



Lee County LITERACY COALITION  
**2023 Annual Report**



## LEARNING Space & Office

Our year began with the relocation of our office. The building where we formerly operated has sold and thanks to the generous continued support of our partner East Alabama Health, a new location was secured. While no one likes moving, and additional expenses are never the goal, this new space offers more public visibility, where learners can easily find us.

Lee County LITERACY COALITION's mission is to help adults learn to read, write, and use mathematics and computers at a level necessary to succeed and thrive. Our aim is to reduce the stigma and shame adult learners may carry and to “meet them right where they are” to empower them in rewriting their literacy story. Literacy changes how we move in the world. As parents and caregivers, we are a child's first teacher. Our education levels are precursors to our income levels. More than 43 million adults in the United States lack basic work skills like literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving. Many exist in poverty, lack a high school diploma, and struggle to find and keep a living wage. One in 5 Alabamians is functionally illiterate with more than 24,000 in Lee County alone.

Cover Photo: Auburn University Honors College Students with Patricia Butts, LCLC's Executive Director

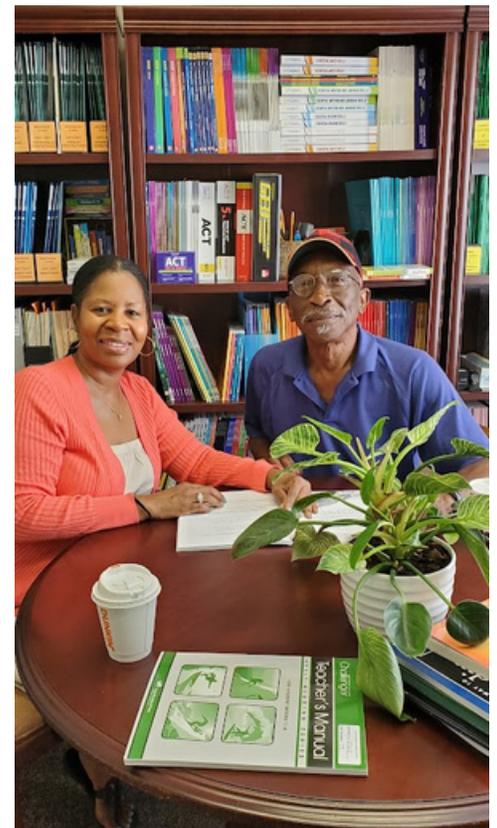


Photo: Tutor/Learner Session



# ALWAYS Improving!

This year proved our organization's resilience. LCLC onboarded a second full-time staff member to serve as a program manager. AmeriCorps VISTA recruitment was underway to onboard 6 members to support our capacity building and growth. LCLC was a recipient of the 2023 Toyota "Need a Nudge" grant in January. Our Legacy Learning Project (family literacy) restarted and became mobile introducing four learning modules for parents and children. We began the year at the Frank Brown Recreation Center, then Auburn Housing Authority and will finish the year at Loachapoka Family Enrichment Center.

Thanks to a Mobile Learning Grant award in March from New Readers Press, ESL learners now have on-demand instruction accessible from their phone or computer whenever it is most convenient for them. The EnGen and Learning Upgrade programs specialize in assisting individuals to improve their English skills and provides the learner with a curriculum that is tailored to their needs, interests and learning pace.

The spring was equally eventful. April showers grew our team with three new board members. LCLC welcomed Regions Bank as a new partner to offer a Financial Literacy Wellness series in both English and Spanish. Dollar General Literacy Foundation grants were awarded in May in support of our continued adult and family literacy initiatives.

The summer was full of joy as we celebrated our amazing volunteers in July. They are critical to our mission's sustainability and success. Volunteers receive Basic Tutor Training to gain fundamentals to assist adult learners that emphasize respect, confidentiality, and goal setting.

The Fall season was prime for increased opportunities for outreach and awareness. LCLC canvassed and delivered Learner Engagement posters and program rack cards to local business, apartment communities, barber shops, salons and faith-based organizations. As this year closes, AmeriCorps VISTA recruitment is underway for 2023-24 due to our grant continuation award.

Photo: Austin Pearson, Program Manager





## FINDING Literacy

Our vision includes learner access with stronger presence and awareness in the community. Outreach activities such as participation in information tables at events as well as presentations to community, civic and local government agencies are instrumental in making this possible. Our AmeriCorps VISTA members are in motion throughout Lee County promoting LCLC's programs and services. Leveraging technology is also key. Our website hosts a chat feature and downloadable posters to share in multiple languages. Our Pop-Up Libraries are placed throughout the community. They are composed of small bookshelves filled with free titles of varying genres and features a QR code to scan videos for program information. Our hope is that adults will be empowered to start or continue their literacy journey with integrity in a way that feels safe and achievable.

Photos: VISTA members in motion: Raji, Andrea, Erika, Nancy and Vendetta.





## IMPACT & Engagement

**1401** Individuals received outreach information and awareness presentations. These are critical engagements for potential learners, volunteer tutors, partners, and donors.

