

# LINCOLN LITERACY

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**OUR MISSION IS TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY BY TEACHING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND A VARIETY OF LITERACY SKILLS TO PEOPLE OF ALL CULTURES.**





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**General Counsel, Ameritas  
LL Tutor**

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# **LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Difficult times require outstanding responses. This past year, we saw significant changes in White House policy on refugees and immigrants. That put remarkable pressures on New Americans and those who serve them. Lincoln Literacy responded by providing exceptional outreach and service. From international friendship lunches to extended classes, we went all out.

The results have surprised even us. We expected that the halt in refugee resettlement and the fears in immigrant communities would drive down participation in our programs. The opposite occurred. Our numbers served were greater than the previous year's record pace. In 2017, we served a record 1,176 unique individuals, including 195 immigrant and refugee children. To meet the growing demand for our services, we added new classes. We introduced R-Block, an expanded period of class time to help refugees meet their required language learning hours, and added financial literacy seminars.

These efforts paid off. We also saw an outpouring of support from the community. Record numbers volunteered. We finished Give to Lincoln Day in 6th place among more than 350 nonprofits, with contributions of over \$70,000. In addition, we were in the top ten for number of donors.

Just as 2017 was a year of growth and change for us, we're looking forward to everything 2018 has in store as we continue to serve, evolve, and thrive.

**—DAVID WILLIAMS  
BOARD PRESIDENT**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018 MEMBERS AT LARGE**

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## 2017 SERVICES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2017, we served a record-breaking 1,176 learners, ranging in age from 3 to 84 years old. They were astonishingly diverse. Our learners hail from 72 nations and territories – including the United States. Of the 981 adults, 65 percent are women, mostly mothers in their working years. Over 95 percent of the adults are refugees or immigrants. Overall, we saw a 14 percent increase in new adult learners served.

To better meet the needs of our students we introduced new services and expanded our schedules. Our new financial literacy seminar helped us reach additional students and teach valuable new skills.

In fall we introduced intensive “R-Block” classes to help our refugee students who must fulfill a requirement of 10 hours of English classes a week to main benefits for their families. The R-Block also provides an opportunity for those who do not have such a requirement but still want to study for 90 minutes a day, four days a week with Lincoln Literacy tutors.

Meanwhile, one-to-one tutors continued to meet with their students each week, and dozens of other classes took place seven days a week across the city. Our van service and on-site childcare helped make it possible for anyone to attend. These efforts paid off handsomely for those who took part. Many got jobs, some moved on to college, and overall 95% expressed satisfaction with the classes and gratitude for their tutors. And, as noted in our president’s letter, 83% of adult learners made gains — but the children outdid them, with 89% meeting literacy goals.



**166** VOLUNTEERS TRAINED AS TUTORS

**981** ADULT LEARNERS SERVED

**165** CHILDREN SERVED

**428** NEW ADULT LEARNERS ENROLLED

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# VOLUNTEERS

Our services would not be possible without our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. In 2017, we saw an unprecedented 26 percent increase in new volunteers trained as tutors. The warm, mentor-like relationships our tutors build with our students help unify our community and leave lifelong impacts on learners and volunteers alike (see next page). We truly appreciate all of our tutors who make a lasting impact on their students and help Lincoln Literacy achieve its mission. Our thanks to all of them.



# PARTNERS

Lincoln Literacy's widely varying partnerships across the community give us unmatched reach to New Americans and low-literacy individuals, whether in churches, schools, community centers, or jail. Our partners provide valuable resources such as classrooms, volunteers, funding, and expertise. We would also be able to accomplish our mission without their warm-hearted collaboration and generous help. We thank them all.

