

Read  
Write  
Interpret



Literacy Works

ANNUAL REPORT

2010



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.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trainings, networking, and consultation 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.

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### LITERACY WORKS

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[www.litworks.org](http://www.litworks.org)

Literacy Works is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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Dear Friends,

Literacy Works is to Chicago what a pebble is to a pond: from a single point of contact, its impact becomes endless through the ripples it creates. With your support, in FY 2010 Literacy Works continued to make ripples of change that have touched the lives of individuals, families, communities, and beyond. Like the child-adult collaboration depicted on the cover of this annual report, Literacy Works fosters literacy success even across generations.

Within the pages of this FY 2010 report, you will meet Enrique Zaldana.\* Enrique's goal was to improve his math and reading proficiency so that he could enter a manufacturing skills program and ultimately obtain gainful employment. Today, he is proud to tell you about his new career as a Computer Numerical Controlled operator. Literacy Works trained Enrique's instructors to help him succeed, and we are honored to be a part of his story.

Literacy Works provides volunteer tutors, such as Enrique's, the training and ongoing support they need to offer effective instruction to adult learners. As a result, tutors feel successful and engaged in their work, and students receive an education that responds to their goals. And through our newest program, *Employ Lit*, Literacy Works helps workforce development professionals to more effectively reach adults with low literacy. Individuals like Enrique benefit from the instruction of well-trained professionals who are better equipped to address the needs of clients at a variety of skill levels.

Enrique is only one of the tens of thousands of adult learners whose lives have been touched by Literacy Works' trainings and supportive services—not directly, but through the gentle ripples that emanate from our work across the city. Literacy Works thanks you—our friends, supporters, members, partners, and volunteers—for all you have done to help us, increase our services, extend our collaborations, and expand our reach. By supporting our programs, you, too have been a powerful pebble in a very large pond.

Sincerely,

Maria Onesto Moran

Board President

Christine Kenny

Executive Director

*\*Enrique was an adult learner in Literacy Works' member agency, Jane Addams Resource Corporation.*

## LITERACY WORKS' EMPLOY LIT PROGRAM CREATES WAVES OF CHANGE

Literacy and employment are closely linked. Job-seekers who have low literacy need access to adult education programs that can build their basic skills. They also need workforce readiness training that is appropriate to their literacy levels so that they can grasp necessary concepts and apply them to their career goals. Literacy Works' Employ Lit program helps workforce development professionals provide instruction and classroom materials that resonate with their clients at all levels of literacy.

By imparting new literacy-centered knowledge and awareness to staff at workforce programs, Literacy Works is enhancing the quality of the field, which ultimately helps thousands of adults to realize their employment goals.

### THE NEED .....

**612,000** Number of adults in the Chicago region who lack basic literacy skills, drastically limiting their job options and chance of earning a living wage.

**18%** The rate of Chicago's unemployed or underemployed during our 2010 fiscal year.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade** The average reading level among the clients at our trainee organizations.

### THE RESPONSE .....

**19** The number of workforce development **organizations** served by Literacy Works' Employ Lit Program in FY 2010.

**14,000** The estimated number of **clients** served by the organizations strengthened by Employ Lit in FY 2010.

### THE IMPACT .....

What Employ Lit participants are saying about the training...

*"It has opened new avenues of expression and class participation for me and my participants."*

*"[Employ Lit] helped to unify our team on the importance of literacy awareness that we are now encouraging throughout the entire organization."*

*"I've seen more of the bright spark that comes to people's eyes when they are understanding."*

*"The suggestions you made are great. You could not have done a better job... I have recommended Literacy Works to other organizations. [You] have some great ideas on working with low literacy in adults, and [you] have excellent resources."*

Through more than 800 community volunteers and professionals at over 50 member agencies throughout Chicago, each year Literacy Works reaches thousands of teen and adult learners seeking to improve their literacy skills. Although we offer select direct services in specialized areas, most of what we do is funneled through agency staff and volunteers who participate in our training programs. This way we ensure that our work never stops at the first point of contact, but instead ripples from a single training to countless adult learners across the city.

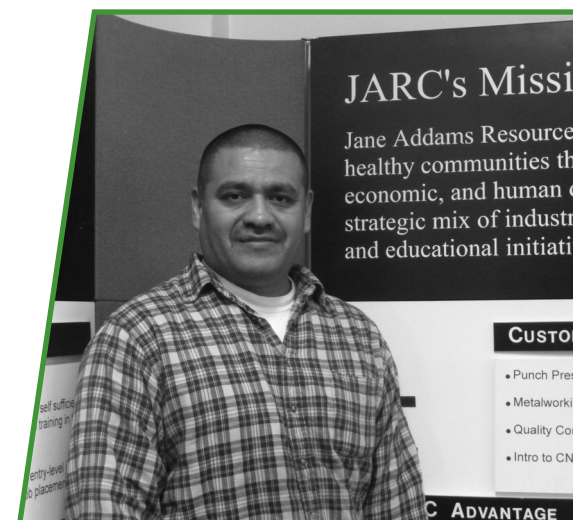
Shining a spotlight over the more than 30 Chicago communities served by Literacy Works member agencies and volunteers, we see the impact our work has had on individual adult learners' lives. Take Enrique, who emigrated from El Salvador nearly 25 years ago. He recently completed Adult Basic Education and job training programs at Literacy Works member agency Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC). JARC participated in our Employ Lit program in FY 2010, which helps workforce programs develop more effective approaches to helping adults with low

literacy stay engaged, finish job-readiness programs, and get a job—like Enrique.

