



**LINCOLN  
LITERACY**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Help Us Help Others  
Thrive!



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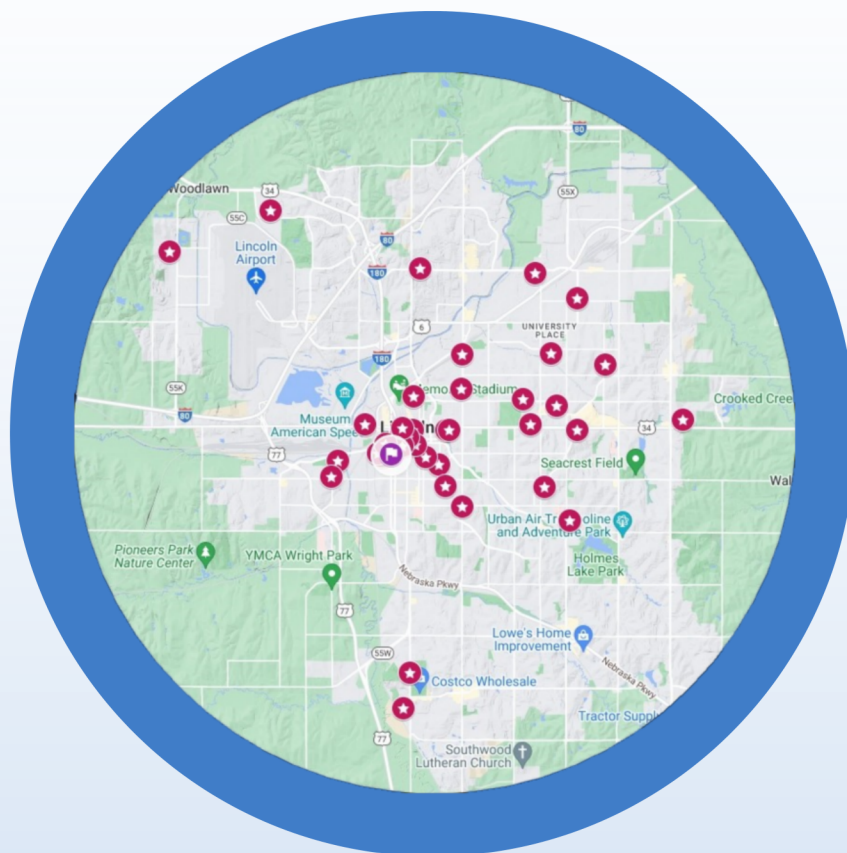
## WHAT WE DO

We're an award-winning nonprofit organization that offers free English language and job-skill classes, in addition to child care, transportation, and support for immigrant and refugee families in Lincoln.

## WHERE WE ARE

Our office is located at 745 South 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

We teach classes at many locations throughout Lincoln.



## A MESSAGE

### FROM BOARD PRESIDENT JANET ESKRIDGE

I am pleased to let you know that 2022 was an incredible year of positive growth for Lincoln Literacy. We were able to gather once again in person as the effects of Covid became more manageable.

Presently, students from 48 countries are offered classes in 12 community teaching locations. Over 100 classes are taught each week in addition to one-to-one tutoring. Transportation and childcare are provided.



# STAFF

## Executive Dir.

Clayton Naff *\*until 10/2022*

Bryan Seck

## Senior Assoc. Dir.

Donna Stadig

## Assoc. Dir., Adult Skills

Renee Cox

## Assoc. Dir. Business

Xiaomei Guo

## Assoc. Dir., ELL Programs

Sandra Rojo

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Mike Malloy

Shari McCright

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Rik Minnick

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Clay Parker

Lorena Pesina

Hamza Rfissa

Koichi Sato

Kaya Smith

Erika Stewart-Finkenstaedt

Azhar Sunba

Sanaa Tali

Ngoc Tran

Elizabeth Williams

Brittany Wren

## JANET ESKRIDGE, CONT'D

We broke records for adults and children served and in our fundraising efforts. We have continued to help students increase their job skills through mentoring and training. Clay Naff, our excellent/fearless leader for over fifteen years, stepped down to enjoy a well-earned retirement. We were delighted to hire Bryan Seck, who has a wealth of experience, skills, and knowledge to lead us forward. We are pleased to have staff members, board, and volunteers that share a common purpose. And to each of our supporters, we proudly say thank you for your ongoing support!

