

Literacy Volunteers Androscoggin



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



A United Way Agency



A Nationally Accredited
Affiliate of Pro Literacy America

An Auburn CDBG supported program

A Message from Chairperson Sharon Deveau Handy

As Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin wraps up another year of service to our community, I am proud to recap the past year, which presented challenges as we navigated the pandemic. We have many success stories to brag about as we enter our 49th year.

Although COVID cases waned during the year, the virus remained an unpredictable adversary, forcing our agency to adjust quickly and often without notice. In the two years since the pandemic, LVA has expanded its ability to offer virtual tutoring services through Zoom. We also have resumed in-person tutoring sessions with clients who are vaccinated.

We did see a significant drop in the number of students because of the pandemic. We served 55 students in 2021 and our current enrollment is 65. Despite the lower numbers, enthusiasm and learning are as high as ever. We added four new students in May, two of whom were from Ukraine. These new students bring our total of countries served to 45.

A \$7,000 donation from Central Maine Power Foundation aimed at helping our students increase their skills with technology. We recently hired Domingo Chelliette, a technical assistant who has set up three new laptops that will be lent to students.

As always, we are deeply grateful for the support that we have received from businesses, foundations and donors from throughout Androscoggin County.

WMTW-TV remains a steadfast supporter of LVA, serving as our media partner for our largest fundraiser, Scrabble Fest. After a two-year hiatus, Scrabble Fest returned in April and thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsorships and player pledges, raised a record-setting \$7,326!

For the second consecutive year, an anonymous donor through Maine Community Foundation has given \$10,000 for operating expenses. Our largest donor is Androscoggin United Way, which awarded LVA \$22,000 for 2022/23.

Serving as chair of the Board of Directors for the past six years has been my honor and privilege. LVA students, with their tutors guiding them are working diligently behind the scenes to improve their literacy skills and their lives. I want to convey my deep admiration and respect for our hard-working staff and dedicated board members. Their resolve was, and continues to be, tested by the pandemic but by working together, we have made great strides. I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in the next 12 months.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we salute the dedication of our students, staff, volunteers, and tutors, who make our work come to life.

With warm regards,



Sharon Deveau Handy, Chair
2021/22 Board of Directors

Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin Executive Director's Report for 2021/2022
Celebrating Courage, Commitment & Resiliency

Dear Friends,

Today marks the third consecutive year that we have not met in person to honor the accomplishments of our volunteers and students. We miss the opportunity to spend time with all of you remarkable people and celebrate the life-changing achievements that your perseverance and hard work have made possible.

Despite all of the challenges that the pandemic presented, I am happy to report that over 95% of the students that met consistently with their tutors increased their skills in reading, writing, math and/or English conversation. Volunteers and students navigated the complexity of moving from in-person instruction, to virtual, and back again as Covid19 cases waxed and waned. Many students were juggling two or three jobs and raising families, and they still made time to work on and achieve their goals

In recognition of their efforts, here are a few highlights provided by our tutors:

“She qualified for advanced math, advanced English and Success to College classes through Lewiston Adult Education, and her English conversation skills are growing.”

“She is gaining fluency in speaking, reading, writing, and English conversation and she is ready to apply for a job,”

He said, “I paid attention to the road signs and I read them. Before I used buildings and other things as ways to remember how to get somewhere. Now I read the signs!”

“She was able to enter adult education courses, working towards her High Set and plans to train for CNA and then study to become a nurse.”

“Her overall confidence and comfort with English is through the roof!”

A welcome addition to our program this year was a technology grant from Central Maine Power. Three laptops were purchased and combined with two others donated by a local business, giving us five computers that we could lend to students. We were also able to hire Domingo Cheleuitte, who has a BA in Computer Science and two years experience working with students in Augusta LV's Digital Literacy Project. Domingo set-up the new computers and will maintain them remotely, as well as provide virtual support and instruction for students that want to learn more about the technology. This year, the laptops will be available for learners that need them for employment related goals.

So many skilled volunteers, from board members, to tutor trainers, mentors, and community partners, donated their time and talent to make this challenging year successful. Many thanks to all of you for sharing your gifts. Your efforts are life-changing.

With Respect and Best Regards,
Tahlia Chamberlain, Executive Director

Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin 2021-2022

Board of Directors

Officers

Sharon Handy – Chairperson
Rita James – Treasurer
Judy Vardamis – Secretary

Members

Hope Heath
Cecile Thornton
Sara Turner
Lisa Ward

Advisors

Robert Gardner
Charles Morrison
Marcela Peres

Staff

Tahlia Chamberlain – Executive Director
Joyce Bucciantini – Educator
Lynn Busch – Educator
Doningo Chelelutte - Educator
Sally Lunt – Assistant to the Director

Mission Statement

Literacy Volunteers provides free, one-on-one tutoring and other educational services to help adults in Androscoggin County acquire the basic reading, writing, and math skills they need to enhance their lives and achieve their personal goals.

