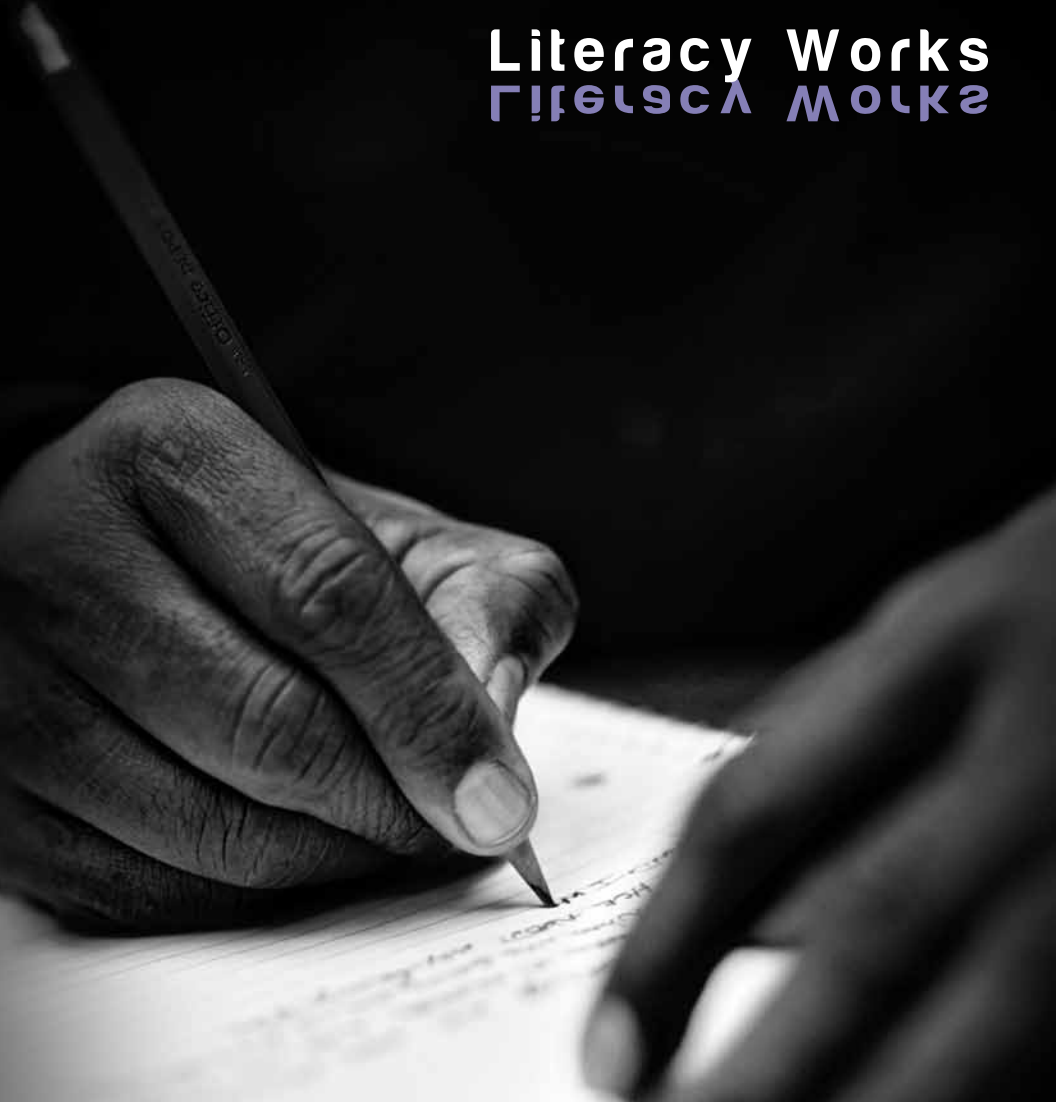


Literacy Works
ליטרסי מורקס



READ
WRITE
INTERPRET

2009
annual report



Literacy Works' mission is to fulfill the promise of a basic human right: the right to read, write, and interpret the world.

Literacy Works' Services

Tutor Training for Community Volunteers

Intensive monthly trainings for community volunteers in the basics of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Education (ABE). Frequent follow-up trainings on special topics. Semi-annual forums.

Training for Staff of Literacy and Employment Programs

Trainings and networking for literacy and employment program staff at community-based organizations.

Writers' Circle for Teen and Adult Learners

Workshops to help literacy learners develop their skills, fluency, and expressiveness in writing.

OK Learn Parent Education Workshops for Teen and Adult Learners

Family literacy workshops to help adults encourage their young children's literacy and language skills.

Succeed with Literacy Workshops for Adult and Teen Learners

Workshops to help low-income adults develop written and spoken communication skills for finding and keeping a job.