— Janet H. Eskridge, President of the Board

## FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRYAN SECK

When I joined Lincoln Literacy as Executive Director in October, I learned about our vast array of online and in-person classes for students learning English and workplace skills and the passion and dedication of LL's 180+ tutors and 25+ staff.



2022 broke records in students served. This increase was largely due to the arrival of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees escaping tragic circumstances. LL responded by increasing classes — now over 100 per week, 6 days a week — increasing van routes, and adding staff to the team.

We maintained a high level of quality with 68% of students increasing at least one level on our English assessment after 6 months of classes, 92% reporting high satisfaction with classes, and nearly 30% reporting LL helped them find a job.

Our services change lives. We help our newest neighbors communicate in English and provide in-demand preparation for careers in healthcare, transportation and education.

Neldy, a newly hired LPS paraeducator from our School Jobs program, said it best: "I love it. The experience is wonderful. I plan to work at Elliott for a long time." Thank you to everyone that helped Neldy and our 1,000+ students on their journey to English literacy and workplace skills!

— Bryan Seck, Executive Director

# MEMORY REEL

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



250 guests attended the sold-out event. Ticket sales and generous donations from our sponsors raised \$50,000 to support our mission.

Clayton Naff retired from his position as Lincoln Literacy's executive director, a position he had held since 2006.

Bryan Seck, formerly the Chief Talent Management Strategist at Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A., was named the new executive director.



## OUR CLASSES

### A YEAR OF GROWTH

Thanks to our 180 individual volunteers, we served a record number of students in 2022. This growth is due in large part to our return to in-person classes as well as an influx in Ukrainian and Afghan refugees.

### MORE STUDENTS!

We served a total of 1405 students in 2022 (1109 adult learners and 296 children). This represents a 37% increase in adult learners compared with 2021.

**1405 students**

**48 countries**

**100+ classes, 6 days/week**

**180 volunteers**

### DIVERSE POPULATION

Our students hailed from 48 different countries with the majority from Afghanistan (15%), Iraq (11%), Mexico (11%), and Ukraine (10%).

## IMPACT

We remain committed to helping our students succeed in our classes as well as in their work life. Literacy skills impact learners financially, in schools, at doctor's offices and grocery stores, and on the job.

- 63% of students were at or below the federal poverty level.
- Of those, 34% reported a family income of \$19K or less.
- 79% of our students say their skills increased a lot or a great deal.
- 68% of our students increased by at least one level on the Adult BEST test.





# STUDENTS & STAFF

## AND THEIR AMAZING STORIES

### ARTEMIO ZEVALA

Artemio emigrated to the U.S. and became a Lincoln Literacy student in 2008. Today he runs a successful business, AZ Construction. He spoke at our fall gala about how Lincoln Literacy classes helped him learn English, make connections in the community, and ultimately enabled him to launch a business. Sandra Rojo, who heads our English language programs, recalls Artemio coming to class on Saturdays, with his children in tow, while his wife Veronica was at work.



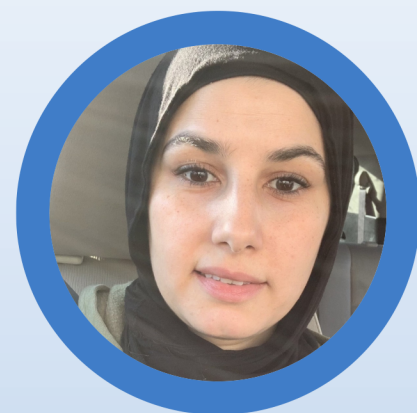
### NIGORA AMINOVA

Nigora sought refuge in Lincoln from persecution in Tajikistan. For years, she worked at Bryan Health, cleaning patient rooms and sterilizing equipment. In 2019, she successfully completed Lincoln Literacy's CNA Prep class and is now employed as a CNA at Bryan Health monitoring the hearts of cardiac patients. Returning to share her story at our fall gala, Nigora thanked everyone at Lincoln Literacy who had helped her and noted that now her daughter is inspired to pursue medical school.



### MAYSOUN KRENBA

Maysoun, a refugee from Syria and former Arabic teacher, arrived in Lincoln in 2017. While working at McDonald's, she applied for a job in the kitchen at Independence House, a nursing home. Her boss encouraged her to become a CNA. In 2022, she enrolled in Lincoln Literacy's CNA-prep class and recently passed her certification exam with flying colors. Now she's employed as a CNA.



