



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

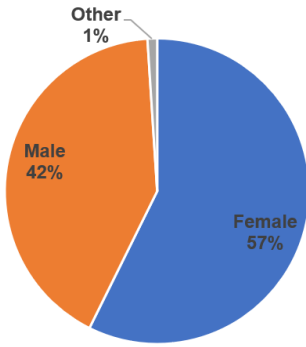
Literacy Volunteers *of the* New River Valley

The mission of **Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley** is to foster support, advocate for, and instruct adults in the New River Valley who seek opportunities to achieve greater independence through literacy.

We are a community-based adult literacy organization that provides one-on-one, small group, and classroom instruction to adults to improve skills in reading, writing, math, digital literacy, English for speakers of other languages, and to prepare to pass exams required for U.S. Citizenship, a driver's license, and the GED.

293 STUDENTS

Gender

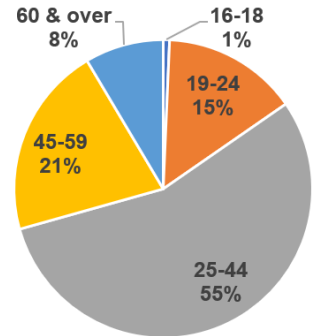


Program

139 basic literacy /
adult basic education

154 English for speak-
ers of other languages

Age



Changing lives
through
LITERACY

160 achieved work goals

Including securing a new or better job, entering an education or job training program, passing the GED, and increasing basic computer skills

42 achieved home/family goals

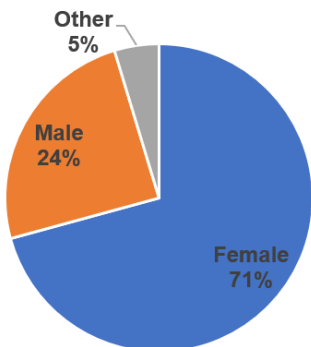
Including reading with and helping children with homework, increasing the ability to communicate with children's schools, paying bills, reading medications or directions, and reading for personal enjoyment

73 achieved community goals

Including increasing involvement in community/religious activities, voting, achieving U.S Citizenship, and passing the driver's license exam

171 VOLUNTEERS

Gender



5,443

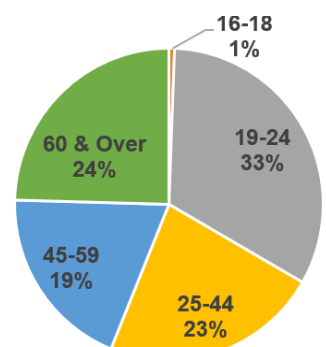
Total Hours

\$148,050

Estimated value of
volunteer contributions

*based on Independent Sector's
\$27.20/hour of volunteer time for 2020

Age



INITIATIVES

1. **SKILLUP NRV:** providing adults with the literacy, language and digital literacy skills they need to be successful in the workplace and to achieve family self-sufficiency
2. **FAMILY LITERACY:** providing parents with the literacy skills and knowledge to help their children be successful in school

Dear Friends of Literacy,

While 2019-20 was a challenging year due to the coronavirus, we have so much to celebrate and to be thankful for!

PROGRAM GROWTH: We are pleased to report that the total number of New River Valley adults served this year increased by 22 percent (from 240 last year to 293 this year!)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Launch of SkillUP VT, a partnership with Virginia Tech Student Affairs and Human Resources, kicked off in fall of 2019. Employees were provided the opportunity to take adult basic education classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages, Basic Computer Skills/Writing and Money Management) on campus and on -the-clock!

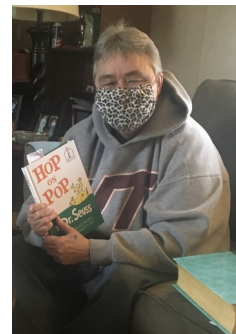
Expansion of Community-Based Programming: To increase access to learning for students, we offered on-site services in collaboration with a variety of community-based partners, including Digital Literacy Tutoring at Pulaski County Library; English Conversation Groups at libraries in Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Radford; Drop-In Tutoring at our Christiansburg Learning Center, English/GED classes at Meadowbrook Public Library, and more.

Growth of Family Literacy Programs: Family READS (Reading and English to Achieve Dreams and Success) was held at public libraries in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, and Radford to help parents learn skills to help their children develop literacy skills while engaging the children in fun learning activities. 83% percent of parent program completers reported that they increased skills to read to help their children learn. Inside Out Dad, a fatherhood/family literacy program at Montgomery County Jail, had a record number of participants. Thanks to Open Book NRV, all participants received free books for their children!

Shift to Digital Teaching and Learning: Due to COVID-19 precautions, we began promoting and supporting remote teaching and learning. Despite the pandemic, literacy instruction continued thanks to our incredibly dedicated, creative tutors who developed distance education strategies -- using video-conference, outdoor settings, phone, email, online programs, U.S. Mail, and even front-porch book deliveries! Strategies were put in place to help students and volunteers overcome new challenges presented by distance learning, and the Bridge to Digital Learning Initiative was launched to help students and tutors access technology, Internet, and support/training and resources to participate in distance education.

Countless Lives Changed:

Meet Freda: *"I got tired of people reading things for me," said Freda, age 61. Freda read her first book this year! She never had the opportunity to go to school because her father wouldn't allow her to go. Now, she wants to learn to read so she can read storybooks to her grand-nephew and read the Bible. She has worked hard with her tutor, Nikki, to learn sight words and to sound out words. She is so determined to read she hasn't let the pandemic stop her! In the spring, Nikki dropped off books to Freda's front porch, and she and Freda practiced reading them together over the phone. When the temperatures warmed, they moved outside for masked tutoring. And now, Freda and Nikki will be able to work remotely thanks to LVNRV's Bridge to Digital Learning Initiative that provided her with a donated tablet and technical assistance to make distance learning possible. She can't wait to see her grand-nephew again so she can read to him!*



When adults learn how to read, write, do basic math, and use computers, they have the power to change not only their own lives, but their families and the community we all share!

CHALLENGES: Our community needs us now more than ever. It's anticipated that COVID-19's upending of the economy will create a major increase in need for basic education services from NRV adults who need literacy, language and digital skills to understand critical health information, to access community resources when they need help, to obtain basic skills or a GED to secure employment, to combat social isolation, to perform online-job search, to help their children with schoolwork, and to participate in this new virtual world. **A total of 24,000 NRV adults struggle with very basic reading.**

HOPE AND GRATITUDE: It's been a time of hope and gratitude as we have seen so many people coming together in so many incredible ways to make sure literacy learning happens. We celebrate our inspirational learners -- and their courage, dedication, and hard work to achieve their learning goals. And we celebrate our amazing volunteers, partners and funders for their generosity and outstanding commitment to creating a community where every adult has the literacy skills he or she needs and deserves.

In gratitude for your generous support and with best wishes for wellness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Jilk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Linda Jilk
Executive Director

Our Valued Donors

LVNRV gratefully acknowledges the following for their generous financial gifts in FY 2019-20. On behalf of our adult literacy students, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Grants, Endowments and Foundations

C.E Richardson Benevolent Foundation
Benevolent Foundation
Community Foundation of the New River Valley
Corning Incorporated Foundation
Dollar General Literacy Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Fund
Jim & Julie Snyder Charitable Foundation
Charitable Foundation
The TJX Foundation
Vanguard Charitable
Virginia Literacy Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

Local Support

City of Radford
Floyd County
Giles County
Montgomery County
Pulaski County
Town of Blacksburg
Town of Christiansburg
Town of Floyd
Town of Pulaski

United Way

Combined Virginia Campaign
United Way of the New River Valley

Businesses

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BAI-Berman Associates
Blacksburg New School
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Runabout Sports, Blacksburg
Salem Stone
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Shelter Alternatives
Slate Creek Builders
Starbucks
Trebel Wellness
Truliant Federal Credit Union
Twisted Sisters Pizza, Inc.

Churches/Organizations

100+ Men & More
Blacksburg New School
Diva's of the NRV
German Club Alumni

GFWC Floyd County Women's Club

HRC Community (VT)
UUC-Blacksburg
Virginia Tech

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Rachel Jarvis
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Buddy Johnson
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Lorene & Myrl Jones
Virginia Jones
T. Byron Kelly
Karim Khan
Jill Kiecolt
Dale Kipp
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Asta Knarrabringa
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Megan Lange
Anne & Erik Larsen
Larry & Glenda Lawrence
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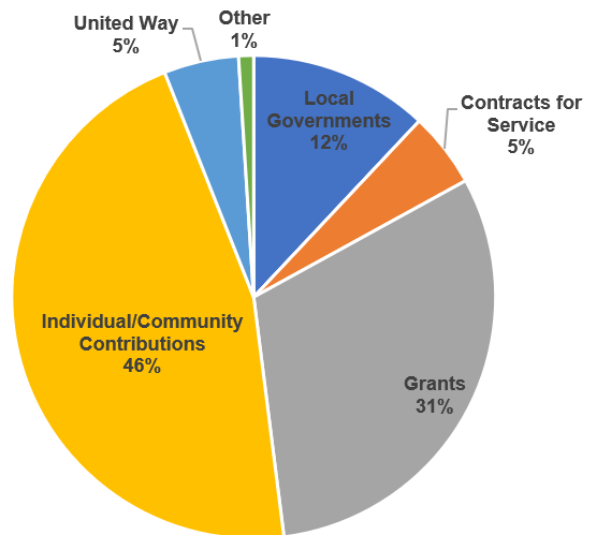
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 Jacqueline Wehr
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 Betty Wilkins
 Heidi Williams
 Kara Wood
 Janice & John Woodward
 Sarah Woolsey
 James Wu
 Janet Yoder
 Philip Young
 Ryan Young

Tributes

- In memory of Wanda Lee Johnson Leadbetter
- Dedicated to Trish Ketz, in honor of her accomplishments!!!
- In honor of Lynn and Robbie Dickerson
- In honor of Madelyn Rosenberg
- In memory of Our daughter, Jennifer M. Patton, who died suddenly on November 21, 2019. Taken too soon.
- Dedicated to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to helping adults in our community to learn to read better
- In honor of Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock
- In honor of Jim & Julie Snyder Charitable Fund
- In Memory of Dick Dore
- In honor of Elaine Williams
- In honor of Sue Hagedorn
- On behalf of Abby Chillot
- Dedicated to Literacy Volunteers
- Dedicated to Linda Jilk for all her hard work & dedication
- Dedicated to Peer Segelke

FINANCES

Total Revenue: \$131,111



Total Expenses: \$92,408

