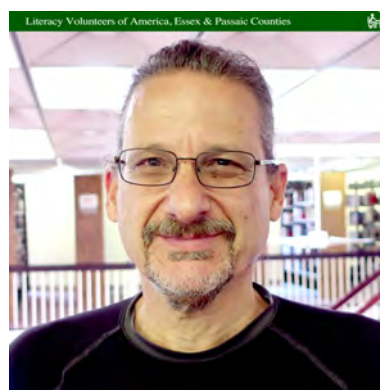
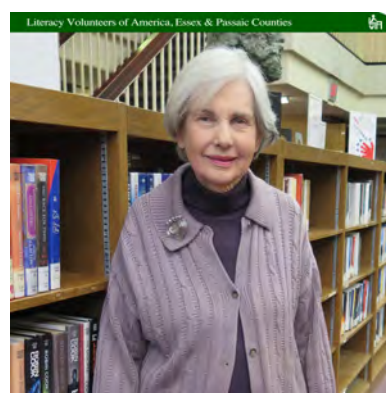
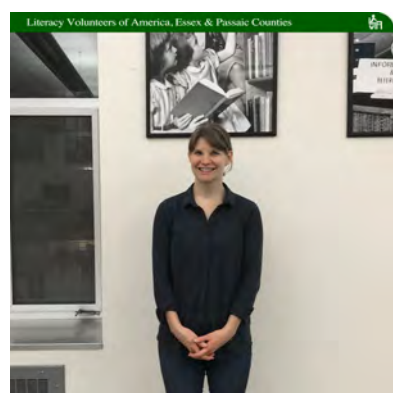


Annual Report 2017-18



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,

LVA continued to strive to provide students with the best opportunity to succeed in meeting their individual goals while meeting the standards set by our grants. This has led to a much higher % of students meeting employment, education, and citizenship goals.

We saw a 3% increase in ESOL students compared to Basic Literacy and the number of students served in Passaic County has increased compared to in Essex County.

We continue to be proud of the accomplishments of all our students and take particular pride in student winners in the NJ Assoc. of Lifelong Learning 2018 Writing Contest.

Special recognition goes to LVA's Mary Kao, NJ Assoc. of Lifelong Learning Teacher of the Year. Ms. Kao has been an LVA tutor for 17 years, tutor trainer, workshop presenter and recruiter!

I wish to give thanks to all who gave donations to LVA this past year and to all our community partners.

Lastly, I wish to offer special thanks and praise to our hard working, innovative staff that resulted in LVA being awarded Literacy New Jersey's 2018 Alice M. Leppert Award for Outstanding Affiliate Achievement.

On behalf of the Board and the 868 students we served, I say 'Thank You' to all.

Sally E. Rice
President, Board of Trustees

Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties



Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties





LVA Facts

868

Served Students

208

Tutors

Students Geographical Distribution

494 Essex County

57 Northern State Prison

317 Passaic County

Students by Subject Area

143 BL (Basic Literacy)

725 ESOL (English for
Speakers of Other Languages)

9 Tutor Workshops

89 Recruited Tutors

64 Trained Tutors

10

Professional
Development Sessions

139

Participants

\$434,000+
from Federal Grants

\$64,000+
from Special Projects

\$29,000+
from Donations

**Monthly
Newsletter**

56,000+
Hours of Tutoring

13+
Average Hours per
Month per Student

**Monthly
Success
Stories**

Tutor Training Workshops

Locations	New Tutors
Northern State Prison	10
Bloomfield Public Library	12
Montclair Public Library	12
Hilton Branch, Maplewood Public Library	7
West Orange Public Library	8
Montclair Public Library	14
Belleville Public Library	9
Park United Methodist Church	9
Clifton Public Library	8
<i>Total number of New Tutors</i>	<i>89</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 tutors and students are equals.

Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties



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
<i>Stephanie Mazzeo-Caputo</i>	<i>How Understanding Personality Can Improve Your Tutoring</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Erik Jacobson</i>	<i>Writing Prompts for the Classroom</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Emily Frisch</i>	<i>Teaching with Technology (Not Just for Millennials)</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Cristhian Barcelos</i>	<i>Understanding Adult Education</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Nora Devine</i>	<i>Strategies for Teaching Decoding and Word Analysis Skills to Adult Literacy Students</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Bethany Blankenbeckler</i>	<i>How to Address Reading Needs for Your Students and Lead Them to Success</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Mary O'Connor</i>	<i>Getting Started with your Students</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Antonio Brugnoli</i>	<i>Activities for English Conversation Groups</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Nora Devine</i>	<i>Decoding and Word Analysis Skills - Part 2</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Mary Kao</i>	<i>Teaching vocabulary and grammar through Pictures</i>	<i>14</i>
Total Number of Participants		139



2018 Annual Awards Ceremony Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties

At our Annual Awards Ceremony at the East Orange Public Library last month, students, tutors, instructors, and teachers were recognized for the time they'd devoted to their sessions and for their personal goals and achievements. Award winners came from programs and libraries in both counties, including programs with our partners at, Sussex Educational Foundation & Berkeley College, and the NCC-Adult Learning Center.



Students and tutors were awarded for their hours and personal achievements, including as Students of the Year from Essex and Passaic Counties, Edilma and Gurpreet. The Tutor of the Year from Essex County and President's Award winner was Robin Furrey and from Passaic County Tutor of the Year was Belitiza Lopez



Culture shock can feel overwhelming at first, but with LVA EP, some students find their way with new friends at tutoring and in their community. Two students who met at a table in the Bloomfield Public Library came from different countries, languages and faiths, now call each other 'sister'.



2018 Annual Awards Ceremony Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties

One student is learning English with the help of a new magnifier that enables her to see text with her visual impairment, all because of her tutor who helped her secured it. Tutoring offers so much more than a language exchange for both to tutors and students.



"The students make a personal commitment to tutoring considering they work long hours and have family commitments. It is such a viscous cycle. If you can't learn the language, you can't improve your life conditions," a tutor said. "I am impressed with how seriously they take the program."



Congratulations to all of our students, tutors, instructors, teachers, and affiliate organizations!

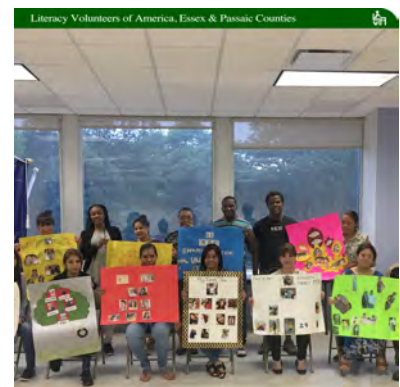
Sussex Educational Foundation, Berkeley College, & LVA Essex and Passaic Counties Adult Education Program

For 10 weeks, students attended ESOL classes at Berkeley College in Newark, in a joint pilot program run by the school, the Sussex Educational Foundation, and Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex & Passaic Counties. Dozens of students completed classes last month in three levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Here's a snapshot of several students:

Wilmer is from Ecuador and working with teacher Catherine Angus at Berkeley College Newark. "Wilmer and I both celebrated when he told me his boss pulled him aside at lunch recently. The boss remarked that in just five weeks of ESL classes, Wilmer was using multiple verb tenses, correctly and with ease," Catherine said. "Talk about a confidence booster! Wilmer is a true success story: a student who is applying his knowledge in the work world every day."

Shagoofa arrived from Afghanistan two years ago and spends her days reading her textbook, practicing online, and coming to class with questions that still confuse her. She was an accomplished scientist in Harat, and finds her life here quiet and a bit lonesome. She is very friendly, and has big dreams. Shagoofa uses Skype to communicate with her family and had near perfect attendance for her class with Catherine Angus. "She misses home, but loves the opportunities she has in the USA," Catherine said. "With her ever improving English, she'll accomplish much here as well. I can't wait to see where she goes from here!"

