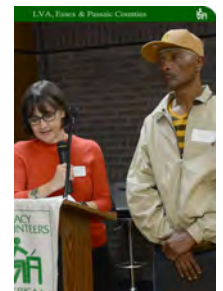
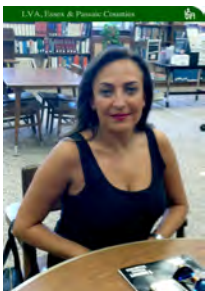
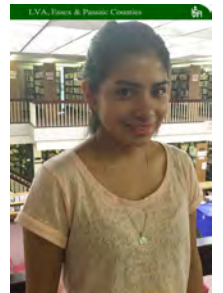




Annual Report 2015-16



LVA's Vision & Mission

Vision

Have a fully literate community.

Mission

We are dedicated to providing literacy instruction for adults enabling them to attain personal, educational, and career goals.

Dear Friends of Literacy,

This was a year of transition for LVA. A greater emphasis is now placed on training new tutors to work with small groups and to encourage existing tutors to accept additional students. We thank all the staff and tutors for their hard work during this transition. The benefits to the students of small groups have been demonstrated and we are able to serve more students.

During the year LVA established a new domain name, www.lvaep.org, revised the web site, and established new email addresses for the staff. Our award winning, monthly Tutor Support Workshops continued to provide tutors with new techniques and ideas. We also established a student scholarship program to assist outstanding students.

LVA continued the special, contract project for ESOL classes at the Berkeley College, Clifton campus, funded by the Sussex Educational Foundation (begun April '15). Also, we contracted with the Paterson Public Library to provide them a 10-week ESOL class in the fall. A series of contracted ESOL classes began in April 2016 for Berkeley College, Newark. All these classes were in addition to our on-going programs through the Essex and Passaic County literacy consortiums funded by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Our students come to us from all over the world and we are gratified that we are able to help them improve their lives here in America.

Sally E. Rice, President, Board of Trustees



LVA Facts

750
Served Students

280
Tutors

Students Geographical Distribution

337 Essex County

121 Northern State Prison

292 Passaic County

Students by Subject Area

224 BL (Basic Literacy)

526 ESOL (English for
Speakers of Other Languages)

9 Tutor Workshops

132 Recruited Tutors

97 Trained Tutors

10
Professional
Development Sessions

150
Participants

\$220,000+
from Federal Grants

\$67,000+
from Special Projects

\$20,000+
from Donations

**Monthly
Newsletter**

**Monthly
Success
Stories**

31,000+
Hours of Tutoring

9+
Average Hours per
Month per Student

Tutor Training Workshops

Locations	New Tutors
<i>South Orange Public Library</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Bloomfield Public Library</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Northern State Prison</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Montclair Public Library</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Montclair Public Library</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Bloomfield Public Library</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Maplewood Memorial Library</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Ringwood Public Library</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>YMCA of Montclair</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Total number of New Tutors</i>	<i>132</i>

Our tutor-training program is a comprehensive 18-hour course designed to prepare volunteers to teach essential language skills to adults. We teach volunteers how to assess the life and literacy skills that adult students already have, how to determine which ones they want and need to acquire in order to overcome the obstacles they face, and how to design a plan of study that will help them achieve their goals. Along the way trainees discover how basic language is acquired, how adults learn effectively, and which techniques are most useful in developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills for students of Basic Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages. Our training stresses working with multiple students in small groups in a patient, non-threatening environment in which tutor and student are equals.



Tutor Support Workshops

Our tutors complete 18 hours of instruction in a training program considered rigorous and comprehensive. But, for those who feel they could use a little extra help along the way, our education program never really ends. Each month we offer a different professional development seminar, called Tutor Support Workshops, where adult education experts and skilled tutors walk our volunteers through new techniques that have proven successful

in the adult classroom. The themes of the workshop vary: they run from teaching basic grammar, to pronunciation and accent reduction, to use of the graphic novel (similar to comics), to utilizing the lyrics of popular folk songs to teach vocabulary and comprehension, and everything in between. Statistically, the Tutor Support Workshops have helped improve our retention of tutors.