With his sights set on a career in manufacturing, Enrique signed up for JARC's Manufacturing Skills Program in summer 2010. He took a class to improve his math and reading skills and then began hands-on training in operating Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) machines (used to produce a wide variety of products, including automobile engines). Agency staff worked with Enrique to develop his resume and refine his interview skills, and helped him secure an interview with a company where he now works full-time as a CNC operator. Enrique plans to continue in the JARC program so that he might one day become a certified CNC programmer.

Enrique says his JARC teachers are "nice people who explain everything... over and over until you understand," even having taught him to read blueprints for operating CNC machinery. These skills and practices are precisely what Literacy Works' six-hour Employ Lit trainings are intended to promote: understanding and responding to the needs of clients with low literacy, including selecting, adapting, and creating effective materials and engaging learners in the classroom.

Enrique's teachers also taught him the importance of having a good attitude. But having a good attitude requires confidence, which Literacy Works aims to help instill in all learners through both its training and direct service programs.





Our Kids Learn (OK Learn) workshops bring parents together to provide hands-on opportunities to interactively engage their children in motivating literacy activities. Parents receiving these experiences develop confidence in their own abilities as they encourage their children to grow up as strong readers and enthusiastic learners. In FY 2010 136 adults and 70 children participated in 27 OK Learn workshops, offered at 9 different sites throughout the city—including 5 Chicago Public Schools.



At the Read with Literacy Works benefit in August 2009, we reached a new audience in the fans of bestselling author Jen Lancaster. Lancaster read from popular works such as *Bitter is the New Black* and *Such A Pretty Fat*, delivering her caustic, witty prose over a background of bellowing laughter from the crowd gathered at Hopleaf Bar. Jen (center) is pictured with event organizers and Literacy Works board members Jean Keleher and Gina Barge .



Each year, Literacy Works trains over 800 volunteer tutors and literacy professionals to become effective and dynamic adult educators. A group of tutors, pictured here, engage in hands-on learning at a Low-literacy ESL Training. This is just one example of the many trainings that we host for literacy practitioners, who go on to teach an estimated 10,000 Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language learners.

At the 2010 annual June Jamboree, Chicago folk rock band The Stonefllys provided a groovy soundtrack for this family-friendly evening of nature walks, henna tattoos, and prized offerings in our silent auction—from handmade jewelry to box seats at the ol' ball game! Dorothy Whitney (center) from the Illinois Secretary of State office was the 2010 guest of honor, pictured with four tutor/learner pairs whom Literacy Works honored with our annual Inspiration Awards.



Literacy Works provides essential support to our member agencies and their staff, in addition to our training and education programs, so that they can become even better at what they do for the communities they serve. Our Tutor Roundtable, Tutor Forum, and Member Network Mixer (pictured below) all are held annually, providing a forum for member agencies, staff, and volunteers to meet, share with, and learn from one another about their work.

Latresea shares her story with Conrad and Literacy Works Program Director Alison Szopinski in one of Literacy Works' Writers' Circle workshops. In FY10, 14 learners participated in two 8-week, intensive workshops—one offered at Goldie's Place and another at Howard Area Community Center. Intended to build participants' confidence as writers, each workshop culminated in a printed booklet containing participants' published work.



Photo by Andrew Collings

Literacy Works makes a widespread impact, strengthening adult and family literacy programs in over 30 Chicago communities. In fiscal year 2010, our membership included the following organizations:

LITERACY WORKS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

- 
- Albany Park Community Center
  - Anixter Center
  - Arab American Action Network
  - Association House of Chicago
  - Brainerd Community Development Corporation
  - Building Englewood thru Skilled Teamwork/ BEST
  - CAAAELII
  - Centro Romero
  - Chicago Hope
  - Chinese Mutual Aid Association
  - Christopher House
  - Community Services Outreach Center (The OC)
  - Connections for the Homeless
  - Corazón a Corazón
  - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Delta Literacy Project
  - Erie Neighborhood House
  - Goldie's Place
  - Growing Home, Inc.
  - Hanul Family Alliance
  - Heartland Alliance
  - Refugee & Immigrant Community Services
  - Howard Area Community Center
  - IL Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
  - Illinois Action for Children
  - Illinois Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC), Columbia College Chicago
  - Instituto del Progreso Latino
  - Indo-American Center
  - Jane Addams Hull House Association (JAHHA) Early & Family Literacy
  - FamilyWorks & Step Up Program
  - Parkway Community House
  - Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC)
  - Latino Union
  - The Learning Center/House of Connections
  - Mercy Housing Lakefront
  - Mexico Solidarity Network
  - Morton College - Project CARE
  - Naya Jeevan Jireh Center
  - Open Books
  - Ounce of Prevention Fund
  - Pan-African Association
  - RefugeeOne (formerly IRIM)
  - Safer Foundation
  - St. Jerome's Church
  - St. Joseph Services
  - St. Leonard's Ministries
  - Social & Educational Services/Prologue
  - South East Asia Center
  - Tolton Center Adult Education Program and Family Resource & Learning Center
  - Triton College
  - UIC Center for Literacy
  - Universidad Popular
  - Vietnamese Association of IL
  - World Relief-Chicago