Maria joined a class late and her teacher, Idya Mikhail, could see how unhappy she was at not being able to catch up to the rest of the class. "Over time she worked really hard, excelled and become one of the very clever and active students in my class," Idya said. "She left everyone speechless at how rapidly she improved."



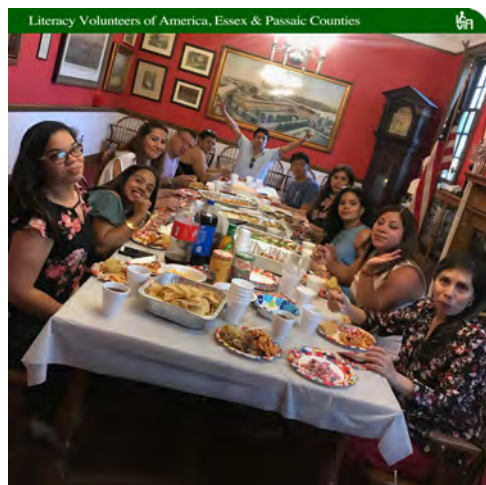
Adult Literacy & Community Library Partnership Pilot Program

It's often a simple accomplishment when navigating a new language that can feel like a triumph to a student and bring a sudden wave of encouragement. For Carla, an ESOL student from Syria, "The ESL program with LVA helps me a lot, I gained self-confidence and I am looking forward to completing this program, especially because we have a very nice teacher, Ms. Matias," Carla said.

Carla's class was offered through the Adult Literacy and Community Library Partnership, a state pilot grant program that aims to create direct partnerships between local libraries and adult literacy service providers. Together, libraries and literacy organizations provide training or language instruction that help New Jersey residents increase their Adult Basic Education and language proficiency skills in order to enhance their chances of finding employment outside of the low-skilled job market. Funds were granted to 11 libraries throughout the state, including Maplewood, Montclair, Passaic, and Paterson, which work with LVA to offer intensive ESL classes. The program is now in its second year and new classes began this week in Maplewood, Passaic, and Paterson.

"I want to speak very good English," said Kencia, who came from Haiti where she earned a degree in accounting. She hopes to improve her English and begin a career as a licensed practical nurse here in New Jersey. Kencia was a dedicated student in Leslie Gersho's class at the Hilton Branch of the Maplewood Public Library. Kencia started in the Beginning level of English for Speakers of Other Languages and is now in Intermediate level.

Margarita is from Mexico and works very hard to learn English. "My goal now is to learn more English and overcome my embarrassment of speaking to teachers and doctors and other people," she said. "Years ago, I worked cleaning houses and businesses. I have a small dream to start my own cleaning business. But to be my own boss I have to learn the language better"



New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learning Learner Writing Contest 2018

Winners of NJALL's Learner Writing Contest 2018 were announced at the organization's annual ceremony on May 11, 2018. The contest comes with cash prizes and the opportunity to be published in the NJALL annual literary magazine, "Insight." The following LVA Essex & Passaic Counties students were recognized in the contest for these works:

Ligia Avendano Alvarez

A painful early marriage behind her, Ligia writes about moving to the United States with her young son in "**Remembrance of Yesterday**." Visiting a local mall a few days after her arrival, she ran into an old friend, with the happiest possible outcome including a renewed friendship and an eventual marriage to the friend's brother. She **won a special mention in the memoir category**.



Gurpreet Bhatia



Gurpreet remembers her mother praying at the shocking attack on Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani girl shot by the Taliban in 2012. It caused her to wonder what was wrong with educating young girls and allowing them to watch tv and listen to music. "**A Young Living Legend**," by Gurpreet **won first place non-fiction**.

