



Portland LITERACY Council 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

See how supporting adult literacy makes an impact in your community.

THANK YOU 2017 SUPPORTERS

The following individuals and organizations made generous donations between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

INDIVIDUALS

Dr. Janice E Casey, Cheryl A Thoen, Lynn Edwards, Erica Chiotti, Susan Murray, Barbara Wayson, Kurt Ferre, Kathy Murray, Peggy L Murphy, Erika Giles, Dominique Hoffman, Linda M Hurst, Gale Czerski, Laurence Baker, Roosevelt and Thelma Baker, Delpha Thomas, and Scott Burns.

BUSINESSES/ ORGANIZATIONS

Snider and Associates, Kerr Bikes, Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe, Carioca Bowls, Chamayo Press, Coterie Salon, Exodus Spa, Groundwork Coffee Co., Kari Asher, LMT, Kellsall Chiropractic, Kimo Sunshine Pope, Magaurn Video Media, ORTESOL, Portland Nursery, Shut Up and Eat, Water Avenue Coffee, US Bank, and Chef Alberta Seierstad.

FOUNDATIONS AND NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Special thanks to The Collins Foundation for helping to seed our growth in 2017, the Kaiser Foundation, and to Portland Community College, who generously provides space for our tutor training courses. Special thanks to Reed College for faithfully hosting our annual conference for years.

FLASHBACK TO THE 2017 CONFERENCE

We give back to volunteer literacy tutors and small organizations through our Annual Conference at Reed College. Last year, 145 people came to share ideas on how to better serve adults with low literacy. This event connects tutors and strengthens programs from Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia, Lane, Wasco, and Benton counties, as well as in Pierce and Clark counties in Washington. There were 15 workshops by professionals in adult literacy education and leaders in community-based education.

We couldn't do this without support from Reed College, volunteers, brave student speakers, and you. Thanks so much for showing up to share year after year!

WHAT ATTENDEES SAID

"Excellent conference. Great opportunity to learn from tutors, presenters, colleagues."

"It was all awesome – really – thank you! Where I volunteer, we teach the basics and here I felt I was learning how to teach gourmet style."



Portland LITERACY Council

P.O. Box 2872

Portland, OR 97208-2872

Reach a child in need —
Teach an adult to read.

Portland Literacy Council supports and promotes adult literacy in order to foster a thriving and equitable community.

DOUBLING DOWN

Letter from the President

One in five Oregonians would struggle to read this report.

For most of us, the ability to read well is something that we take for granted. Yet, every year, 2,500 young Oregonians drop out of high school. Additionally, nearly 15% of Oregonians are newcomers who need language support. As a result, 38% of adults in Oregon are at very low levels of literacy.

Our low-literacy neighbors don't just have a harder time finding employment. They struggle to fill out forms at doctor's offices, to decipher medicine labels, and to help their kids with homework. And sadly, their educational resources are dwindling. Since 2017, we've seen the closure of the Londer Center and of Julia West House's program for adult learning and literacy services.

We know that the availability of flexible general basic literacy services is too low, and the barriers to access are too high. So Portland Literacy Council is doubling down. We are partnering with Multnomah County Library to offer literacy tutoring at the St. Johns branch starting this fall. We are committed to training more tutors and awarding more GED® testing scholarships than ever before. **And community supporters like you make this all possible.**

I hope you enjoy reading this report. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please email us at info@portlandliteracy.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy L. Murphy
Board President, Tutor, & Donor

"...38% of adults in Oregon are at very low levels of literacy."

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018 PORTLAND LITERACY COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peggy L. Murphy, President

Dominique Hoffman, Vice President

Arlene Matusow, Secretary

Cheryl Thoen, Treasurer

Kris Magaurn

Linda Rountree, joined 2018

Delpha Thomas

Ps. Would you like to see your name here? PLC is looking for board members for 2019-2020.



Board members from right to left: Cheryl, Kris, Dominique, Peggy, and Delpha.

STUDENT PROFILE: PLC'S GED SCHOLARSHIP HELPS MORGAN FOCUS ON SCHOOL

Morgan Simon grew up in foster care, struggled with drug addiction, and dropped out of high school. Today she's focused on her education and proud to say she got a GED with the help of a scholarship from Portland Literacy Council.



Morgan Simon with daughter.

"I felt insecure going back to college at 26, like I wasn't smart enough, but I kept pushing and was amazed when I passed my first test! The scholarship really helped me to be able to focus on school instead of work. I want more than a GED, and right now I'm exploring a career as a medical assistant."

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet tutors who've completed PLC's tutor training program and are out making a difference in their communities.

John Andersen Helps Students Who Struggle at PCC



"I volunteer tutor people who don't have a background in reading or writing in their own native languages and they're struggling to advance in their English language

courses in community college, where regular resources are limited for low-educated students.

Tutoring is the highlight of my week. There's a component to it that lifts my spirit. It connects me with the realities that a lot of people in our community face."

Hemi Pariyani, an Armenian from Iran, Gives Back to Community

"I enjoy tutoring because I myself experienced the frustration that people had with me for not being able to articulate what I really wanted to say.

I don't want my students to feel the way I felt. I am studying and learning every day and I want to share with my students who are immigrants and have challenges at home and at work."



Hemi Pariyani (back) with students

STEPPING UP & STEPPING OUT IN 2017

The Portland Literacy Council is marking 2017 as a time of great transition and growth for our organization.

Here are our top three growth highlights from last year.



PLC was awarded \$8,000 in technical assistance funding from the Collins Foundation, as well as a grant for consultation from the Community Consulting Project (CCP), a program sponsored by the Organizational Development Network of Oregon.

The Portland Literacy Council was a proud sponsor of the Low Educated Second Language and Literacy for Adults (LESLLA) 2017 Symposium at Portland State University in August and we provided full scholarships to attend to three members of our community.

We were also excited to be Community Partners and to have a table at the Annual GED® Program Summit, sponsored by the Higher Education Commission's Oregon High School Equivalency Program.

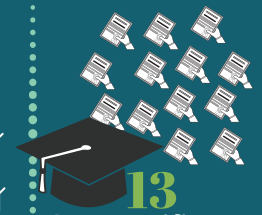
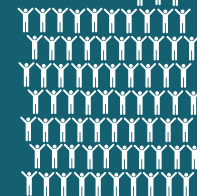
WHAT'S YOUR IMPACT?

PLC strives to support and connect literacy tutors through training, providing resources, a place to connect, and program referrals to help strengthen community-based education in the tri-county area.

Here are two ways your support was put to work in 2017, and we're just getting started!

73

Trained Volunteer Tutors



13 GED certificates earned with \$1,300 in awards