

Impact Report

2023-2024

The **iLi**
Literacy
Alliance
Literacy Changes Lives.

Project Connect student Sandra with site facilitator Ignacio in the Summit classroom

Literacy changes lives.

Our mission is to empower people and strengthen community through education.

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year at The Literacy Alliance, we are filled with gratitude for the journey we've taken together. This year has been one of significant growth and transformation, demonstrating the profound impact we can make when we come together for a common purpose: enhancing literacy and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. With your support, we have achieved remarkable milestones while navigating challenges that have only strengthened our resolve.



We have served 553 students this past year in all of our programs, which is an astronomical number for us. But we had to waitlist more than 400 who were seeking admittance to Project Graduate and Project Connect classes due to full classrooms. Seventy percent of our Project Graduate students made academic gains, with 59 (26%) earning their high school equivalency diploma. But without our own testing center, we still have barriers to testing that prevent many students from reaching this milestone. We served a record number of Project Connect students (187) and are working to expand capacity. We can do this by working with community partners who can offer classroom space, but we also plan to triple our own office and classroom space at The Summit in order to serve more students who want to improve their English proficiency in Project Connect.


Our staff and volunteers are up to the challenge. We celebrate earning the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Program of Excellence designation in 2023-24. This award for exceptional performance demonstrates our ongoing commitment to student success, employing innovative strategies to ensure that learning remains accessible and engaging for all. This resilience speaks to the heart of our organization and the unwavering dedication of our team, partners, and supporters.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you—our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your contributions have not only funded our programs but have also instilled hope and inspiration in our students. You are integral to our mission, and we could not have achieved these accomplishments without your support. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by each of you has fueled our mission and expanded our reach.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this foundation. Our focus will remain on expanding access to literacy education, enhancing our programs, and, most importantly, celebrating the successes of our students. Together, we can continue to change lives and create a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive through literacy.

Thank you for being an essential part of The Literacy Alliance. Together, we can create lasting change, one story at a time.



Melinda Haines
Chief Executive Officer
melinda@literacyalliance.org
(260) 423-0001


Isabel Nuñez
Chair, Board of Directors

23-24 Program Outcomes

553

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS
SERVED IN 2023-2024

231

PROJECT GRADUATE STUDENTS SERVED

70%

OF PROJECT GRADUATE STUDENTS
MADE OVERALL ACADEMIC GAINS

26%

OF PROJECT GRADUATE STUDENTS
EARNED THEIR HSE DIPLOMA

187

PROJECT CONNECT STUDENTS SERVED

120

PROJECT READS STUDENTS SERVED

76%

OF PROJECT READS STUDENTS IMPROVED
4 OR MORE READING LEVELS

195

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

6,360

SERVICE HOURS BY VOLUNTEERS

"I want to learn English to be an example to
my children. This class has helped my work."
- Project Connect Student Luis

Project Connect classroom at Revive Home Brands
in Grabbill, Indiana.

Project Connect
English Language Learners Program



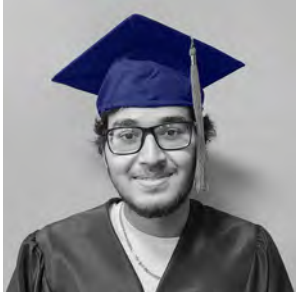
"Being at The Literacy Alliance has opened my mind to math more; I feel much more educated and feel like I have been set free." - Project Graduate Student Lindsey

