



Impact Report
2022-2023



Dear Champions of Literacy,

Amidst the change and growth since Wisconsin Literacy's founding in 1985, one thing remains constant: the support and investment of literacy champions like you. Thank you!

This foundational work can't happen without you. As donors, stakeholders, funders, partners, member agencies, and volunteer tutors, you are at the heart of what we do every day: developing and sharing training and resources that transform the lives of over 14,000 Wisconsin adults and their families. Thousands more have improved access to reliable health information through the customized initiatives of Wisconsin Health Literacy and our partners.

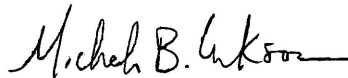
The pages that follow highlight how lives are changed and communities strengthened through digital literacy, clear health communication, employment opportunities and advocacy.

Whether you engage with us through our e-newsletter, our social media posts or a gift in honor of someone important to you, your support makes the work of WL and our 70+ member agencies possible.

We are truly grateful!



Stephen Mundt, Board Chair



Michele Erikson, Executive Director



Photo provided by Literacy Green Bay

Partnering to Strengthen Health Literacy in Our Communities

In addition to improving health literacy in communities, WHL consults with health and public health organizations to enhance the accessibility of their processes and resources.

This past year, WHL worked with 5 different hospitals and clinics in Rock County, Wisconsin to help bridge the gap between the needs of the businesses and the varying abilities of their patients. WHL conducted a series of assessments to measure how well the hospitals and clinics are addressing their patients' health literacy challenges.

After the assessment, WHL identifies strengths and opportunities for improvement and provides recommendations and necessary resources. WHL has been contacted by additional health providers to continue this important work in the coming year.

WL and WHL also worked with health organizations to revise written materials, so information is clear for patients, families, and caregivers. Easy to understand health and medical information is essential to health literacy for those giving and those receiving care.



Building Workforce Connections

Throughout the past year, WL staff worked diligently to nurture relationships with the local Workforce Development Boards, Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies and businesses. We know that increasing a person's literacy also increases their present and future economic opportunities.

WL staff attended Workforce Development Board meetings, participated in committee work, and engaged with local businesses – all while sharing the work of our members.

In addition to working with business partners, WL staff provided opportunities for agencies to learn more about programs offered through their W-2 partners thereby increasing referrals to their programs. We connected member agencies to local Workforce Development Boards to help their students access job training opportunities.

Building bridges between WL agencies and employers is essential. As Liz Hart, Executive Director of Literacy Chippewa Valley states, “The collaboration we have with Workforce Resources, Inc. is crucial for helping students find employment.”

Photo provided by Fond du Lac Literacy Services



Professional Development Offered Across Multiple Literacies

Throughout our history and particularly last year, we focused on meeting the needs of our member agencies and partners through relevant professional development workshops. In the last fiscal year, WL and WHL provided nearly 150 professional development events and trainings designed to help members' staff and volunteers better deliver literacy services.

These workshops were offered after listening to member feedback and reviewing trends in adult education. Areas of interest included:

- digital literacy
- digital health literacy
- English Language Learners (ELL)
- health literacy
- workplace literacy

We also recognize how valuable it is for our members to come together, in person and virtually, to ask questions, share best practices and resources. A priority every year is to offer numerous networking opportunities, to bring together agencies of similar size, location and/or delivery model. Knowledge is power – we strive to strengthen and build capacity for all our 70+ member agencies.

Photo provided by Faith Literacy



Connecting Capitol to Community

This past fiscal year, WL leadership spent many hours at the Capitol meeting with Senators and Representatives to advocate for new funding for literacy efforts. We are passionate about sharing the power of literacy and the impact of our member agencies on the economy, workforce, and communities across our state.

Many of our members joined in our advocacy work by writing letters of support and speaking at listening sessions hosted by the Governor and later by the Joint Finance Committee, which ultimately passed the 2023-2025 State Budget. Your voices – and the voices of literacy students – are so important.

During this advocacy process, WL raised awareness of the importance of local literacy efforts in preparing adults for the workforce. Often, it is their need for GED, English language or digital skills that brings students to WL member agencies.

In the year ahead, we'll continue to build relationships and awareness of the inherent connection between literacy, growth and new opportunities – for our students, businesses, and communities– across Wisconsin.



Thank You to Donors, Grant Funders and Sponsors (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

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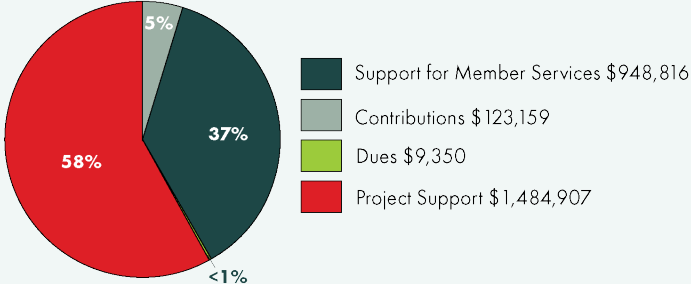
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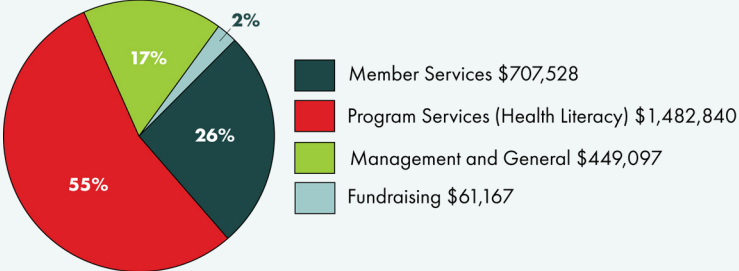
**We apologize for any error in our records that caused us to miss a donor or list a donor incorrectly. Please let us know if we did.*

Financial Highlights

Revenue \$2,566,231



Expenses \$2,700,632



2022-23 Members

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River Falls Library
Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee County, Inc.
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Our Mission

Changing lives by strengthening literacy statewide.

Our Vision

All people in Wisconsin have the literacy skills to reach their full potential.

Contact Us

(608) 257-1655

info@wisconsinliteracy.org

211 S. Paterson St.

Suite 170

Madison, WI 53703