### Improved from last year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>191 Tutors</td>
<td>*165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>296 Learners</td>
<td>*282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 adults and 95 of their children</td>
<td>participated in the Family Literacy Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*61 adults and *85 children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Trivia Bee Raised

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL learners</td>
<td>waited 8 months for a tutor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122 increased involvement in their children’s education</td>
<td>*96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121 attained consumer skills</td>
<td>*103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 improved employability skills</td>
<td>*60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Statistics

- 54 got a job or a better job | *40
- 17 got a driver’s license | *10
- 7 achieved citizenship | *3

- 130 students on the waiting list
- 23 administrative volunteers helped with activities
- 29 entered other educational programs
- 121 improved score on standardized tests

* Numbers from 2014 Annual Report
A Message from the Board President

Dear Friend of the Literacy Connection,

Our fiscal year 2014-2015 found us launching our Citizenship Conversation Group on September 4 in collaboration with GBPL. The goal is to prepare candidates before they make their application for citizenship. We helped seven adults become naturalized citizens this year. In November, we held our 30th Anniversary Dinner at the Grand Victoria Casino’s Fox River Room. Our guest speaker was Rob Shindler, author of Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, Unlocking Life’s Potential by Inspiring Literacy at Any Age. In December, we presented a “Letters for Literacy” plaque to the Gail Borden Public Library in honor of supporting The Literacy Connection for 30 years. We held our 18th annual Trivia Bee on April 18th. There were 22 teams in attendance and we raised over $18,000 for our programs. In June, we held our annual Tutor/Learner Recognition Event. This event recognizes the hard work and dedication of our learners and tutors. We trained 69 new tutors in FY15, and retained over 90% of the active tutors. The 191 volunteer tutors were more than we have had in the past ten years.

I want to thank our donors, volunteers, staff and board members. Your support makes everything possible.

We had a great year and I look forward to another great year in 2016!

Sincerely,

Christine Awe

Staff

Karen L. Oswald
Bridget Ranieri
Jody Griese
Carolyn Chadwell
Marsha Callahan
Yadira Alva
Deborah DeBoer
Rose Geijer
Sandy Hernandez
Eileen Zywickel
Alcira De La Rosa
Aliya De Grazia
Jude Cavallaro
Nancy Gerner
Denise Nash

Executive Director
Operations Manager
Program Coordinator
Outreach & Resource Coordinator
Data Manager
Program Assistant
Tutor Trainer
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
ESL Instructor-Family Literacy
PACT Coordinator-Family Literacy
PACT Coordinator-Family Literacy
Office Volunteer
Office Volunteer
Office Volunteer

Our Mission:
The Literacy Connection is dedicated to helping adults in the northwest suburbs reach their literacy goals through one-on-one volunteer tutoring and small group instruction.

About The Literacy Connection

The Adult Volunteer Literacy Program is the agency’s core program. Trained volunteers provide one-on-one and small group tutoring to adults who are Basic Literacy or English as a Second Language (ESL) learners with the lowest literacy skill levels. Learners work with their assigned tutors to achieve measurable results, such as increased test scores, as well as personal goals like employment, citizenship, and self-confidence.

The Family Literacy Program serves parents and their children up to age 12. While the parents attend ESL classes with paid instructors, their children participate in age-appropriate educational activities. The programs are held at Channing Elementary School in Elgin and Golfview Elementary School in Carpentersville.

The agency also offers a weekly English conversation group at Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin.

Located at: 270 North Grove Avenue Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 742-6565 | www.elginliteracy.org

Success story for Golfview Family
Maribel F. became a United States Citizen during FY15. Her accomplishment was recognized by the City of Elgin and local organizations at the June 24 New Citizen Recognition in Elgin. Her husband Roberto and her son, Roberto Jr. attended the event to support her. Roberto learned English and was naturalized several years ago in California. Becoming a citizen was just one of her accomplishments this year.

During this school year, Maribel not only attended Golfview Family Literacy Classes for two hours, two days a week, but also attended weekly Citizenship Classes in Elgin to prepare for her naturalization interview. She is the busy mother of Roberto Jr., who will be in sixth grade, at Lakeview School and her eight-year-old daughter, Leslie, who attends Golfview Elementary School. Her children are involved in Boys and Girls Club, soccer, volleyball, and dance classes. She also works part-time in Buffalo Grove.

Maribel attended Elgin Community College classes through Level 4 at Dundee Crown High School. She then chose to attend the Literacy Connection’s Family Literacy classes at Golfview Elementary School. Those classes were at her daughter’s school, so it was much closer to home than commuting to ECC Main Campus for Level 5 class. She also enjoyed the Family Literacy setting, and having interactive activities with her daughter through the program.

During this program year, Maribel’s written assessment levels progressed from the High Intermediate to the Advanced ESL level in May. Her attendance was also exemplary having attended 84.50 hours of adult education classes compared to the average attendance of 69 hours.

