



Lee County LITERACY COALITION  
**2024 Annual Report**



## NEW Learning Pods

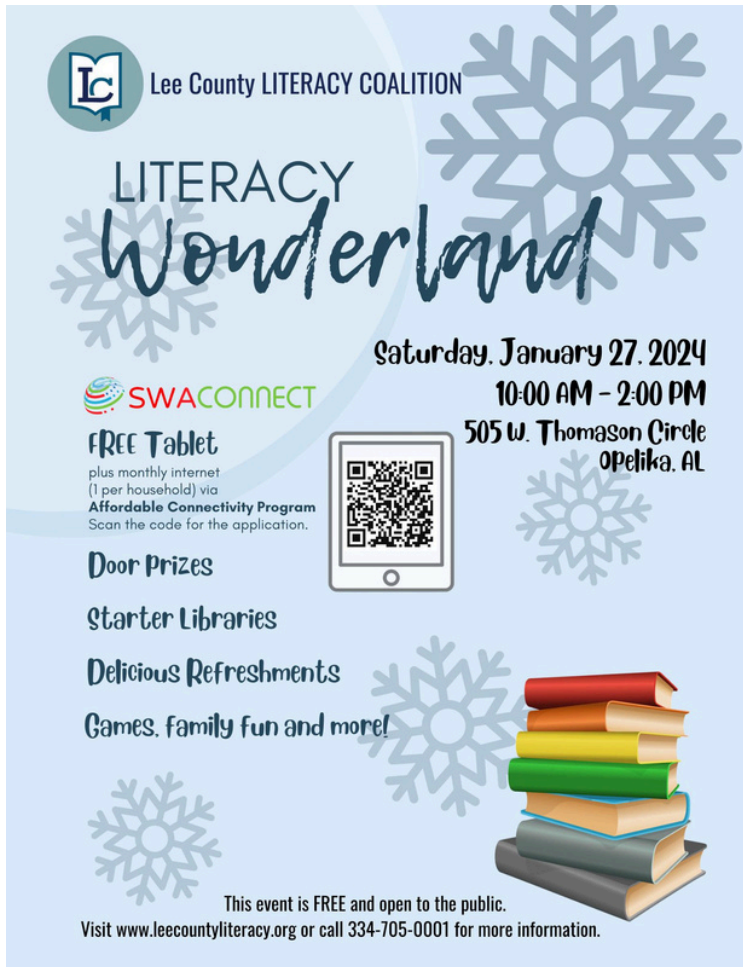
To maximize the accessibility of our learning space, two new learning spaces have been equipped for one-to-one tutoring, conferencing, and virtual learning. To decrease the digital divide, our focus is to increase the availability of technology for improved job readiness and learner success. LCLC will serve as a conduit to support learners without internet connectivity and increase their digital proficiency. Program delivery using technology has assisted with expanding capacity with activities such as tutor/learner Zoom sessions, telehealth appointments, interviews, engaging with program materials, and more. Learning pods are equipped with a TV, Wi-fi and Zoom connectivity. These additions will support improved engagement, service delivery and retention.

Lee County LITERACY COALITION proposes that increases in literacy rates offer a resolve to improve the human condition. By increasing adult literacy rates, we positively affect poverty, K-12 test scores, economic prosperity, emotional and physical health, and other social issues. Now take a moment and imagine how you would present to the world if you could not READ.

Our plan is to meet learners "right where they are" by working with each learner to provide instruction suited to their level of knowledge and proficiency. Learners are empowered with the tools to improve their overall quality of life, find better job opportunities, and make better informed financial decisions going forward. The expected outcome of increasing organizational capacity improves the potential for learners in Lee County and surrounding areas to become employable, increase their income, have improved self-esteem, and family units are stronger.



# OUTREACH & Awareness



Lee County LITERACY COALITION

## LITERACY Wonderland

Saturday, January 27, 2024  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
505 W. Thomason Circle  
Opelika, AL

**FREE Tablet**  
plus monthly internet  
(1 per household) via  
Affordable Connectivity Program  
Scan the code for the application.

**Door Prizes**

**Starter Libraries**

**Delicious Refreshments**

**Games, family fun and more!**

This event is FREE and open to the public.  
Visit [www.lee-countyliteracy.org](http://www.lee-countyliteracy.org) or call 334-705-0001 for more information.

The year started with momentum with our Literacy Wonderland event in January 2024. Seventy-five families completed applications to receive a FREE tablet in partnership with the Affordable Connectivity Program. Families received starter libraries with door prizes, refreshments, and a bouncy house. Our goal was to introduce or reintroduce LCLC services to the community. The VISTA members were instrumental in coordinating and supporting this event.

An African American Read-In was hosted in February 2024, with participants, ages 3 - 65. There were a variety of titles available, and everyone had an opportunity to read aloud and share.

There is always time to celebrate our volunteers. LCLC hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Cook-out with Art Walk featuring LCLC learners in July 2024. Our VISTA members encouraged the launch of our new TikTok account. They are taking the lead in producing content to increase awareness and attract new learners and tutors.

Photo: AmeriCorps VISTA Conference in Birmingham





## FINDING Literacy

LCLC has expanded over the last five years, by adjusting hours of operation, more accessibility with our new space that provides public visibility, where learners can easily find us. LCLC is aggressively seeking additional funding opportunities, cultivating donors and community advocates. Outreach opportunity aids in this mission. Activities include establishing new partnerships and refreshing existing ones to build a stronger network in the central Alabama region while ensuring potential learners know who we are and what we do.