Presenters	Workshops	Participants
Mary O'Connor	Tutoring Multiple Students in Small Groups	17
Erik Jacobson	Graphic Novels: A Valuable Resource for Readers	18
Perrine Robinson-Geller	Tips & Techniques for Encouraging New Writers	14
Betty Salerno	Grammar Basics for You and Your Students	23
Nina Peyser	Pronunciation and Accent Reduction	19
Perrine Robinson-Geller	Tips & Techniques for Encouraging New Writers	2
Tracey Williams	Recovering the Lost Tools of Phonics	22
Elizabeth Salerno	Grammar Basics for You and Your Students-Part 2	21
Stephanie Mazzeo-Caputo	Resume Readiness for the Adult Learner	14
Total Number of Participants		150



2016 Annual Awards Ceremony

More than 300 students and tutors were honored at our Annual Awards Ceremony, recently held at the East Orange Public Library. It was a night of beautiful acceptance speeches and heartfelt acknowledgements from students whose lives have been improved through literacy and the tutors who helped them. Here's some of what was seen and heard.



Bi Lin Wei, an ESOL student from Essex County, told the crowd she felt comfortable speaking English publicly when, only a few years ago, the thought of speaking privately with a store clerk in English terrified her. She remembered an experience at a state Motor Vehicle Commission office, where a worker asked her to sign a form on a "pad," a word she didn't understand. "The lady said to me 'Can you please sign quickly, there are many people behind you.' I was very embarrassed."



Tutor Sherri Smith encouraged students to remain positive, something she said has helped her students, Magaly and Maria, to advance their language skills. "Whatever questions they are asked in English, they're able to respond back," she explained. "If they have a sick child at home they're able to call the hospital or call the doctor's office and say that we have a sick child and we need someone as soon as possible."



2016 Annual Awards Ceremony (cont)

More from our Annual Awards Ceremony at the East Orange Public Library last month.



Abir, a student from Syria, had kind words for her tutor, Rick Fairlamb, who was unable to attend the ceremony. "I am able to speak to you today because of him," she said. "He is more a father than a teacher and he has been with me every step of the way. He has been my number one fan and my support. I'm grateful for all his time and patience."

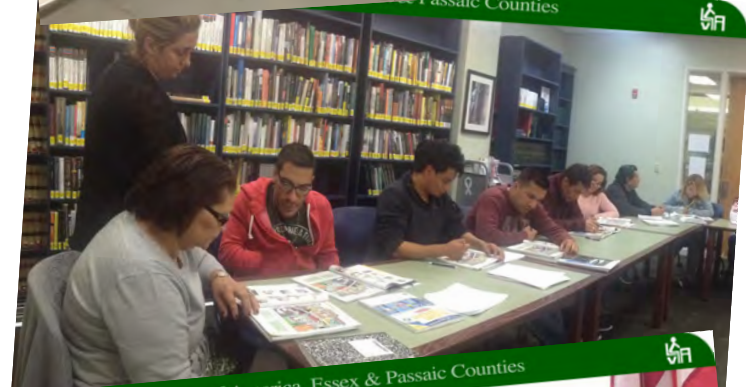


Tutor Alethea Jones said, "With this opportunity, I realize I found my passion with teaching ESL. Like they say, when you find your passion you don't feel like you're working. And I don't feel like I'm working." She also pointed out Mary O'Connor, the LVA trainer and support specialist who led Alethea's tutor training workshop. "I want to thank you for all the cool things you taught us in class, and how to fold up those ShopRite bags," Alethea added.



Congratulations to All!

Sussex Educational Foundation, Berkeley College, & LVA Essex and Passaic Counties Adult Education Pilot Program



We're so proud of the many students who completed our intensive ESL classes offered at the Passaic Public Library and Berkeley College in Newark. The courses, offered in three levels to beginners, intermediate and advanced students, met four days per week for two hours each day. The last day of class was marked with small celebrations. At Berkeley College, students met in a basement cafeteria and celebrated the end of classes with a potluck dinner of dishes common to their countries of Egypt, Colombia, Pakistan, Russia, the Dominican Republic, and others. Music was provided by a student's cell phone and a Berkeley College administrator was on hand to explain other college options for students.

