



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023

*Help us help others
thrive!*



Who are we?

Lincoln Literacy is an award-winning nonprofit organization that offers free English language and job-skill classes, in addition to childcare, transportation, career navigation, and support for immigrant and refugee families in Lincoln. Proudly serving our community for over 50 years!

Board Members

Tasha Everman

President

Daryoush Razavian

First Vice President

Kelly Neill

Second Vice President

Tana Wagener

Secretary

Dave Barnhouse

Treasurer

Where are we?

Our new offices are located at 1023 Lincoln Mall, Ste. 104, Lincoln, NE 68508.

We offer classes at 7 locations across Lincoln, including libraries, schools, churches, fellow non-profits, as well as at eight area businesses. We also teach at our new building! Find out more by visiting our website at www.LincolnLiteracy.org

Members at Large

Herita Akamah

PK Duncan

Janet Eskridge

Dinorah Garcia

James Hoppe

Jessi Miller

Virginia (VJ) Nelson

Hetal Patel

Nizar Rasho

Mark Schilmoeller

Amy Schmaderer

Paul Stevens

Christine (Chris) Stone

Marcia White

Ryan Wieber

David Williams

Diane Wilson

Dylan Wren



Our Mission

To strengthen our community by teaching the English language and a variety of literacy skills to people of all cultures.

Our Vision

Lincoln Literacy is dedicated to helping people achieve dreams by building on their skills. Our students may come from difficult situations, but our stories show how our work, our volunteers, and our funders open doors to a better future for these people — and our community as a whole.

Directors

Bryan Seck

Executive Director

Donna Stadig

Senior Associate
Director

Renee Cox

Associate Director for
Adult Skills Dev.

Xiaomei Guo

Associate Director for
Business Affairs

Sandra Rojo

Associate Director for
ELL Programs

Staff

Tareq Abdulwahhab

Geonasha Agbelety

Marwan Alasaad

Baneen Albunaserallah

Saira Babagul

Nataliia Bohuta

Clint Campbell

Mel Colborn

Sarah Duralia

Julie Grives

Jaafar Hamad

Mehasin Hussein

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Executive Director
Bryan Seck at the
2023 Awards
Potluck

A Message

from Bryan Seck

Hamasa Karimi is a gynecologist and obstetrician. She came to the United States from Afghanistan to escape violence and the Taliban's overthrow of the government. She arrived here and rocketed through our English classes.

She then completed our new Healthcare Career Pathways class and our Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) prep class. Hamasa has recently worked as a CNA and is now on maternity leave. In wonderful news, her husband and family members just received asylum and will take classes at Lincoln Literacy soon!

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Staff (cont.)

Brooklyn Krahl
Mike Malloy
Shari McCright
Kate Merritt
Mao Mieno
Rik Minnick
Sooyoon Moon
Micah Neilson
Maria Cruz de Pesina
Diana Pesina Cruz
Lorena Pesina Cruz
Eduardo Yanez Pinon
Shafi Rahman
Erica Birky Rios
Hamza Rfissa
Elaena Stadig
Erika Stewart-Finkenstaedt
Azhar Sunba
Sanaa Tali
Ngoc Tran
Amir Waly
Elizabeth Williams
Brittany Wren





We Bought It!

After 50 years of renting, we own a new building — with four classrooms instead of one — at 1023 Lincoln Mall. We're so thankful to our community and donors for our successful \$1.9M capital campaign that gave us this permanent home.

Highlights 2023

We've had an eventful year, from hosting a summer art camp for Ukrainian immigrants to a Welcoming Week open house and our Annual Awards Luncheon. A special thanks to our donors for their great help — this wouldn't be possible without you!



A Night To Remember

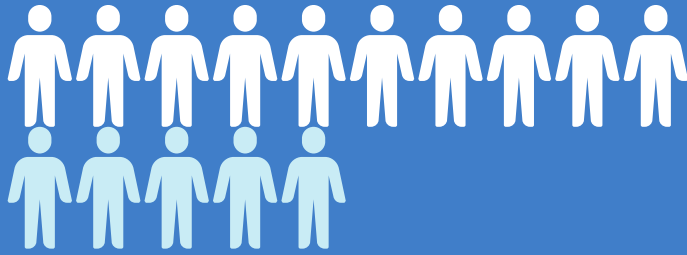
Our sold-out Global Celebration raised over \$60,000 (well over our original \$51,000 goal). Just under 300 guests attended, enjoying a plated dinner provided by The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel.

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, the Latina dance group Sangre Azteca, and KZUM's Dinorah Garcia kicked off the event. President Tasha Everman also announced the successful completion of our capital campaign! Truly an amazing night.



