Education as Unique as Each Student
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Lots of Annual Reports simply recognize donors with lists and photographs. And while I certainly want to recognize all of the people that made this past year possible, I also want to put their contributions into context. I want our donors to see WHAT they made possible.

Because of their generosity and unwavering support, we’ve been able to do some pretty incredible things — doubling our staff, creating supplemental learning opportunities for our students, enhancing brand awareness with the creation of new communications vehicles, adding a variety of fundraising events, and so much more.

I hope you enjoy reading more about just a few of this year’s highlights on the following pages.

Last year, our students made some impressive strides, as well:

• 57 Graduates - our largest since the test changed in 2014
• 166 students passed 244 GED sections.
• 600+ Grade level increases in at LEAST one subject

Unfortunately, despite our incredible successes, the year ended on a devastating note. The State of Ohio announced they would no longer provide funding to Seeds — a 14% blow to our annual income. The decision was based on our award-winning program model. The State requires traditional enrollment (specific start and stop dates), while ours is rolling, with no program end-date. They mandate a classroom style, while one-to-one tutoring of individualized curriculum is our hallmark. Simply put, they cut our funding because we are different.

But different is what our students need.

And different is what we will continue to provide, thanks to your continued support.

Bonnie Entler
Executive Director
Paul Etzler
President, Board of Director

What Makes SEEDS OF LITERACY Different from other programs?

100% FREE FOR STUDENTS
We provide the materials, official practice tests, and tutors at NO COST.

WEEKLY IN-PERSON ENROLLMENT
No waiting until next month/quarter/semester. Students can come to Seeds for orientation, ANY WEEK, without an appointment.

2-DAY ORIENTATION Must attend both days. CHOOSE 12:00 OR 4:00
MONDAYS/TUESDAYS (Seeds West) or WEDNESDAYS/THURSDAYS (Seeds East)

“CLASS” TIME IS REALLY TUTORING TIME
There’s no teacher at the front of the room teaching everyone the same thing at the same time. Students work one-to-one with a tutor.

TUTORING TIMES MONDAY - THURSDAY
9AM - 11AM • 1PM - 3PM • 6PM - 8PM

LEARN AT INDIVIDUAL SPEED
Students won’t fall behind. At Seeds, each works at his or her own SKILL LEVEL, at his or her own PACE.

SEEDS DOES NOT HAVE A STRICT ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE
because life gets in the way of even the most dedicated students. Students can come as OFTEN as they like, at WHATEVER TIME works best for them — even if it’s not the same time each day.

THERE IS NO SET TIME FRAME TO GRADUATE.
The Seeds program is ONGOING. Most students need at least a few months of tutoring but it’s not uncommon for students to be with us a year or more.

Other Programs

Seeds

FREE

Expensive

12

Semester Enrollment

Traditional Class

Their Speed

Strict, Set Schedule

Time’s Up!

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SEEDS OF LITERACY • ANNUAL REPORT • 2017 - 2018 • page 3
To provide personalized education that empowers adults to succeed in their communities.

**OUR MISSION**

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**HOW WE DID IT**

**Revenue**

- Grants, Gifts, & Contributions: 6%
- Donated Services: 28%
- Special Events: 6%

**Expenses**

- Educational Program: 5%
- Management: 85%
- Fundraising: 10%

**OUR SUPPORTERS**

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**FISCAL YEAR**

7/1/2017 - 6/30/2018

* = 3 years of consecutive giving

^ = Volunteer

**STUDENT SUPPORT**

($0.01 to $49.99)

Mr. Mousad Abduljabar
Mr. Jeff Ali
Appletree Books
Ms. Nancy Ball
Ms. Samantha Ball
Barnes & Noble
Ms. Linda Brandenburg
Ms. Jessica Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butler
Ms. Jane Ciumi
Ms. Ashley Close
Ms. Lauren Conners
Ms. Betsy Cusack
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Ms. Erin Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. Tomasz Lesiczka
Ms. Jen May
Ms. Dorothy Mayer and
Ms. Linda Mayer*
Mr. and Mrs. John McGinty*
Ms. Suzanne McWhorter
Mr. Richard Merhar*
MotiveAction*
Reverend James O’Donnell
Ms. Twyla Palmore Turner
Mr. William Perry^ Ms. Anthony Piumaro
Mr. Donald Riehmiller
Ms. Kathleen Rosen
Ms. Erin Schmitt
Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund Sesplankis^^

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

**Challenge Inspires Club Formation**

Last winter, students, tutors, staff, and friends were challenged to spend 30-minutes a day reading for an entire month. The challenge was so successful that an official book club was formed.

Award-winning playwright Eric Coble spoke with Book Club after members had spent several weeks reading his collection of short plays, Ten Minutes from Cleveland.

This led to the development of math, computer, and writing clubs: all of which supplement the individualized learning for which Seeds is known, while fostering a sense of community.

