

2003 Annual Report





Literacy New York supports community efforts to enable adults to gain the literacy skills needed to reach their full potential as individuals, parents, workers, and citizens.

Literacy New York

Thirty-three years ago, our organization was incorporated as one of the first mid-level offices of Literacy Volunteers of America (LVA). Since then we have provided technical assistance, training, workshops, and advocacy to help local affiliates provide quality literacy services in their communities. Over the years, tens of thousands of adult students and their families have benefited from literacy and basic skills tutoring. The LVA network across New York should be proud of the important role we have played and continue to play in changing lives and helping learners meet their personal goals.

Since our founding, Literacy Volunteers of America–New York State (LVA-NYS) worked closely with the national office and provided the conduit for LVA information, materials, basic literacy and ESL leader training, technology and program management. The LVA organizational structure created a strong bond among the network, and our role allowed us to offer advice and feedback and advocacy in both formal and informal ways.

In 2002, Literacy Volunteers of America merged with Laubach Literacy International to form ProLiteracy, and the “old LVA, as we knew it” ceased to exist. While our role with LVA was the mid-level conduit, our relationship with ProLiteracy, while still evolving, is different. The merger encouraged us to consider our identity and the independent role we play in New York and nationally.

Our network has, through its effort and success, created tremendous name recognition and value across the state. While no one wanted to lose what had been so hard fought to gain, the time was right to consider a new name that preserved our history and yet looked to the future. We began intense discussions about our mission, our values and our vision. We discussed the implications of keeping the word “volunteer” in our name. On one hand it defines and differentiates us. On the other hand, potential supporters often think “volunteer” organizations don’t need money to operate. In the end, we chose to eliminate the word “volunteer” from our name but in no way does the decision change the essential role that volunteers play in our network.

Now, we are Literacy New York, a new name and a new logo. In the end, we chose Literacy New York because it says more about what we do than how we do it. It states simply and clearly the business we are in. We help build New York communities through literacy. We will continue to promote the efficacy and value of well-trained and supported volunteers as the core of our service.

As Literacy New York, our mission and vision remain the same. We will continue to work closely with the New York State Education Department, our primary funder, to ensure stable public support to our network. We will develop and refine connections with ProLiteracy and other state and national mission-related organizations. We will continue to advocate for additional resources to help our network meet growing accountability measures, provide services to current students, recruit and serve adult learners in need of service, and recruit more volunteers to provide tutoring. We will also work to identify and adapt to emerging needs of the populations we serve. Literacy New York will continue to represent the interests and needs of our service sector and industry and continue to promote personal and community development through literacy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support of our mission and the patience and understanding you have shown during this period of change we have all experienced. We pledge to continue another strong tradition of our organization: we will continue to listen and respond to you.

Richard Wiggzell

Richard Wiggzell
President, Board of Directors

Kevin G. Smith

Kevin G. Smith
*Executive Director
and Chief Operating Officer*

Program and Operations

Literacy New York's program and operations covered a broad agenda in 2003: the Summer Training Institute at the White Eagle Conference Center, regional meetings, technical support for nonprofit management issues, New York State Education Department initiatives and funding, ALIES database and National Reporting System workshops and support, advocacy, Legislative Breakfast, resource development e-NEWS, trainer corps and trainer newsletter, and Verizon technology projects.

Every workshop, project, and technical assistance visit, call, or e-mail furthered our Mission "to support community-based efforts to enable adults to gain the literacy skills needed to reach their full potential as individuals, parents, workers, and citizens." Literacy New York's leadership training, staff/board/organizational development, technology services and advocacy support are instrumental in enabling local affiliates to provide quality adult literacy programs.

A key element in the quality of the tutor training and the Training of Trainers program statewide is the Literacy New York Trainer Corps. During the 2003 program year, the Trainer Corps facilitated a Learning Disabilities workshop, Training of Trainers at the Summer Institute, and tutor training workshops. In addition, the training manual for the Combined Basic Literacy/ESOL workshop was disseminated and three issues of Trainer News published. Members of the Trainer Corps attended the Best Plus test administration workshop and will present Best Plus workshops for affiliates in the coming year.

No one exemplifies what it means to be a top-notch "Trainer" more than Donna Gibson, member of the Trainer Corps and a trainer and tutor for LVA- Greater Rensselaer County, Troy, NY. Donna was honored at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference in Washington, DC with the "Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award for Trainer Excellence 2003." In addition to her work as a trainer, Gibson participates in fund-raising activities, tutors, and represents her affiliate at special events. Last year, she volunteered a total of 295 hours.

