

221 W. Madison St. Suite #6 Eau Claire, WI 54703

www.LiteracyChippewaValley.org



Annual Report 2023-24

## FROM THE BOARD

#### Dear Friends of Literacy Chippewa Valley,

Literacy is not a destination, but a path to follow.

My own journey with Literacy Chippewa Valley began at ScrabbleBee in 2021. Then-President Allison Shepard mentioned ways we could get involved and one such opportunity caught my attention: I could be a board member. I approached Allison that evening to say I was interested and by the next week I was the group's newest addition. This year, I'm proud to serve as the President of the Board. All this to say when you hear the call to action, take it! We're always looking for new board members who are excited to advance our mission and make a difference in our community.



Students' journeys with Literacy Chippewa Valley begin with a dream. A dream to become a United States citizen, a GED holder, or an English speaker. A dream to succeed in the workplace, including after incarceration. A dream to better the future for their family. These dreams and a great amount of bravery bring students to us. They partner with instructors, tutors, and staff and they do achieve their dreams - and so much more. They are a part of something bigger. They are walking the path. I encourage you to volunteer with us and walk the path with them.

We held two successful fundraising events this year. Our inaugural trivia nite was met with great enthusiasm and we're looking forward to hosting it again. ScrabbleBee was held for the first time at The Brewing Projekt and was not only very fun but also very successful. Your generosity allows us to serve the community. Attend one of our events and if you feel particularly inspired by the important work at Literacy Chippewa Valley, we hope you will make a donation.

Finally, please stop by the new location of Literacy Chippewa Valley! You might just discover your own path with us.

With gratitude,

#### **Nicole Breed**

Student Success Librarian Chippewa Valley Technical College

### **Board of Directors**

**President:** Nicole Breed (Chippewa Valley Technical College)

Vice President/Secretary: Kate Cook (Attorney, Public Defender's Office)

**Treasurer:** Brooke Hartman (JAMF)

#### **Members:**

Macie Nietzel (Clearwater Assisted Living) Richard Coates (Wiplfi LLP)

Heather Felty (Inner Peace Press)

Brooke Hartman (JAMF)

Allison Shepard (Attorney, Shepard Law, S.C.)

Margaret Cook (Retired)

Daniel Schierenbeck (Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary)

Our Mission: Provide free education services for adults to help

## **OUR PARTNERS & STAFF**

### **Our Literacy Partners**

Altoona Public Library

**Beacon House** 

**Bolton House** 

Career Development Center

Chippewa County Jail

Chippewa Falls School District

Chippewa Falls

Chamber of Commerce

Chippewa Falls

Community Foundation

Chippewa Valley Technical College

Citizen's Employment and Training

City of Eau Claire

Community Table

**Community Foundation** 

of Dunn County

**Community Foundation** 

of Eau Claire County

**Community Foundation** 

of Chippewa County

**Dollar General Foundation** 

**Dunn County Jail** 

Eau Claire Area

Chamber of Commerce

Eau Claire Area School District

Eau Claire Community Foundation

Eau Claire County Jail

Eau Claire Friends of the Library

Eau Claire YMCA

Family Resource Center

Feed My People

Friends of the Chippewa Library

L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Lois & Arnold Domer Foundation

**Lutheran Social Services** 

Menomonie Public Library

Otto Bremer Foundation

Pro Literacy

Rutledge/Cssper Foundation

United Way of Dunn County

University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire

Volume One

Wisconsin Department

of Workforce Development

Wisconsin Department

of Public Instructions

Wisconsin Job Service

Wisconsin Literacy

Wisconsin Public Radio

Wisconsin Technical College System

Women's Giving Circle Eau Claire

Women's Giving Circle Dunn County

### **Current Staff**

Executive Director: Elizabeth Hart

Marketing Director: Aryn Widule

Eau Claire Corrections Instructor: Dawn Lueck

**Chippewa Corrections Instructor:** Aleah Sauter

**Dunn Corrections Instructor:** Aleah Sauter

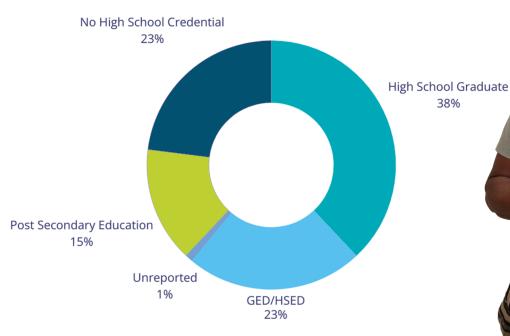
Family Literacy Instructors: Amanda Robelia, Aryn Widule

**Childcare Instructor:** Annabelle Abbe

## WHO WE SERVE

38%

STUDENTS BY EDUCATION LEVELS





**Our Students Come From All Over** The World

Democratic Republic of Congo Bangladesh El Salvador Venezuela Puerto Rico Honduras Canada Ukraine Belize Afghanistan Central African Republic





## WHAT WE DO

### **OUR CONTINUING PROGRAMS**

### **One-to-One Tutoring**

One-to-One programming provides weekly tutoring services specific to the interests and abilities of learners. Tutors focus on topics ranging from English Language Learning (ELL), math, GED/HSED acquisition, driver's license preparation and citizenship testing preparation.