Providing a variety of delivery options has assisted with meeting the individual needs of learners. One size does not fit all. Leveraging technology enhances the effectiveness of a small staff to do more and operate smarter. Innovative thinking supports LCLC in extending its reach beyond the brick and mortar while removing the challenges of travel, time constraints and childcare. Visiting learners are welcomed in intentional, comfortable spaces that inspire learning.





## IMPACT & Engagement

**2128**

Individuals received outreach information and awareness presentations. These are critical engagements for potential learners, volunteer tutors, partners, and donors.

**1047**

Learners that received one-to-one tutoring in reading, writing, math, GED preparation, and ESL services (60-90 minutes weekly).

Learners that attended literacy workshops including financial wellness, health, and digital/workplace literacy and families that attended family literacy sessions.

**49**

New volunteers onboarded.



Photo: Daedong Hi-Lex of America Presentation

# PROGRAM Upgrades

## Financial Literacy in Spanish

Being an advocate of inclusivity is important. Financial Literacy workshops are offered in both English and Spanish.

## Basic Tutor Training On-Demand

Basic Tutor Training is now available on-demand. This feature reduces the onboarding wait time and new volunteers can access the training at a time more convenient for them.

## Navigating Success Research Project

LCLC participated in a research project with ProLiteracy from November 2023 – November 2024. The project goal was to examine the use of learner assessment data to provide target instruction for the lowest-level learners and determine its impact on outcomes. LCLC collected data for a sample of 30 participants. Findings are forthcoming. LCLC will continue this project in 2025.

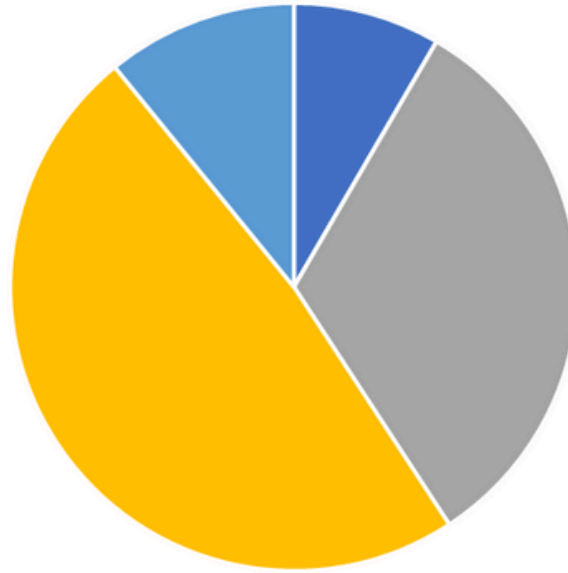
## Partnership with Daedong Hi-Lex of America

LCLC is excited about our new partnership with Daedong Hi-Lex of America to provide services and programs onsite and virtually. The project began in November 2024.



# Sources

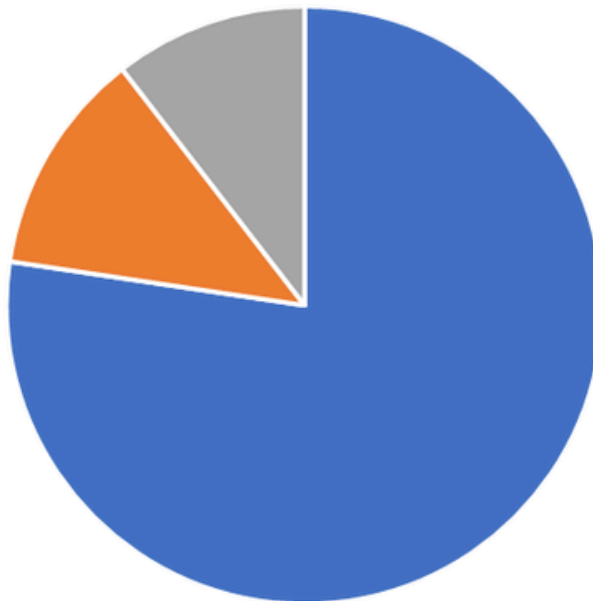
2023 Audited \$245,527



- Direct Public Support
- Fundraising
- Donated Services
- Grants
- United Way

# Expenses

2023 Audited \$238,477



- Program Services
- Supporting Services
- Management & General

## GRANT Awards 2024

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- United Way of Lee County
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase
- Kohnken Family Foundation
- Literacy Opportunity Fund
- ProLiteracy - Navigating Success Project

## In-Kind Awards 2024

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- Google Ads
- East Alabama Health
- EnGen / Learning Upgrade
- 4imprint
- Auburn Flowers



# LEADERSHIP & Staff

## Board of Directors

- Tomekia Rush President
- Shakari Cunningham Vice President
- Patricia Stewart Treasurer
- Tenley Lewis
- Danielle Moore
- Ruth Ann Powers
- Arlene Godwin

## Staff

- Patricia Butts Executive Director
- Austin Pearson Program Manager

## AmeriCorps VISTA Members

- Vendetta Reynolds Community Partnership
- Nancy Charles Grant Research
- Rajalakshmi Selvam Learner Engagement
- Erika Martin Resource Development
- Andrea Daniel Marketing & Recruitment
- John Bowers Volunteer Coordinator
- Madi Bryan Learner Engagement

Photo: Board Recruitment Event





# READ TODAY LEAD TOMORROW



505 W. Thomason Circle  
Opelika, Alabama 36801



A United Way Agency

Accredited Member



Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday by appointment.

All Services are FREE.

334-705-0001

[www.leecountyliteracy.org](http://www.leecountyliteracy.org)

[info@leecountyliteracy.org](mailto:info@leecountyliteracy.org)