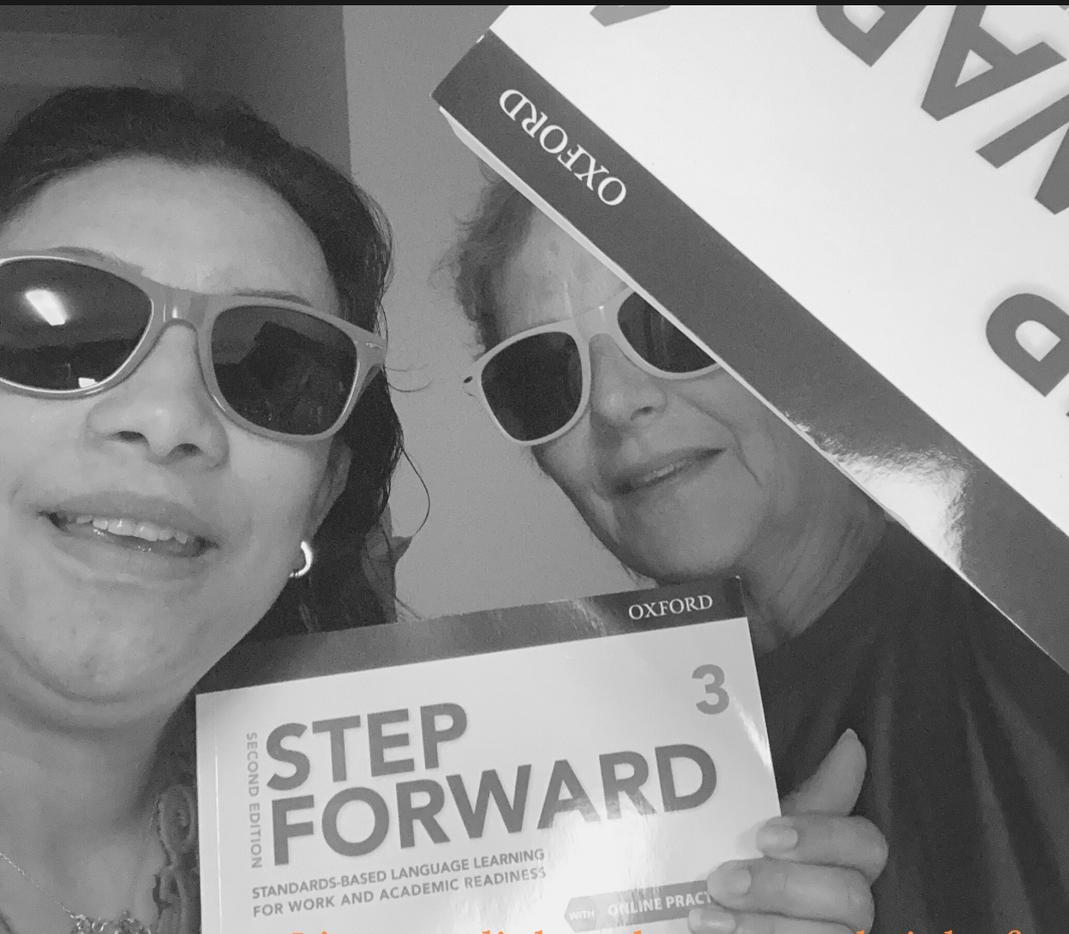


LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE NRV

*Annual Report
2020-21*

*With literacy, the future's so bright,
we've got to wear shades!*





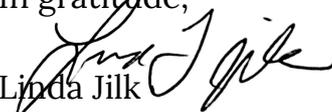
Dear Friends of Literacy,

We have so much to celebrate and be grateful for during the challenging pandemic year of 2020-21 -- thanks to the inspirational persistence and dedication of our adult literacy students and volunteers, and the continued financial support of our incredibly generous community. The need to pivot toward digital learning and help low-literate adults access this new virtual world, in addition to the economic turbulence exacerbated by the health crisis, required a re-imagining of how we "do" adult basic education. We are so excited about our LVNRV community's ability to create and implement new strategies to expand learning opportunities and reach and serve adult literacy students and families.

Our successes are a result of this community's generosity. They are a result of the hard work of students and volunteers. They are a result of collaboration. The lessons learned from the past year continue to become apparent, including the perspective that innovations can be driven by crisis – and that time together is truly a gift not to be taken for granted. At LVNRV, we are incredibly proud of our hard work to provide literacy services to 178 local adults this year during an ongoing health crisis. It demonstrates the strength, commitment, and can-do attitude of the entire LVNRV family.

