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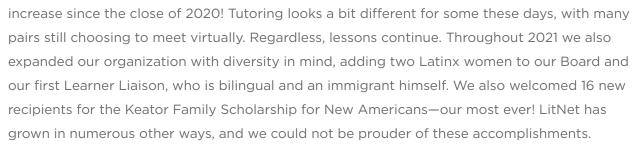
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DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for making 2021 an outstanding 30th anniversary year for LitNet. Though some things have changed over these 30 years, our mission has remained steadfast. Together, we have grown into a network of committed volunteers and dedicated community members who are transforming the Berkshires into a place where everyone can succeed.

As of this writing, more than 145 active tutor-learner pairs are engaged in one-on-one tutoring—a 39%



You have been integral to our growth. Thanks to the generous financial support from our donors and the generous gift of talent from our volunteer tutors, LitNet has made positive impacts on the lives of learners, empowering them to transform their lives. Together, we exceeded our goal set for our 2021 annual fund, which provides us the means to do our important educational and advocacy work on behalf of our Berkshire community.

Your support has allowed us to keep the lights on and the warmth radiating as we continue to grow and serve our immigrant and adult learner community. As LitNet learner Rosi recently put it: "Being part of the LitNet program involves a lot more than learning English. It is also a way to learn about American life, be a part of a new community, and to feel like you belong."

Sincerely,

Leigh Doherty

Executive Director

Last Dry

Merle Duskin Kailas

President, Board of Directors

Mun Il Mi



THE LITNET UMBRELLA

HOW ONE LEARNER'S EDUCATION CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

Gloria Escobar moved to the United States from Colombia in 2000. Knowing no English, Gloria started meeting with a LitNet tutor the week she moved here and has been working with tutors ever since. She now works as a financial wellness coach and often works with other LitNet learners starting out on their own journeys in this country. Last year, she helped two LitNet learners purchase their first home together. As is the case for many LitNet learners, Gloria's empowerment works as an umbrella, uplifting other immigrants by helping them learn financial literacy and become established citizens in their adopted country. For these reasons and so much more. LitNet chose to honor Gloria last year at our 30th anniversary celebration. Below is Gloria's honoree speech in full—a beautiful testament to the transformative power of literacy.

Today, I want and I can say "Thank you."
I couldn't say this word twenty years ago,
when I didn't know how to pronounce "th."
After practicing and practicing, I can do that
now. Thank you. Thank you for this honor.

When I think about how invisible I felt during the slow process of speaking and understanding English, a life-changing event comes to mind. I will never forget about September 11, 2001. I was at work at Housatonic Curtains when suddenly everyone was shouting and making phone calls. I thought I had done something terrible and



that they were talking about me. All day I felt anxious and nervous, but no one would engage with me. It wasn't until I got home and heard the news in Spanish that I learned about the terrorist attacks. Not knowing English was embarrassing. I couldn't say what I needed to say anywhere: at work, at appointments, at the bank, at my children's school. Without language, I felt tense, stressed, voiceless, frustrated.

I went to the Lee Library the first week we moved here and soon was meeting with a Literacy Network tutor. LitNet tutors have worked with me all these years. At one point, the director arranged for me to have a conversational English language tutor and an additional tutor to help me with the banking vocabulary. My husband and I worked with LitNet tutors to prepare for citizenship, which we achieved in 2011. I am still in school, working with a tutor and finishing my Business Administration degree at Berkshire Community College.

Today, I love my work as a financial wellness
Latinx coach with an office at Greylock
Federal Credit Union's Empowerment Center.
I have the opportunity to work with the immigrant community, helping people reach their financial goals. In the last five years, I have become a certified credit union financial counselor, a notary public, a certified accepting agent for the individual taxpayer identification number. I helped Greylock to become a member of Juntos Avanzamos (Together We Advance), a national organization for inclusivity and community development.

LitNet has truly changed my life. I have a voice now. Thank you.

Thank you to all the tutors that LitNet provided me for twenty years. These tutors not only teach me how to write, read, and pronounce the English language—they have been my friends, my support, and my guidance during my journey in this country. LitNet has truly changed my life. I have a voice now. Thank you.

WATCH GLORIA'S VIDEO HERE:



"Thank you so much for working hard in favor of vulnerable groups of people in our community. Everyone in my family is so grateful for everything you have done for us."

Jose

"The more my English improves, the more my confidence also improves."

Octavio

"LitNet provided a new path for me that made my life meaningful."

Weiwei

"LitNet has helped me tremendously over the years. The staff never asks the question, 'Why do you want to have a tutor?' They never say, 'That's your limit, let's give space to another student.' I'm grateful for that because I believe we never stop learning."

Sylvana

"LitNet was the first step on my journey to become who I am today."

Diana

"My LitNet tutors have had so much patience and have supported me throughout my journey. They are not only tutors, they are part of a wonderful family of people at LitNet."

Martha

"I feel that learning in LitNet has helped me with working with my own kids and has given me a better understanding of interactions with other people as well. I feel like I'm really starting to know what I am talking about!"

