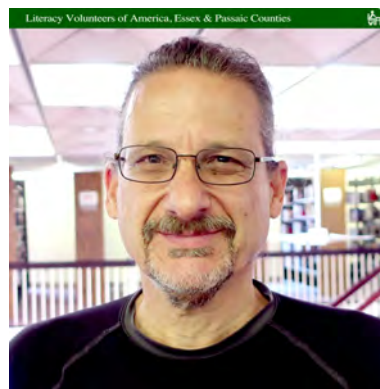
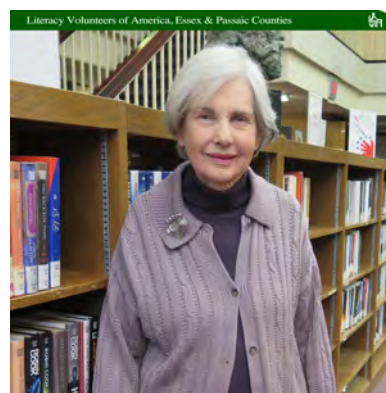
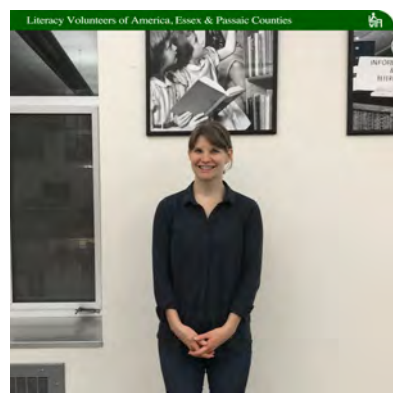




Annual Report 2018-19



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,

Twenty-six years ago, two small, struggling LVAs in Essex County joined forces, becoming the thriving organization LVAEP is today, serving Essex and Passaic Counties in New Jersey.

Five years ago, we began publishing these Annual Reports. Since 2014-15 LVAEP has proudly served over 4,000 students, trained over 500 volunteer tutors, provided over 230,000 tutoring hours, and on-going Professional Development sessions for over 800 attendees.

Every October, we celebrate the achievements of our students and recognize and thank all our dedicated volunteers. This year, 109 students were recognized for completing 120 or more hours of tutoring and 111 for outstanding achievements, 79 tutors were recognized for providing 75+ hours of tutoring, and 72 tutors were honored for tutoring for over two years.

Our students' literary accomplishments continue to be recognized by statewide organizations. I again wish to give thanks to all who gave donations to LVA this past year, to all our community partners and especially our hosts at the Bloomfield Public Library and Passaic Public Library, and to our dedicated staff who works hard every day to help our students and tutors be successful. On behalf of the Board and our students, I say 'Thank You' to all.