### NATALIIA BOHUTA

Nataliia was an elementary school teacher for five years near Lviv, a large city close to Ukraine's border with Poland. Now she helps welcome other Ukrainian refugees to Lincoln Literacy and assists them in learning English. She's also helping our Adult Skills program to further develop our computer literacy, CNA, and other professional skills classes.



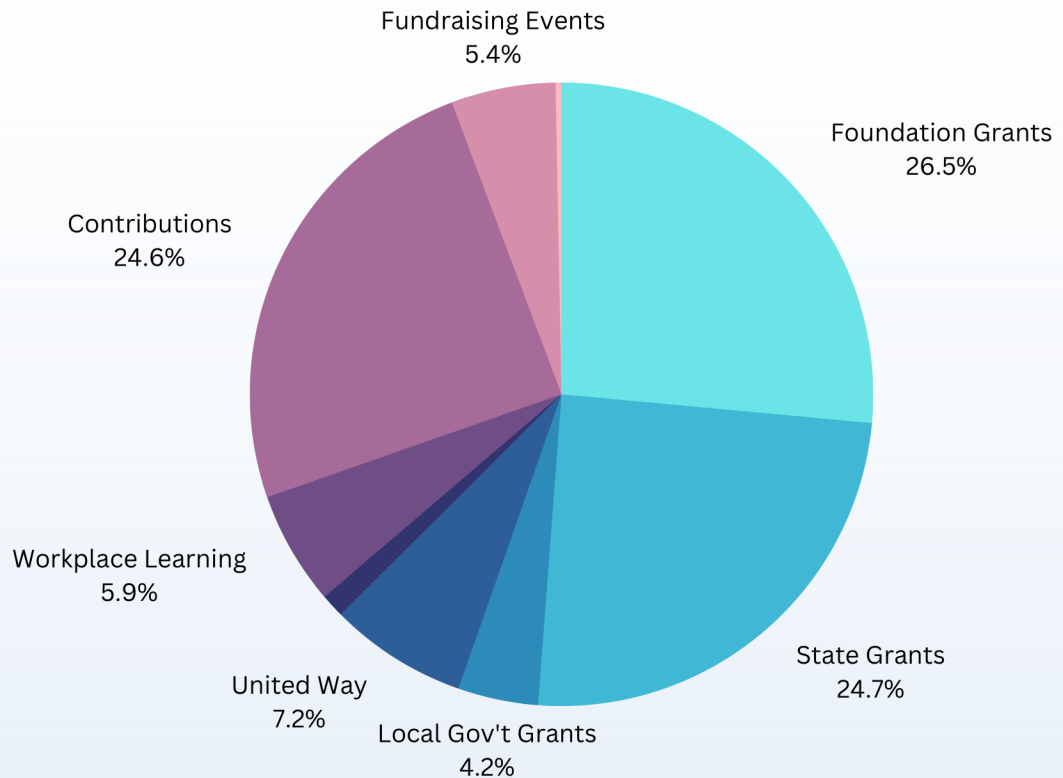
# FINANCIALS

## A BANNER YEAR

### 2022 INCOME

Foundation Grants \$263,500  
 State Grants \$246,131  
 Local Gov't Grants \$41,430  
 United Way \$71,356  
 Other Support \$12,040  
 Workplace Learning \$58,699  
 Contributions \$245,192  
 Fundraising Events \$53,904  
 Other Income \$3,078

