda, data manager; Michael Westover, president and CEO; Tina Baker-Gee, assistant director of student support services; Robin Robinowitz, development and communications manager; Vicki Lynam, human resources specialist; Kenneth D. Waters, Ed. D., director of education.

Donors

WE THANK OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

Gifts \$10,000+

Bank of America
Barra Foundation
BNY Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trusts
Solomon and Sylvia Bronstein Foundation
Comcast Corporation
Firsttrust Bank
Stanley and Lucy Lopata Charitable Foundation
Cynthia Lopata
The Philadelphia Foundation
Paul L. Rathblott, S2M
United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey

Gifts \$5,000-\$9,999

Debbie Becker
DLA Piper
Frank Freudberg
James T. Giles
Peggy H. Leimkuhler
McLean Contributionship
Pepper Hamilton

Gifts \$1,000-\$4,999

Fareeha N. Arshad
Hope A. Comisky
Eric Cramer
Glenmede Trust Co.
Jeffery Honickman
Barbara J. Kaplan
Nancy and Mike Kredel
Jennifer Mantini
Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher May
Philip Devon Family Foundation, Inc.
Michael L. Rainone
Marion A. Wyce Sindoni
Stewart Family Foundation
Susquehanna Bank
Caroline C. Tyler

Gifts \$500-\$999

Jeffrey J. Aldi
R. S. Brown
Ashley S. Del Bianco
H. M. Keintz
Donald Haskin
Innovative Benefit Planning
Victor F. Keen, S2M
Stephanie M. Korber
Richard J. Markham
Joseph McPeak
William M. Siegle
Tech Impact
Barbara A. Teichert
Harriet G. Weiss
Iris Williams, S2M

Gifts \$1-\$499

Maurissa Afanador
Cynthia J. Allen
Tyree Artis
Lisa Babikian
Nancy Bacak
Tina L. Baker-Gee
Mel A. Barkan
Ronald I. Baron
Russell C. Bellavance
Lynne M. Berman
Amy L. Binder
Sharon D. Blocker
Tristan A. Bradley
Georgeanne Brown
Brownstein Group, S2M
Zola Bryen