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Dear Friends,

Each of us can remember a humble moment in our lives when someone reached out to help us in a time of need. Those times are part of the human experience; they shape our character and influence our desire to reach out to others.

Every day, Literacy Works reaches out to assist people who are working toward a better life.

The need for adult education in Chicago is greater now than in recent history, and Literacy Works is responding with training and supportive services that result in high-quality resources for adult learners. In a time when funding challenges force many organizations to cut back or even close their doors, Literacy Works is doing more with less.

Our new Employ Lit program, started in 2009, is the only one of its kind in all of Chicago. Employ Lit has allowed Literacy Works to broaden its reach to employment readiness programs across the Chicago area. By training workforce development professionals how to tailor their instruction to clients with low literacy, Literacy Works is playing a valuable role in helping job-seekers secure employment during these difficult times.

We know that our adult learners are creating better lives for themselves and their families. As we work to fulfill our mission, Literacy Works empowers those who turned to us in their time of need to both move forward and reach back to help others.

We are pleased to share the powerful stories and successes that are featured in our 2009 annual report. With your support, Literacy Works can continue to expand our reach, inspiring individuals across Chicagoland to make their own positive contributions to their communities.

Sincerely,

Maria Onesto

President, Board of Directors

Christine Kenny

Executive Director

HIRMINIA AND MIGUEL: LEARNING AS A FAMILY



Strengthening Communities One Organization at a Time

Sitting on his mother Hirminia's lap during one of Literacy Works' Our Kids Learn (OK Learn) family literacy workshops, 2-year-old Miguel "reads" aloud from the pages of one of his favorite books, Ezra Jack Keats' classic *The Snowy Day*. Hirminia follows along silently, letting him turn the pages of the book himself. At home, she reads a variety of books to Miguelito - as she affectionately refers to him - in both English and Spanish, fostering in him a love of reading and actively supporting his learning. Hirminia and Miguel are seasoned veterans of the monthly workshops now, having regularly attended since before Miguel was even a year old. Miguel's picture-reading, sense of story, and use of language are critical early literacy skills that will prepare him to learn to read for real when he is old enough to begin school.

Literacy Works conducts ongoing OK Learn workshops at the Howard Area Community Center, one of our member organizations and a familiar environment to Hirminia and her son. Six years ago, when she arrived in Chicago from Bolivia, Hirminia enrolled in the beginners-level English as a Second Language (ESL) class offered at Howard Area, which serves the culturally diverse community of Rogers Park in Chicago. Hirminia has since advanced to the Level 3 ESL class at the agency, where she attends 4 days each week between working as a housekeeper and participating in Howard Area's family literacy program with Miguel.

As an active member of Literacy Works, Howard Area benefits from a variety of our training and supportive services for literacy programs. Its dedicated staff of adult education instructors frequent our **professional development sessions** to learn best practices in the field. In addition, its family literacy staff, who work with parents who have low literacy skills and/or limited English language skills, often attend Literacy Works' innovative **Family Literacy Opportunities (FLO)** workshops. Here, they learn new ways to help parents turn their young children into eager readers and learners. With **OK Learn**, Literacy Works also has the chance to work directly with Howard Area's learners through regular on-site workshops.

Through our strong partnerships with agencies such as Howard Area, Literacy Works deeply impacts the quality and quantity of adult and family literacy services throughout Chicago, giving adults like Hirminia strong resources to help them achieve their goals.

Howard Area is just one of over fifty independent member organizations in over thirty Chicago communities that benefited from Literacy Works' training and support in 2009.



Extending Literacy Works' Reach through Tutor Training

One way in which Hirminia has worked to improve her English has been through supplementing her classroom instruction with the aid of a tutor, Terri Rice. Terri is just one of hundreds of community volunteers

throughout Chicago who benefited from Literacy Works' **tutor trainings** for ESL and Adult Basic Education (ABE) instruction in 2009. Hirminia and Terri have been meeting weekly now for 9 months. "When Terri and I practice speaking and reading English, she corrects me when I make mistakes. I like this because speaking and reading in English is not always the same," Hirminia explains.

Terri, a grandmother with a daughter close in age to Hirminia, has found that the tutoring experience has benefited her nearly as much as it has Hirminia, explaining "tutoring has really opened my eyes to the immigrant experience and left me much more open-minded and sympathetic to the struggles of young women like Hirminia." Terri has loved the challenge of preparing lessons that reflect Hirminia's interests and address her practical needs. She frequently incorporates ideas she gained from her Literacy Works training, such as using Hirminia's interest in cooking as a starting point for learning vocabulary, or role playing dialogue for Miguel's doctor's visits. Like all those who meet Hirminia or hear her story, Terri is most impressed by Hirminia's tremendous motivation to improve her English and give her son all the tools to succeed.