**American Lutheran Church**

**Asian Community Center**

**Bryan Health**

**Cooper Foundation**

**F Street Rec Center**

**First Lutheran Church**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**First Plymouth Church**

**Good Neighbor Center**

**Goodwill**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**Lancaster County Jail**

**Li-Cor**

**Lincoln City Libraries**

**Lincoln Community Foundation**

**Lincoln Public Schools**

**Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach**

**Neb. Dept. of Health & Humans Services**

**Saint Paul United Methodist Church**

**Sherwood Foundation**

**Southeast Community College**

**TMCO**

**United Way**

**Woods Charitable Fund**



# CHANGING LIVES

## STUDENT STORY

Forced to become a refugee after helping our armed forces, Ahmed al-Azzawi arrived in Lincoln in late 2016 with his wife and young son. Ahmed liked the city right away, but he was nervous about his English.

“I came straight from Baghdad,” he recalls, “It was quiet here, and the people are so friendly.”

Ahmed looked for work to support his family. In Iraq, he had earned a degree from the Baghdad Technical University, but as a newly arrived refugee he had to accept a job cleaning offices. While working overnight shifts, Ahmed started to improve his English skills at Lincoln Literacy. His tutors, Kelly and Ty Ross, helped him a lot, he says. By May, he was ready for a leap: he landed a job with the international manufacturing company Molex. It was part-time at first, but then he was promoted to a full-time position as a machinist. Now that he’s adapted to his new schedule, Ahmed plans to return to our classes and continue improving his English.



## TUTOR STORY

Like many UNL undergrads before him, Jeremy Hollman volunteered as an intern with Lincoln Literacy in his senior year. But unlike many, he went right on tutoring after his internship was up. It’s all the more surprising, because standing up in front of people and teaching doesn’t come easily to him.

“I have always been more of a quiet person and never liked speaking in front of people, so I was pretty nervous starting out,” he recalls.

Jeremy not only kept at it, but he took on many of the toughest assignments Lincoln Literacy has to offer. He tutored guys in jail who hardly knew a word of English. He subbed at the last minute in a variety of classes. And along the way, he found a new calling. Recently, he was admitted to a graduate program at UNL, where he will earn a master’s and then go abroad to teach English in some other land.

# 2017 DONORS

## \$5,000+

Michael Hemmer & Lori Raphael  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Kate Speicher  
Jane Renner Hood  
Lincoln Community Foundation  
Ellen Claire Newcomer  
Woods Charitable Fund  
Cooper Foundation  
Sherwood Foundation  
Roland & Hiroko Temme

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

Acklie Charitable Foundation  
Ameritas Life  
Dave & Marti Barnhouse  
Tom & Kari Beckenhauer  
Bryan Health  
Bill & Marilyn Cintani  
Ken & Margaret Donlan  
Duncan Family Trust  
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Union Pacific Railroad Company  
West Gate Bank  
John & Nancy Wiederspan  
David & Shirley Williams  
Diane Wilson & Kay Richter



Lincoln Literacy is grateful to each and every one of our donors. Their generosity gives us the means to expand our services and strengthen our community at a time of dwindling federal support. To see a full list of our donors, please go online to:

[www.lincolnliteracy.org/donors](http://www.lincolnliteracy.org/donors)