Sally E. Rice
President, Board of Trustees





LVA Facts

538

Served Students

156

Tutors

**Students Geographical
Distribution**

363 Essex County

175 Passaic County

Students by Subject Area

60 BL (Basic Literacy)

478 ESOL (English for
Speakers of Other Languages)

7 Tutor Workshops

70 Recruited Tutors

62 Certified Tutors

11

Professional
Development Sessions

172

Participants

\$366,000+
from Federal Grants

\$52,000+
from Special Projects

\$27,000+
from Donations

**Monthly
Newsletter**

36,000+
Hours of Tutoring

16+
Average Hours per
Month per Student

**Monthly
Success
Stories**

Tutor Training Workshops

Locations	New Tutors
Montclair Public Library	9
Hilton Public Library	4
West Orange Public Library	10
Montclair Public Library	15
Bloomfield Public Library	13
Clifton Public Library	9
Hilton Branch Public Library	10
<i>Total number of New Tutors</i>	<i>70</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>Matt Ford</i>	<i>Using Mindfulness in Tutoring</i>	17
<i>LVA Staff</i>	<i>Coffee with Friends</i>	29
<i>Faleeha Hasaan</i>	<i>A Single Step: Putting Yourself in the Shoes of Learners</i>	12
<i>Erik Jacobson</i>	<i>Preparing Students for NJALL Adult Learner Writing Contest</i>	12
<i>Cristhian Barcelos</i>	<i>Understanding Adult Education</i>	11
<i>Mary O'Connor</i>	<i>Grammar with Your Students</i>	20
<i>Darnelle Richardson</i>	<i>Taking the Fear out of Speaking</i>	17
<i>Kathryn Waggener McGuire</i>	<i>Writing Prompts Using Art</i>	12
<i>Cristhian Barcelos</i>	<i>Who We Are and What We Do</i>	15
<i>Ann Moore</i>	<i>Taking the Mystery Out of Lesson Planning</i>	12
<i>LVA Staff</i>	<i>Coffee with Friends</i>	15
Total Number of Participants		172



2019 Annual Awards Ceremony Literacy Volunteers of America Essex & Passaic Counties

Every year we gather for our Annual Awards Ceremony at the East Orange Public Library where students, tutors, instructors, teachers, and advocates are recognized for the time they've devoted to improve adult literacy. It's a warm celebration, with loads of personal experience stories touted by those whose lives have been enhanced by the gift of literacy. Award recipients come from programs and libraries in both counties, including programs with our partners at Sussex Educational Foundation & Berkeley College, and the NCC Adult Learning Center. Here are a few family photos from the event.



2019 Annual Awards Ceremony Literacy Volunteers of America Essex & Passaic Counties

More than 200 students and their families, tutors, and other educators attended our Annual Awards Ceremony, held last month at the East Orange Public Library. It was a night of beautiful acceptance speeches and heartfelt acknowledgements from students and tutors who are working hard to improve adult literacy. Here's a sample of what we witnessed that night.



2019 Annual Awards Ceremony Literacy Volunteers of America Essex & Passaic Counties

“Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: they feed the soul.” The quote from writer Anne Lamott pretty much summarizes why we believe in literacy for all adults. Thank you all for sharing your time and effort.



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

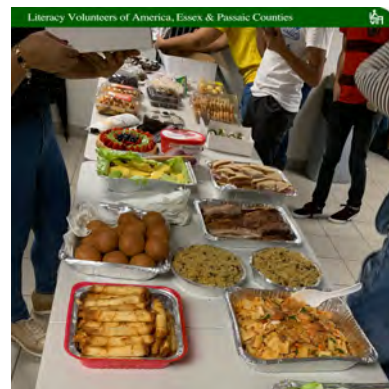
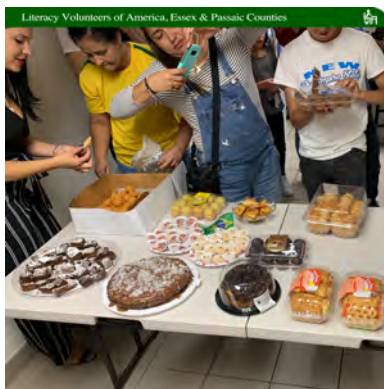
The first shock wave Juan felt upon his arrival from Quito, Ecuador came from Mother Nature, the first of many struggles to come. "I arrived in the in the winter and it was so cold that day," he recalled. "I only had \$20 in my pocket. I had borrowed money so that I could pay for my plane ticket to come here. Everything was so new to me it was very shocking." But Juan stuck it out and, after seven years of hard work, in which he took on every job he could find, from restaurant dishwasher to bakery bread deliverer to warehouse fork lift operator, his plight as well as his English have improved. He has a girlfriend, they have a child, and he can vote, having aced his U.S. citizenship test last year.

For 10 weeks, Juan joined dozens of other students in 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. The students completed classes in three levels – beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

"Learning English has helped me in so many ways," said Juan, a student in Tiffany Brown's advanced class. "It has given me better opportunities, the ability to become a citizen and a better life for myself and my family."