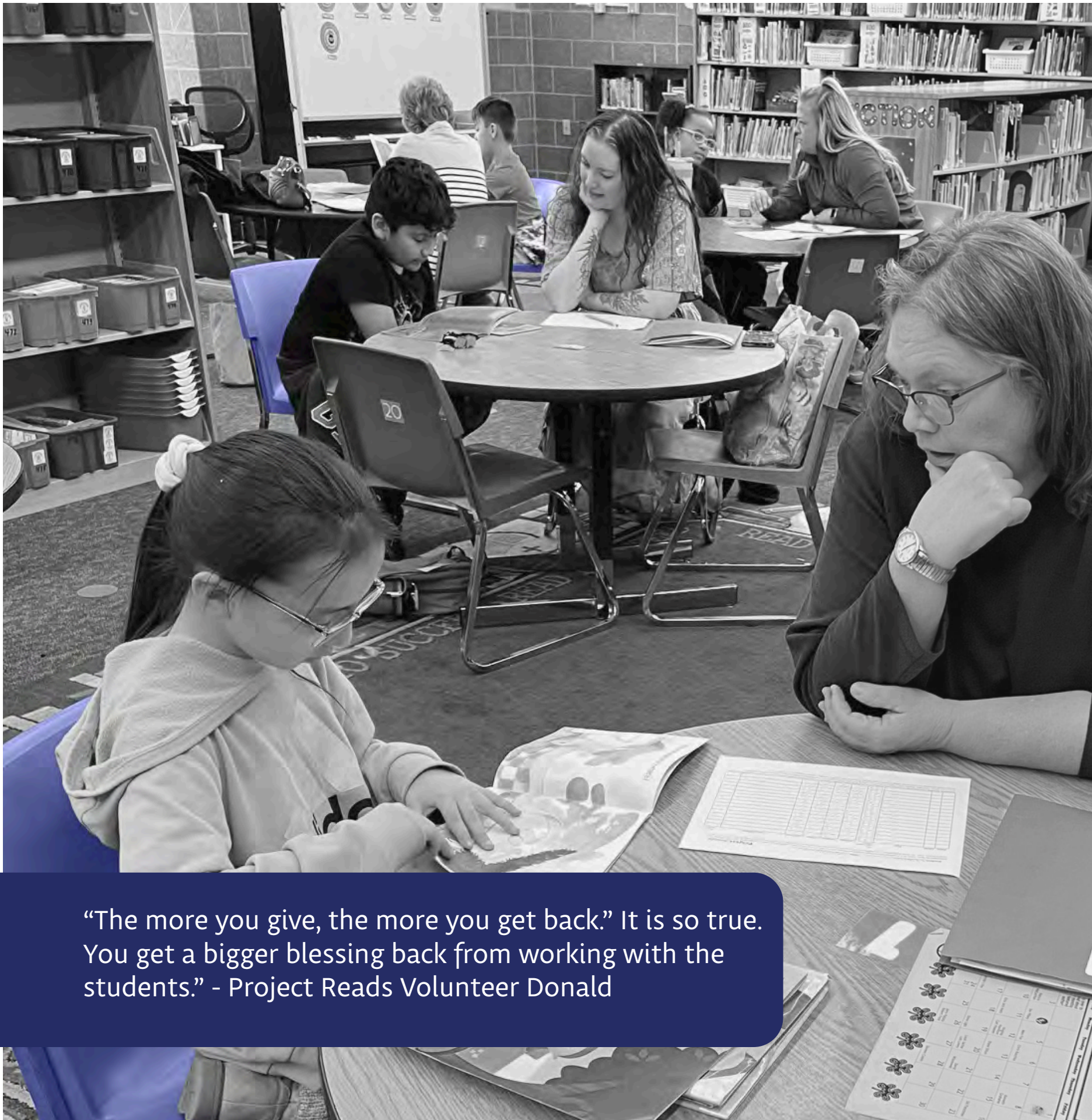
Project Graduate students Run Be and Jose Silva in the Summit AM classroom

23-24 HSE Graduates

We are incredibly proud of everything our Project Graduate students have accomplished and can't wait to see what they'll achieve next. Taking the first step is the most important part of any journey, and they have done that with courage and determination. In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Our students keep believing, keep striving, and continue to make us proud.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Allan Abbott | Jesse Lewis Jr. |
| Jennifer Acre | Aleida Lima |
| LaShawn Adams | Ashton Loftus |
| (Amy) Johana Alameri-Trejo | Mercedes Marcolongo |
| Isaac Angel | Miracle Martin |
| Xavier Antanovich | Quentel Martin |
| Tway Ba | Jazzmin McCormick |
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| Alicia Delagrange | Amethyst Sanders |
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| Brooke George | Zel Sit |
| Ky' Shawn Guinn | Craig Troyer |
| Lillyan (Lawrence) Hann | Vincent True |
| Mackenzie Harris | Marshall Turner |
| Aaron Hastings | Maung Chit Tway |
| Anthony Hood | Richard Waikel |
| Tyonna Jackson | Michael Warnsley |
| Shannya Jackson | Reginald Warren |
| Justin Johnson | Amy Watson |
| Ava Johnson | Htet Htet Zaw |
| Kyla Knight | |