Growth in *Motion*

Thanks to our 185 volunteer tutors, we served a record number of students in 2023!



50%

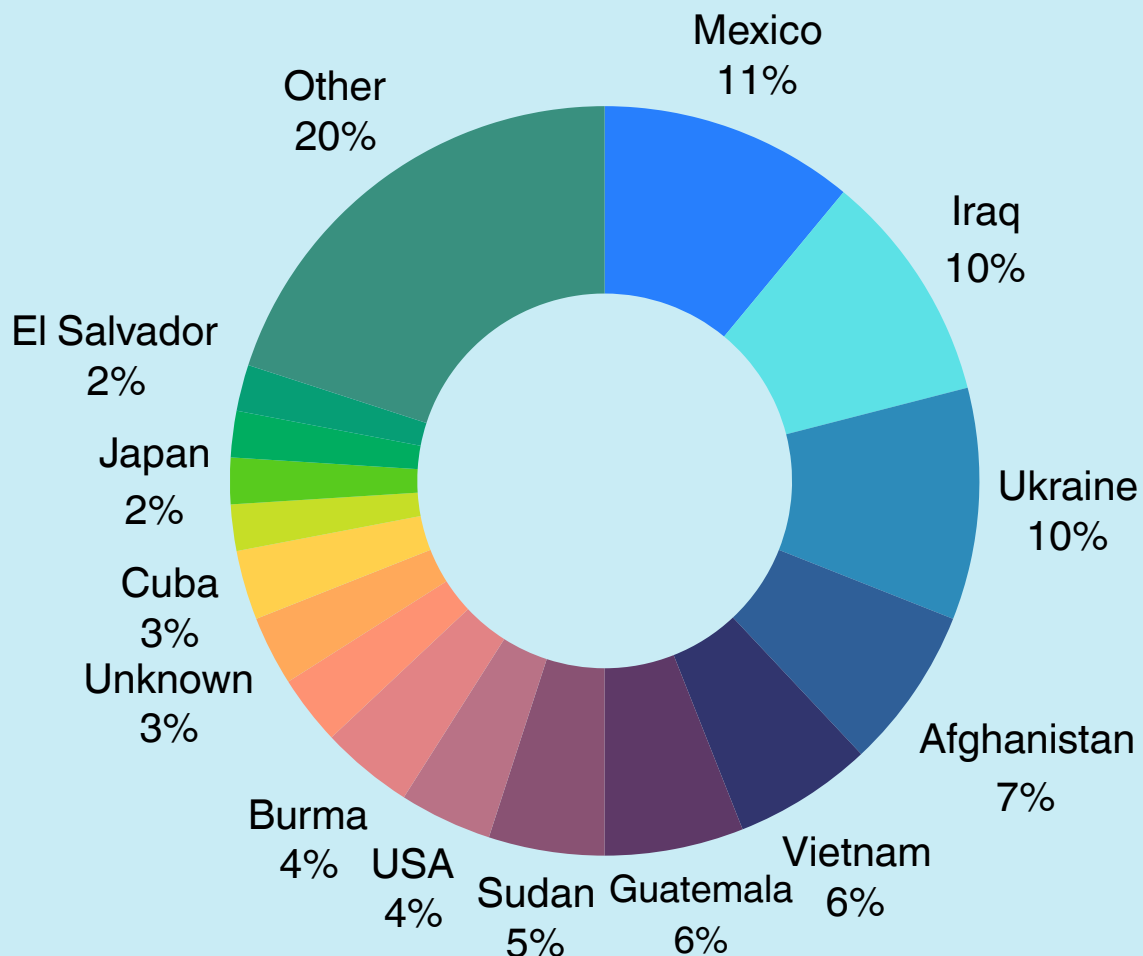
More adult learners served than in 2022

More Students

We served a total of 1,663 adult learners in 2023, a 50% increase compared to 2022. 62% of students identified as female and 38% male.

Greater Diversity

Our students hailed from 76 different countries and territories with the majority from Mexico (11%), Iraq (10%), Ukraine (10%), and Afghanistan (7%).



Student Testimonials



Student Ratings

Our student satisfaction survey indicated a 96% satisfaction rate with 81% saying that Lincoln Literacy helped them get a job. Google and Facebook reviews reflect 4.7 and 4.6 stars respectively.

This class is amazing. The teacher is very dynamic and looks for a way to explain each of the topics we work on in class in a fun way.”

At first I was afraid to speak, but now I feel like I can speak words without fear.”