**191** Learners that attended literacy workshops including financial wellness, health, and digital/workplace literacy.

**184** Families that attended family literacy sessions.

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

**55** New volunteers onboarded.



# PROGRAM Additions

## EnGen & Learning Upgrade

EnGen and Learning Upgrade programs enhance instruction when paired with traditional materials. Learning a language is different than learning a content area. Constant practice yields real progress, and with a free license to either EnGen or Learning Upgrade, ESL learners can practice a little every day,

## Drivers Ed Workshops

After receiving valuable feedback, our Drivers Education classes transitioned to a weekly virtual option. These ongoing sessions are designed to help you prepare and ace your drivers permit or license test. Participants can expect a friendly space with access to handouts and practice tests to ensure success on test day.

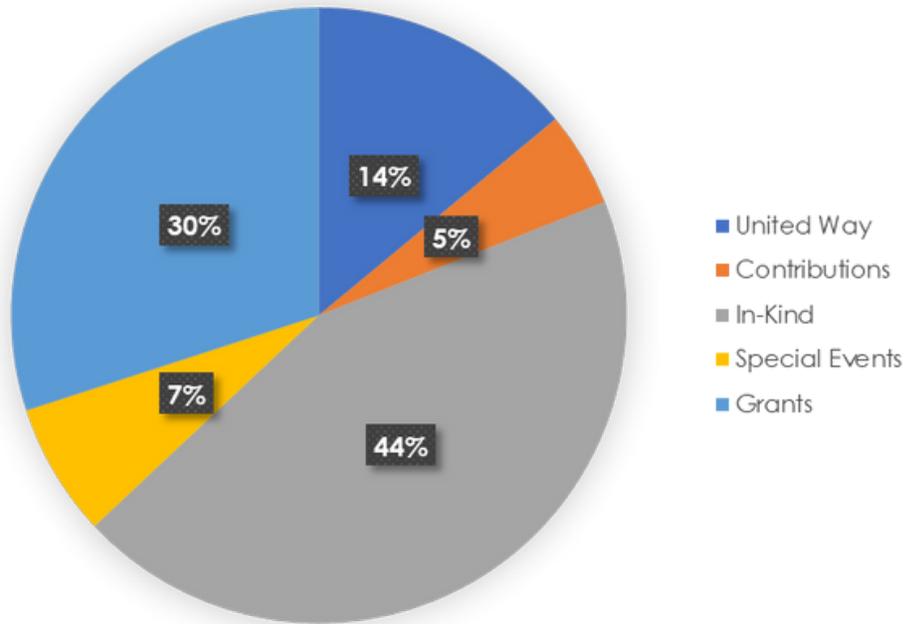
## ESL Small Group Classes

There had been an overwhelming need for these interactions. LCLC offers traditional English instruction that addresses the learner's assessed reading level. To start, these sessions are facilitated on Monday mornings.



# Sources

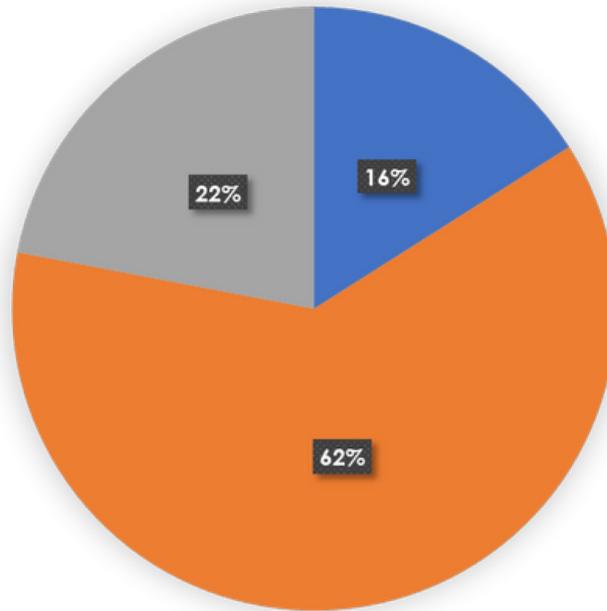
2022 Audited \$168,979



# Expenses

2022 Audited \$172,733

- Management/General
- Literacy Workshops/Tutoring
- Awareness/Fundraising



## GRANT Awards 2023

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- United Way of Lee County
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase
- Toyota Foundation
- Kohnken Family Foundation
- Literacy Opportunity Fund
- Nora Roberts Foundation
- ProLiteracy - Navigating Success Project
- Regions Bank
- CSX Community Services Foundation

## In-Kind Awards 2023

- AmeriCorps VISTA
- Google Ads
- East Alabama Health
- New Readers Press - EnGen / Learning Upgrade
- Sign Essentials LLC



## LEADERSHIP & Staff

### Board of Directors

- Jeff Stallworth President
- Michael Barlow Vice President
- Patricia Stewart Treasurer
- Tomekia Rush Secretary
- Joseph A. Holt
- Dr. Rindia Hunt
- Arlene Godwin

### Ambassadors

- Carole Harrison
- Betsy Stallworth

### Junior Board

- Shakari Echols
- Sarah Cook
- Ashley Patton

### 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



## Connect with US



## Location & Hours

505 W. Thomason Circle  
Opelika, Alabama 36801

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

All Services are FREE.



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ProLiteracy

