ANNUAL REPORT

2023

















Adult Education & Community Enrichment Since 1985





The adult education programs at Cape Fear Literacy Council (CFLC) include Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL).

We offer FREE assessment and tailored instruction to adults through one-on-one tutoring and small classes. Each year, hundreds of adults enroll in our programs, working to improve their educational skills and achieve personal or work-related goals.

Founded in 1985, Cape Fear Literacy Council is an award-winning 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Find out more about our programs, events, and service opportunities at www.cfliteracy.org.

CFI C'S MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE PERSONALIZED EDUCATION SO ADULTS CAN TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES AND CONTRIBUTE TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

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OUR VISION

WE ENVISION A COMMUNITY WHERE ALL ADULTS HAVE THE LANGUAGE AND LITERACY SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.

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A STATEMENT FROM LEADERSHIP

Cape Fear Literacy Council's Executive Director and Board President reflect on successes and growth

Dear Friend of Literacy,

2023 proved to be a year full of exciting progress and tremendous growth for the Literacy Council.

We continue to expand and improve our programming, securing funding and personnel to re-launch our popular evening ESL classes and our Computers on Wheels (COWs) digital literacy program. In April, we were proud and grateful to host our best-attended and most successful Literacy Luncheon ever! From the inspiring speakers to the incredible fellowship among the 400+ guests to the overwhelming financial support, it was a wonderful event in every way. We can't wait to celebrate with you again at our 2024 Luncheon on April 23, featuring National Book Award winner Jason Mott. There is more information on our website about this event and more.

Last year saw several staffing changes at CFLC: Joey Jackson joined the program team in a new role dedicated to improving our community outreach and strengthening our partnerships. Emily Mitchell has recently hit the ground running as the new full-time Development Director, as our beloved Erin Payne leaves us after a decade of service. Lastly, thanks to the generous support of the New Hanover County Endowment, we have contracted a strategic consultant to help us plan for future growth.

CFLC's leadership team continues to strengthen and diversify as we welcomed new board members Karin Carson, Marrio Jeter, Caleb Rash, and Alondra Vazquez. We would like to thank Alex Umstead-Wrenn for her extraordinary impact as board president over the past two years, and we are grateful that she will remain on the board for a little while longer!

Our work is not done, and as we reflect on a busy year, we are confident that we are laying today's groundwork to meet tomorrow's challenges. Thank you for being part of the CFLC community; we could not do our good work without your support!

Yasmin Shah Tomkinson
Executive Director

Cambine

Caroline Scorza
Board President











PROGRAMS

ADULT LITERACY & ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Cape Fear Literacy Council provides free and confidential instruction to adults — age 18 and older — who have educational goals that are personal or academic.

We offer 1-on-1 tutoring and small classes for:

- Reading, Writing, and Math
- Digital Literacy
- English as a Second Language
- GED® and Test Preparation
- U.S. Citizenship Exam Preparation

Our programs rely on volunteers to help adult learners in the region. We offer tutor training workshops throughout the year, both in-person and online.

For information about becoming a volunteer tutor in either of our programs, find details online at cfliteracy.org or email info@cfliteracy.org.



2022-2023 PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

CAPE FEAR LITERACY COUNCIL IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023.

This report highlights the results and achievements of our programs in serving adult learners in the Wilmington community.





"The public needs to know that we are not here at the Literacy Council because we are ignorant or simple-minded.

We are here to learn and to expand our lives.
There should be no stigma associated
with coming to CFLC!"

-Adult Learner





STUDENTS

382 STUDENTS SERVED

INSTRUCTION

11,117 TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

TESTING

75%
OF POST-TESTED
STUDENTS
SHOWED
MEASURABLE
PROGRESS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

99%
OF STUDENTS
WITH 40+ HOURS
REPORTED A
POSITIVE
LIFE-CHANGE

- 43% were new intakes
- 92% of students initially tested at 8th grade or below
- 19% were aged 60+
- 37% had dependents
- ESL students came from 41 countries and spoke 29 different languages

- 38% of students studied online at some point
- CFLC offered 36 classes and had 180 active tutor-student pairs
- 112 students reported studying digital literacy
- 40 students studied for Citizenship

- 80% of students tested in Reading, 9% in Math, and 16% in Language and Writing
- 22% of ESL students were so advanced they tested in Adult Literacy levels
- 98 Northstar digital literacy tests were given; 52 Northstar literacy certificates were earned



- 88% of students with specific academic goals reported progress
- 32 students reported getting new or better jobs
- 12 served as volunteers
- 105 increased financial literacy/consumer skills
- 143 improved health literacy
- 6 students achieved a complete GED
- 6 students transitioned to postsecondary education
- 2 earned Bachelor's Degrees
- 1 earned an IT Certification
- 1 completed a Real Estate Certification
- 15 students earned U.S. Citizenship

"I am new here from Colombia. I've lost my wife and daughter so now it's only me and my other daughter who attends Gregory school. She's 11 years old.

I'm grateful the classes are free because I really need this help.

I need to learn English so that I can get a better job to provide for my daughter."

-ESL Student

"My student has been speaking English in public and at home for many years, but she never learned how to read or write in English.

Today at the library, she surprised us both because she actually read... and wrote.

'I'm reading!' she exclaimed with pride, surprise and enthusiasm. In the past year, she went up three grade levels on her test! It is amazing to see her confidence bloom."

