



Brunner Literacy Center

Literacy changes lives



2019 Annual Report



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Message from the Executive Director



Dear friends,

At the Brunner Literacy Center, we know that literacy changes lives because we see the change every day.

Literacy empowers people, enables them to participate more fully in society, and provides them with the ability to increase the well-being of their families. We also know that literacy changes communities. It is a driver for sustainable development that increases employment, reduces poverty, improves family health, and expands opportunities.

Literacy is not just powerful; literacy is power itself.

We also recognize that teaching changes lives. Teaching is a form of learning, and this year our tutors learned the complexity of public assistance applications after the tornadoes. They learned how frightening it can be to listen to news reports of violence in Dayton when English is not your first language. They saw firsthand how low levels of literacy can create trauma, and yet how trauma can be transformed by learning.

Our students and our tutors know that markers of difference - such as class, race, age, and country of origin - can unite us. In coming together across differences, we all learn that we share a love for our friends and families, a desire to take care of each other, and a hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

At the BLC, we all come together to improve literacy and enhance lives. We are creating a more resilient Dayton by learning to understand each other, appreciate each other, and stand up for each other.

Literacy changes lives, and it makes us stronger together.

Ashley Lackovich
Executive Director



Our Mission

Our Beliefs

1. ***Literacy is a basic human right;***
2. ***Literacy improves quality of life;***
3. ***Literacy diminishes misery and imparts hope;***
4. ***Each person is worthy of being treated with privacy and dignity;***
5. ***Personal relationships are critical to learning;***
6. ***Everyone deserves a chance to achieve success in learning; and***
7. ***Literate adults enrich family and community.***

Our Programs

Adult Basic Education

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) program brings an adult student's reading and math competence levels up to 6th-grade proficiency. Those who have mastered ABE content are considered ready for the GED® program.

GED® Preparation

The GED® program prepares an adult to earn a GED® credential by covering a 7th-12th-grade curriculum. This program explores the GED® exam's four subject areas, provides practice testing, and develops higher-level writing and reading comprehension skills.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education (CE) program offers opportunities for individualized study beyond a GED® or high school diploma. Students' CE goals could include preparation for college entry, professional licensure or certifications, or other qualifications necessary for a career.

English for Speakers of Other Languages

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program provides an adult who is not a native English speaker with skills in English conversation, reading, and writing. According to individual need and desire, involvement in this program can include preparation for U.S. citizenship.

Volunteer Spotlight: Rose



Rose Irwin, BLC Volunteer

For Rose A. Irwin, education is a journey made up of stepping stones.

"It has been a journey for me," Rose shares. "I tell people I'm a professional student. I've been in school for so long, and I did not start my educational journey until I was in my thirties. I started late... My educational journey has developed me because I had to believe I could do it."

Rose joined the BLC in the summer of 2019. You may recognize her from tutoring alongside you, from her positive and helpful presence at the front desk, or from any of the myriad ways she shares her time and talents at the Brunner Literacy Center.

What you may not know is that Rose is also a graduate student at United Theological Seminary, pursuing the Doctor of Ministry program with a focus in prophetic preaching and praxis. Rose is also an ordained minister, where she serves as the Senior Associate Minister at United Missionary Baptist Church and leads the Education Ministry. Because of her passion for education, she chose to volunteer with the Brunner Literacy Center for her work-study placement.

Having previously tutored children at Trotwood-Madison, Rose wanted to experience tutoring adults. ***"I enjoy it because it's making me learn," says Rose. "They're a little bit driven, a little bit more dedicated. I just enjoy seeing adults learn."***

Rose grew up in a working-class family in Dayton where going to college wasn't particularly emphasized. Being able to make a living was prioritized above higher education. After graduating high school, Rose's goal was to go to Wright State University, but college was not a financial possibility then. After working for Economy Linen for some time, she followed in her family's footsteps of working for General Motors.

"Once I got a job at GM, I said, 'School is out. This is where I'm gonna end up. I'm gonna retire from here. I'm good,' because back in those days that was good money," Rose tells us.



After almost a decade of work, Rose was hit by a forklift truck, and her left foot was almost severed. Throughout a long recovery process, she felt a calling to go back to school. She started out working towards a two-year certificate from the Lay School of Theology by going to class one day a week. After that, she went to Sinclair Community College to earn her Associate's degree in Psychology. From there, she set out on her original goal of attending Wright State University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

"I found out that Seminary was a Master's-level program, so my whole goal when I started my education journey was to get to Seminary. That was the whole goal. I had to start with little stepping stones," says Rose.

