



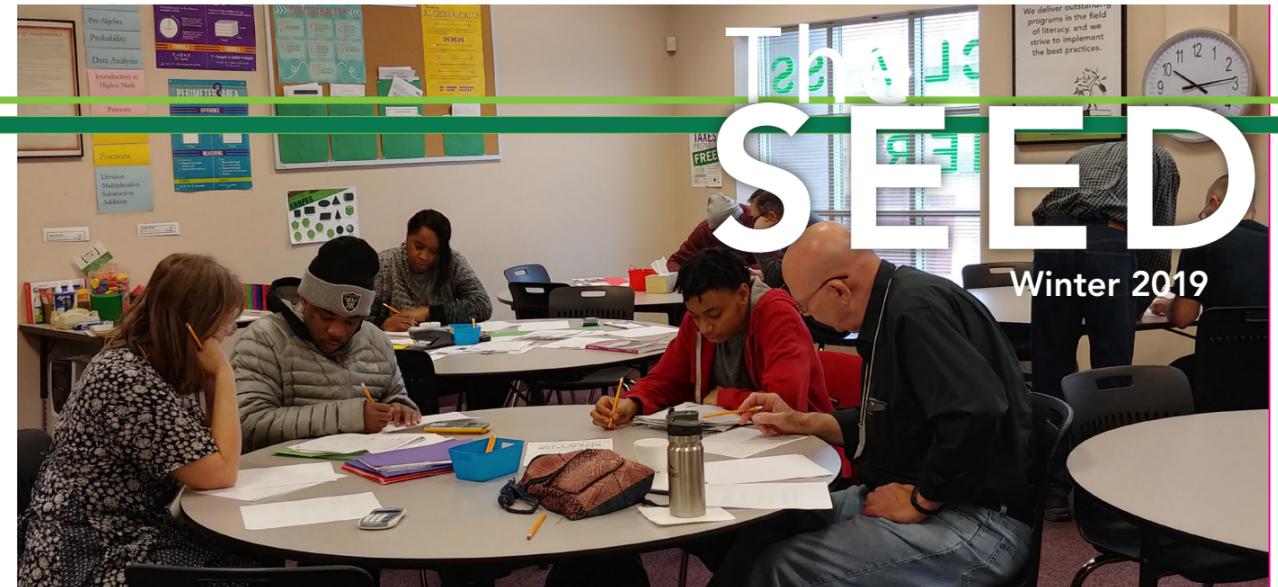
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[seedsofliteracy.org](http://seedsofliteracy.org)



#### Our Mission

To provide personalized education that empowers adults to succeed in their communities.

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## Celebrating Five Years of Learning at Seeds East

Seeds of Literacy's Kinsman Road location, affectionately known as Seeds East, had its fifth anniversary of opening on Sept. 24.

The classroom, located in the Mt. Pleasant NOW Development Corp. building, has been a vibrant source of learning and innovation during that time.

In addition to regular classtimes 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!

## Volunteer and advocate Bob Frost honored at Thrive! 2019

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 Keeva and both Frost and Seeds were honored with recognitions from government leaders, including Ohio Sen. Matt Dolan, who introduced Frost. Seeds raised a net of \$51,579 from Thrive! 2019.

Seeds thanks its generous Thrive! sponsors: Carnegie Management and Development Corporation, Bill and Joyce Litzler, The William and Jill Oatey Fund, George and Pat Miller, The City Bank Investment Co.,



Jody and honoree Bob Frost, Seeds President and CEO Bonnie Entler and Seeds Chairman of the Board George Miller at Thrive! 2019

Deloitte, Nordson, Ciuni & Panichi, Waldheger Coyne, Terry and Ann Coyne, St. Ignatius High School, The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, OneDigital Health and Benefits, Genny Zarnick,

Applied Industrial Technologies, Rob and Amy Frost, Bob and Jody Frost, Debbie and Jim Wert, Ida and Irwin Haber, Stacey and Matt Litzler, Medical Mutual, Dick Pogue, Mark Yanochko, Tucker Ellis, Jennifer Rosenberg and ShurTech Brands.

## Goodwill Honors Seeds Graduate Uri Passin

Seeds of Literacy graduate Uri Passin, a member of our Class of 2019, was recently honored by Goodwill with its Power of Work award!