The intensive classes are popular with students who want to advance their English knowledge in a short time period. Alpaben Rana, a native of India who has a master's degree in mathematics, said that meeting students from many other countries in her Level 1 class at the Passaic Public Library was also beneficial. "I learned more English than ever before," she told her instructor, with instructor Belitza Lopez-Callegari. "The experience is good."

Several students said the classes increased their level of confidence.

"Teacher, my aunt says my English is getting better and better all the time but I thought she was just saying that until I got a cashier's job," student Laribel Rosario, who arrived in the U.S. less than a year ago from the Dominican Republic, told her Level 2 instructor Maureen Cooper. "It gets crazy sometimes but I love having my own money."

Edilma Moreno, a student in Jerry Daniel's Level 3 class at Berkeley College, said the class helped her pass the U.S. citizenship test. "This past May 12 was the most exciting day of the process because I had my final citizenship interview," Edilma said. "I became a U.S. citizen on this day. I feel very proud of the U.S.A. and all the rights I now have because I am a citizen."

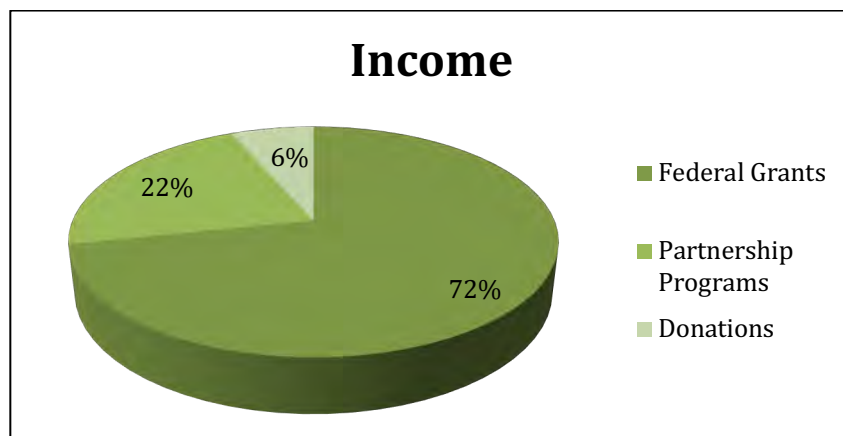
English-Spanish Language Exchange

The roles of tutors and students are pretty clear in literacy classes: tutors instruct, students learn. We get a chance to turn those roles upside down in our English-Spanish Language Exchange, a pilot program in which students teach Spanish to tutors and tutors teach English to students. It's a weekly conversation group that uses books, newspapers, and songs to exchange information about our different cultures, not just our vocabulary and grammar.

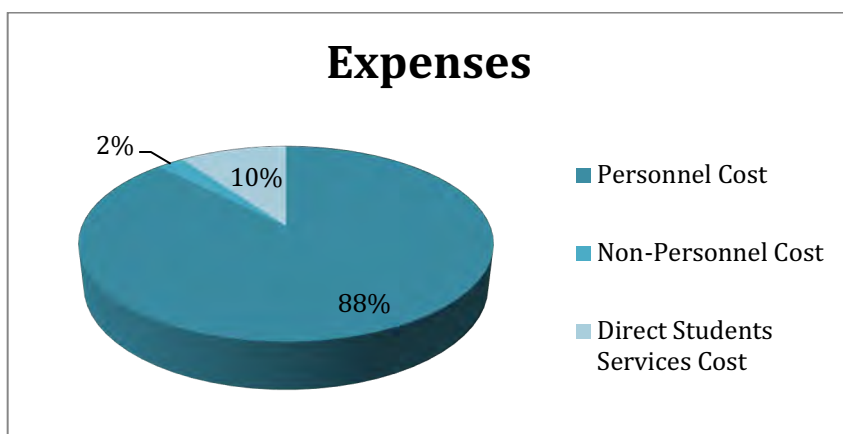


Financial Overview

LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Income** for the fiscal year ending June 31, 2016, was **\$306,845**.



LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Expenses** for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2015, were **\$254,286**.



Community Partners

Essex & Passaic Public Libraries

Alfred H. Baumann Free Public Library
Belleville Public Library
Bloomfield Public Library
Bloomingdale Free Public Library
Caldwell Free Public Library
Cedar Grove Free Public Library
Clifton Public Library
East Orange Public Library
Fairfield Free Public Library
Glen Ridge Free Public Library
Haledon Free Public Library
Irvington Public Library
Jefferson Township Public Library
Little Falls Public Library
Livingston Free Public Library
Louis Bay 2nd Library
Maplewood Memorial Library
Millburn Free Public Library
Montclair Public Library
Newark Public Library
North Haledon Free Public Library
Nutley Free Public Library
Passaic Public Library
Paterson Free Public Library
Pompton Lakes Borough Free Public Library
Ringwood Public Library
Roseland Free Public Library
South Orange Public Library
The Orange Public Library
Totowa PL - Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
Verona Free Public Library
Wanaque Borough Free Public Library
Wayne Public Library
West Caldwell Public Library
West Milford Township Library
West Orange Free Public Library

Adult Education Programs

1199 SEIU Education Fund^[1]East Orange
Board of Education
Essex County College - Lead Agency
Essex County Voc-Tech Schools
FOCUS
Hispanic Center for Community Development,
Inc.
Ironbound Community Corp.
Jewish Vocational Services
La Casa De Don Pedro, Inc.
NCC-Adult Learning Center
North Ward/ Newark Business Training
Institute
Passaic Board of Education
Passaic County Community College
Passaic County Technical Institute
Paterson Adult & Continuing Education Center
(PACE) -Lead Agency
Berkeley College, Clifton
New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning

Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey

Hunterdon Helpline Literacy Services
Jersey City Library Literacy Program
Literacy Volunteers of NJ
LV-Bergenfield^[1]LV-Bethany
LV-Burlington County
LV-Cumberland/Salem Counties
LV-Englewood Library
LV-Gloucester County
LV-Mercer County
LV-Monmouth County
LV-Morris County
LV-Ocean County
LV-Pascack Valley
LV-Plainfield Public Library
LV-Somerset County
LV-Sussex County
LV-Union County
LV-West Hudson
LVA-Cape Atlantic, Inc.
LVA-Camden County
Newark Literacy Campaign
Project Literacy of Greater Bergen County

Students' Outcomes & Achievements

72%

Improved employability skills

83%

Attained consumer skills

69%

Attained wellness and healthy lifestyles

78%

Attained other personal goals

44%

Got a job or better job

55%

Advanced level(s) in curriculum series

59%

Increased involvement in children's education

35%

Increased involvement in community

24%

Improved score on standardized test

7%

Entered other education and/or training

15%

Obtained citizenship



Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties, Inc. NJ

Our Offices

90 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 566-6200, ext. 217 or 225

195 Gregory Avenue, 2nd Floor, Passaic, NJ 07055
(973) 470-0039

Our Team

Staff

Cristhian Barcelos
Russell Ben Ali
Jorge Chavez
Debbie Graham
Mary O'Connor
Marisol Ramirez

-Executive Director
-Recruitment & Training Coordinator
-Data Processing Coordinator
-Education Coordinator
-Trainer & Tutor Support Specialist
-Student Coordinator

Board of Directors

Sally Rice
Kathy Mollica
Jordan Fried
Jean Cason
Nathalia Bermudez
Marleen Grabowsky
Nitty Joseph
Nancy Tinney

-Board President
-Vice President
-Treasury
-Secretary

Trainers

Jean Cason
Thomas Conlon (Master Trainer)
Mary Kao
Kathy Mollica
Nina Peyser (Master Trainer)
Carolyn Van Doren
Sarita Wilson

Office Volunteers

Tara Bhandari
Gahzala Kanwal
Sheila Silva

Michael Escobar
Mary O'Connor