Rose's goal took her to UTS in pursuit of her Master's degree. During the Master's program, Rose heard one quote from a speaker at a chapel service that inspired her to continue her education. ***"The speaker said, 'Don't rush to the stage; just do the work.' Once I focused on just doing the work, the graduation came quick."***

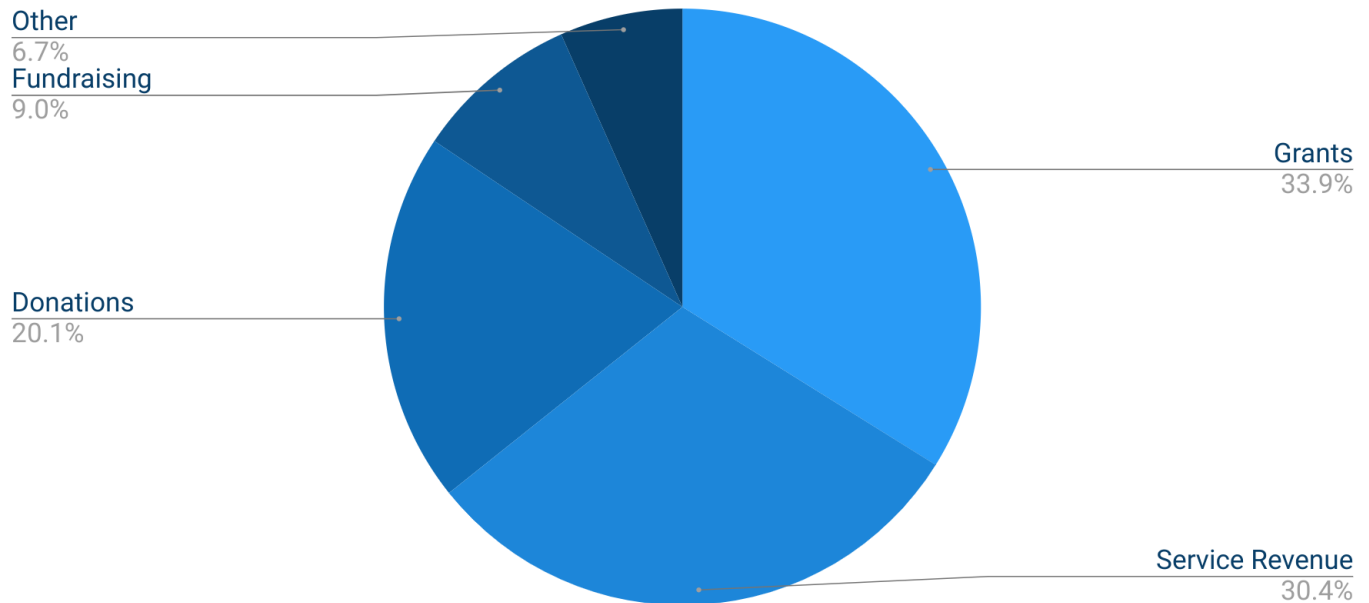
From Associate's program to Bachelor's, from Bachelor's to Master's, and from Master's to her current Doctoral program, Rose feels like working with the BLC is another stepping stone toward helping others on their educational journeys. Being at the Brunner Literacy Center has given her a great sense of connection with the community, and being here is purposeful.



*"Whatever you do, don't give up," Rose encourages.
"Keep going. Believe in yourself, even if you have to
take small steps. 'Small steps' is better than no steps... Know that you can make it,
and even in failure, even if you fail, get up and try again because failure is a lesson.
I've found that it's easier to quit than it is to keep going. The tough work is to really
just keep going. Quitting is easy. I don't ever want to take the easy way out."*