Uri, who was born in the Ukrainian part of the former U.S.S.R, worked with Goodwill while he was at Seeds.

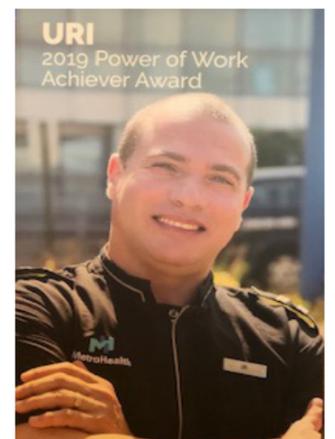
Eventually, the partnership between Seeds and Goodwill helped Uri find a stable job working at MetroHealth as one of its valet staff members.

Uri moved to Toledo after meeting his wife, but wasn't able to find a job without a diploma, despite speaking five languages. That led Uri to Seeds, where he studied as he washed dishes and did other jobs.

As he worked, Uri also studied hard at Seeds. He finished his classes in four months.

He's now studying to be an interpreter in the court system, utilizing his knowledge of different languages.

Congratulations to Uri! Seeds of Literacy is proud of your accomplishments!



Uri Passin  
Seeds of Literacy Class of 2019

## 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 programing and in 2018, ended with one of largest graduation classes to date.

Despite not cutting programing, Seeds was 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 programing 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 now 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.

*Bonnie Entler*

Bonnie Entler,  
President & CEO



## Seeds of Literacy receives visits from politicians, government officials

Seeds of Literacy thanks the government officials who have taken the time to visit Seeds in the past year:

Ohio Senators Sandra Williams, Matt Dolan, Nickie Antonio and John Eklund.

Ohio Representatives Stephanie Howse, Kent Smith, Michael Skindell, Terrence Upchurch and Bride Rose Sweeney.

Michelle Gillcrist, liaison for the Office of Gov. Mike DeWine; Derek Harley, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Brad Wenstrup; U.S. Rep Dave Joyce and staffer Alex Roth; Nicole Dailey Jones and Nicholas Turner, press secretary and representative for U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur; and Rob Frost of Republican Party of Cuyahoga County.

Also, thanks to Ohio Rep. Tom Patton for meeting with Seeds representatives in Columbus earlier this year.



U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce, center, visited Seeds West in October.

## CURRICULUM CORNER: LATINO EXPANSION PROGRAM CONTINUES AT SEEDS WEST

In June, Seeds of Literacy launched a pilot to offer services in Spanish in response to a challenge by the United Way of Greater Cleveland.

Our staff worked to assemble assessment materials and a curriculum for Spanish-speaking students last fiscal year.

This program is not an English as a second language program and is the

same, proven one-to-one tutoring model Seeds of Literacy is known for, providing learning experiences tailored to each student's specific needs, except now in Spanish.

Orientation is offered once a month, with class time from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Seeds West.

We are grateful to have recruited five bilingual tutors who have provided

services to the Latino students in this program and 17 students thus far.

Three students have had reassessments since the program began, showing an average gain of 5.5 grade levels.

Seeds of Literacy gives a heartfelt "thank you" to all of our tutors and staff members who have worked so hard to make this program successful!

## 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 Bonnie 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.



Bonnie and Rich Entler

## 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 Moree, Fatima Kaba and Reggie Latten, who you can read about above in our Graduate Profile.

Seeds of Literacy congratulates its graduates on their achievements!



## 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.

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

## NEW FACES AT SEEDS!



Seeds of Literacy's staff has been growing!

On the programing side, Viola Goss is the new Seeds East Evening Site Coordinator. Todd Seabrook has become the Seeds West Daytime Digital Literacy Coordinator and Melina Lindsey has joined as the new Seeds West Evening Digital Literacy Coordinator. Sharmayne Perkins is now the Site Coordinator for Seeds of Literacy's partnership with El Barrio.

On the administrative side of the organization, Neil Bloomberg joined Seeds in September as our new Vice President of Development and Ed Carroll is Seeds' Marketing Director.

Finally, Kimberly Menefield is the new Seeds West Evening Receptionist and also handles reception for Seeds West on Fridays.

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