



# LITERACY COUNCIL of Fort Bend County

## 2016-2017 Annual Report | Through Your Support, We Are Changing Lives

### Meet Laura Bush, GED MATH TEACHER

I started teaching GED Math classes at the Literacy Council 14 years ago in January 2004, and I have loved every minute of it. As a certified math teacher, I am well aware that Math is not the favorite subject of the majority of the students. I know that everyone can succeed with the right kind of help. I've had a student tell me that I helped her overcome her fear of math. She had long thought of math as "plague and pestilence," but I was able to help her put all that aside and pass her GED test.

Teaching GED classes at the Literacy Council has been a blessing for me as well. I get to see the proud smiles on students' faces when they come back to tell me that they have passed the test. **I am happy and pleased that I have had an opportunity to be a part of helping students reach their goals of passing the GED and moving on in their future endeavors.**

### Meet Kathe Eggert, GED MATH TEACHER

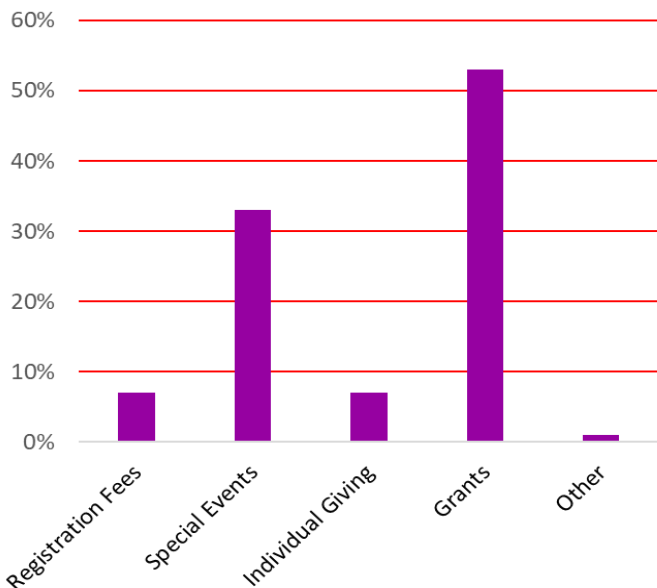
I attended tutor training at the Literacy Council in May 2013 thinking I would be helping someone learn how to read. However, a few weeks later, I found myself in front of a classroom of students who were looking to me to help them review and get prepared for taking the GED math test. More than four years later, I have gone on to tutor both fall and spring classes of Pre-GED as well as GED level math both at the Sugar Land Learning Center and at an outreach site as well as continuing to lead a summer review class. It is thrilling to see how our students support and encourage one another – students ranging from 18 to 68 years of age with backgrounds as diverse as the Fort Bend County population. For many, they are overcoming life-long fears of math and are finding ways to apply their new skills. **Tuesday is now my**

### Meet Helen Ervin, GED ENGLISH TEACHER

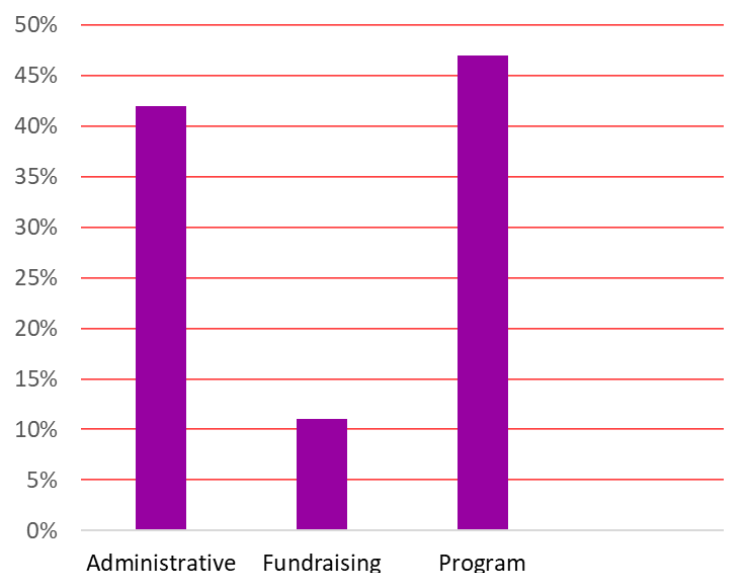
I began teaching GED classes at the Literacy Council in August of 2013. On Thursdays, I teach two 3-hour classes. In these classes, I teach the reading, writing, and test-taking skills needed to pass the GED. I approach every class day with specifically prepared lessons with the hope that I will instill not only skills needed for the tests, but that I will reinforce confidence and an "I can do this" attitude in each and every student. When friends ask about what I do at Literacy Council, I tell them I teach GED classes to the best students I have ever taught. I cannot express the joy I have found in working with such impressive adults. I learn from them as they share their personal stories, cultures, motivations, and interests. **I am truly blessed to be a part of the Literacy Council and enjoy the wonderful students I encounter each day.**