In 2009, Literacy Works provided training and resources to 834 instructors and tutors like Terri Rice.



Reading and Writing Across Generations: OK Learn

Hirminia believes Literacy Works' OK Learn has benefited Miguel in many ways. She notes that he is much more aware of his environment, showing curiosity and asking questions about the things he sees and hears around him. He loves books and reading, and already demonstrates early reading skills such as being able to recite many of his favorite books by heart. Hirminia herself has also benefited from these activities, having discovered her own capacity to be an active participant in Miguel's development.

Additionally, Hirminia says, 'OK Learn is like another English class for me,' where she can practice reading and speaking with her peers and their children. Some strategies OK Learn encourages parents to use include exposing their children to books, letting them scribble and draw, and engaging them in conversation during daily routines. Literacy Works' Adult and Family Literacy Specialist, Betsy Rubin, who leads the OK Learn workshops, adds "I am constantly inspired by the gentle way that Hirminia encourages Miguel's learning and believe she sets an example for every parent in the world."

The road to literacy can take many paths, but in the end, there is one common destination: exercising the basic human right to read, write, and interpret the world. Literacy Works seeks to help fulfill this promise to others like Hirminia and Miguel throughout Chicago—directly through our own programs like OK Learn, and also through the efforts of member organizations and the teachers and tutors we train.

Literacy Works' OK Learn program benefited a total of 121 adults and 62 children living in low-income Chicago neighborhoods in 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2009

In FY 2009, Literacy Works conducted 59 trainings, where participants learned best practices for providing high-quality instruction to adults in Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language.



Literacy Works facilitated two Writers' Circles at partnering agencies in FY 2009—one at WomanCraft and the other at Growing Home—empowering 31 writers to creatively express themselves through the written word.



Our Kids Learn (OK Learn) provided hands-on opportunities for 121 parents and caregivers to engage their children in inspiring literacy activities. An estimated 85 families received free new children's books, giving them the opportunity to take their learning home.





In FY09, 96% of adult learners who received instruction directly from Literacy Works stated that the workshops they attended helped them make positive changes in their lives. Here, job seekers prepare for interviews and practice their talking points.

Writers Circle participants celebrate their accomplishments.



Through our Family Literacy Opportunities (FLO) workshops, 74 family literacy educators discovered innovative approaches to encourage intergenerational learning, particularly for low-literate parents raising children ages birth to 5.

Parents and caregivers enjoy reading and talking about books with their young children.



Literacy Works thanks the following contributors who invested in our work in fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).

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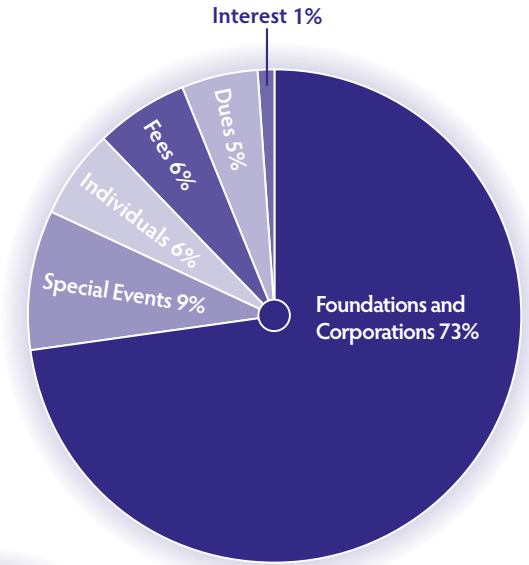
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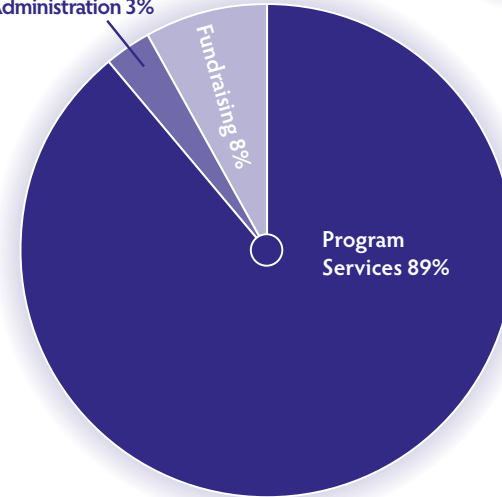
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Income by Source



General Management and Administration 3%



Expense by Category

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008
Total public support and revenue	218,089	234,895
Total expenses	201,072	171,200
Excess of revenue over expenses	17,017	63,695
Net assets:		
Beginning of the fiscal year	167,591	103,986
End of the fiscal year	174,191	167,591
Current total assets:	180,104	171,949
Current liabilities:	5,913	4,358
Total liabilities and net assets:	180,104	171,949



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