



July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

ANNUAL REPORT



Growing Through Education

Cultivating Education on Cleveland's East Side

We're here because the situations that seem most dire are where literacy is most needed. Seeds East is located at E 139th Street and Kinsman Road, in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. 24% of neighborhood residents don't have a high school diploma, the poverty rate is 30%, and its crime rate is one of the highest in Ohio.



Opening Seeds East was possible because of strong partners. Councilman Zack Reed and Councilman Terrell Pruitt made literacy for their constituents a priority, supporting Seeds East with funding, introductions to the community, marketing opportunities, and practical advice. Councilman Brian Cummins, Seeds West's councilman, opened the door to this partnership, and continues to advance our mission.



Volunteers drove miles to help. Twice a week, Tracey drove 68 miles round trip to tutor students at Seeds East – a hefty commute for a volunteer gig, but she knew that Seeds of Literacy's students had also come a long way. “The dedication of Seeds students is remarkable,” states Tracey. “These aren't young kids, but adults with full lives who make room for education.” Tracey is just one of many Seeds volunteer tutors who help students turn dreams into reality.

Students found what they were longing for. “Seeds is different. It's so calm here, and people are serious about their work. As soon as you walk in, you know you are going to learn something! And the tutors are willing to sit with you and help you learn. Even if it takes you 20 times before you get it, they'll be there, right at your side.” — Yoko





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Bonnie Entler
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Dear Friends:

We are the optimists, the believers, the hopeful. We invest in second chances, choose possibilities over problems, and inspire people to stretch beyond their comfort.

We are educators, and we never underestimate the power of a planted seed.

We experienced that power first-hand this past fiscal year at Seeds of Literacy. From a variety of seeds planted long ago, Seeds of Literacy grew to open an east side location that has positively blossomed in less than one year.

Here's what happened:

- For years, east side residents and nonprofits have asked Seeds to open a site near them. Adult functional illiteracy rates are as high as 97% in some neighborhoods on Cleveland's east side.
- The Ohio Basic Adult Literacy and Education (ABLE) program had an open grant cycle, its first in 5+ years.
- Seeds applied for funds to open a Mt. Pleasant location, and was awarded \$101,872 – ABLE's first award to a new program in 10 years.
- Support from Councilmen Zack Reed and Terrell Pruitt, as well as additional funds from the Saint Luke's Foundation, The Abington Foundation, and The Bruening Foundation, helped us open Seeds East on September 24, 2014 at 13815 Kinsman Road.
- The community welcomed us with open arms. We accepted invitations to community fairs, back-to-school events, block clubs and church meetings, and let residents know about Seeds of Literacy and the power that education brings. Staff, volunteers, and students flyer neighborhood businesses and nonprofits, and we sent our first direct mail postcard to potential students.
- Our tutors were as excited as we were. Several veteran tutors began making Seeds East their new home, and we recruited new tutors from Cleveland's eastern suburbs.
- And despite the bitter winter of 2015, Seeds East flourished, with filled registration and orientation sessions and a packed classroom. By the end of our fiscal year in June, we were running out of space!

Seeds East grew because of student demand, board and staff belief, volunteer generosity, and significant investment from foundations and individuals. We envisioned an east side site; our donors made it a reality.

Thank you for a thrilling, energizing, challenging year of growth.

Sincerely,

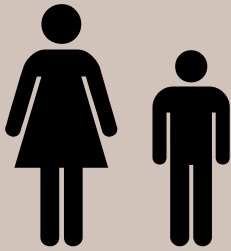
Bonnie Entler *George Miller*

Mission: Providing personalized education that empowers adults to succeed in their communities.

FY 2014 - 2015 July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Who We Are

1,022 Students



55%
Women

45%
Men

64% were African-American

17% White

14% Hispanic

55% were between 25 and 44 years old

75% live at or below poverty level

25% considered to have very low to low income

What We Achieved



549 attended over 12 hours of classes

160 completed digital literacy achievements



338 increased 1 grade level in at least 1 subject

224 increased 2+ grade levels (educational functional levels)

37 Northstar Digital Literacy Certificates awarded



100 GED test sections taken

56% GED practice test pass rate

52% GED section pass rate

22 students passed at least 1 GED test section

5 students passed all 4 GED test sections

Who Helped

256 Active Volunteer Tutors
Spending 10,686 hours of volunteer tutoring

60+ Other Volunteers
Spending over 9,250 hours of housekeeping, administrative, clerical, accounting, fundraising, marketing, and program support tasks



11 Staff Members (6 full time, 5 part time)

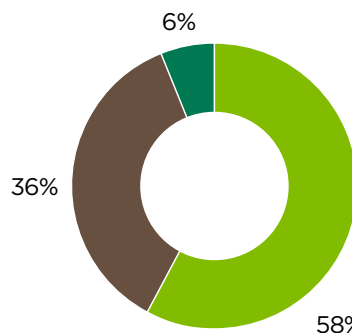
372 financial donors

266 in-kind event donors

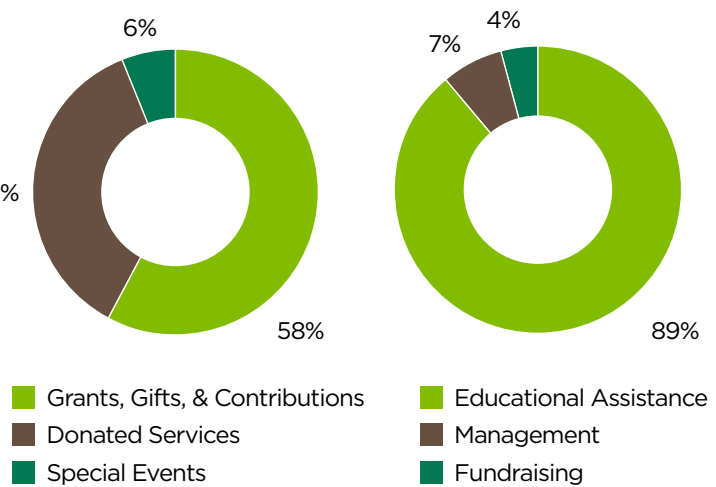
164 everyday in-kind donors

How We Did It

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Grants, Gifts, & Contributions
Donated Services
Special Events

Educational Assistance
Management
Fundraising

For a detailed financial report, contact Bonnie Entler, Executive Director, at 216.661.7950 or bonnieentler@seedsofliteracy.org.

Heartfelt Thanks to Those Supporting Seeds of Literacy

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