As always, I write to you with gratitude in my heart and appreciation on behalf of our adult literacy students. Without your support, we would not be where we are today.

The accomplishments shared on these pages are a reminder that good things are possible, even during a global pandemic and its aftermath. None of this would have been possible without YOU. I hope you'll join us on our path forward.

In gratitude,

Linda Jilk
Executive Director



MISSION AND SERVICES

The mission of Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley, a 501(c)(3) community-based adult literacy organization is to foster, support, advocate for, and instruct adults in the New River Valley who seek opportunities to achieve greater independence through literacy.

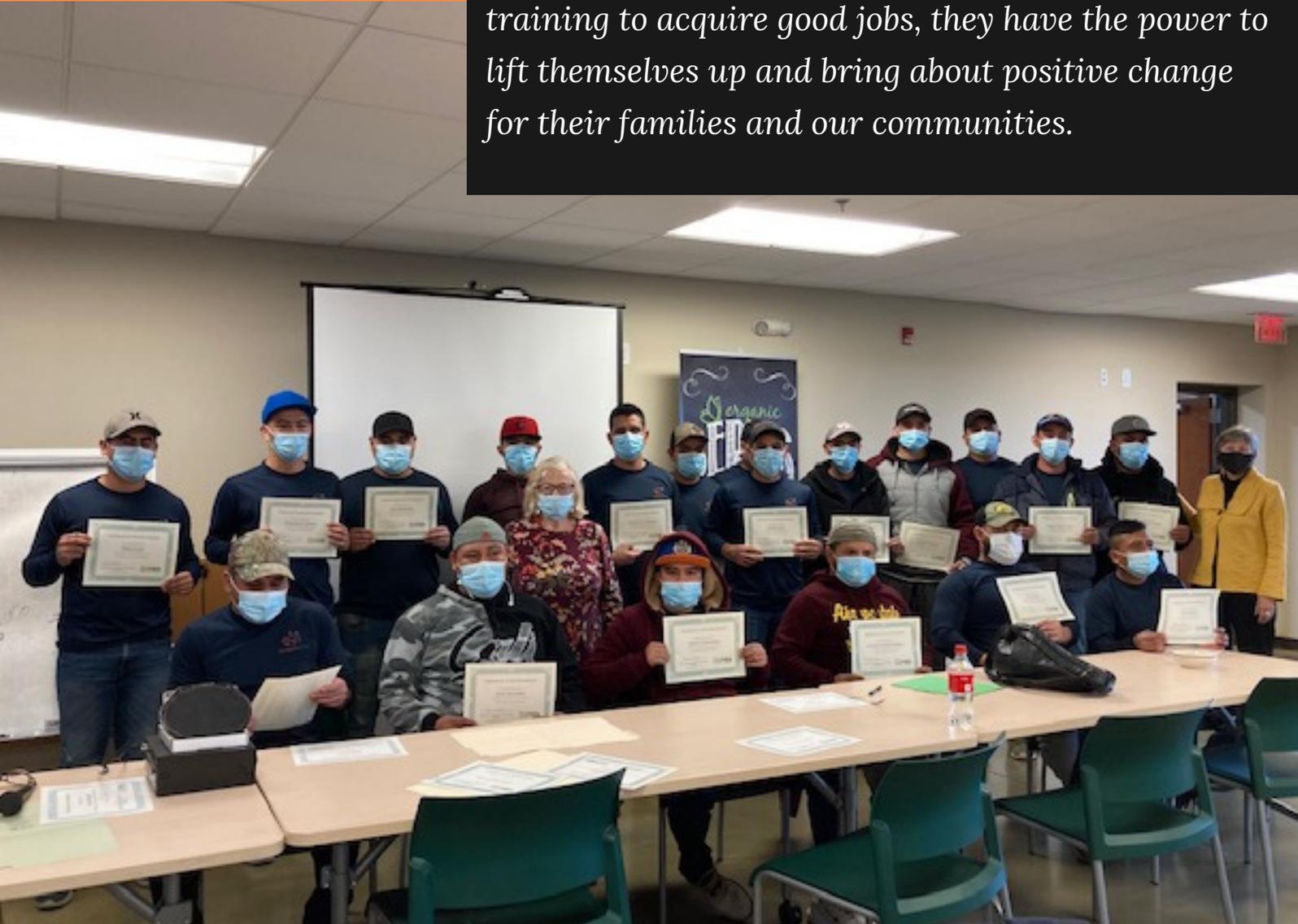
LVNRV provides free instruction for adults in reading, writing and math; GED preparation; ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages); and basic computer skills.