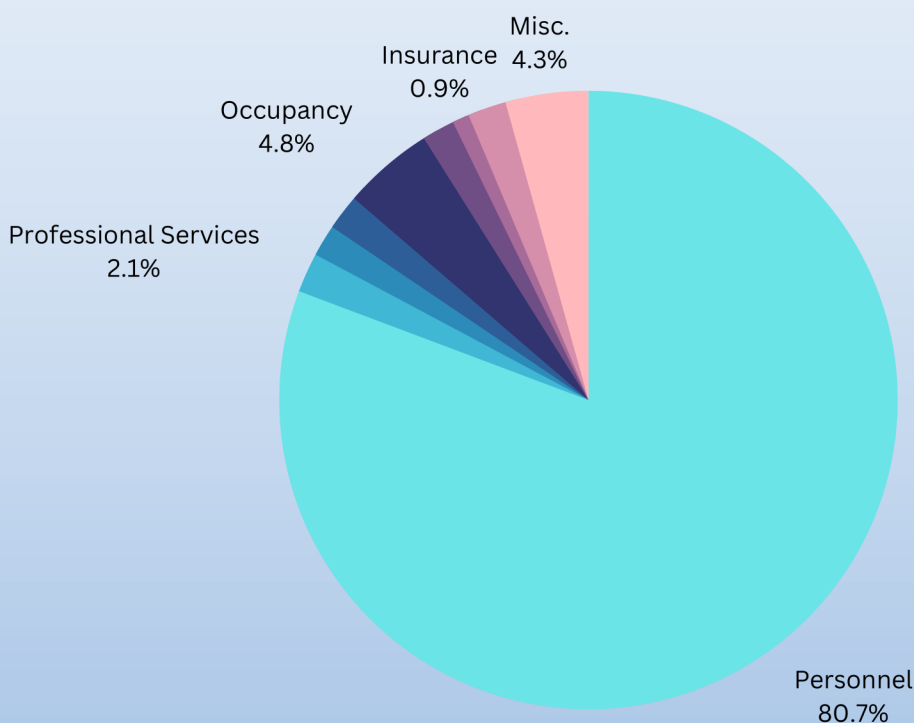
**Total \$995,330**



### 2022 EXPENSES

Personnel \$772,377  
 Professional Services \$19,790  
 Payment to Partners \$15,884  
 Office Exp. \$17,759  
 Occupancy \$45,510  
 Travel & Transportation \$16,359  
 Insurance \$8,449  
 Fundraising Exp. \$19,259  
 Misc. \$41,435

**Total \$956,822**





# DONORS

## THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS IN 2022

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Kate Adams | Herita Akamah | American Endowment Foundation | Ameritas Life Insurance Corp. | Kari & Tom Beckenhauer | Beckman Foundations | Beth Ann Brooks | Hal Busch & Ruth Morton | Nancy Busch & Virginia Nelson | Catholic Social Services of Southern NE | Bill & Marilyn Cintani | Katie Clear | James & Ann Domgard | Duncan Aviation | Duncan Family Trust | Julie & Stephen Enersen | Michael Eppel | Janet & Carl Eskridge | Tasha & Brian Everman | Alan & Barbara Frank | Carolyn & Chuck Gregorius | Christy & Richard Hargesheimer | James Hoppe | Bev & Ron Jester | Paul Johnson | James Krieger | Douglas & Stacey Kuszak | Leslie Lane | Pat Leach | Lee and Debbie Stuart Family Foundation | Lincoln Industries | LincOne Federal Credit Union | Daisy Madathil | Mapes Industries | Alan Meyer | Michael Epstein | Molex | Clayton Naff | Omaha Community Foundation | Open Harvest Cooperative | Kaushal & Hetal Patel | Tim Pieper | Lisa & Bob (Robin) Rauner | Daryoush & Mahvand Razavian | Runza National | Shervin Razavian | Sid Dillon Buick Nissan Hyundai | Simple Generosity | Susan Stuart | Carol Swigart | Talent+ | The Temme Foundation | Union Bank & Trust | Jane Wall | West Gate Bank | David & Shirley Williams | Art & Chris Zygielbaum

### \$5,000+

Acklie Charitable Foundation | American Job Center/ Mayor's Office | Dave & Maruta Barnhouse | Bryan Health | Pam & James Carrier | Cooper Foundation | Dillon Foundation | Donlan Foundation | David Gehle | Garner Industries | Goodwill Industries | Great Western Bank | Harbor of Dreams | Michael Hemmer & Lori Raphael | Katharine Kilgour | Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp. | Lincoln Community Fdtn | May L. Flanagan Foundation, Inc. | Nelnet | Olsson | Lois & Gerald Poppe | Robert B Daugherty Fdtn | Sherwood Foundation | Joseph & Christine Stone | Roland & Hiroko Temme | The Caldwell Stair Charitable Fund | United Way | Diane Wilson & Kay Richter | Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.

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. To see all our site partners, visit [www.lincolnliteracy.org/board-partners](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org/board-partners).

For a full list of our donors, please go to [www.lincolnliteracy.org/donors](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org/donors)





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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.

## 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.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, proud to be affiliated with:



## YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO CHANGE LIVES!

Consider donating online at  
[www.lincolnliteracy.org/ways-to-give](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org/ways-to-give)

or mail a check to  
Lincoln Literacy  
745 S 9th St  
Lincoln, NE 68508