#### **Corrections Education**

Our Corrections Education program operates in the Eau Claire, Dunn and Chippewa county jails. It includes "Parents Sharing Books", a program that provides donated books to the children of incarcerated individuals during the holidays. PSB would not be possible without the help of our volunteers in addition to book donations from the Chippewa Falls High School Honor Society and the La Crosse Diocese of Catholic Women.

### **Family Literacy**

Family Literacy programming provides English Language Learning (ELL) classes with onsite childcare at our Eau Claire office. We also provided classes this year at the Chippewa Falls Public library, with a variety of activities and guest speakers. Family Literacy involves education for the parents, the children, and also Parents and Children Together (PACT) activities.

### **NEW PROGRAMS**

### **Workplace Literacy**

This year LCV piloted a new program at 5 Star Dairy in Elk Mound which provided onsite ELL classes for dairy employees. Going forward we are working to improve and expand this Workplace Literacy program to bring education directly to the students at manufacturing and agricultural businesses to eliminate barriers to scheduling that prevent many adult students from furthering their education.

### **Senior Digital Literacy**

This year LCV partnered with United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley to provide Senior Digital Literacy classes throughout the Chippewa Valley and surrounding rural areas. These classes are designed meet seniors where they are, and provide education navigating their computers, the internet, and other areas of rapidly developing technology in an attempt to reduce the digital divide.

# **OUR GROWTH**

## **Annual Snapshot**

632

Total students in all programs. A record number, continuing a trend of post-pandemic growth.

9,389

Total student hours across all programs, the most since the 2017-2018 school year.

27

The number of businesses in the Chippewa Valley who employed LCV students.

33%

Percentage of Corrections Education programs student goals met out of total attempted.

51.1

The average number of class hours for students in our Family Literacy English Language Learning (ELL)





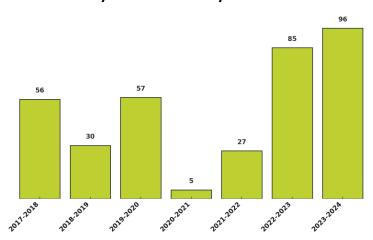




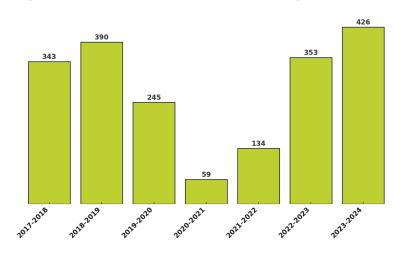
# **OUR GROWTH**



Family Literacy Students



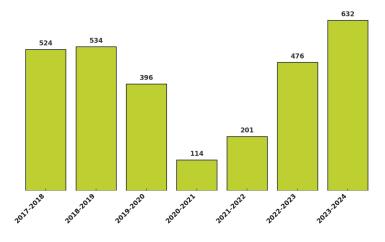
### Corrections Education Students







### Total Students



# LITERACY EVENTS









#### **ScrabbleBee**

This year's ScrabbleBee took place at Eau Claire's own Brewing Projekt, a brand new venue for our favorite event! ScrabbleBee has been LCV's biggest fundraiser for over 20 years and continues to be a success because of supporters like you.

This year's event brought in nearly \$20,000 for adult literacy education in the Chippewa Valley. How is that possible? Because of our enthusiastic players, our incredible staff and volunteers, and of course OUR AMAZING SPONSORS!

#### **Hare Division**

Winner: Wisconsin Public Radio

### **Tortoise Division**Winner: Calvin's Cadre

#### **Top Pledge:**

Winner: Calvin's Cadre (Kathy Schneider—team captain)

### **LCV Trivia Night**

In November Literacy Chippewa Valley debuted a brand new event - LCV's first ever Trivia Night at the Brewing Projekt in Eau Claire.

The event raised awareness for literacy education, brought our supporters together, and most importantly, was a ton of fun!