LITERACY WORKS THANKS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS WHO INVESTED IN OUR WORK IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 (JULY 1, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2010).

**\$10,000 AND ABOVE**

- Adams Street Partners, LLC
- Anonymous
- The Brinson Foundation
- Chicago Tribune Charities - Holiday Campaign, a fund of the McCormick Foundation
- The Kluth Family Foundation
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
- Polk Bros. Foundation

- Jean Keleher
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- Lee Maher
- Carol Netzer
- North Shore Community Bank
- Theater Oobleck
- Betsy Rubin
- Katie Soderstrom & Kevin Kirsner
- Wintersteen & Dunning

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

- Comcast Foundation
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Rock for Reading

**\$100 - \$249**

- Gina Barge
- Tom & Shirley Boje
- Greg Borzo
- Bridgeview Bank
- Kevin & Jennifer Donohue
- Tania Duvergne
- Mary Ann Dyar

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

- Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
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- First Bank & Trust
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- Ann Hwang
- David Isaacson & Ann Manikas
- Raja & Vasanthi Iyer
- Terry and Pat Lawler

**\$1,000 - \$2,499**

- Anonymous
- At Pluto, Ltd.
- Chatel-Long Foundation
- The Harmann Family Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Martha Van Haitsma & Gustavo Bamberger

**\$500 - \$999**

- Austin Bank of Chicago
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- Pam Pifer
- Nancy Quinn
- Robert Radwanick

**\$250 - \$499**

- Scott & Missy Berman
- Comcast Foundation
- Devon Bank
- Richard & Maryellen Donohue
- Illinois Tool Works

## Financials FY10

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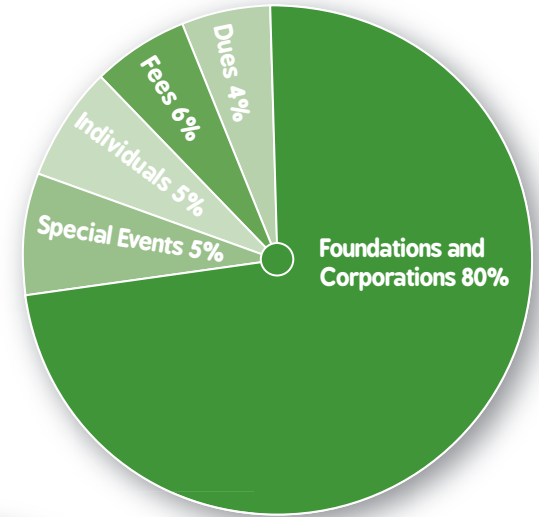
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### \$50 - \$99

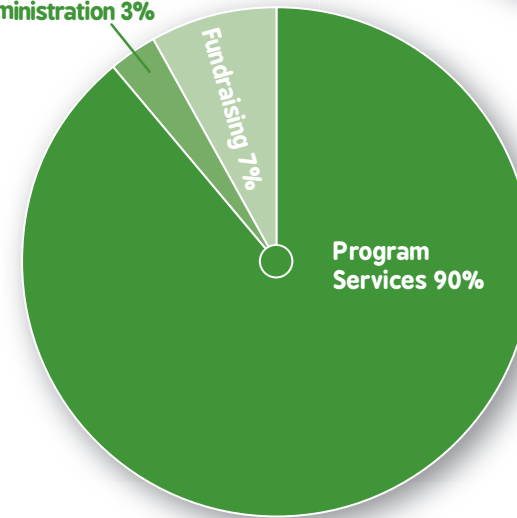
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 Lucy & Lawrence Kaplan  
 Debra Keegan & Ira Barry  
 Cara Kennedy

*Due to space constraints, we were unable to list our donors who gave under \$50. Literacy Works thanks everyone who supported us at this level in fiscal year 2010.*

Income by Source



General Management and Administration 3%



Expense by Category

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009
Total public support and revenue	237,967	207,692
Total expenses	244,239	201,072
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(6,272)	6,600
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Beginning of the fiscal year	174,191	167,591
End of the fiscal year	167,919	174,191
Current total assets:	169,819	180,104
Current liabilities:	1,900	5,913
<b>Total liabilities and net assets:</b>	<b>169,819</b>	<b>180,104</b>



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