Winning combinations that help us better serve Minnesotans, support organizations and share the power of learning.
Open Door Learning Center GED student, Joyce, took a break from classes over the summer. Motivated by her desire to improve kids’ education, she volunteered full-time as a Summer Reads VISTA, tutoring K-3 children at two different host sites in east St. Paul. “I want to learn from children to be able to help them better,” she says. But she impacted the kids as well, using her own experiences to help them understand how literacy can help them achieve their dreams.

Joyce’s goal is to be a social worker, and she seems to have chosen the right path. Her supervisor took note of Joyce’s ability to persevere through challenges and adds, “Joyce is very good at advocating for what is right when issues arise.”

Volunteers and donors
John and Sheila’s passion for education and working with adults led them to us, and they soon found themselves volunteering at our Open Door Learning Center. Here, they discovered an environment where students are eager to learn, teachers are highly skilled and volunteers receive tremendous support. “How can you not fall in love with this place?” John asks.

And they’ve discovered volunteering is about more than what happens in class. John appreciates the way staff and volunteers genuinely want to get to know the students and help them in their everyday lives. Sheila has recognized the importance of being an ambassador as well as a volunteer, recalling a time when she helped a student resolve an issue with her landlord. John and Sheila also support us through both in-kind and financial donations because “when we donate, we know exactly where our money goes.”

Learner and volunteer

ECHO and the literacy council

Northstar Digital Literacy Project is a first-of-its-kind assessment that defines basic skill standards in 10 categories, like navigating the Internet and using Excel. Anyone can access this online tool for free to gauge their digital literacy skills, and they can earn a certificate at one of 300+ sponsor sites nationwide. The community collaborative behind Northstar chose the literacy council to manage its expansion. Now widely used in Adult Basic Education programs, workforce centers, libraries and junior colleges, the total number of assessments completed recently surpassed the one million mark! Its rapid growth provides practical evidence that organizations and the adults they serve find value in Northstar.

partnerships

maximize potential

Vendors and donors

Northstar and sponsor sites

Housing rights and responsibilities. Health care access. Inclement weather. Domestic abuse. Understanding these topics is important for all Minnesotans, but when you’re a new immigrant or refugee, how do you learn what you and your family need to know to stay healthy and safe?

Twin Cities Public Television and Emergency Community Health Outreach (ECHO) turned to us to help communicate reliable information about these topics and more. The one-week curriculum units we developed for our English language classes have accompanied ECHO’s multilingual media campaigns since 2012. “We rely on the literacy council for their instructional expertise,” says ECHO Director Lillian McDonald. Pre- and post-unit testing is showing this combination – ECHO’s media programs paired with the literacy council’s curriculum – is highly effective in increasing learners’ knowledge of housing, health care and safety in Minnesota.
Where did our support come from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Dollars in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>$2,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program-service fees; other</td>
<td>806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and foundation grants</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions; special events</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,354</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How did we spend our money?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serving Minnesotans</td>
<td>$1,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting organizations</td>
<td>1,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>468</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>272</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts/grants receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term assets</td>
<td>690</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,358</strong></td>
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</table>

Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dollars in Thousands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses; other current liabilities</td>
<td>479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board designated net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board designated permanent endowment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted net assets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,358</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

80% of 2,566 kids improved or maintained their reading fluency

Summer Reads

1,418 referrals made to literacy programs via phone, text or email (22% in Spanish)

Adult Literacy Hotline

91% of parents assessed took steps to better support their child’s learning

Early Literacy and Families

81% of students surveyed said they were referred to us by friends, family or another literacy/community-based organization

Open Door Learning Center (6 sites)

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

Complete financial statements available at mnliteracy.org

DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS

serving MINNESOTANS

supporting ORGANIZATIONS

2,503 people equipped with tutoring skills and strategies

Tutor Training

95% of volunteers surveyed agreed our training prepared them for their role

Volunteer Outreach

91% of kids served in VISTA-driven projects improved their literacy skills

Literacy VISTA

507 Adult Basic Education professionals trained

Technology Services

142 participants in the Bremer Rural Library and Literacy Leadership Institute since 2012

Literacy Strategies

80% of 2,566 kids improved or maintained their reading fluency

Summer Reads

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Open Door Learning Center (6 sites)
Please remember the Minnesota Literacy Council in your will.

Contributions from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.
LEARN
Call or search the Adult Literacy Hotline to find classes near your home.
1-800-222-1990
mnliteracy.org/hotline

SERVE
As a volunteer or national service member, you can help Minnesotans get the skills they need.
mnliteracy.org/volunteer
mnliteracy.org/joinVISTA

GIVE
Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed to the address to the right or made online.
mnliteracy.org/donate

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Moran Financial
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