## Fiscal Year Income & Expenses

### Income



### Expenses





Dear Friend of Literacy,

Fiscal Year 2017 was a year of goal setting focusing on workforce readiness and measurable progression for our students. We continue to strive to find better ways to fulfill our mission of improving family, community, and professional lives through adult literacy education. Our programs were further enhanced through our Community Based Job Training Program and our Transitions Program. In an effort to encourage our students to “graduate” from our programs, 96 of our upper-level English language students graduated from our programs to post-secondary education, workforce readiness, volunteer tutoring, or self-guided learning groups. Through the help of

our generous supporters who volunteer their time, talents, and resources, we can make this happen, and you are included in the team that makes this happen.

Through collaboration with Houston Community College, 36 of our students obtained certifications in General Office Support or Medical Office Billing. Thank you for supporting our adult students, staff, and volunteers in their efforts to meet the needs within our communities. Our students are self-motivated to better their situations in life. No one makes them come to the Literacy Council. Our students come to us because they have admitted to themselves that they need to improve their

literacy skills.

**You help us change lives every day. We could not do what we do without you,** and we hope you will be inspired by the stories you read in this report. These students are your friends, neighbors and fellow community members. Their success benefits them, their families, their employers, and our entire community. Please come by and see us at the Sugar Land Learning Center. We would enjoy showing you around.

Changing lives everyday,

Executive Director

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ?**

**Call or email me any time!**

**Kelli Metzenthin**  
Executive Director  
281-240-8181 Phone  
[kmetzenthin@ftbendliteracy.org](mailto:kmetzenthin@ftbendliteracy.org)

**Meet Literacy Council Student, Ozlem**

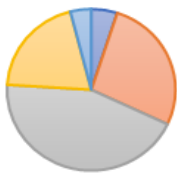
*Ozlem first joined the Literacy Council as an ESL student in 2014, after relocating to Sugar Land from her home in Turkey. Ozlem immigrated to the United States with her children, while her husband remained home to work, so her classes provided welcomed opportunities for English skill building and social connection. As a student, Ozlem participated in over 600 hours of classroom instruction and graduated from the ESL program in July 2017. Since then, Ozlem has returned to the Literacy Council and now co-tutors an ESL Reading and Writing class. Her son has also volunteered his time as an office assistant and translator for Turkish students. Ozlem is a role model for new students and tutors alike.*



**We are so proud of all that Ozlem has accomplished!**

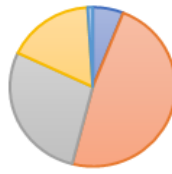
**Student Demographics**

**Ethnicity**



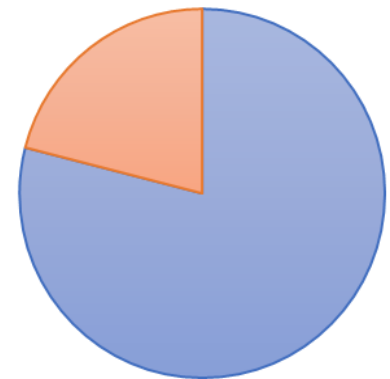
- African American 5%
- Asian 27%
- Hispanic 44%
- White 20%
- Not Available 4%

**Age**



- Adults 18-24
- Adults 25-44
- Adults 45-59
- Adults 60 & Older
- Not Available 1%

**Gender**



- Female 79%
- Male 21%

## Community Support

### \$35,000 and Up

The George Foundation  
Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation  
Madison Charitable Foundation