— comments from student survey

Volunteers

185

Countries

76

1,663

Adult Students

100+

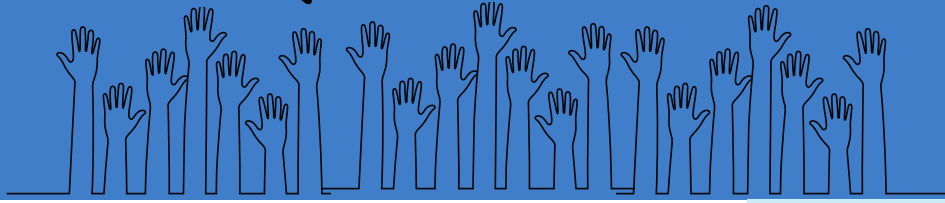
Classes

Impact 2023

We remain committed to helping our students succeed in our classes, as well as in their work life.

- 60% of students are at or below the federal poverty level.
- 26% reported a family income of less than \$10,000.
- 76% of students increased by at least one level on the adult BEST test.

Our Tutors



79 New volunteer tutors

A great year

We had a great year of tutor training and retention.

- 79 new volunteers trained as tutors
- 98% tutor satisfaction rate
- 90% of tutors believe students benefitted from class

Tutors have the option to lead a beginner, intermediate, or advanced small group class at one of our community locations or at our office or starting a 1:1 tutoring match.



Want to join us as a volunteer?

You can change a life forever in 1 hour per week.

Training provided. No teaching experience necessary.

Scan the QR code or visit:

LincolnLiteracy.org/Tutor-About

tutor Testimonials



Jeanne Baer, Volunteer Tutor

It's so much fun for me to learn more about other cultures and help people make connections."

- Jeanne Baer

Tutoring is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life."

- comment from tutor survey

Message from Bryan Seck (cont.)

Hamasa's next goal is an associate degree at Southeast Community College in Surgical Tech. This will mean a stable, well-paying position that will allow her to focus on her ultimate goal — returning to medical school.

We will continue to walk with her. Her story is not unique. Each of the **1,663 adult learners** we serve each year has dreams, skills, education, and motivation.

I'm so proud of our work at Lincoln Literacy to maximize potential. Over **12,000 open jobs** exist in Lincoln with less than 2,000 receiving unemployment assistance. In 2024, Lincoln will receive **700 refugees** and many more immigrants into our community. We are responsible for helping them learn English and providing free transportation and childcare. We also provide individual career navigation and driving and citizenship classes, as well as workforce development focused on helping them become teachers and healthcare professionals.

A special thanks to our **185 volunteer tutors** and **35 staff members** for your dedication in offering **100+** classes per week, 9am-7:30pm, six days a week. And thank you to the donors who helped us serve **50%** more students than in 2022. We've grown by **90%** in two years! Our new building allows us to serve more students on-site and provides a welcoming place to work and collaborate. Thank you!

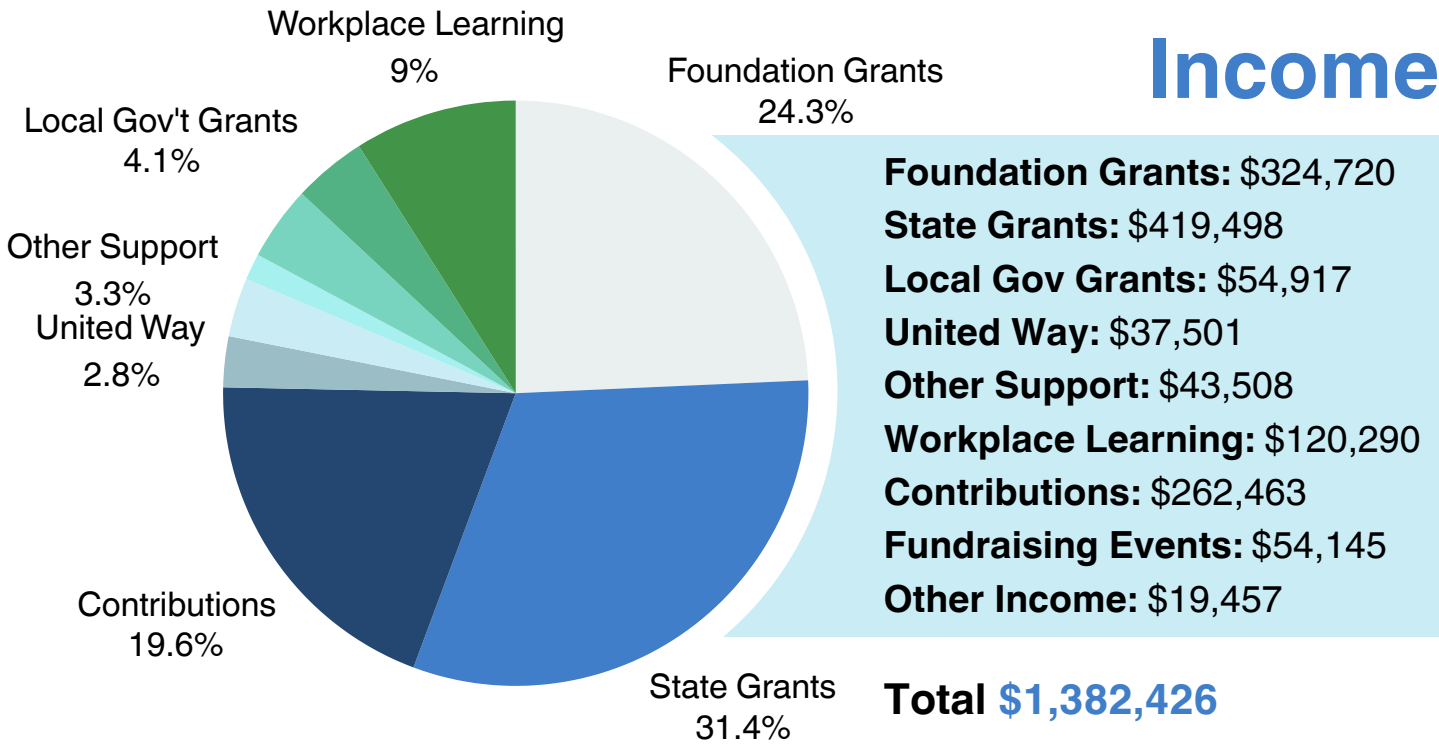
Looking for a way to give?