“The more you give, the more you get back.” It is so true. You get a bigger blessing back from working with the students.” - Project Reads Volunteer Donald

Project Reads classroom at Northcrest Elementary

Volunteer Impact

In the 2023-2024 program year, The Literacy Alliance volunteers profoundly impacted our organization and our students' lives. TLA volunteers contributed an impressive 6,360 hours to The Literacy Alliance. Project Reads volunteers dedicated 2,393 hours to working with elementary students, resulting in 76% of the students advancing by four or more reading levels. Meanwhile, Project Graduate volunteers spent 3,967 hours helping adult learners achieve their educational goals. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, these 6,360 hours translate into \$147,552*.

The impact of The Literacy Alliance volunteers goes far beyond the numbers. They are mentors, motivators, and partners in progress, offering support and encouragement at every step. They are deeply committed to our students' success, providing encouragement and celebrating every achievement along the way. For them, volunteering is more than just a time commitment— it's an investment in the community and themselves.

Volunteers at The Literacy Alliance serve in various roles, from office assistance and one-on-one tutoring to supporting classrooms and serving on the board. TLA also partners with local high schools to offer volunteer opportunities for seniors needing service hours and with colleges for work-study placements.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

64

VOLUNTEERS

3,967

SERVICE HOURS

PROJECT READS

131

VOLUNTEERS

2,393

SERVICE HOURS

195

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

6,360

TOTAL SERVICE HOURS
2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR

*According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mean hourly wage for adult tutors in Indiana is \$23.20, while the national mean hourly wage is \$23.36 per hour.



“It is exciting to watch students grow in confidence and graduate. I have a lot of respect for the students. It takes courage to join a class after being out of school for a long time or if English is not your first language.”
- Project Graduate Volunteer Linda

Volunteer recognition celebration at Ivy Tech.

Volunteer Awards

The Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, held Friday, June 21, 2024 at Ivy Tech, acknowledged our collective efforts, totaling 6,360 volunteer hours during 2023-24 program year. The dedication and generosity of our volunteers truly reflect the spirit of The Literacy Alliance. We hold this annual event to celebrate everything our volunteers do every day and to give us all a moment to recognize the positive impact they are making on our community. **Heartfelt thanks to our volunteers** for their unwavering commitment and hard work; they truly are making it happen!

Gordon Cole Outstanding Volunteer of the Year: Karlene Kompara

Karlene has been an invaluable volunteer with TLA for more than two years, contributing in various capacities, including as a Project Connect and Project Build tutor. Currently, she is a primary volunteer at Amani Family Services, where she faithfully dedicates her time twice a week. Karlene's background as a Spanish teacher makes her an exceptional asset, particularly in translating and explaining grammar concepts to our students.

Karlene's commitment goes beyond the classroom. She consistently leads small groups, handles student orientations, and always makes an effort to ensure students feel comfortable and supported. Her sense of humor and patient demeanor help ease the learning process for everyone involved. Her competence and consistent presence greatly enrich our classroom environment. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and love she dedicates to her service at TLA.

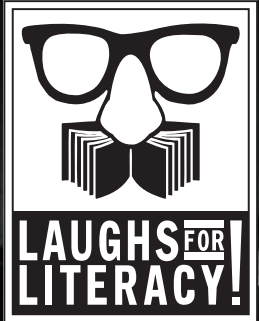


Toma T. Davis Volunteer Tutor of the Year: Kay Fawcett

Since 2011, Katherine (Kay) Fawcett has been dedicated to Project Reads, supporting students in their reading journey. Despite health challenges, she consistently shows up to aid her students. Katherine demonstrates flexibility by switching students when needed and assisting absent tutors' students with whom she doesn't typically work. Her contributions extend beyond tutoring: she organizes materials, tidies up after sessions, and ensures everything is in place.