His struggles with the weather, jobs, and life in a new country are common stories shared among immigrant students in the Berkeley program. But, by far, their greatest struggle is learning English. Vanessa, a young student from Haiti who also completed the advanced class, had no problem learning English grammar but struggled with pronunciation, particularly in her entry level job at Dunkin' Donuts where impatient customers threatened to call her manager when she didn't fully understand their orders. "The first two weeks were very difficult for me," she said. "I realized that everyone has different accents and pronunciations so it was very tough for me to understand." Vanessa eventually found a better paying job and hopes to become a doctor.

Pamela, who was a banker in Sao Paolo, Brazil, gave a presentation to her class on the lives of immigrants. "I wanted to talk about the challenges of being an immigrant but I also wanted to encourage everyone to keep working hard and never give up on your goals," she said.



Adult Literacy & Community Library Partnership Pilot Program Hilton Branch, Maplewood Memorial Library

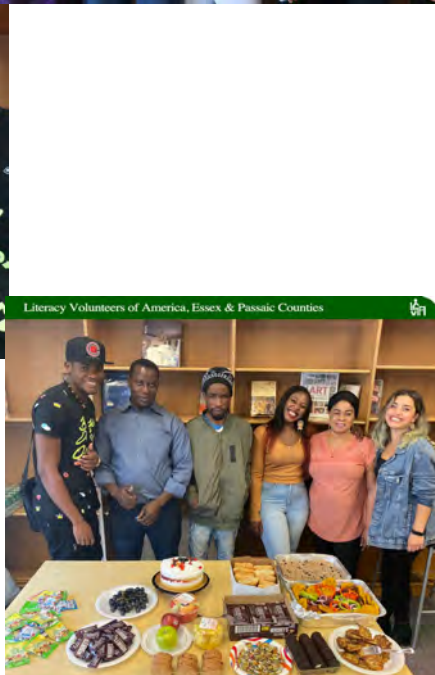
The campaign to learn English is easier for some adult students than for others. Esra, for example, an ESL student at the Hilton Branch of the Maplewood Memorial Library, has no problem conversing in English on her job as a babysitter.

“Thanks to my English classes it’s been easy for her to communicate with the kids and their parents as well as with the people in her community,” said Eidy Urena, Esra’s teacher in an intermediate ESL class at the Hilton Branch of the Maplewood Memorial Library.

Esra’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 earn a nationally recognized certification, ServeSafe, which in turn can help enhance their chances of finding employment. Funds were granted to libraries throughout NJ, including the Maplewood Memorial Library, which works with LVA to offer intensive ESL classes at its Hilton Branch.

Another student in the Maplewood program is Yue, who arrived in the U.S. from China two years ago, and doesn’t see much improvement in her own ability to speak English. “My English is bad,” she states simply. But where Yue sees little or no progress, Glenda Wills, her beginner level ESL teacher, sees the glass as half-full.

“The shock and joy in her face when she received her first 100% on her English weekly skill checkup test was a moment to remember,” said Glenda.



*Literacy New Jersey
Literacy for Life 2019 Awards
Student Excellence*



Gloria arrived in the U.S. with beginner English and in her own words, progress hindered by one factor: fear. There was the fear of asking for help, even for directions on the street; the distress of answering the telephone; and the everyday anxiety of knowing that someone might say something she didn't understand, and react unkindly when she couldn't respond. But much has changed for this Bogota, Columbia native since arriving in the United States in 2017. She now routinely speaks with strangers, as shown by the daily calls she places as a volunteer in our office. She is much more confident in meetings with her daughters' schools. And her verbal proficiency reading and writing skills have improved immensely. In two years, she has gone from a beginner's ESL class at LVA to the highest level of proficiency in the New Community Corporation Adult Learning Center's high school equivalency program.

Gloria had three basic goals when she entered the program. She wanted to be involved in her daughters' lives at school, to work in an office setting and contribute to a company that requires a worker to communicate in English, and to overcome her fear of speaking in English on the telephone. She met these goals by immersing herself in the tasks of the offices of her English programs.

Gloria earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in Columbia and became a budget coordinator, the third-highest position of a company of 5,000. A similar position in the U.S. requires a CPA designation, a difficult undertaking for most holders of accounting degrees earned overseas, but Gloria is determined to do whatever is required to resume her career.