Karima Ejjoulali

One night, Karima woke up to silence at 1 a.m., while her husband slept peacefully beside her. She was consumed with loneliness. She longed to share a cup of coffee with her parents every evening, missed her friends and the life she knew in Morocco. Everything was new, but the stirring of her unborn baby restores her hope in "**A Little Star**," which **won special mention-memoir**.



Clifford Henry



A boy dreams of being Superman and growing up to be a doctor, but first wants to join the football team in Clifford's story "**The Little Superman**." There are some tense moments in this tale of love and determination as a father and coach worry about the boy after practice. The story **won first place-fiction**.

Seung Hui Kim

Every kid can remember something their mother said over and over, many might recall: Did you do your homework? Seung remembers hearing "Seung Hui, come here and eat this!" She wrote beautifully about food, sacrifice and love in her memoir: "**Yes, I'd love to Have Some More, Mom**" which was awarded first place.

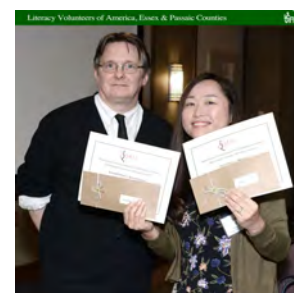
Getting a book receipt at the library detailing her savings of \$20 that day borrowing books, moved Seung thinking about the power of books in her life in "**How I Became A Library Enthusiast**." With her library card in hand, she has access to a world of books, which she wrote about and **won second-place for non-fiction**.



Damian Wilson



Wondering what it would be like to be sixteen again, Damian wrote "**Sixteen**" about growing up in Jamaica and not going to a regular high school. Instead she attended a job training center and went to work as a babysitter. She wrote about being sixteen again as an American high school student in this charming memoir that **won an special mention in the memoir category**.



New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learning Teacher of the Year

The NJALL Teacher of the Year award went to our own Mary Kao, an LVA tutor for 17 years, as well as a trainer, a workshop presenter and, at times, a recruiter. She is one of our longest serving tutors and, at age 75, displays the enthusiasm of a rookie teacher. Mary learned the importance of literacy as a child. Her mother could speak four languages but couldn't read or write in any because she was taken out of school at an early age by a father who believed that girls should learn to cook, sew, and maintain a household, rather than attend school.



2018 Alice M. Leppert Award for Outstanding Affiliate Achievement Literacy New Jersey

Our "Student ID and Resources Program," is a two-part project, the first of which aims to provide each student with photo identification. Our photo ID card, which comes with the student's name and home address embossed on the front, and the name of his or her tutor, and day, time, and library of their meeting affixed to the back with a sticker, will be issued to every student in our tutoring program by the end of July 2018. The cards are similar to the municipal IDs granted to immigrants in about a dozen New Jersey municipalities, regardless of immigration status, and may give some students their first identification card in the U.S.

The second part of the project, our Resources program, identifies institutions around the state where students can find everything from low cost public health, dental, eye care, and mental health clinics to food pantries, legal immigration services, transportation, scholarships, education and housing help. The information, which is contained on our web pages - <http://www.lvaep.org/students.html> - is available in 103 language.

In consideration of the pilot project, which was developed by our executive director, Cristhian Barcelos, Literacy New Jersey presented LVA Essex & Passaic with the 2018 Alice M. Leppert Award for Outstanding Affiliate Achievement at Literacy NJ's annual conference at The College of New Jersey on April 21, 2018. LVA was fortunate enough to receive the award at least twice before – in 2015 and 1993.