We have a learning center at our location in Christiansburg, and we provide tutoring remotely and at community-based locations in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski counties and the city of Radford, Virginia.



SKILL UP NRV

When adults are equipped with the basic skills and training to acquire good jobs, they have the power to lift themselves up and bring about positive change for their families and our communities.

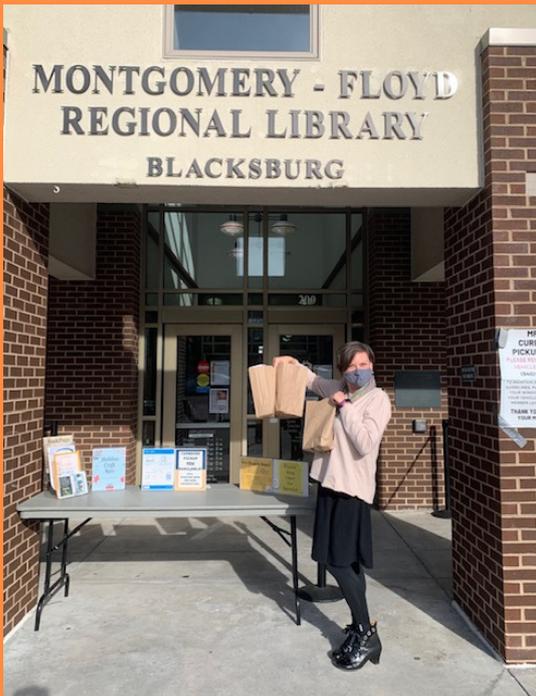


SKILL UP NRV is an initiative to provide adult basic education services to local adults who need literacy, language and digital skills to increase employability, to secure a new or better job, or retain employment to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

We are thankful for a new SKILL UP partnership launched this year with Red Sun Farms that, thanks to 6 volunteers and a combination of virtual and masked in-person instruction, helped 37 employees improve English language skills for work.

FAMILY LITERACY

By investing in education for parents, we get double duty from our education dollars. We elevate the literacy skills of both adults and their children at the same time.



Family literacy programs are provided in partnership with local public libraries and give parents the skills to read with their children and help their children succeed in school. A parents' reading skill is the greatest determinant of her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, such as neighborhood and family income.

Our library-based group Family READS (Reading and English to Achieve Dreams and Success) model was redesigned this year as a home-delivery program that included provision of technology for parent digital tutoring and weekly front porch delivery of family learning kits (children's books and educational activities) provided by Blacksburg Public Library.

BRIDGE TO DIGITAL LEARNING



It's now imperative that we provide adult learners access to digital technologies and opportunities to support digital literacy skill development.

Bridge to Digital Learning initiative provides adult literacy students and tutors with access to technology, internet, and support for digital tutoring. We offer training and support for tutors, as well as resources and strategies for effective digital tutoring.

After 50 hours of tutoring, students may keep the technology to achieve increased independence in this new virtual world. In 2020-21, 23 students received a donated device, 68 students learned basic computer skills, and 129 students participated in digital tutoring.

FY 2020-21 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

NRV ADULTS SERVED:

178

We served 140 English language learners and 38 basic literacy students during the pandemic year of 2020-21. Of these students, 96 were male and 82 were female. The largest age group was 25-44.

ACHIEVED COMMUNITY GOALS:

173

Increased involvement in community/religious activities, voted, achieved U.S Citizenship, passed the driver's license exam.

ACHIEVED FAMILY GOALS:

71

Increased ability to communicate with children's schools, read with children/help children with school work, read medications or health directives, pay bills, read for personal enjoyment.

ACHIEVED WORK GOALS

108

Secured a new or better job, entered an education or job training program, passed the GED, and increased basic computer skills.

23

ADULTS WHO RECEIVED DEVICES FOR DIGITAL TUTORING

68

ADULTS WHO IMPROVED BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS

VOLUNTEERS MAKE PROGRESS POSSIBLE!