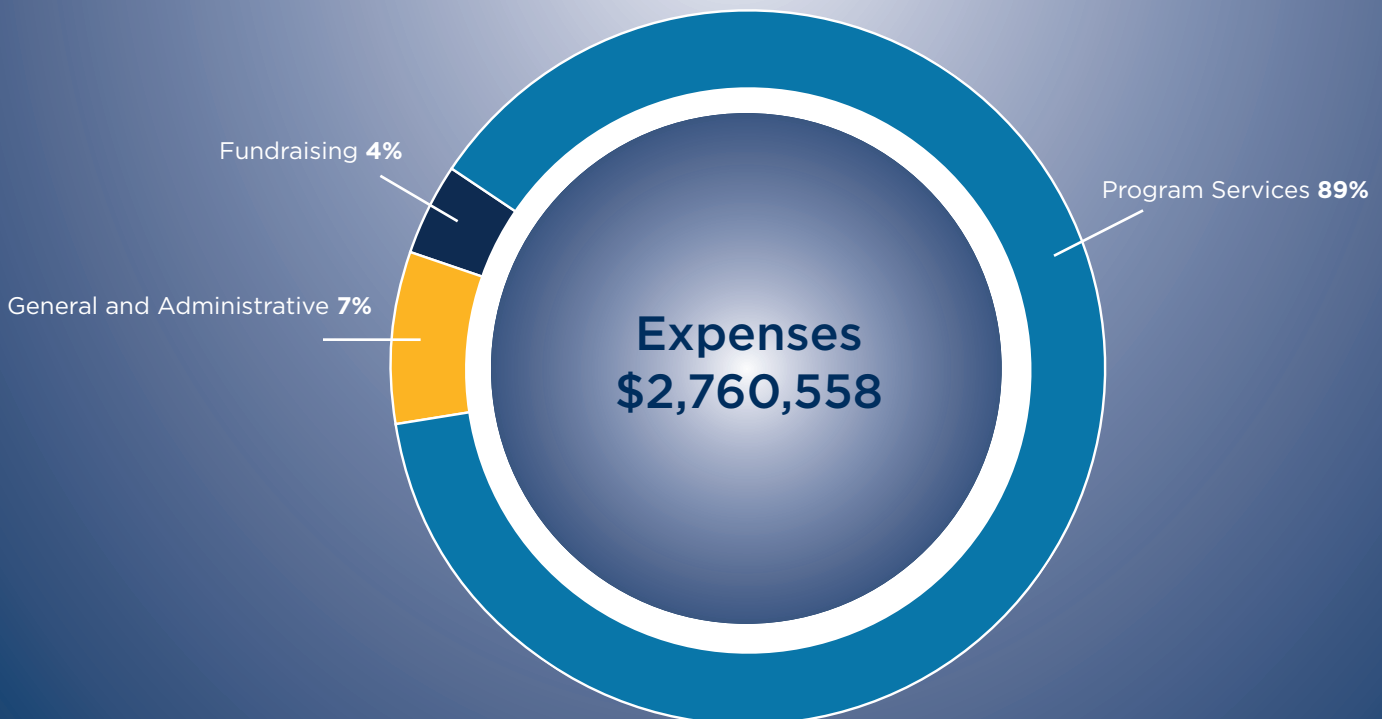
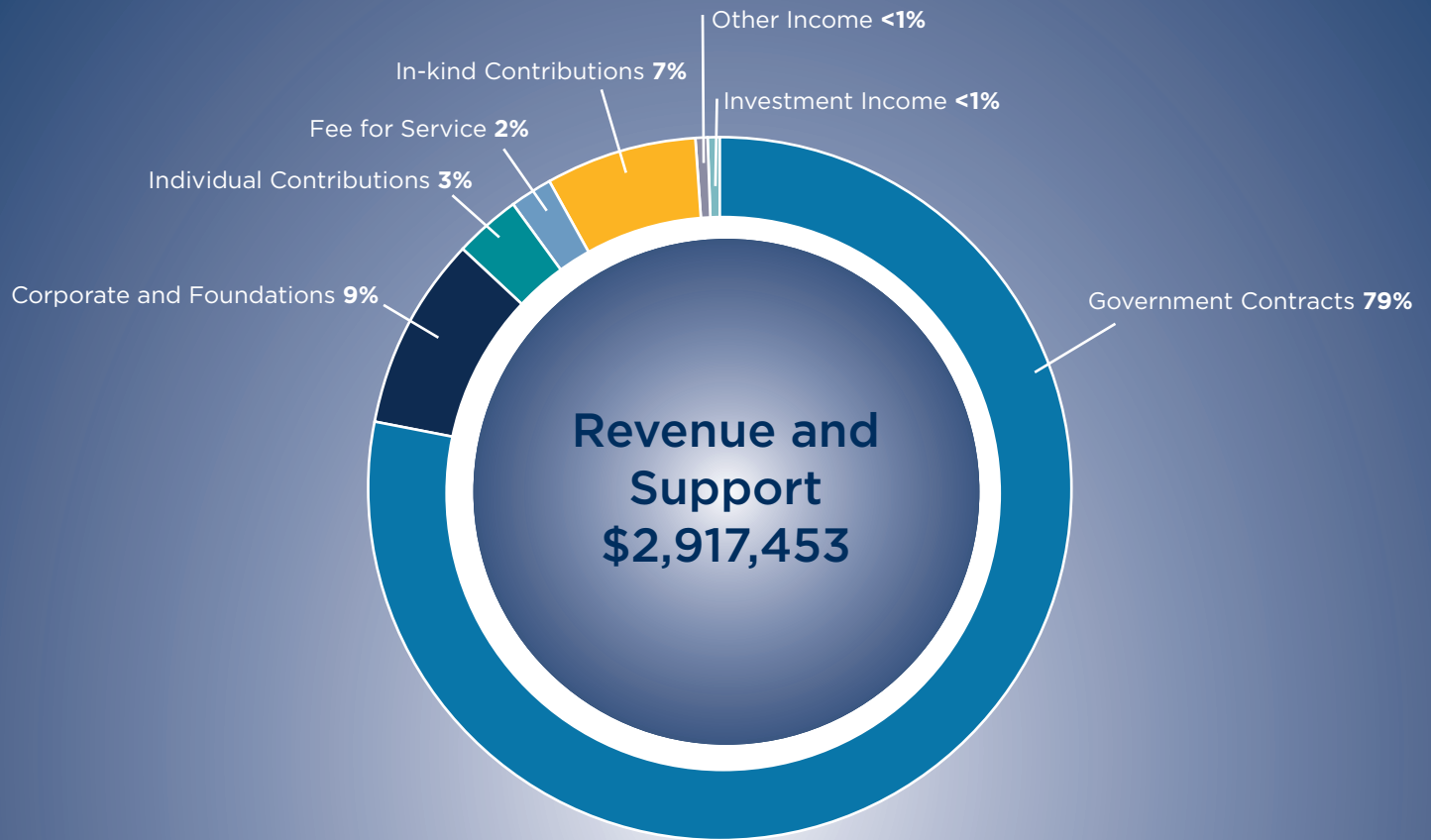
Jacqueline Burke
Donna Butterworth
Roberta Carty
Susan Catherwood
Nicholas Cernansky
Julia Chapman
Autumn H. Childs
Jean Marc Choukroun
Felicia Shari Chriswell-Tarver
Adrian Clements
Stephen D. Cohen
Charelle P. Collins
Hector R. Cruz
Kristin A. Davidson
Bess P. Davis
Jemal Davis
Spencer H. Davis
Vann H. DeLaine
Michelle Devero-Jackson
Robert Diegel
Assunta DiJoseph
Ineke M. Dikland
Jeffrey Dobrinsky
Trina Drew
Dalila Eckstein
Mark Edmonds
Alexander Ehrlich, S2M
Susan B. Eiseman
Elizabeth Fabens
Norman Feinstein
Nancy Finch
Phyllis Fink
John J. Fitzpatrick
Larrina Floyd
Arthur M. Fraas
Donald M. Friedman
Michael D. Garz
Rosemary Giangulio
John R. Gilbert
Amanda Giordano
Sheila M. Gladstone
Sallie Glickman
Toni Goldberg, S2M
Aliza Gordon
Gregory G. Gosfield
Josh Green
Pamela Gurley
Lawrence R. Hastings