We're looking forward to bringing this event back this year, and hope that you'll join use for a night of friends, fun and trivial All for a good cause!







## SCRABBLEBEE SPONSORS

### THANK YOU to this year's generous sponsors!

### **Event Sponsor:**



### **Major Sponsors:**









#### **Game Sponsors:**

Clearwater Assisted Living
Xcel Energy
Northwestern Bank
Nelnet
One Automotive
Herrick & Hart, S.C.
Wipfli
Asher Lasting Exteriors

#### **Tile Sponsors:**

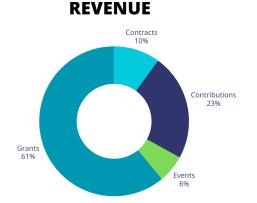
Market & Johnson Lasker Jewelers Student Transit Frandsen Bank & Trust

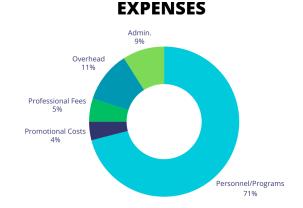
### **Sponsors:**

The Brewing Projekt Josef's Cheesecake JimBob's Pizza Clean N' Classy Car Wash

### FINANCIAL RECAP

At the end of each fiscal year, LCV invites an independent auditor to review our financial reporting. We'd like to thank CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for conducting our fiscal review. Results of the audit are presented at our November board meeting. Financial statements are available at our Eau Claire office for review by the public.





## Our Investors



Literacy Chippewa Valley is thankful for the generosity of our Investors. We strive to accurately recognize our donors. If we have omitted or incorrectly spelled your name, please do not hesitate to contact our office so that we can ensure correct recognition in the future.

#### LEGACY \$25,000 & ABOVE

Connie & Pat Ulrich Testamentary Trust

#### VISIONARY \$10,000-\$24,999

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

Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.

### BENEFACTOR \$2,000-\$4,999

Robin & Becky Drout
Community Foundation
Of Dunn County
Valerie & James Fedie
Mary & Jerry Jacobson
Charlotte & Howard Lee
Ruth & Brian Peterson
Royal Credit Union
Patricia Stoffers

Jennifer & Jason Beckermann

#### PARTNER \$1,000-\$1,999

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Student Transit
Laura & Don Talley
Winona National Bank

#### SPONSOR \$250-\$499

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Kathy Meade-Hebert
& Ed Hebert
Sally & Jack Kaiser
Kiwanis Club
of Chippewa Falls Inc.

of Chippewa Falls
Jill & Paul Kulig
Mary Spies
Mary & Thomas Sazama
Sue & Roger Tietz
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Congregation
W. S. Darley & Company
Julie & Randall Woodruff

### **SUPPORTER** \$100-\$249

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Doris Durst Eau Claire County Kelly & Stephen Endres In Honor of Heidi

& Andy Fisher Kim & Jason Frank **David Franks Betty Gertner** Mary & Peter Hable Jan & Phil Happe Mary Ann Hardebeck Karen & Dale Haymann Herbert Kohl Charities Patty & Jeff Henry Beth & Ed Hicks Sally & Lee Hofer Gretchen Hutterli Bob Ippolite Kurt Jacobson Lasker Jewelers Peggy & Alfred Jones Edla Karr In Memory of Kay Tubbs John Moseng & Sandee Kosmo Mary & Jerry Kuehl Kathy Lasker

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Susan & Brian Wagner
Judy & Brian Wier
Timothy & Shannon Young
Debra & Keith Zehms

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CONTRIBUTOR IN-KIND TO \$99

Annabelle Abbe Kathleen Anderson Judy & C.C. Anderson

Carol K. Bauer Julie & Chris Bendel Carol & Jim Benning Judith Blackstone

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Olivia Burg

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of Eau Claire Nancy & Matthew Coffey

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Avis & Jon Erickson

Whispering Emerald Ridge

Game Farm Dominic Flath

Evalyn Wiley Frasch

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Greater Chippewa Valley

Meteropolis Resort

Chaos Waterpark

Judy & Brian Wier Toni Wilson Marie Young

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"I learned lot and the teachers' attention motivates me to continue studying English until I reach the big goal and achieve my goal of speaking English. Thank you very much teachers."

-Maria

"It is the only place where I practice English with confidence. I like it because I always learn something new."

-Denissa

"I would like to say that this class is a very important class for me."

-Bai

"For me it is important to speak and understand and read."

-Juan

"Thank you for the opportunity to do your course, I love to write poetry... Being creative allows me to have fun and put things into prose... I'm currently making changes in life to be the role model that my old man was to me. The creative writing course was awesome."

-Shawn N.