Scan the QR code or go to
LincolnLiteracy.org/Ways-To-Give



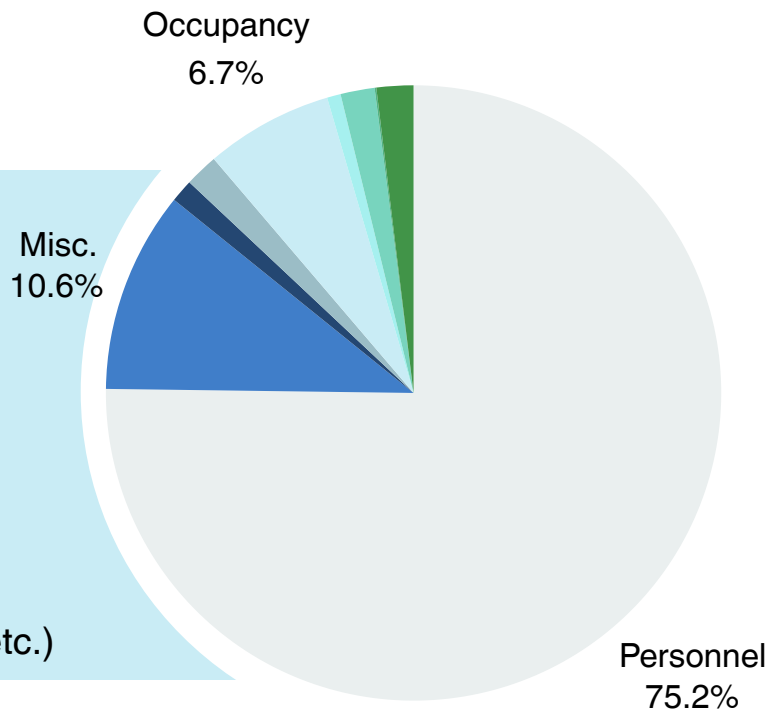
2023 Financials

Income



Expenses

Personnel: \$998,557
Professional Services: \$25,672
Payment to Partners: \$15,958
Office Exp.: \$28,234
Occupancy: \$89,112
Travel & Transportation: \$9,524
Insurance: \$23,812
Fundraising: \$1,187
Misc.: \$140,627 (bank fees, dues, etc.)



Total \$1,332,683

Lincoln Literacy maintained fiscal responsibility in Fiscal Year 2023 while significantly growing financial gifts from foundations and earning 8th place on Give to Lincoln Day. We are proud that only 8% of our revenue goes to Management and Fundraising costs.

To Our Donors,

A huge thank you for your wonderful support in 2023!

Lincoln Literacy is grateful to every one of our donors and partners. Their generosity gives us the means to expand our services and strengthen our community!

Thank you!

To see our site partners, visit LincolnLiteracy.org/board-partners. For our complete donor list, scan the QR code or visit LincolnLiteracy.org/donors



Like what we're up to?

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our monthly newsletter and get stories and updates delivered straight to your inbox!





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www.LincolnLiteracy.org

OUR MISSION: To strengthen our community by teaching the English language and a variety of literacy skills to people of all cultures.

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

PROUD TO BE AFFILIATED WITH:

