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Literacy is a bridge to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. It is an agent of family health and nutrition.

— FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFI ANNAN

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Washtenaw Literacy Annual Report 2012



What does it mean to be an illiterate adult?

Of course it means the obvious, you cannot read traffic signs, fill out an employment application, or calculate the cost of a purchase. But it also means developing some pretty sharp skills, strategies to hide their illiteracy from everyone, sometimes even loved ones ... memories sharpen because one cannot create lists ... clever questions conceal the deficit ... "I forgot my reading glasses," "I'll read through this when I get home." By virtue of the strategies that guard them from humiliation, illiterate adults have also managed to remain unseen. And for that reason the statistics are shocking, especially in our educated community.

- *One out of three working-age Michigan adults — 1.7 million people — lacks the basic skills or credentials to attain a family-sustaining job and contribute to the state's economy. Of these adults, 692,000 do not have a GED or high-school diploma. If those working-age adults were to earn a diploma or GED, their annual net fiscal contribution to the State of Michigan would increase by \$4.97 billion.*
- *According to community colleges around the state, at least 60 percent of students entering these institutions require basic skills remediation prior to engaging in post-secondary education.*
- *1 in 6 adults in Washtenaw County lack the basic skills to read, write or communicate in English, they are at the lowest level of literacy.*
- *Parental literacy and parental attitudes toward education are strongly related to reading achievement in children. 50% of children with illiterate parents will become illiterate adults.*
- *86% of Washtenaw Literacy learners live below the poverty line.*



BASIC SKILLS – TRADITIONAL TUTORING

Adult learner’s strengths and interests create learning environments that engage and empower the learner, not only does the individual gain improved literacy abilities but society benefits as well through new, positive contributions that individual is empowered to make.

Washtenaw Literacy learners consistently make progress towards their goals, last year 97% reported that their reading or English speaking skills were improved. Achievements include getting a job or promotion, opening a bank account, reading prescriptions, helping children with schoolwork, moving out of homelessness, becoming a U.S. citizen, volunteering with local nonprofits, and voting for the first time.

- I am improving my literacy or English skills **100%**
- I am making progress toward my goals **96%**
- I am more involved with my community **55%**
- I am more successful at work **61%**
- I feel more confident **94%**

- Read forms/prescriptions from the doctor **24%**
- Improve life skills (banking, grocery, doctor, post office . . .) **39%**
- Be involved in child’s education **29%**
- Spend more time reading **65%**
- Improve quality of writing **67%**



Erin Howarth, Tutor, Mentor, Learning to Achieve Trainer
At Washtenaw Literacy we focus on our learners’ individual life goals. Our learners show such strength and courage when they ask for our help and such extraordinary determination as they work to improve their basic skills in order to have success in their lives. Our training, mentor program, tutor support, and ongoing professional development encourage independent, confident learners who then become advocates for literacy.



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EDUCATION FIRST!



Patricia Mills, Women's Literacy Achievement Award

Patricia Mills had been working with her tutor for just six months when her reading and writing vastly improved! She has been able to reach her goal to enroll at Washtenaw Community College.



Washtenaw Literacy focuses on educational attainment through intensive programming with the goal to acquire a high school credential or gain admittance to training or community college programs.

The PATHWAYS program serves young adults 16 - 24, providing high impact, interventional tutoring in reading, writing, and basic math. Pathways is not homework help, it is short-term concentrated basic skills improvement through intensive, customized tutoring for individuals who are:

- at-risk for dropping out of high school,
- need to complete high school, or
- need to earn a GED, and/or
- gain entrance to post-secondary training (i.e.; Compass test).

COLLEGE NOW is a pre-GED skill building program offered in partnership with Washtenaw Community College. Participants' skills are assessed at the outset, and again after every 20 hours of instruction. In one College Now session during winter 2011 with a group of 11 participants, the average reading level was 4th grade at the outset. After 20 hours of one-to-one tutoring, the average gain was 2.25 grade levels. After another 20 hours of one-to-one tutoring, the average gain was another 2.65 grade levels for a final average reading level of grade 8.9.





CUSTOMIZED WORKPLACE TUTORING

Only half of the current U.S. adult population has the literacy skills needed for success in today's labor market. The National Association of Manufacturers members' survey asked employers about the most serious skill deficiencies of current hourly production employees. They found that 32% stated poor reading/writing skills, 25% stated inability to communicate and 24% cited poor English language skills.

Washtenaw Literacy can help businesses operate more effectively by improving workers' basic skills. Our award-winning customized workforce programs are tailored to meet employers' needs. Onsite tutoring to improve competency with the English language or ability with reading, writing and numeracy is developed for specific employment needs. Trained tutors meet with learners weekly for 1-2 hours. The tutoring sessions are designed with each employee's strengths and work goals in mind.



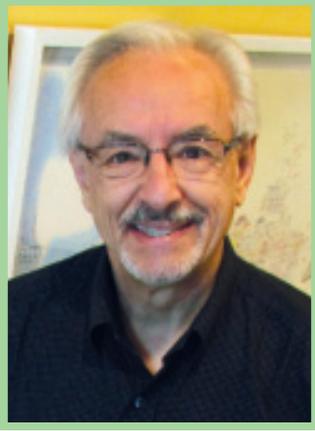
Soukeyna Samba, Christine G. Kamisar Memorial Award

Soukeyna Samba arrived from Senegal in 2009 speaking very little English. 18 months later, she is reading very well and is enrolled at Washtenaw Community College. She also works part time and takes care of her two little brothers. Tutor Michelle Anderson says that working with Soukeyna makes her life better too. She says, "Soukeyna has taught me so much more than I could ever teach her, and I am proud to be able to say that I am her tutor and her friend."



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SUPPORTERS



Marty Friedburg
*ESL Tutor and World in
a Basket Volunteer*

*Beth and I donate to
Washtenaw Literacy because
we believe in its mission.
The ability to read and write
is so critical to one's life in
today's world! 50% of kids
who have illiterate parents
will themselves be illiterate
as adults. Breaking that
terrible cycle benefits those
who learn to read and write
as well as the community as
a whole. We want to do
our part to help!*



Corporate Literacy Teams

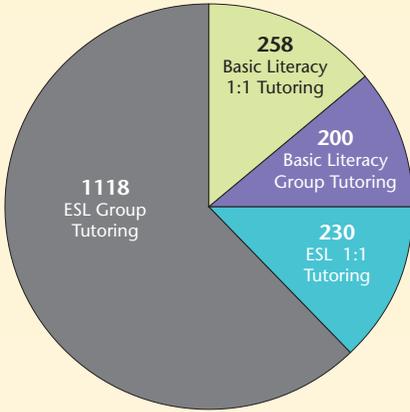
Corporations and businesses understand the value of improving literacy in Washtenaw County while building teamwork internally through community service. Corporate Literacy teams are based within local companies, and engage and support Washtenaw Literacy in multiple ways.

ProQuest has supported the agency for several years by offering a variety of marketing services to the agency. "ProQuest offers employees a formal volunteer program, and working with the Washtenaw Literacy team is a fulfilling way for the marketing team to leverage their talents to help the community," says ProQuest Senior Vice President of Enterprise Marketing and Customer Care, Lynda James-Gilboe.

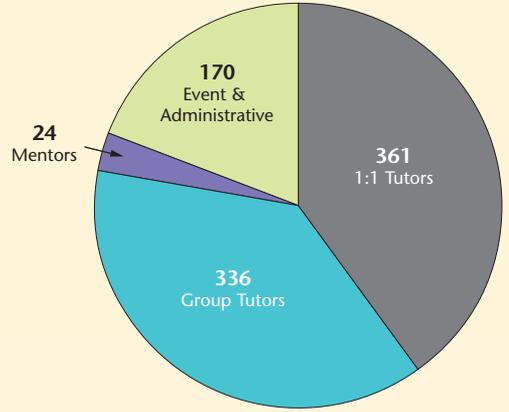
DTE Energy Resources has created a program to encourage employees to become tutors, helping the agency fulfill its tremendous need for tutors. "Our staff has been able to help with several of Washtenaw Literacy's programs and have found the experience personally and professionally rewarding," says DTE Energy Resources Vice President, Mark Rigby.



FINANCIALS



In the 2011-2012 program year, Washtenaw Literacy served 1806 adult learners.



In 2011-2012 Washtenaw Literacy delivered services through 891 volunteers

CASH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

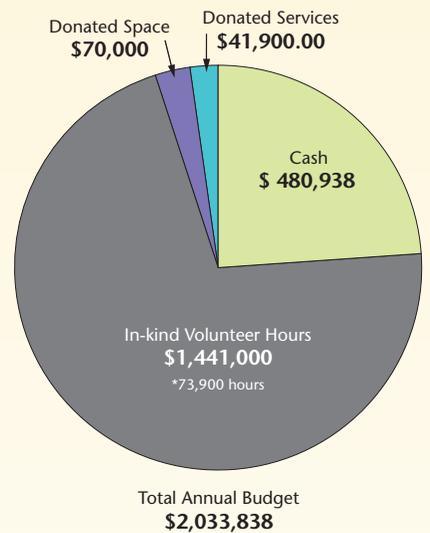
INCOME

Grants	\$93,591
Donations.....	\$177,509
Events.....	\$39,602
Fees	\$3,937
Service Contracts.....	\$89,158
Literacy Coalition Pass Through	\$75,078
Interest & Dividend	\$1,109
Gain or Loss on Investment.....	\$954
	<u>\$480,938</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$311,192
Management.....	\$67,269
Fundraising.....	\$116,789
	<u>\$495,250</u>

Full Washtenaw Literacy Budget



Audited financial statement, Titus & Urbanski, Inc., Certified Public Accountants for the year ending May 31, 2011

Major In-Kind Donors include Ypsilanti District Library, Washtenaw Community College, ProQuest, Edwards Brothers, Comcast, Google and over 732 literacy tutors.

Because of our low overhead, every dollar invested in Washtenaw Literacy returns just over four dollars to the community in service.



OPENING WORLDS FOR 40 YEARS

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Design by
Somberg Design
Printing by
Edwards Brothers

MISSION

To provide free literacy instruction customized to the needs of adults throughout Washtenaw County, utilizing a trained network of volunteer tutors.

VISION

To eliminate illiteracy in Washtenaw County.

WASHTENAW LITERACY 2011 MAJOR SUPPORTERS