VOLUNTEERS:

99

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS:

3,675

ESTIMATED VALUE OF VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS

\$104,885

We are so very grateful for our incredible volunteers, who are the heart and engine of our small non-profit organization. Despite the pandemic, our volunteers continued to give generously of their time, talents and resources as tutors, IT coordinators, office and resource room support, leadership, and more. Volunteers went above and beyond to learn new skills and overcome the obstacles caused by COVID-19.



LITERACY UNLOCKS POTENTIAL AND BRINGS DREAMS TO LIFE.

Literacy changes everything . . .

I learned to read, write and speak English and passed my citizenship exam!

--Mary

I learned how to use a computer to apply for jobs! And now I am working again.

--Tony

I was able to communicate during a parent teacher conference -- for the first time!

--Diana E.

. . . LIVES, FAMILIES, and our COMMUNITY!

I improved my English and got a promotion at work!

--Carlos

I learned how to use a computer, to read to my kids, and got a better job!

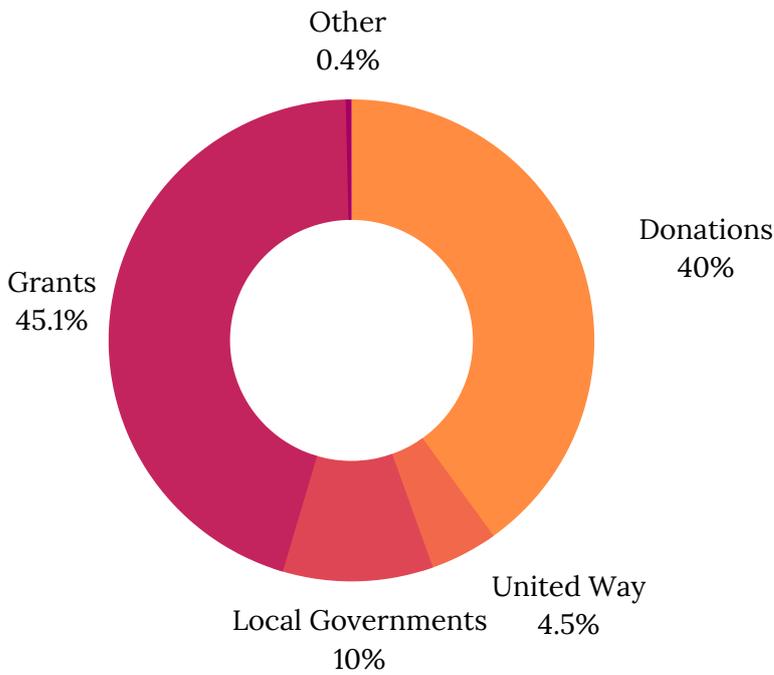
--Diana M.

Now I can communicate better with the doctor when my son is sick!

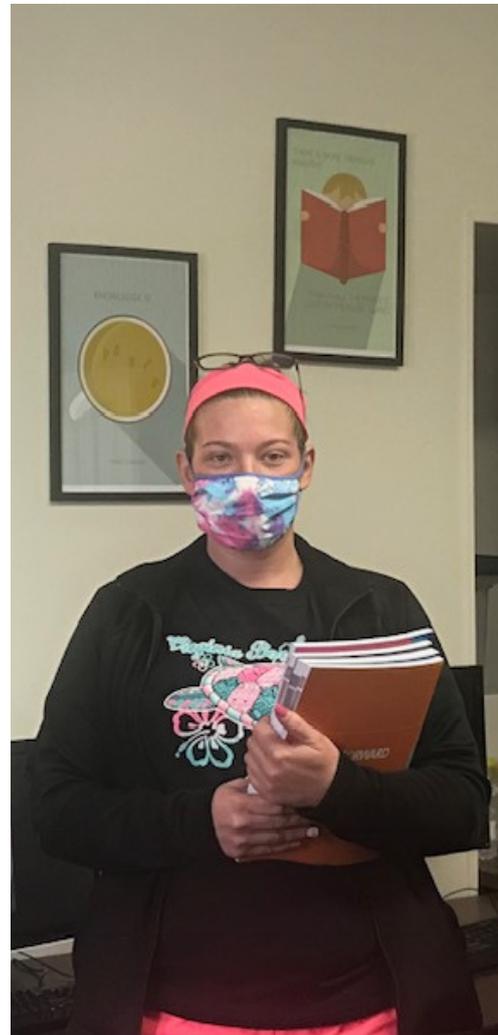
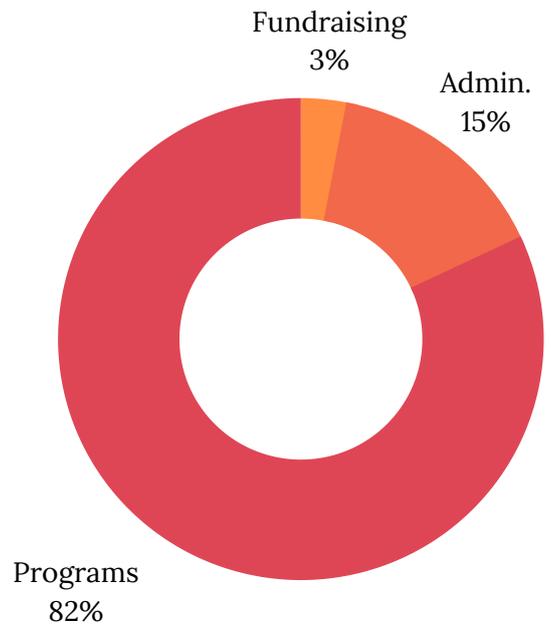
--Diana S.