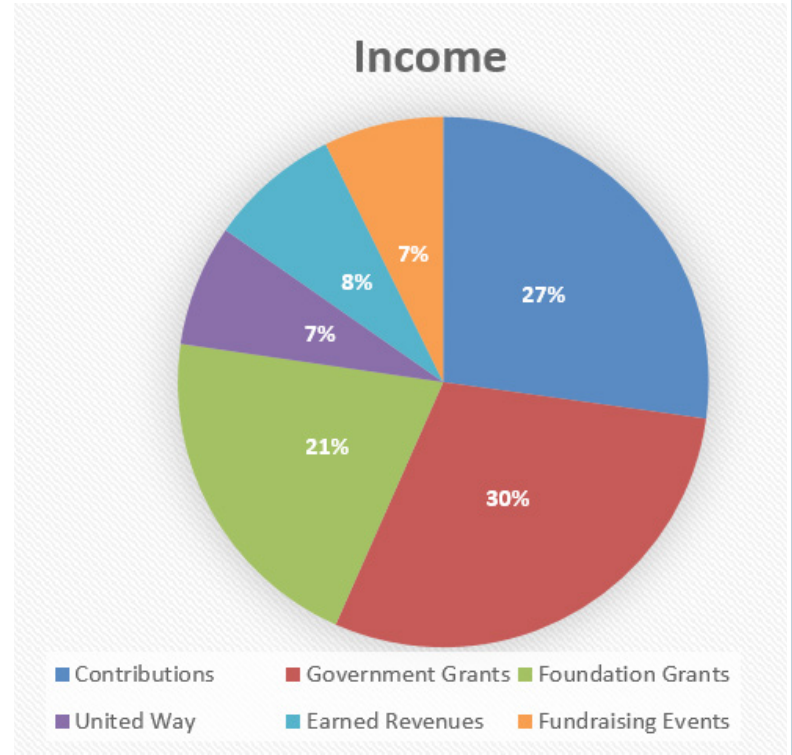


# FINANCIAL REPORT

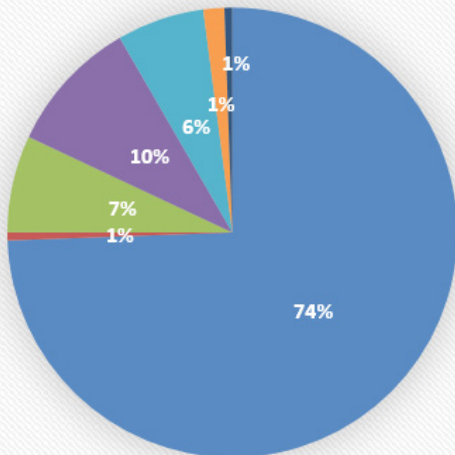
## INCOME

### Income for Calendar 2017

	Actual	Budget
<b>Contributions</b>	\$158,541	\$105,200
<b>Government Grants</b>	\$171,562	\$135,000
<b>Foundation Grants</b>	\$120,425	\$92,650
<b>United Way</b>	\$43,176	\$47,000
<b>Earned Revenues</b>	\$46,558	\$48,650
<b>Fundraising Events</b>	\$42,525	\$39,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$582,787</b>	<b>\$467,500</b>



## Expenses



## EXPENSES

### Expenses for Calendar 2017

	Actual	Budget
<b>Wages, Benefits, &amp; Taxes</b>	403,092	366,304
<b>Contracted Services</b>	3,157	9,500
<b>Payment to ELLA Partners</b>	37,730	35,200
<b>Program &amp; Operations</b>	52,407	11,150
<b>Occupancy</b>	33,935	33,160
<b>Fundraising</b>	8,184	13,655
<b>Depreciation</b>	3,033	7,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$541,538</b>	<b>\$476,671</b>



**745 South 9th Street**

**Lincoln, NE 68508**

**LIVE UNITED**



**United Way of Lincoln  
and Lancaster County**



A member organization of

**ProLiteracy®**

## **2017 Lincoln Literacy Staff:**

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**Clayton Naff, Executive Director**

**Donna Stadig, Program & Operations Manager**

**Victoria Welles, Training & Development Manager**

**Jana Zvada Kozuchova, Accounting & Admin. Manager**

**Tram Kieu, Intake & Data Assistant**

**Joyce Hahn, Tutor Trainer**

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**Nick Svoboda, ELL Program Coordinator**

**Carrie Knapp, ELL Program Coordinator**

**Akuel Lwith, ELL Program Coordinator**

**Rik Minnick, Admin. Aide & ELL Program Coordinator**

**Esther Ortiz, Adult Basic Coordinator**

**Ngoc Tran, ELL One-to-One Tutoring Coordinator**

**Amanda Romjue, FLAIR Coordinator & Head Teacher**

**Qizhen Deng, FLAIR Teacher**

**Karla Lara Fitz, FLAIR Teacher**

**Ahmed Hameed, Van Driver & Cultural Liaison**

**Jaafar Hamad, Van Driver**

**Afrah al-Dgherani, Van Driver**