“Seeds is phenomenal. It’s a place with a positive atmosphere, where everyone is helping each other through the struggle.”

“The tutors gave me lots of assistance and were so generous with their time. They helped bring everything back to me that I learned a long time ago – and then I learned more!”

Letter from Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends:

One of the best things about Seeds of Literacy is the way in which many people work willingly for a common goal: to help our students build a strong educational foundation. Our daily program relies on the patient knowledge of over 225 tutors, generous funding from individuals, foundations and the community, and the loaned talents of a whole host of volunteers.

But this year was extraordinary. Seeds faced the daunting challenge of preparing for the new GED® test, which began on January 2, 2014. We needed to change our curriculum, add a computer lab and digital literacy curriculum, and let over 7,000 current and lapsed students and the public know about the changes. This major project added 48% to our operating budget, and we had to keep our program running simultaneously.

We are tremendously proud to say that Seeds met this challenge—with diligent work from staff, our Board, tutors, volunteers, and a whole host of community funders, including Councilman Brian Cummins and Cleveland City Council. Despite a lack of information from the test publisher, an increased budget, and a small staff of eight (half of whom are part-time), we succeeded. We now have a new curriculum, computer lab, and an innovative digital literacy curriculum. Our staff and tutors have been trained in the new method. Lapsed students returned to Seeds and new students enrolled. Because of these preparations, Seeds is now the statewide leader among adult literacy agencies, ready to meet the new test.

On behalf of our students, I want to thank all those who made this tremendous effort possible: The Abington Foundation, The Eva L. and Joseph M. Bruening Foundation, Cleveland City Council, The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Public Library, Hoffacker Construction, HSB Architects + Engineers, Key Bank, Kroll’s Home Repair Services, The William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation, Seeds of Literacy staff, and numerous individual donors and supporters. We couldn’t have done it without you.

With gratitude,

Bonnie Entler
Executive Director

John Hagerty
President, Board of Directors
Highlights

- Reached the public by distributing nearly 20,000 information cards to area nonprofits, recreation centers, library branches, food pantries, housing organizations, and reentry programs.
- Reached the media. Seeds and the new GED were featured on 19 Action News, 43 Forum, WEWS; in The Plain Dealer and Lorain County Morning Journal; and as the subject of an article by Connie Schultz in Cleveland Magazine.
- Worked with state and local government to ensure reimbursement options for students who pass the test.

Our 2014 GED preparation was recognized by the Anisfield-Wolf Memorial Award and its price of $200,000, given to a nonprofit exemplifying outstanding service.

Over 300 volunteers gave a total of 13,219 hours to Seeds and our student recidivism fight. Volunteers tutored, balanced our accounts, input student progress data, filed, cleaned, answered our phones, helped us fundraise, recruited students, and more. Their donated work had a monetary value of $247,554. For a detailed financial report, contact Bonnie Enler, Executive Director, at 216.661.7950 or bonnie@seedsforliteracy.org
“Seeds helped me do one thing in life I didn’t think I could do alone. There is more to life than a minimum wage job. There’s help if you’re willing to admit you need it.”