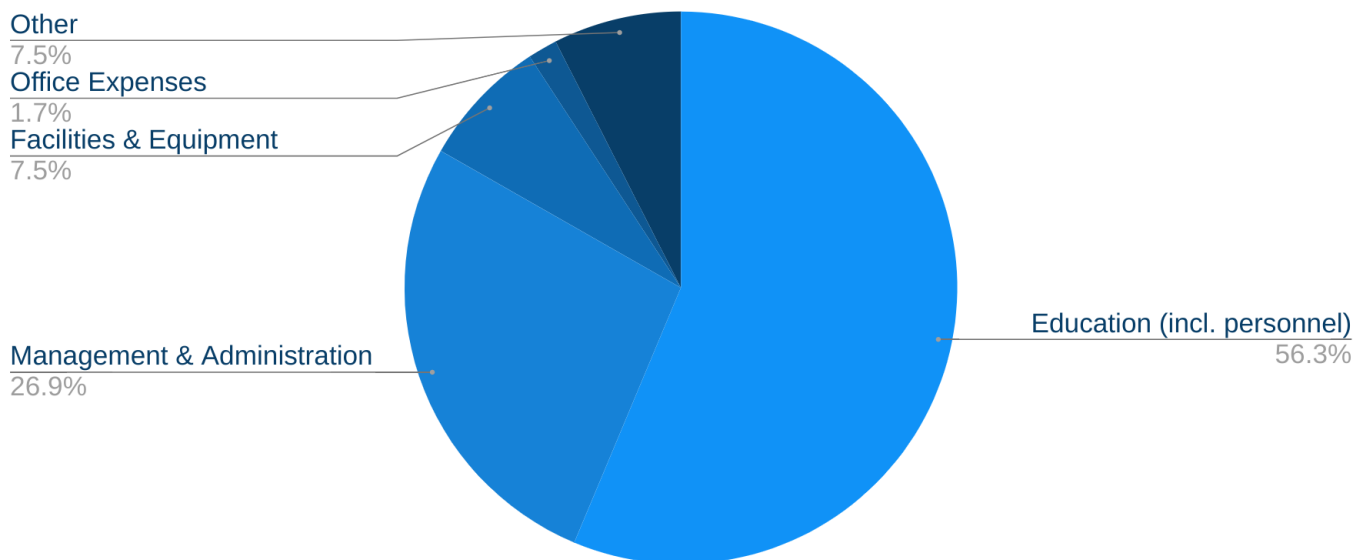
2019 Budget

Brunner Literacy Center Income 2019



Total amount: \$441,610.00

Brunner Literacy Center Expenditures 2019



Total amount: \$423,960.00

Student Spotlights

Ava

Ava's grade school experience was frequently disrupted due to her unstable home life. From 4th through 8th grade, she passed her classes because her dad would do her homework to compensate for the chaotic environment he was providing. She was pulled out of school in the 8th grade on the basis that she would be homeschooled. Homeschooling never happened. Ava looked down on herself as a dropout and believed she could never earn a GED® and therefore could not have a career she enjoyed or a higher education experience.



Ava earning her GED®

Ava decided to give BLC tutoring a try during her time in STOP. She met challenges and struggled to grasp some math and science concepts, but she remained dedicated to her studies. Ava was able to earn her GED® in shortly over one month. After learning that she passed the test, Ava immediately ran to embrace her friend, another BLC student, who told Ava that she had started her morning by praying that Ava would pass the test. Surrounded by the support of her peers and tutors, Ava beamed, and her whole demeanor transformed into one that radiated confidence and hope. Ava now looks forward to exploring a world of educational and professional opportunities she never believed possible, while being a present role model to her young son.

A Conversation Between Two Students

"I'm just learning so much about what I can actually do, what I'm capable of."

"I know – and isn't it crazy that it took this (experience) to get us to that point?"

"I just imagine my son – he's 14, and I'll be able to help him with math and science now instead of telling him to Google it."

"Talk about kids – my three-year-old taught me what a crescent moon was, and I had to ask her mom to make sure I understood it correctly. How does my three year old even know that? Kids are so smart."

"They are so smart. Now, we can help them learn even more."

A Note from Amber

Brunner,

I would like to thank each and every single one of you who take the time out to see us here to help us change our lives. You all do so. Thank you for your help. Each one of you touched me in a way I won't forget. Your stories meant a lot to me. I will brag about the knowledge I've learned here. Each day I was moving in a positive way. Just coming over here, I didn't want to come at first. I didn't want you all to see how stupid I was, but you each ensured me otherwise and understood and made it so I understood. Thank you so much.

Amber

Literacy for Life

Melvin

Melvin went to register to vote last fall. Both he and his tutor went to the polling place for the first time. Melvin felt so proud as he had never voted before. In May of 2019 Melvin asked his tutor about going to vote before she even had a chance to check with him. Voting has become important to him, to be a citizen. Melvin even asks his co-workers if they have voted and talks about its importance.



Gloria

Gloria is a determined mother of three.