Myron H. Headen
Carol Hauptfuhrer
John Heckman
Linda Hibbs
Isidore Hofferma
Valerie M. Hosendorf
Thomas M. Hyndman
David Ingram
Sara B. Ironman
Linda Italiano
Gary Jastrzab
Michelle Jensen
Musheerah A. Jones
Richard D. Jones
Richard M. Josephs
Linda L. Juzbasich
David Kagan
Debra Kahn
Ernest M. Kahn
David Kalkstein
Jaan Kangilaski
Alan Kaplan
Joseph Kelly
David E. Kertis
Toni Kestenbaum
The Kirszer Family Fund at
The Philadelphia Foundation
Beth A. Kob
Anita T. Lager
Bette E. Landman
Richard Langman
Alan LaPayover
Keith A. Layton
Lisa & Mark Leimkuhler
Morton P. Levitt
The Richard and Dale Levy
Family Fund at The
Philadelphia Foundation
Richard B. Lowe
Amanda Lozinak
Victoria MacKenzie Lynam
Patricia Ma
Bruce L. Mack
Larry Magid
Stephen B. Maurer
Allison McCool
Tinamarie McCrea-Wright
Jane McGovern
Clare McGrory
William A. McKenna
John McKenzie
Rada S. Merickel
Gerard Mingione
Jeffrey A. Morris
Marsha Moss, S2M
Sondra Myers, S2M
Bette Nadler
Gregory T. Narzikul
Howard E. Needleman
Natalie Nkurunziza
Frank M. Novak
Maryann O'Neill-Reilly
Barbara A. Oldenhoff
Maribel E. Ojeda

Rosalyn Ominsky
Daniel Ortega
Keisha S. Parker
Ruth Perlmutter, S2M
Lynn Pokrifka
Jill Porter, S2M
Antonia Stern Purse
Andrea S Radine
Thea Raison
Jeanna Raleigh
Vandella F. Reid
Jane Rigler
Monica N. Robertson
Natalie Robinson
Margery Roomberg
Sara Roos
Allison M. Rose
Richard S. Rosenberg
Stephen H. Rosenfeld
Dan Rottenberg
Amy Russell
Marvin Sachs
Carol S. Saline, S2M
Matthew Saline
Phyllis M. Salzman
Margaret Sayvets
Adeline Schultz
J. S. Schwartz
Stephen Segal
Joseph J. Shapiro
Nancy Shaw
Carey Sias
Sol L. Siegel
John Sindoni
Donna F. Smith
Raymond Smith
Larry Spector
Dean Staats
Robert E. Stewart
Lynne Y. Strieb
Michael J. Sullivan
Robert Terruso
Anne Tobey
Daniel A. Wagner
Hope Waller
Kathleen Walsh
John Ward
Robert A. Warms
Cedric M. Washington
JoAnn Weinberger
Bennett Weinstock, S2M
Betsy Wice
Laura Wienick
Gwendolyn Wilson
Casper Wong
Michael Zebe
William A. Zeidner
Joanne P. Zeitz
Thomas E. Zemaitis
Christopher P. Zubowicz
Benjamin Zuckerman
Michael Zuckerman

Finances

(FY JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015)



Special thanks to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Philadelphia Youth Network for their support.



399 Market Street, Suite 201
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: 215-474-1235
FAX: 215-472-7290
Website: centerforliteracy.org
Email: inquiry@centerforliteracy.org



facebook.com/CenterforLiteracy



[@Center4Literacy](https://twitter.com/Center4Literacy)



Donor Option #147