Over 13 years, Kay has more than mastered regular tutoring roles, evident in the remarkable progress and newfound confidence of her students. Her patient, understanding, and compassionate approach to learning has made a significant impact. The students and staff of The Literacy Alliance Project Reads program consider themselves fortunate to have her, acknowledging her adeptness in navigating the program's evolving landscape since she first joined.





Mitch Albom's
tuesdays with
Morrie



The Literacy Alliance and
the ACPL Friends of the Library present:
A Night At The Library

Fundraising Events

This year, The Literacy Alliance forged remarkable partnerships that not only raised crucial funds but also deepened community connections through storytelling and shared experiences.

The year's fundraising kicked off in September 2023 at Laughs for Literacy! featuring comedian Ryan Erwin and emceed by Nicholas Ferreri. This evening of humor brought the community together for a night of laughter while raising awareness for literacy issues. Ryan's engaging performance not only had attendees in stitches but also underscored the importance of education in a lighthearted way. With every ticket sold, we moved closer to funding our vital literacy programs. The event created an inviting atmosphere where laughter broke down barriers, allowing us to share our mission with new supporters. The success of Laughs for Literacy! showcased how humor can unite us in a shared goal: to improve literacy for everyone in our community. With your support, we were able to inspire and entertain, making a lasting impact on those we serve.

One of our standout collaborations was with Arena Dinner Theatre for their poignant production of "Tuesdays with Morrie." This heartwarming play explores the timeless lessons of life, love, and learning, mirroring our mission to empower individuals through literacy. The performances were well attended, and funds raised directly supported our programs as well as Arena's. This partnership not only boosted our fundraising efforts but also highlighted the transformative power of storytelling and lifelong learning, inspiring attendees to engage with our mission in meaningful ways.

Similarly, our collaboration with the Allen County Public Library for A Night at the Library proved to be a resounding success. This event celebrated the joy of reading while promoting literacy in our community. Guests enjoyed a night filled with food, drinks and tours of library spaces not often seen in depth. The library's dedication to fostering a love of reading aligns perfectly with our goals, and together, we created an atmosphere where everyone felt welcomed and inspired.

As we reflect on these successful events, we are grateful for the collaboration and shared vision that made them possible. Together, we are creating a brighter future, one story at a time. Thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and supported our mission. Your impact is felt deeply and will continue to resonate in the lives of those we serve.

\$44,614

NET REVENUE RAISED
THROUGH FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Partners and Donors

Thank you to our generous donors and community partners for your unwavering support, which has empowered life-changing learning opportunities for individuals in our community. The donors listed in this report reflect gifts received during the fiscal year running September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, and we are deeply grateful for your contributions.

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The Literacy Alliance receives 49% of its support from local foundations.

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“The need exists here in our local community for literacy programs, as evidenced by the 30,000 adults who lack a high school diploma and the influx of English language learners.”
- Donor Jane McGraw

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The Literacy Alliance

“I believe that promoting literacy is essential for the overall development and empowerment of individuals within our communities.” - Donor and Board Member Tim Van Houten

Literacy changes lives.

Volunteer

Our volunteers support our efforts, staff, and students. There are a lot of ways to volunteer. Whether it's in the classroom or in the office, we can use your skills. We can't do what we do without our volunteers.

Donate

We work hard to make sure that every dollar we receive goes as far as possible in our service to our students. Here are a few examples of what your generous donations can do:

\$2,500

2 WEEKS OF CLASS RESOURCE MATERIALS

\$1,500

1 DAY OF ADULT EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

\$800

300 PROJECT READS BOOKS

\$600

1 MONTH OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

\$300

3 ADULT STUDENT ASSESSMENT TESTS

\$1,50

1 GED/HSE TEST FOR AN ADULT STUDENT

Any amount

Every gift helps end illiteracy.