**Angelou, Kipling, and more for World Read Aloud Day**

Each year, on World Read Aloud Day, people around the globe read together and share stories to advocate for literacy as human right that belongs to all people. On February 1, Seeds East celebrated WRAD by reading a selection of poems and a short speech. After morning class, students, tutors, and staff gathered to listen to poetry read aloud.
What happens when the renowned men’s chorus, The Singers’ Club of Cleveland, chooses to celebrate classic books and a love of reading for the final concert of their 125th season? They call Seeds of Literacy with an invite for students to participate! Seeds students Hilary Whiting, Demetrius Pate, Sr., and Valerie Taylor joined The Singers’ Club before a packed house at the Breen Center for the Performing Arts. The program’s theme, Through the Looking Glass, featured readings by Lewis Carroll and a variety of songs that ranged from folk songs and spirituals to classical choral pieces. Poetry, read by Seeds students, provided interludes between the musical segments of the program.
Math and measurement became something fun and tangible on March 14 (3.14, also Einstein's birthday). Students brought in their favorite pies (with an e) to both measure and eat. It wasn't long before students were measuring the circular tables at which they sit every day. Others measured their water bottles, coffee cups, and thermoses.


**OUR LARGEST GRADUATING GED CLASS**

The Class of 2018 was Seeds of Literacy’s largest since the test changed in 2014, with an incredible 57 graduates — some of whom passed their final subject just hours before graduation. Twenty-one of them attended the at-capacity Graduation Ceremony on June 20. Special guest, Ohio State Senator for the 21st District, **Sandra Williams**, presented the keynote speech. Graduates **Latashia Jenkins** and **Dionne Lobban** also addressed their classmates. A transcript of their moving speeches, as well as a photo essay of the event, are available on seedsofliteracy.org.

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**DEAN’S LIST**

($250.00 TO $316.99)
- Mr. Don Barrett Jr
- Mr. David Beach
- Ms. Vida Berlecker
- Mr. Kevin Connors & Ms. Loree Weiss Connors
- Ms. Eileen D’Amato
- Mr. and Mrs. Gene Dodaro
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fruehey
- Mr. and Mrs. John Huber
- Mr. Jonathan Hull
- Mr. and Mrs. Jo Steigerwald
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Keuchle
- Mr. Adam Leidig
- Ms. Jessica Paine
- Mr. Alan Lulkin
- Mr. Jeff Mack
- Ms. Kimberly Malcolm
- Ms. Lynn Martello
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen McClure
- Mr. Larry Mills-Gahl
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- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Otto
- Ms. Susan Paxson

**SCHOLARSHIP CLUB**

($317.00 TO $499.99)
- Anonymous (1)
- Dr. Carolyn P Cacho-Bowman
- Mr. James Calogeras
- Climate - Tech, Inc.*
- Mr. William Gorton and Ms. Susan Blackburn
- Ms. Becky Hricovec
- Mr. James Hudak
- Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lang
- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Libby
- Mr. and Ms. Anthony Mazzella
- Ms. Mary McDonnell
- Mr. Tom Nowel
- Reverend Timothy Plavac
- Mr. and Mrs. Dustin Rawlin
- Mr. and Mrs. Bob Salim

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**GRADUATES CLUB**

($500.00 TO $999.99)
- American Greetings Corporation
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- Ms. Denise Shafier
- Mr. and Mrs. Mark Steigerwald
- Mr. and Mrs. Dale Stitt
- Thomson Reuters
- Mr. and Mrs. Tony Warner

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**PUTTING PI (π) INTO PERSPECTIVE, WITH PIE**

Math and measurement became something fun and tangible on March 14 (3.14, also Einstein’s birthday). Students brought in their favorite pies (with an e) to both measure and eat. It wasn’t long before students were measuring the circular tables at which they sit every day. Others measured their water bottles, coffee cups, and thermoses.
PAJAMA PARTY

To promote BYOP @ Appletree (Bring Your Own Pillow), Seeds staffers appeared on WKYC Channel 3’s We the People in their pajamas. A new event, BYOP, was the answer to every bibliophile’s dream: spending the night in a bookstore, surrounded by thousands of books. Seeds made 14 new friends and everyone enjoyed a round of literacy-themed games at 2am.
Seeds sought to replicate on the East side the successful three-class, two-registration times format that exists at Seeds West. This would ultimately serve more people in an area of great need (the Kisner/Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods). An additional 108 students enrolled during the evening orientation offering, accounting for 37% of all new students at Seed East. Evening class attendance accounted for 25% of all Seeds East attendance during the first year. Interestingly, Seeds saw a slight redistribution of existing students as they moved to evening class to better accommodate their lifestyles.
AN EMPHASIS ON DIGITAL LITERACY

Roughly 65% of all Seeds students enter the program without even basic computer knowledge. Two Digital Literacy Coordinators were hired and challenged with making computerized learning less intimidating.

It started slow, with laptops available in the classroom. As relationships with the DLCs formed, students became more comfortable and were less afraid to enter the underutilized computer labs. A weekly computer club began, covering the basics of using a mouse, opening and closing files, and an intro to email. Coordinators were hired and challenged to make computerized learning less intimidating.

Roughly 65% of all Seeds students enter the program without even basic computer knowledge. Two Digital Literacy Coordinators were hired and challenged with making computerized learning less intimidating.

Digital components have been added to the curriculum and portals have been added to our website for use outside of Seeds. A monthly Student eNews was created to encourage internet use at home.

We work hard to present a correct list of our donors. If there is an error, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us to correct our records. Thank you.