New citizen Maribel F. with her family
Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>ELECTED/APPOINTED</th>
<th>TERM EXPIRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Awe</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>6/30/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Giardina</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>6/30/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikki LaRocco</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gertrude “Trudy” Zaja</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Christenson</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Diones</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Drufigke</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Hull</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Kline</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Lovett</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheri Moore</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Trujillo</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>June 2008</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John “Jay” Robinson</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>6/30/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen L. Oswald</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special thanks to our Letters For Literacy Sponsors:

ArtZings      Business Matters      Celebrating Smiles      Einstein Academy      Gail Borden

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Adler Planetarium
AMC South Barrington 30
Brandt’s of Palatine
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Business Matters
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Cheesecake Factory – Schaumburg
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Chicago Cubs
Chicago Rockford International Airport
Chicago Sky
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Wolves
Classic Cinemas
Comedy Sportz Theatre
Cooper’s Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Denihan Hospitality Group
The Dinner Detective
Dominick’s Pizzeria & Ristorante
Expressions Hair & Day Spa
The Field Museum
First Community Bank
Fox Valley Repertory
Full Heart Publishing
Georgio’s Pizzeria & Pub
Grand Victoria Casino
Herb’s Bakery
Homewood Suites – Schaumburg

IMPROV
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Kane County Cougars
Lorenn’s Hallmark
Lynfred Winery
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Marcus Cinema Elgin
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Paintball Explosion Park & Pro Shop
Platt Hill Nursery
Santa’s Village Azoosment Park
Schaumburg Boomers
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Southwest Airlines
Spirels Yogurt Delites - South Elgin
Staples, Inc.
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The Second City
The Stomp Company – New York
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TopGolf - Wood Dale
Town & Country Gardens
Trader Joe’s
TRUIST
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Wise Guys Pizzeria
Yankee Candle – Algonquin
Zanies Comedy Night Club – St. Charles
Zanies Comedy Night Club – Chicago

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Altrusa International Elgin IL Foundation, Inc.
Chicago Architecture Foundation
EFS Foundation
IHC Group Foundation
Polk Brothers Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Found., Inc.
Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation
Government
Secretary of State Literacy Office
City of Elgin

ORGANIZATIONS
Community Crisis Center
Elgin Symphony Orchestra
Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
Kiwanis Club of Elgin
S.O.S. Rescue Relief c/o The Adopt-A-Pet Shop

We make every attempt to ensure accuracy in our donor lists. Please contact the office by email at info@elginliteracy.org or by phone at 847-742-6565 if we have misspelled your name. Donor lists represent donations received by June 30, 2015.
Donors - Individual Supporters

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Shirley Appler
Raul & Cathy Aron
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Amy Awe
Chris Awe
Bridgette Bauman
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Jean Black
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Marsha Callahan
Rachel Campbell
Cecilia Carreon
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Dessie Clark
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Marlene Daubert
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Greg Marks*
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Carole Medal
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Beverly Lovett*
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Miriam Lytle
Howard & Margaret Madary
Daniel & Karen Maki
Greg Marks*
Rosemary Martin*
Carole Medal
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Anita Walls
Julie Warren
Theodore Weymouth
Sharon Wiseman
Jeff & Sue Wiser
John Wiser*
Peggy Youngren
Gertrude “Trudy” Zaja
and several Anonymous Donors

*Memorial Donors

Grantors

City of Elgin Riverboat Grant Program
Combined Federal Campaign
EFS Foundation
Elgin Township
First Congregational United Church of Christ-Elgin
Grand Victoria Foundation
Kane County Riverboat Fund
Illinois State Library, a Division of the Office of Secretary of State
United Way of Elgin

This program was made possible by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds designated for literacy.

Thank you to the following organizations:

Training Locations
Congregational Church of Algonquin, 109 Washington St., Algonquin
Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin
Poplar Creek Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., Streamwood
Presence St. Joseph Hospital, 77 N. Airlite St., Elgin

Family Literacy Partners
Channing Elementary School, Elgin
Golfview Elementary School, Carpentersville

Office Space and Support
Fox River Valley Public Library District
Gail Borden Public Library

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2015 Annual Program Statistics

• 191 tutors volunteered 10,804 hours
• 23 administrative volunteers helped with activities
• 226 adults were tutored in the volunteer literacy program
• 70 adults and 98 of their children participated in the Family Literacy Program
• Average waiting list for programs was 130 learners
• Average wait time was 8 months for ESL learners

Learner Achievements
• 121 Improved their score on standardized tests
• 121 Attained consumer skills
• 122 Increased involvement in their children’s educational activities
• 61 Met work-based student goal
• 29 Entered other educational programs
• 54 Got a job or better job
• 17 Got a driver’s license
• 7 Achieved citizenship

Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>$468,699</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-kind (tutor hours, rent &amp; services)</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals, businesses and organizations</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>$493,002</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Adult &amp; Family Literacy Programs</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Youth Leadership Academy collected books for the Family Literacy Program.

Clee Engineering won first place at the Trivia Bee.