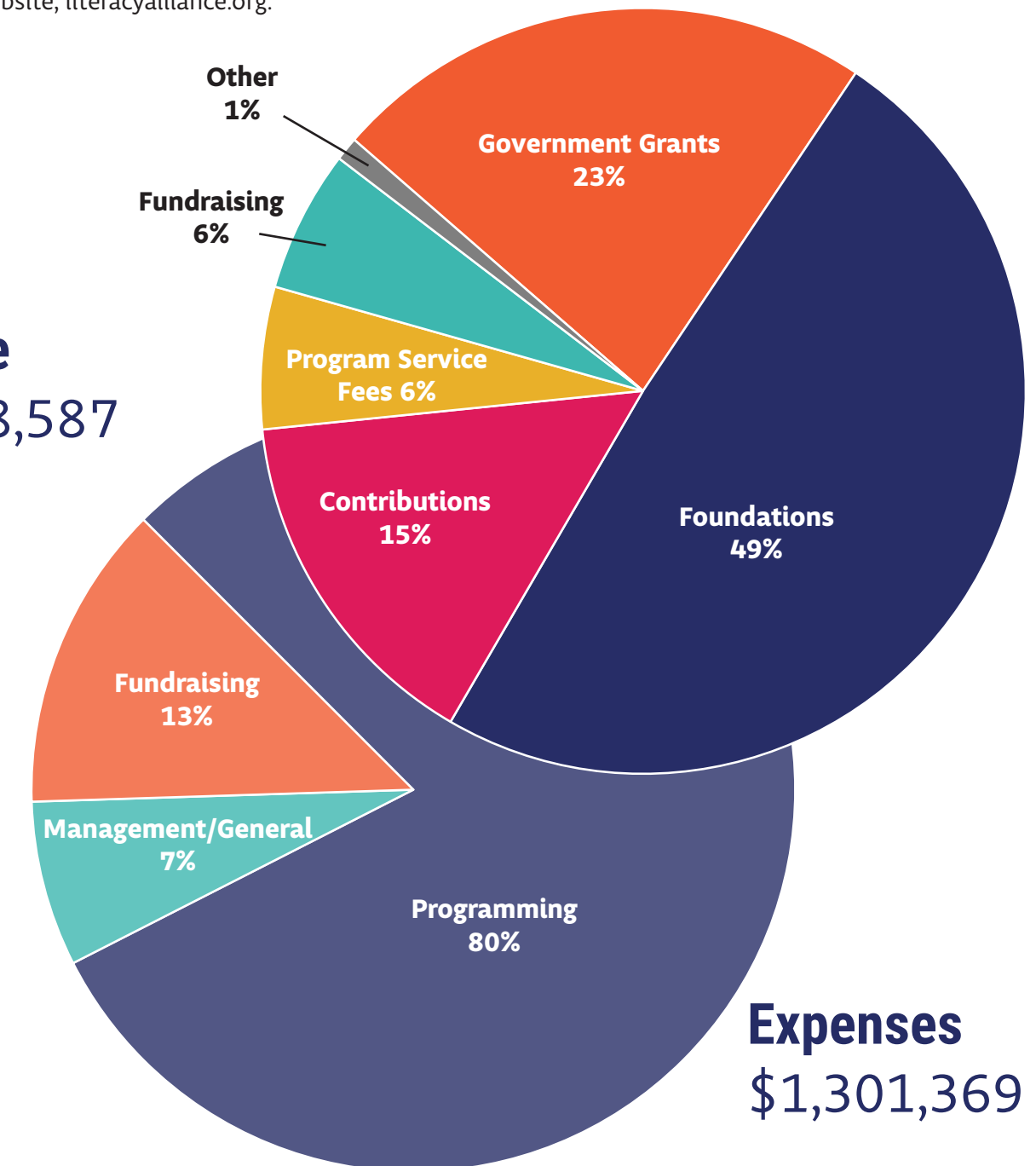
Visit literacyalliance.org to learn more about volunteering or to donate and give the gift of life-changing learning.



Fiscal Year 2023-24

The Literacy Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Support for our services comes from a variety of resources. Our financial statements and 990 are available to view on our website, literacyalliance.org.

Income
\$1,588,587



22%

Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne Endowment Growth

The Literacy Alliance has held endowment funds at the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne since 2007. Fund balances at the beginning of FY 2023-24 were \$180,638 and grew to \$219,863 at the end of the fiscal year.

Literacy changes lives.



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