She began her learning journey with the BLC in December 2017. Originally from Mexico, she wished to improve her English so she could help her children and better understand their teachers. With time, a strong resolve, and a dedicated tutor, Gloria gained

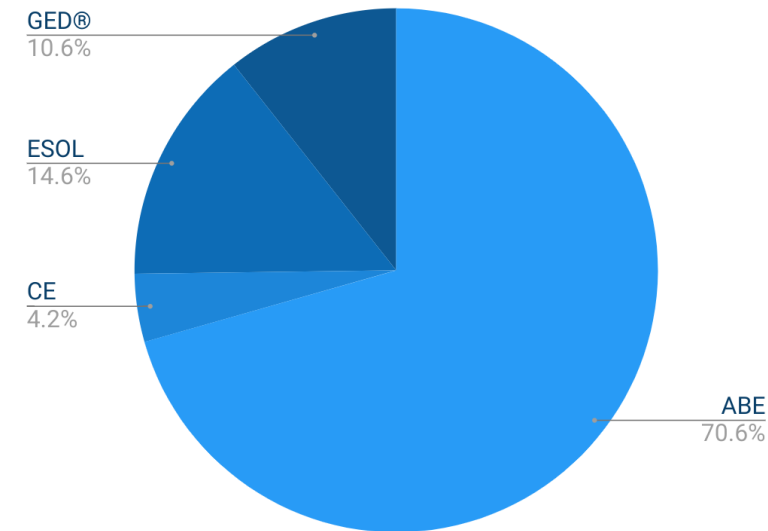
those speaking and understanding skills. In addition, she gained confidence in her reading and writing.

Empowered by this first success, she developed a new dream. She now aspires to attain her GED® to help her find a better job and aid her family. With hard work, even while battling and overcoming cancer, she passed the math section of the GED® test. She then began exploring vocabulary and science passages with her reading tutor. Her next success was passing the science section. Gloria continues to meet with her two tutors and is concentrating on social studies and Language Arts. She is determined to finish these last two sections. We are so happy for Gloria and celebrate her successes.

Program Statistics

Activity Summaries

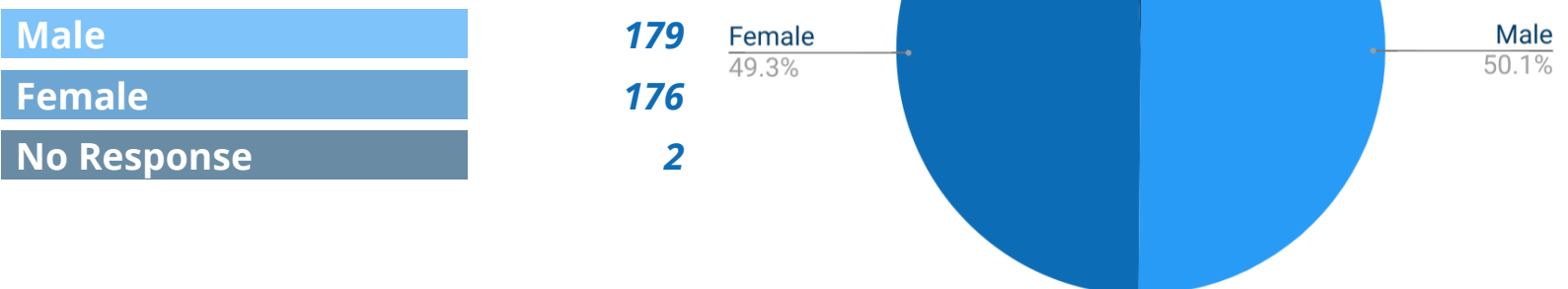
Total Instructional Hours	11,619
Total Non-Instructional Volunteer Hours	1,123
Total Active Students	357
Total Countries of Student Origin	30+
Students Who Earned a GED®	52
Students Who Met Learning Goals	123



Students by Program

252	ABE (Adult Basic Education)
15	CE (Continuing Education)
52	ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
38	GED® (General Equivalency Diploma)