No doubt about it, Gloria has the same fears as any learner of a foreign language. What makes her unique is that she confronts those fears daily, inspiring all those around her.



New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learning Writing Contest

At New Jersey Association for Life Long Learning's Annual Conference in May, LVA student Martha Diaz was awarded second place for fiction for her story, A Man and His Violin in the 2019 Adult Learner Writing Contest. Martha was also part of a workshop during the conference: "Presentations and Discussion with Learning Writing Contest Winners," where she read her story and talked about her writing process with other winners. She volunteers in the LVA office and is also part of our English-Spanish Language Exchange too

LVA student Sara Chekounh won second place for Poetry for her entry My Kitchen, My Home in NJALL's 2019 Adult Learner Writing Contest. Sara is a friendly, hardworking student and we so proud of her and all the students who participated. Please encourage your students to write, you never know where it might lead them. A magazine featuring submissions to the contest and will be available for download as a free PDF at www.NJALL.org.



New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learning Writing Contest (cont.)



Lily writes beautifully about watching the natural world and being one with the earth in her poem **The World and Me**. Keeping a watchful eye on the arrival of flowers at the time of the Chinese lunar calendar, and then the seasons as they change, Lily's poem won an **Online Mention**. Lily's love and concern about the natural world flow through her poetry.

The scents and flavors of her cooking come alive, bringing joy to her family and new neighbors in Sara's poem **My Kitchen, My Home**. Her cooking evokes memories of her mother's home in Morocco and her neighbors, you can almost taste the couscous when she writes about her kitchen being her home. Sara won **Second Place** for her poem.



Clifford, who is now in the military reserves, served in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay and wrote a tender story, **A Young Boy's Dream**. The night before a field trip to the zoo, a little boy has a bad dream about an elephant in the kitchen and was frightened. The field trip is filled with adventures, from visiting the elephants, to a lost coin and more. Clifford's story won an **Honorable Mention**.

A trained CPA in Colombia, Martha also loves music, which are evident in her story, **A Man and His Violin**. It tells the story of family, freedom and pain shared through the beauty of music. The hours and hours of practice as a child, helped the man share his joy and frustrations throughout life in his country. Martha won **Third Place** for her story.



Edilma's memoir **My Dream in the USA**, tells her story of being known as Professor of business at a university in Columbia to the lows of working in a warehouse in New Jersey. Edilma never lost her enthusiasm, humor or energy despite the challenges she faced at the warehouse job. She writes of her experiences and living her dream. "Do you have a dream? Do you have a goal? If you want, you can do it," she wrote. She won an **Online Mention**.

Essex County College – Adult Learning Center – 2019
Dreams of a Better Tomorrow
A Collection of Memoirs, Poetry and Intrigue



Who doesn't dream of being a super hero when they are little? Clifford wrote **The Little Superman**, a story about a little boy's dreams of being Superman and playing football. A football injury nearly break's his father's heart and the little boy's dream.

Wondering what it would be like to be 16 again, Damien wrote about in her memoir **Sixteen** about moving from Jamaica as a teen. She went to a training center to learn job skills and wonder what life would have been if she went to an American high school.



Malala is a name familiar to many, but Gurpreet wrote about the terrible terrorist attack on the young Pakastani girl and how she sympathized with her. Her story, **A Young Living Legend**, writes about the impact this young woman had on the world and on the writer.

Waking the middle of the night with a mind spinning with ideas and questions, Karima remembers the time before her baby was born. Her middle of the night worries were calmed when she placed her hand on her growing belly.



Ligia moved from her native country of Columbia and wrote **Remembrance of Yesterday** about the turbulent time in her early days of parenting in a difficult marriage. And the surprise life held for her in the U.S. Little by little her painful memories have been replaced by happiness.

Thinking about her mom's most common sayings to her, Seung wrote **Yes, I'd Love to Have More Mom**. She doesn't remember being told to do her homework, or clean her room. Seung's memories were all about eating three meals a day and snacks.