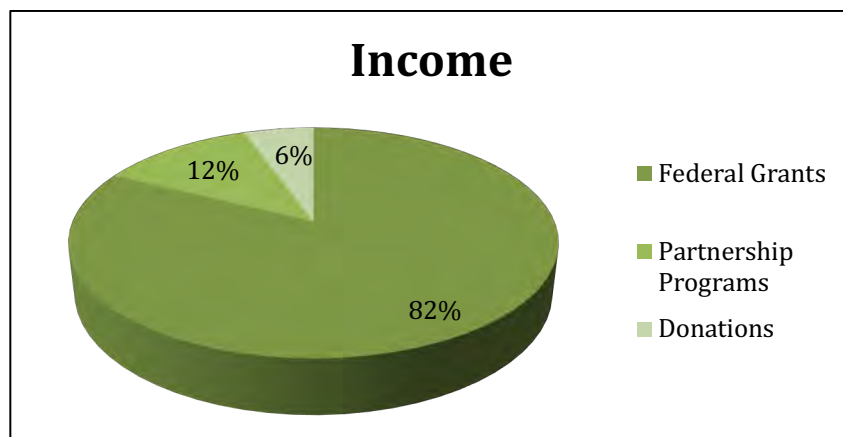
English-Spanish Language Exchange

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.

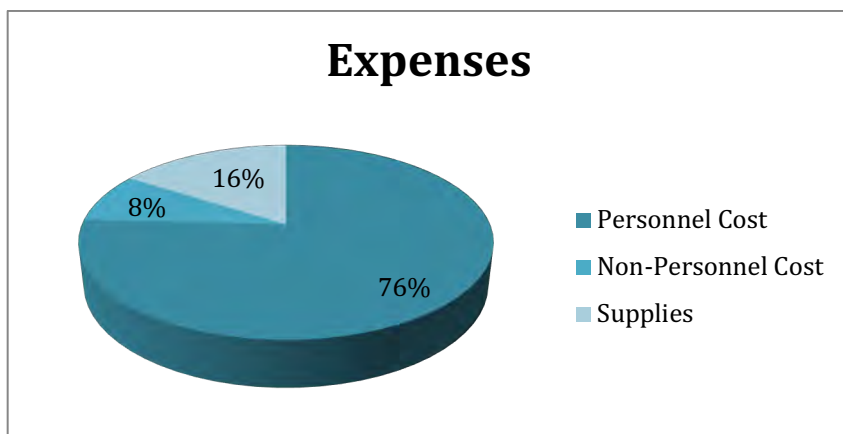


Financial Overview

LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Income** for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2018, was **\$527,000**.



LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Expenses** for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2018, were **\$377,000**.



Community Partners

Essex & Passaic Public Libraries

Adult Education Programs

Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey

Alfred H. Baumann Free Public Library

Belleville Public Library

Bloomfield Public Library

Bloomington 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

1199 SEIU Education Fund^{[[L]]} 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

Hunterdon Helpline Literacy Services

Jersey City Library Literacy Program

Literacy Volunteers of NJ

LV-Bergenfield^{[[L]]} 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

78%

Improved employability skills

78%

Attained consumer skills

71%

Attained wellness and healthy lifestyles

64%

Attained other personal goals

42%

Got a job or better job

55%

Advanced level(s) in curriculum series

73%

Increased involvement in children's education

36%

Increased involvement in community

55%

Improved score on standardized test

14%

Entered other education and/or training

23%

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	-Executive Director
Jorge Chavez	-Data Processing Coordinator
Debbie Graham	-Education Coordinator
Ellen Rooney Martin	-Recruitment & Training Coordinator
Mary O'Connor	-Trainer & Tutor Support Specialist
Marisol Ramirez	-Student Coordinator

Board of Directors

Sally Rice	-Board President
Kathy Mollica	-Vice President
Nancy Tinney	-Treasury
Christine Malloy	-Secretary
Jordan Fried	
Marleen Grabowsky	
Harsh Parikh	
Meisha A. Powell	
Genesis Rombola	
Claire von Schilling	

Trainers

Thomas Conlon (Master Trainer)
Nina Peyser (Master Trainer)
Mary Kao Sable Lomax
Mary O'Connor Darnelle Richardson
Carolyn Van Doren

Office Volunteers

Giovana Barcelos	Edilma Cardenas
Martha Diaz	Amanda Jaffe
Mary O'Connor	Constanza Osorio
Carolyn Van Doren	