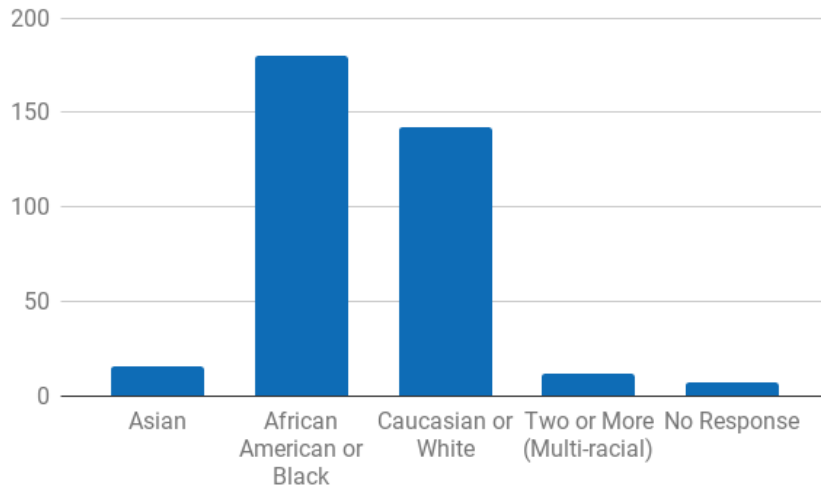
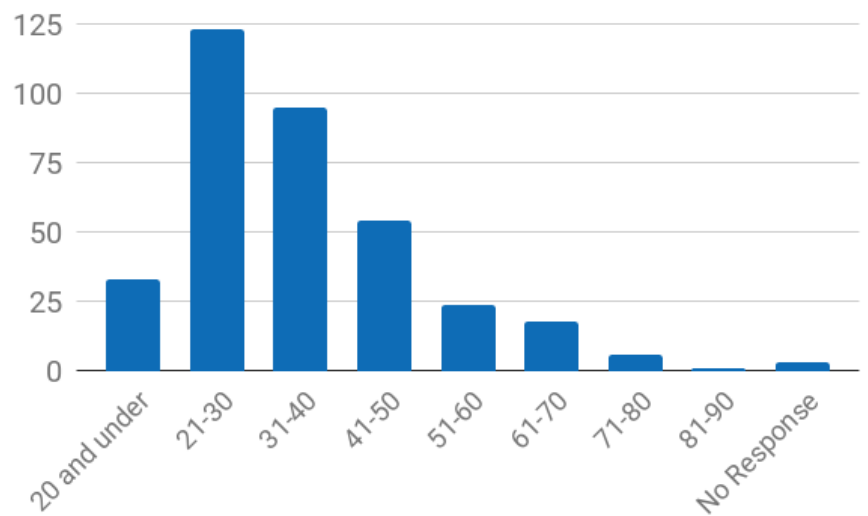
Students by Gender



Program Statistics

Students by Age

20 and under	33
21-30	123
31-40	95
41-50	54
51-60	24
61-70	18
71-80	6
81-90	1
No Response	3

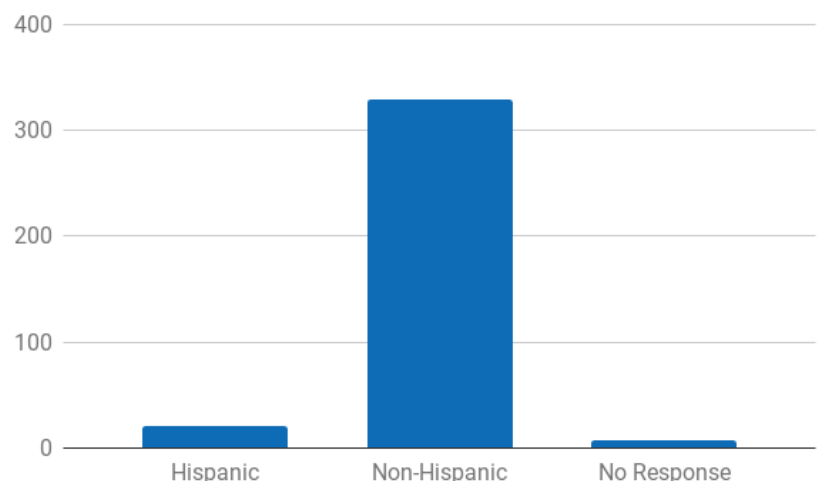


Students by Race

16	Asian
180	African American or Black
142	Caucasian or White
12	Two or More (Multi-racial)
7	No Response

Students by Ethnicity

Hispanic	21
Non-Hispanic	329
No Response	7



BLC Staff & Board Members

Board of Directors 2019

John Anene	Jack Kuntz
S. Carol Bauer	John Muhlenkamp
Sr. Maryann Bremke	Yolanda Munguia
Ronald Eckerle	David Ramey
Pastor Sherry Gale	Laura Roesch
Georgeana Gartrell	Sr. Florence Seifert
Hon. Barbara Gorman	Sr. Cecilia Taphorn
Steve Hess	Bro. Tom Wendorf
Joseph Hurr	Candy Winteregg*

Incoming President - S. Carol Bauer

Board Secretary - Sr. Paula Gero

Staff Members 2019

Sherrè Collier	Ashley Lackovich
Christina Consolino*	Joy Levett
Rebecca DeLong*	Celine O'Neill*
Kateri Dillon	Kathy Reed
Jan Hillman	Chelsie Truax
Bridget S. Hutt	H. Clay White

**Left the BLC in 2019*