Celebrating Five Years of Learning at Seeds East

Volunteer Bob Frost was given the Cultivator Impact Award for his work and advocacy on behalf of Seeds of Literacy at Thrive!, held Oct. 11 at the Union Club of Cleveland.

Frost’s advocacy on behalf of Seeds was instrumental in getting the State of Ohio legislature to return state funding for Seeds’ programs.

Guests heard from Seeds students Angelo and Keena and both Frost and Seeds were honored with recognitions from government leaders, including Ohio Sen. Matt Dolan, who introduced Frost. Frost said he is “profoundly moved” by being honored.


In addition to regular class times and orientations, the site also hosts a vibrant book club, started by Site Coordinator Kara Krawiec. You can read more about the Seeds East book club in our “Seeds in the Media” section inside and learn about the article Krawiec wrote for ProLiteracy about the book club’s success.

A formal celebration of Seeds East’s “birthday” is scheduled for Nov 21, with a theme of “I’m Thankful for Seeds.” Join us in saluting the staff, volunteers and most importantly students who have made Seeds East their learning home. Here’s to many more years of literacy and learning!
Dear Friends,

This past year has been an exciting transitional year for Seeds of Literacy, finding Seeds in a much different place than when I last wrote in this space. In our opinion, this difference is a good thing that will hopefully lead Seeds to even greater heights and further success for the students we serve.

In my last letter, I said despite the State of Ohio ending its funding in July 2018, Seeds would not change its one-to-one tutoring model, a model proven to work since our inception in 1997. We kept our promise. We did not change and we refused to allow our students to feel any impact from this loss. We succeeded, thanks to other major donors and supporters and the work of our staff. We did not cut programming and in 2018, ended with one of largest graduation classes to date.

Despite not cutting programming, Seeds is fortunate to have allies and advocates willing to make the case to state lawmakers in Columbus. Our advocates told the Statehouse that Seeds of Literacy is a program making a difference and our program being different from every other one in the state is a good thing. Thanks to their efforts, two-year state funding for Seeds was included in the budget for Ohio signed by Gov. Mike DeWine in July. We celebrated one of those advocates at our signature event in October, Thrive!, when we honored Bob Frost with the Cultivator Impact Award.

Now, Seeds is primed to continue to grow and serve even more students. In the past few months, we added new staff members, continued our Latino Expansion offered Seeds programming in Spanish and through our early reader program, as well as expanded our offices at Seeds West. We don’t plan to stop there.

We share this statistic often, but it’s worth repeating because it is important: 66% of Cleveland adults are functionally illiterate. We know Seeds of Literacy’s program works and we plan to continue to grow our program so we can continue to serve those in Northeast Ohio who need our services the most.

We are so proud of our students’ successes and I thank you for your role in making their success happen.

Bonnier Entler
President & CEO

Seeds of Literacy

GRADUATE PROFILE: REGGIE LATTEN

Seeds of Literacy graduate Reginald “Reggie” Latten was named the 2019 GED Graduate of the Year by the GED Testing Service.

Latten received an iPad and a $1,000 scholarship towards his college education and enrolled at Bryant & Stratton College shortly after graduating. As part of the award, Latten received a trip to Chicago for the GED Testing Service Annual Conference, where he formally received his award.

In addition, Latten also gave a speech that he wrote and participated in a professional photoshoot with other winners.

He committed himself to working with Seeds tutors. He also utilized the online resources of Khan Academy, logging 169 hours at the site from Dec. 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

Seeds of Literacy congratulates Latten on his graduation and award!

ENTLER RECOGNIZED BY CASE WESTERN, CRAIN’S

Seeds of Literacy President & CEO Bonnier Entler recently received the Mandel Alumni Award for Nonprofit Leadership from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University.

Entler was also named as one of Crain’s Cleveland Business Notable Women in Education for 2019. Seeds of Literacy thanks CWRU and Crain’s for recognizing the hard work she puts in for the students of Seeds.


Seeds of Literacy congratulates Latten on his graduation and award!

SEEDS OF LITERACY CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION

On June 26, Seeds of Literacy held its graduation ceremony and celebrated its students passing their high school equivalency test.

Attendees heard speeches from Seeds graduates Imani Moore, Fatima Kaba and Reggie Latten, who you can read about above in our Graduate Profile.

Seeds of Literacy congratulates its graduates on their achievements!

NEW FACES AT SEEDS!

You can download a pdf of Notebook at http://bit.ly/ProLiteracyNotebook

SEEDS IN THE MEDIA

Seeds of Literacy was featured in the most recent issue of ProLiteracy’s Notebook, as Seeds Site Coordinator Kara Krawiec wrote an article describing the book club she runs at Seeds East. Krawiec, who was also honored by ProLiteracy with its first Hero award in 2018 for her work at Seeds and with the book club, also shared tips with other educators about setting up their own book clubs, how she runs the club and how she ensures each student has a copy of the book to read when the club meets.

In September, Krawiec went to San Diego for the ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Education to give a presentation about the book club and share what she has learned with other educators.

The new staff looks forward to serving the students of Seeds of Literacy!

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