Along with excellent trainers, the Literacy New York network includes nearly 7,000 volunteer tutors, including Celine MacDougall, an English Second Language tutor for Literacy Volunteers of America- Clinton County, Plattsburgh, NY. MacDougall received the "Ruth J. Colvin and Frank C. Laubach Award for Tutor Excellence 2003" at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference.

MacDougall came to the U.S. from Quebec in the mid-1960s. She spoke no English, so she understands the challenges faced by adults who do not speak the language. Trained in 1999, MacDougall has tutored learners from Morocco, Venezuela, Syria, China, India, Rwanda, and Quebec, Canada.



From L to R: Robert Laubach, Celine MacDougall, Ruth J. Colvin, Donna Gibson at ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference.



Celine MacDougall and Wally "Famous Amos" at the ProLiteracy Worldwide Conference.

Student Workshop at Legislative Day



From L to R: Tatiana Iossafave, Nataliya Smith and Denise Zehr, Literacy Volunteers Jefferson/Lewis, Watertown

Adult literacy students from across New York State attended a workshop in Albany facilitated by Harold Lockwood, LVA Allegheny County and Mary Bartlett, Literacy New York Training Coordinator. In the workshop, students learned about what makes a powerful advocate and were provided support, strategies, and ideas to assist in their efforts to increase New York State support for adult literacy.



From L to R: Nataliya Ryadnova-Knapp, Norma Menard, Executive Director, Tina Jarvis, Literacy Volunteers of Clinton County, Plattsburg



Harold Lockwood (left), Literacy Volunteers of Allegany Co., Wellsville and Bill Cummings, Literacy Genesee Co., Batavia



Kevin G. Smith (left), Executive Director, Literacy New York and Harold Lockwood

The Affiliates of New York State

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LVA Westchester Co., Inc.
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LV Wyoming Co., Inc.
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LV Yates Co.
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Selected Financial Information

Literacy New York, Inc.
(formerly Literacy Volunteers of America – New York State, Inc.)
 Income & Expenses for Year Ending June 30, 2003

INCOME:

Government Grants	\$ 1,026,380
Other Grants	39,400
Contributions	8,413
Interest Income	2,773
Registration Fees	14,952
Royalties	118
Miscellaneous	698
Family, Adult & Workplace Literacy	13,432
Family Literacy Training	3,858
Master Trainers	6,190
Buffalo Board of Education	5,000

TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 1,121,214</u>
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EXPENSES:

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 454,877
Payroll Taxes	40,247
Public Relations	14,145
Professional Fees	10,225
Contract Services	84,071
Training Expense	21,176
Supplies & Materials	12,803
Rent	28,654
Telephone & Internet	32,431
Postage	8,220
Travel	37,207
Printing	13,273
Dues & Subscriptions	1,437
Equipment & Maintenance	16,630
Insurance	1,488
Lobbying	12,998
Miscellaneous	590
Donation	1,000
Loss of Disposition of Fixed Assets	446
Interest	786
Services Provided By Affiliates	256,775

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 1,049,479</u>
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Audited financial statements available from Literacy New York, Inc.
 777 Maryvale Drive, Buffalo, NY 14225

Donations, Grants, and In-Kind Services

Literacy New York receives its operating budget from New York State, foundation, corporate, and private contributions. We are pleased to thank those listed below for their generous grants, gifts, and in-kind services.

Individual

Cassandra Artale
Virginia Barton
Stephen W. Bell
Neil Carr
Kathleen Casella
Ruth Colvin
Alvinia Coulombe
Charlotte DiPaola
Wendy Duignan
Patricia Forken
Diane Foucar-Szocki
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Corporate, Foundation, New York State

The Carbetz Foundation, Inc.
Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation
New York State Education Dept.
ProLiteracy Worldwide
Romance Writers of America
Verizon Foundation

The Literacy & Literature Book Auction



The Literacy & Literature project promotes the essential link between books - reading - literature and basic literacy through a silent auction of contemporary works. Literacy New York wishes to thank the following authors for generously donating signed editions of their works for the Third Annual Literacy & Literature Book Auction:

Diane Ackerman	Lee Dawson	Steven Kellogg	Steven Pinker
Betty Adcock	Gavin de Becker	Dean Koontz	Jerry Pinkney
Kim Addonizio	Virginia DeBerry	Stanley Kunitz	Robert Pinsky
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