-ESL Tutor

"I just wanted to thank you all for being here, for supporting me in getting my GED, for changing my life.

I got a job; I'm a college student now.

And you being here and keeping me on task really made that happen. I wouldn't be where I am today without your help."

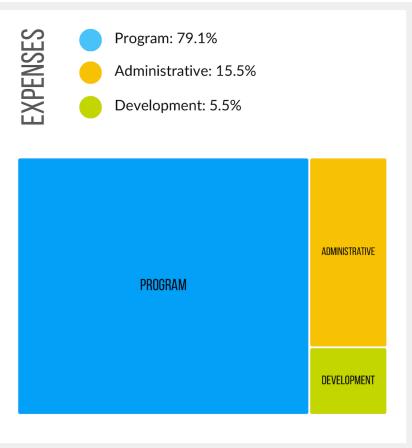
-AL Student

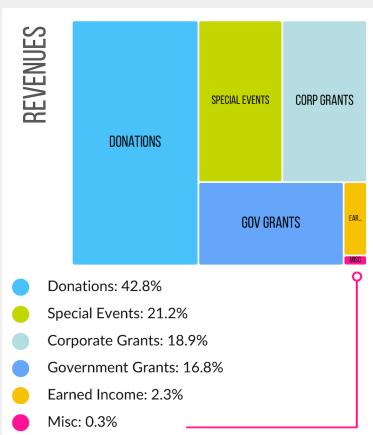
ANNUAL FUND GIVING & FINANCIALS

With the help and support of our donors, sponsors, and community partners, the Cape Fear Literacy Council works to address one of the most critical silent crises of our age: adult low literacy. We are the only educational institution in the area that provides FREE, individualized adult education services.

Our organization could not exist without volunteers. Last year, 160 volunteer tutors/teachers invested 10,697 hours of service to benefit our students. (Independent Sector valued this contribution at \$340,165.) 100% of our support stays local. Our supporters' ROI is 33 to 1 — every \$1 invested in literacy programs has a \$33 benefit to our regional economy. [*ProLiteracy*]

2023 FISCAL YEAR STATISTICS - UNAUDITED





LEADERSHIP GIVING: THE LITERACY TRUST

382 lives transformed.

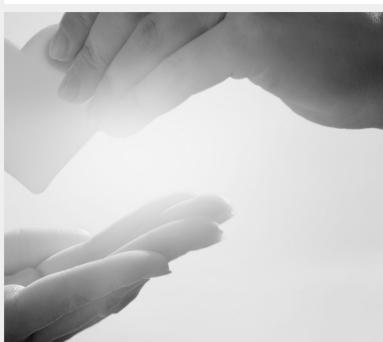
That's the impact hundreds of supporters made possible in 2023 through CFLC's programs.

Membership isn't just a donation, it's a partnership. Members of the Literacy Trust, with their unwavering annual contributions of \$500+ for 5 years, fuel our mission and become champions for change.

Ready to be a part of something bigger?

Join the Literacy Trust.

Visit www.cfliteracy.org/donate to learn more about membership levels and the difference you can make.



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^{***} Platinum Members, \$2,500 level







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EARNED INCOME

Amazon Bookseller – Friends of Literacy CFLC Merchandise – Bonfire

THIRD PARTY SUPPORT

"12 Days of Giving" – Perry's Emporium

"Literacy for All" T-shirts - Wiley Cash

"Together in Education" - Harris Teeter

Book Sales - Hi-Wire Brewery

Dinner with Author Inez Rubistello - PinPoint Restaurant

Ice Cream Social - Dairy Queen

Monthly Book Swaps - Wilmington Brewing Company

Signature Beers - Bill's Brewing Company

Staff Event - James E. Moore Insurance

Wave Market - the Pointe

Wilmington Sharks Baseball Game – Excite Credit Union Workday – Noah Tatum, Eagle Scouts, and Downtown

Wilmington

Rotary Club

GRANT AWARDS

Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

Arts Council of Wilmington & New Hanover County

Camber Foundation

Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation

Champion McDowell Davis Charitable Foundation

City of Wilmington

Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation

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United Way of the Cape Fear Area - Capacity Building Grant

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The Cape Fear Literacy Council and our partners host fabulous annual events in the greater Wilmington area!

From the Luncheon for Literacy in the spring and the Adult Story Hour speaker series in the fall to our monthly book swaps and semi-annual book sales, we offer events for all ages and interests.

You're invited to attend any of our fundraising events and directly support CFLC's programs and the goals of the adult learners who enroll each year.



CONSIDER PLANNED GIVING:

Support today. Impact generations to come.

Imagine a future where all adults in the Cape Fear area has the power of literacy at their fingertips.

By leaving a legacy through your planned gift, you will ensure that thousands more adults can access the essential skills they need to thrive in our community.

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Teach an adult. Inspire the world to change.

Adults across our region need help to gain basic literacy, language, math, or computer skills that will enable them to succeed as workers, parents, and community citizens.

When adults reach their educational goals, their families and communities grow stronger!

With the critical support of our dedicated volunteers, we can make a difference.

Volunteers are vital to the success of Cape Fear Literacy Council's students and programs.

They bring optimism and enthusiasm, create positive energy, and share diverse perspectives that lead to enhanced learning outcomes for students.

LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING!



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