FINANCES

REVENUE: \$143,725



EXPENSES: \$96,943



OUR VALUED DONORS

LVNRV gratefully acknowledges the following for their generous financial donations during FY 2020-21. On behalf of our adult literacy students, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

GRANTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Blackbaud Giving Fund
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Wish You Well Foundation

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Town of Floyd

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Michael Xiao
Lesley Yorke

TRIBUTES

In memory of Ruby Cantrell Meade

In honor of my daughter who shares a birthday with Harry Potter and because I missed the Scrabble Tournament!

In honor of Dr. Bertram Newmark

In memory of Ann Randolph Leake

Dedicated to our niece Linda Jilk for all her hard work with Literacy Volunteers

In memory of Jim Sellers

In honor of Rhea Epstein

In honor of Madelyn Rosenberg

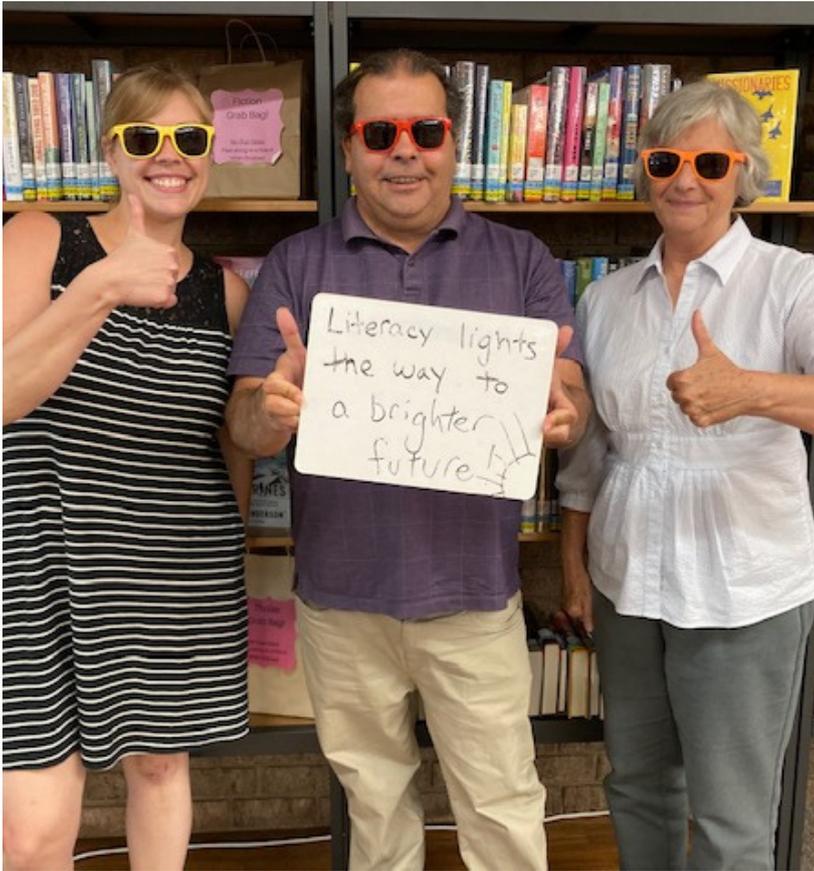
In memory of Richard Dore

In honor of Judy Snoke

In memory of Ninel Novik

In memory of Rebecca Bondurant





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