

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

Literacy Moves Wisconsin Forward



“My goal is to provide a better living for my daughter. By watching me graduate and seeing how far I have come in life, she will better understand that there are no limits for what she can do in life too.”

C. Garcia from YWCA
Southeast Wisconsin,
member agency



wisconsin
literacy

Dear Friends

Forward, Wisconsin's state motto, rings true in characterizing Wisconsin Literacy's past year. In all four of our focus areas Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. continued expanding its reach and resources to nearly 75 member agencies, driving change and improving literacy statewide through member support, health literacy initiatives, workforce outreach, and advocacy. The results of our two-year Department of Children and Families grant exceeded expectations as over 450 students completed their GEDs, moving themselves and their families forward. By building capacity for local member agencies through needed resources, trainings, and professional development, we continuously help our members move forward in the quality of services they provide in their communities.

This year the Wisconsin Health Literacy division held its 7th Health Literacy Summit and a Medication Label Summit. Nationally recognized, this event draws health literacy experts and practitioners from around the country, providing health literacy education to communities throughout Wisconsin and the U.S. We were honored to receive national recognition for our "Let's Talk About Medicines" workshops for refugees and immigrants and again, honored to present at three consecutive meetings of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Health Literacy Roundtable on three distinct areas of our work (see photo of Steve Sparks, Health Literacy Director, on the right).



We look forward in the year ahead to finding more ways to help change lives by improving literacy statewide. We welcome your involvement as a literacy tutor, advocate, donor or volunteer to move Wisconsin forward through literacy.

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Regional Literacy Consultants at the Achieving Credentials for Success Conference.

Improving Health Literacy

Attendees at the 7th biennial 2017 Health Literacy Summit in April left committed to use what they learned to improve their work. Nine of ten said they felt energized to take the next step on a health literacy project. So, what did they actually do? In a survey conducted 3 months after the Summit:

- 6 of 10 integrated health literacy into planning, evaluation, patient safety or quality programs
- 5 of 10 made health literacy improvements to benefit vulnerable populations

Easier-to-Read Prescription Labels

Wisconsin residents receiving prescriptions at Hayat, Hometown and UW Health pharmacy sites better understand how to take their medications, thanks to easier-to-read labels introduced in partnership with Wisconsin Health Literacy. The value of this two-year project, funded by Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment of the Medical College of Wisconsin, is obvious in this story:

“My mother got pain patches for severe arthritis that told her to place the patch ‘somewhere’ on her body. When she got drowsy and started slurring her words, we found she had placed a patch everywhere she was hurting.”

A concerned daughter



Opening the summit was keynote and author Anne Fadiman (photo above), who discussed and autographed copies of her book, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Closing the summit was journalist and health education entertainer Anita Woodley (photo to the right), who shared thought-provoking character impressions.



Members & Community



Wisconsin Literacy members work hard to help learners achieve literacy and workforce gains. This year, GED recipients increased statewide from 365 to 789. This is due in good part to the funding from the Department of Children and Families. This funding, advocated by Wisconsin Literacy, provided much needed resources to agencies serving students.

“Most of our students are below the poverty line and now we can provide supplies with no cost to the participants. We are truly grateful for this opportunity from Wisconsin Literacy.”

Herb Hayden, Adult Learning
Center (pictured below)



Advocacy

Wisconsin Literacy keeps pushing the bar forward on promoting legislative and funding support for member agencies statewide. Last September, Michele Erikson joined the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) for Capital Hill Day. She met with a number of federal legislators and their aides to discuss the importance of adult education and literacy services nationally and in Wisconsin.



The support that Wisconsin Literacy members receive through advocating to the state legislature for funding from Department of Children and Families and Department of Public Instruction makes a true impact on learners' ability to move forward in life, education, and career.

Anna Bierer, Northeast Regional Consultant, hands learning materials to Carol Dussault from Literacy Council of Sheboygan County.

“The generous support we’ve received from Wisconsin Literacy has been greatly appreciated by learners and teachers as well, and furthermore, the support has made it possible for so many of the learners at UMOS to realize their goals,”

Tony Tsai, UMOS, a Wisconsin Literacy member agency.

Workforce

Wisconsin Literacy Regional Literacy Consultants have arranged meetings between their agencies and workforce development board representatives. Through this dialogue, member agencies can help learners work on the skills they need for the jobs in their communities. In turn, workforce boards can partner with the member literacy agencies to meet regional employer needs in high-demand industries to improve local economies.

“We can co-enroll adults that are ready for employment. The idea is that the workforce boards are here to employ people. If we need to educate them to get them employed, then that is part of our mission. It works beautifully for all of us.”

Gail Graham, Business Services
Coordinator for the Southwest
Workforce Development Board

▶ Member agencies exchanging collaboration ideas with Workforce Development Board Representative Gail Graham, second from the left, at the Southwest/South Central regional meeting.



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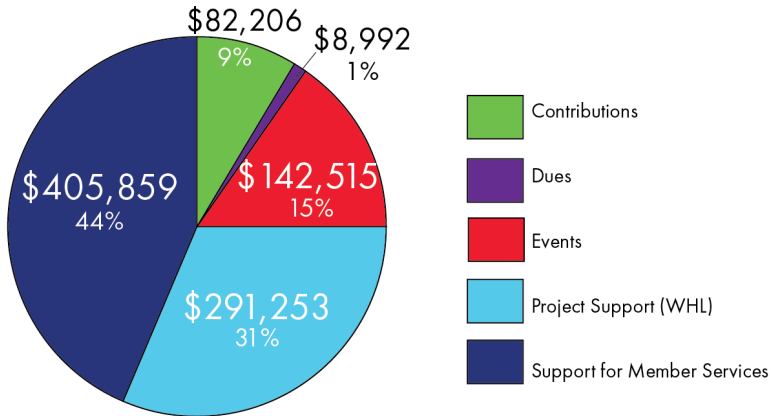
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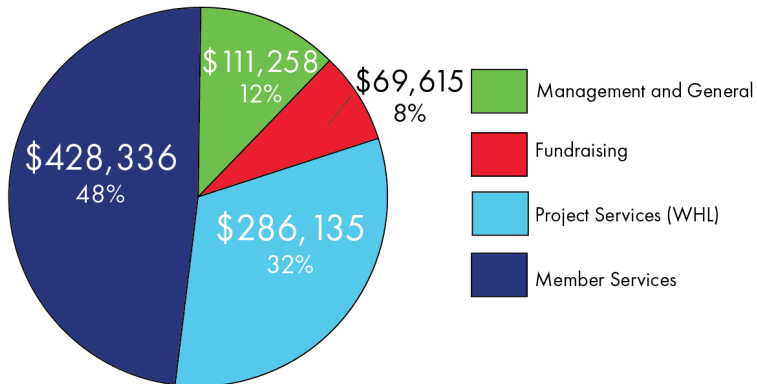
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\$930,825



Expenses

\$895,344





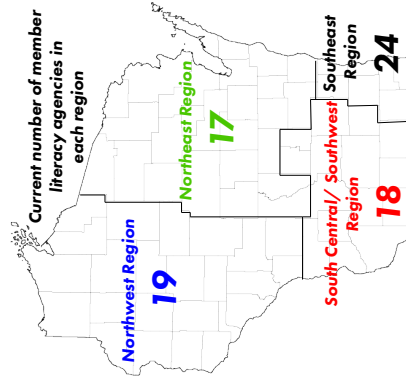
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