LV-A DONORS

Androscoggin County
United Way

FOUNDATIONS

Auburn CDBG
Central Maine Power
Literacy Opportunity Fund
Maine Community Foundation
Donor Advised Fund –
Anonymous

BUSINESSES

Androscoggin Bank
Austin Associated, PA
Central Maine FCU
Community FCU
Community Little Theatre
Dirigo FCU
DownEast Magazine
Franco Center
Lisbon Community FCU
Maine Awards/Rogue Wear
Maine Family FCU
Marden's
Meservier & Associates
Mike's Carts
Norway Savings Bank
Optometric Associates
Poland Spring Bottling
The Public Theatre
Roopers
Starbucks
Wei Li Restaurant
Wicked Illustrations
WMTW Channel 8 TV

INDIVIDUALS

Valerie Austin
Shirley & David Babb – in
Memory of Dick Babb
Rachel & Albert Beliveau
Janet & Frederick Bishop
Donna & Ronald Bissonnette
Dorothy & Robert Bowyer
Thomas Boyer
Carmen & Richard Castonguay –
in Memory of Kirk
Castonguay
Marjorie Clifford – in Memory of
Peter Clifford
Clementina & Robert Clifford
Marty Corey
Paula Connor-Crouch & John
Crouch
Rick Diamond
Sheila Drake
Trena Dubois
Cynthia & Peter Elias
Charlotte Engelman
Jane & David Erickson
Bob Gardner
Judith Gervais
David Gonyea
Joel Goodman – In memory of
Shirley Goodman
Marion Goyette
Jan Phillips & Dennis Grafflin
Sharon & Ronald Gray
Nancy & Stuart Greene
Robert Grieshaber
Toby Haber
Alice & David Haines
Sharon & Jim Handy
Lena Hann – in Memory of
Wayne and Joe Bagushinski
Melanie Hatfield
Hope Heath
Nina Hicks
John & Eric Hopkins
Rita James
Cy & Gail Kendricks
Lynn & Gary Knight
Cynthia Larock

Lynda LeonWas – in Memory of
Ruth Weymouth

Katherine & Dana Little
Laurie Lopez
Bonnie & Ben Lounsbury
Susan Martin
Judith & Philip Meyer
Christopher Meyer – in Honor
of Judy Meyer
Richard Morhauser – in Memory
of Jeannette Morhauser
Charles Morrison
Tara O'Leary
Marjorie & Jon Oxman
Marj Patrick
Malcolm Philbrook
Flo Poulin
Cilla & Ray Potter
Susan Reilly
Susan Rowe & Carl Guignard
Glenys Ryder
Robin & David Selditz – in
Honor of Everton Bailey
Diane Sleek
Elizabeth & David Shea
Pete Small
Lisa Smith
Whitman Smith
Suzie & Don Stover
Jacqueline & Richard Strong
Joseph Surace
Bette Thibeault – in Memory of
Nancy Baker
Cecile Thornton – in Memory
Dennis Connelly
– in Memory of the Girvin
Family
Sara Turner
Ralph Tuttle
Suzanne Tymoczko
Judy Vardamis
Melissa Veilleux
Edward Walworth
Lisa Ward
Sally Wilson – in Memory of
Edith M. Johnson

LV-A VOLUNTEERS

20 YEARS OR MORE

Marty Corey
Thelma Cunningham
Nancy Daniels
Trena Dubois
Suzie Stover

15 YEARS OR MORE

Norm Chamberlain
Linda Connelly
Nancy Daniels
Rita James
Irene Noyes
Susan Reilly
Pete Small

10 YEARS OR MORE

Wendy Ambrose
Elizabeth Eames
Sharon Gray
Jim Handy
Sharon Handy
Perrin Lumbert
Ginny Marczak
Amy McDonough
Marcia Mullen
Jan O'Brien
Bob Pelletier
Anna Robbins

9 YEARS OR MORE

Susan Onion
Marcela Peres
Elizabeth Scott

8 YEARS OR MORE

Mary Callahan
Justin Leary
Barbara Marston
Sue Rowe

7 YEARS OR MORE

Jane Brodsky
Daniel Hamann
Jo-Jean Keller
Suzanne LaFlamme
David Selditz
Judy Vardamis

6 YEARS OR MORE

Barbara Connell
Susan Lea
Anita Plourde
Lisa Ward

5 YEARS OR MORE

Roberta Beal
Leslie Brown
Mel Cloutier
Mary Crockett
Lily Greene
Stuart Greene
Lena Hann
Ben Lounsbury
Gina Melaragno
Marj Patrick
Bettyann Sheats
Dawn Ward

4 YEARS OR MORE

Gail Brown
Sara Boss
Joyce Bucciantini
Pat Doustot
Sandy Dyer
Ann Tartre
Lindsey Walker
Fredda Wolfe

3 YEARS OR MORE

Ann Adams
Lynn Busch
David Chittim
Carmen Hunter
Terri Lutian
Forreste McCormick
Roben Selditz
Carol St. Pierre
Paula White

2 YEARS OR MORE

Donna Buck
Stephen Burger
Elizabeth Couchesne
Renee Igo
Heritier Nosso
Cecile Thornton
Keena Tracy

1 YEAR OR MORE

Jane Costlos
Hope Heath
Bette Johnson
Carol Rice
Cary Sibole

NEW IN 2021/22

Susan Charle
Julie McCabe
Peggy Rotundo
Sara Turner

Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin

Board of Directors Candidates for 2022/2023

Officers

Sharon Handy – Chairperson

Rita James – Treasurer

Judy Vardamis – Secretary

Members at Large

Hope Heath

Jacynthe Jacques

Cecile Thornton

Lisa Ward