Seung's eyes glowed with light when she saw the printout of her library books, the bottom of the receipt showed how much she'd saved by borrowing instead of buying. Her tutor was a great influence in library borrowing too, Seung wrote about her love of libraries in **How I Became a Library Enthusiast**.

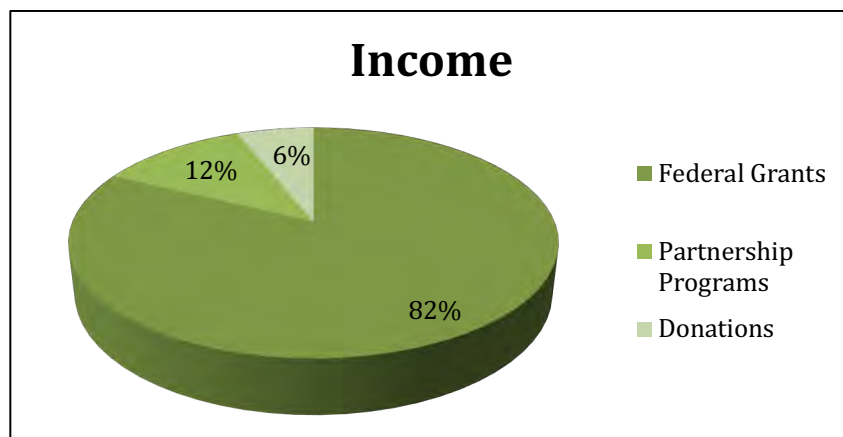
English-Spanish Language Exchange

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.

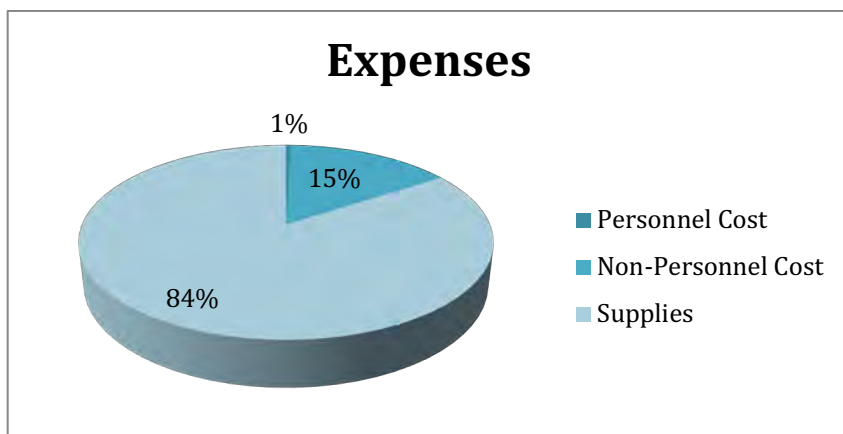


Financial Overview

LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Income** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, was **\$445,000**.



LVA, Essex & Passaic Counties total **Expenses** for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, were **\$361,000**.



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

82%

Improved employability skills

82%

Attained consumer skills

74%

Attained wellness and healthy lifestyles

62%

Attained other personal goals

47%

Got a job or better job

55%

Advanced level(s) in curriculum series

78%

Increased involvement in children's education

46%

Increased involvement in community

55%

Improved score on standardized test

16%

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, President
Kathy Mollica, Vice President
Nancy Tinney, Treasury
Christine Malloy, Secretary
Jordan Fried
Harsh Parikh
Meisha A. Powell
Genesis Rombola
Claire von Schilling
Jamie Stieger

Trainers

Mary Kao	Sable Lomax
Mary O'Connor	Nina Peyser (MT)
Darnelle Richarson	Carolyn Van Doren

Office Volunteers

Rizwana Arshad	Gina & Tom Biglin
Selena Colorado	Martha Diaz
Steve Greenberg	Steve Pranis
Ana Reyes	Carolyn Van Doren