- Maria

TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR 30 YEARS - ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HELD AT THE BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN



















TOGETHER WE GROW, THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY!

THIS LIST INCLUDES SUPPORTERS WHO GAVE TO LITNET FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021.

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Tom's Toys

IN 2021, 87% OF LITNET'S LEARNERS WORKED ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS, 8% WORKED TOWARD U.S. CITIZENSHIP, AND 5% WORKED ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION.

THE CHALLENGE

LITNET'S SOLUTION

In 2021, LitNet





Only **53%** of immigrants in MA are proficient in English, and over **1** million adults cannot read, write, or do math above the third-grade level.



Celebrated the success of more than **100** learners who improved English reading, speaking, and comprehension skills.



Individuals without a high school diploma earn **3** times less and tend to work in lower wage jobs.



Expanded tutoring activity by **39%**, growing to **143** tutor-learner pairs by the end of the year!



3 out of **4** undocumented workers have frontline jobs in MA and are vulnerable to wage discrimination.



Awarded **16** Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Scholarships for New Americans in 2021, for a total of **23** since its inception in 2019.



GROW WITH US! LITNET NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

VOLUNTEER TO BE A TUTOR

LitNet is always seeking tutors in the areas of ESOL, U.S. citizenship test preparation, adult basic education, and/or high school equivalency test preparation. Tutors can choose to meet with their learners in-person or virtually.

SEE OUR TRAVELING PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Our traveling exhibit, Transforming Lives for 30 Years, highlights the journey of some of LitNet's past and present learners. These black and white portraits (such as the one of Gloria Escobar on page 4) were taken by Berkshire area photographer Julie W. McCarthy. Personally written stories accompany the portraits. Transforming Lives will be on exhibit at the Berkshire Immigrant Center for the month of April and 18 Degrees for May. See our website for the full schedule.

ROUND UP FOR LITNET!

LitNet will be the Berkshire Food Co-op "Round Up for Change" recipient for the month of May in Great Barrington, MA.

SAVE THE DATE

LitNet's annual fundraising celebration will be held on September 17, 2022!

DONATE

LitNet relies on the generosity of individual donors, local businesses, and foundations to advance our mission. LitNet can accept donations of cash, check, or securities.

CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Literacy Network of South Berkshire 100 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238 or visit **WWW.LITNETSB.ORG/DONATE** to give online or scan this QR code:



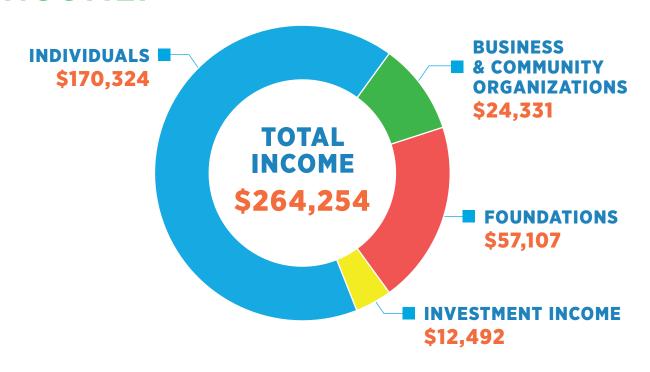
CONTACT

For further information, please visit WWW.LITNETSB.ORG or contact us at INFO@LITNETSB.ORG or at (413) 243-0471.

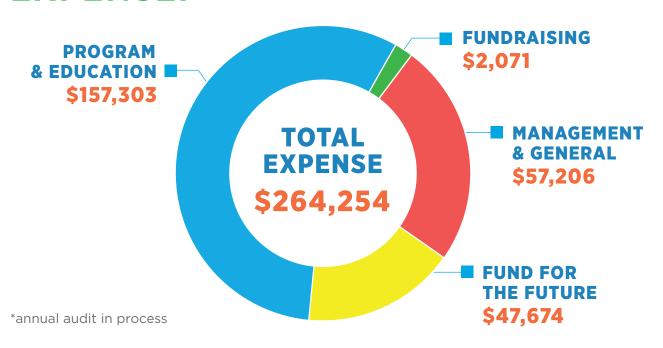


FISCAL YEAR 2021*

INCOME:



EXPENSE:





OUR VISION

An engaged, welcoming, and literate Berkshire community

OUR MISSION

To transform the lives of adult learners, both immigrant and U.S.-born, through the power of literacy, education, and advocacy.

WHAT WE DO

LitNet provides free, individualized, one-on-one instruction in reading, high school equivalency test preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and citizenship test preparation. Our professional staff and trained team of volunteer tutors offer generalized educational support and promote access to a network of community resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

We believe everyone has a right to an education.

We believe in the power of literacy to transform lives.

We believe challenges in life and learning should

be met with patience and flexibility.

We believe a connected community

is a stronger community.

LITERACY NETWORK OF SOUTH BERKSHIRE

100 MAIN STREET LEE, MA 01238



FPO

