

Our Mission

To Assist People of All Cultures and Strengthen our Community by Teaching English Language and Literacy Skills

FLAIR: Our Family Literacy Activities for Immigrants and Refugees helps children gain the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school. Lead teacher Rik Minnick and instructor Britt Varisco help children learn a new letter of the alphabet each week and take them on adventures of the imagination by reading great children's stories. Children and their parents get to choose a book, take it home, and read it together — for keeps. FLAIR is supported by United Way, Rotary Club #14, and the Viking Foundation.

Refugee Workforce Readiness English: More people than ever have been forced from their homes by violence, and many of them are resettled in Lincoln. Our classes and tutoring help hundreds of refugees adjust to life here, learn the ways of our community, and above all find jobs so that they can support their families. Our programs are supported in part by the Nebraska DHHS Refugee Resettlement Program.

New Beginnings: Adults who can't read can't fulfill their potential. Often, what they need most is some confidence to make progress. With help from Goodwill, our caring New Beginnings tutors make a crucial difference in fostering adult literacy.



Partners Make Progress Possible



In 2015, Lincoln Literacy extended its services. For the first time, we offered classes seven days a week, mornings, afternoons, and evenings. New class sites included Bryan Health's two campuses, manufacturer TMCO, Lincoln High School, and Park Middle School, home to the Welcome Center for English language learners. Thanks to a record **329 volunteer tutors**, we were able to serve a record **1,189 learners**. Among these were a record **334 children** in our FLAIR classes (Family Literacy Activities for Immigrants and Refugees). The following partners generously provided space and in many cases support for our classes:

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| American Lutheran Church | Good Neighbor Community Center | Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach |
| Asian Community & Cultural Center | Goodwill Industries | New Hope United Methodist Church |
| Bryan Health | Grace Lutheran Church | Park Middle School |
| Cedars Youth Services | Lincoln City Libraries | Roper Elementary School |
| Culler Middle School | Lancaster County Jail | Saint Paul United Methodist Church |
| El Centro de las Americas | Lincoln Dept. of Parks & Rec | Southeast Community College |
| First Lutheran Church | Lincoln High School | TMCO |
| First Plymouth Church | Li-Cor | |
| First Presbyterian Church | Lincoln Industries | |

Our one-to-one tutoring and classes really work.

2015 Outcomes

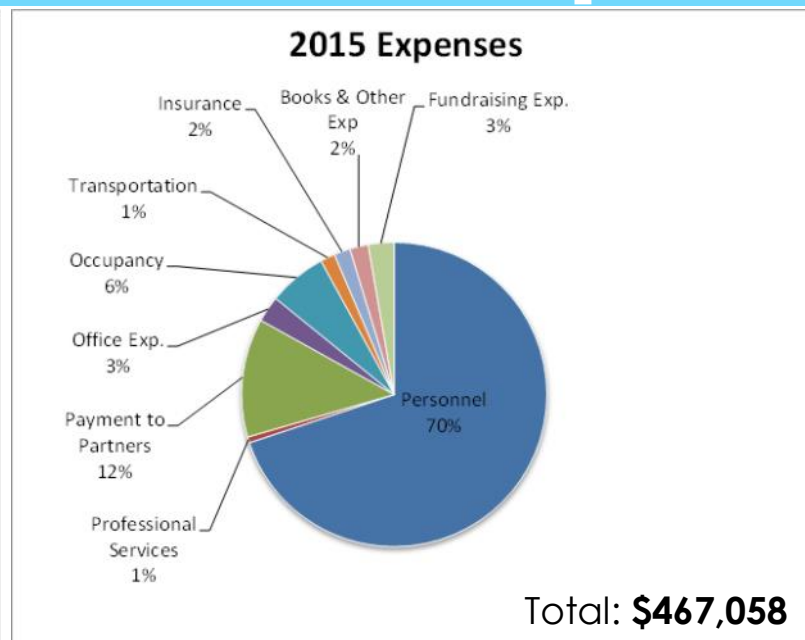
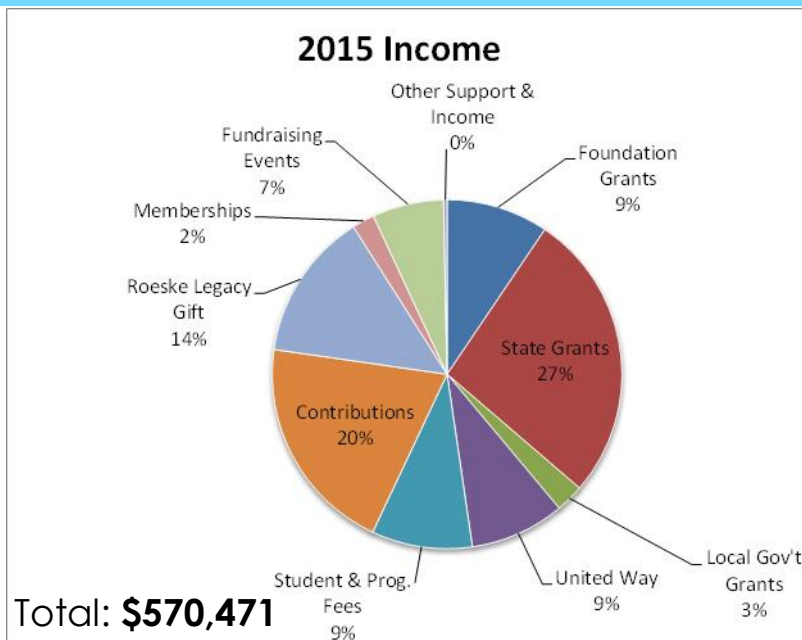
- 83%** of adult English learners showed measurable progress on the Basic English Skills Test, gaining average of 0.92 levels.
- 85%** of children in FLAIR classes made benchmark gains in school readiness skills.
- 82%** of FLAIR children hit our benchmark for English literacy skills.
- 50%** of adult basic literacy learners made measurable progress on the Test of Adult Basic Education, gaining average of 0.6 levels.

"Everything in my class is good. It helps me learn how to live in USA. Thank you for my teacher."

-Francesca, Lincoln Literacy English language learner



The Books: Income & Expenses



Lincoln Literacy appreciates all its supporters. To see a list of them visit lincolnliteracy.org.

Board of Directors



A banner year: that's what 2015 proved to be. We're proud to say that we served a record number of people, including more children than ever before, thanks to an all-time high number of volunteer tutors, and saw record levels of satisfaction with our services. We're equally grateful to have drawn record levels of support from the community. In this report, we offer highlights of the year.

-- Cynthia Martinez, President of the Board

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 Sanela Ganic, Associate Director
 Donna Stadig, Program & Operations Manager
 Jana Zvada Kozuchova, Accounting & Admin Manager
 Victoria Welles, Training & Development Manager

Program & Field Staff

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LINCOLN LITERACY

Annual Report

2015