### \$15,000 - \$34,999

Charles A. Frueauff Foundation  
Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation  
Houston Endowment  
Wells Fargo

### \$14,999—\$5,000

CenterPoint Energy  
Comcast  
Brenda and Danny Durand  
Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Fort Bend Junior Service League  
Houston Federal Credit Union  
Johnson Development Corporation  
NRG Employee Charitable Fund  
Rangeland Energy  
Richard and Paula Ruskan Family Foundation  
Sugar Land Rotary Foundation  
Williams Stamps Farish Fund  
Mary Walker and Jim Rice

### \$1,500—\$4,999

Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP  
C&M Favre Foundation  
Carpenter & Carpenter, P.C.  
Isabel and Rich Chandler  
Classic Chevrolet Sugar Land  
Exchange Club of Fort Bend  
Exchange Club of Sugar Land  
Exxon Mobil Foundation  
Fort Bend Herald  
Halcon Resources  
HEB Corporate  
Karen and Alan Harding  
Pat and County Judge Bob Hebert  
Michelle and Bill Hickl  
Gena and Paul Horak  
Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital  
Indo American Forum of Fort Bend  
InterChem USA Incorporated  
Shashi and Harish Jajoo  
LearningRX Brain Training Center-Sugar Land  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Mitchell & Duff, LLC  
NALCO Champion  
OakBend Medical Center  
Debbie and Chris Patton  
Angela M. Pfeiffer, Ph.D  
Rice & Gardner Consultants, Inc.  
Roberts Markel Weinberg Butler Hailey, P.C.  
Arlene and Len Rolsen  
Debbie and Bill Schwer  
Terri and Steve Smith  
TaxTech, Inc.  
The Murillo Company  
Lucile Thompson

### \$1,500—\$4,999 (continued)

TruCore Business Development/  
Laura and Rob Thompson  
University of Houston—Sugar Land  
Wynn and Mary Geiger Foundation

### \$1,000—\$1,499

CJG Engineering  
Clark Cooper Concepts  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Fort Bend Community Church  
Fort Bend Toyota  
Frost Bank  
Gurecky Manufacturing Service, Inc.  
Emily and Victor Hendrix  
McGrath & Company, PLLC  
Monica and Daniel Rayburn  
RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance Company  
Dr. Sharon Hymes and Michael Schiff  
Sterling McCall Lexus  
Texas Instruments Foundation  
TRUist  
The Shell Oil Company Foundation  
Karla and Gregory Vesey  
WJ Interests, LLC

### \$750—\$999

Chevron Matching Employee Funds  
Fort Bend Independent School District  
Kendra Scott Design, Inc.  
Linbeck Engineering  
Living Word Lutheran  
Jim McClellan  
Memorial Hermann Sugar Land  
PrimeWay Federal Credit Union  
Roberta K. Randall Charitable Foundation  
Sugar Land Skeeters

### \$500—\$749

Amegy Bank  
Berg-Oliver Associates  
Sandra and Bill Billingsley  
Mary Gayle Brindley  
Costello, Inc.  
Talib Dhanji  
Direct Energy  
EE Reed Construction  
Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Community  
Fort Bend-Wharton County Thrivent Financial  
Dr. Mary and Peter Jackson  
Pam and Kevin Johnson  
Rosemary Jones  
Knox Cox and Co., LLP  
Dee Koch  
Liquid Frameworks  
Thelma and John Loper  
Kelli and Steve Metzenthin  
Regina and Commissioner Vincent Morales  
Suzanne Mottin  
Shayne and Judge David Newell  
Nancy and Congressman Pete Olson  
Post Oak Bank

### \$500—\$749 (continued)

Fallon and Yves Sivuilu  
Barbara Stagner  
Connie and Richard Webb  
Max White  
Bridget Yeung

### \$250—\$499

Aetna Giving Campaign  
Judy and Roland Adamson  
Betty Baitland  
Debra and Ashok Balsaver  
Adrienne Barker and Brian Dodson  
Elizabeth and Jack Bennett  
Blue Willow Bookstore  
Robin and David Brady  
Lisa Bryant  
Nell Ciancarelli  
Susan Denman-Briones and Randy Briones  
Cynthia B. DiCaro and Mike Schultz  
JoAnn Eagleton  
Patti and Dr. John Felker  
Amanda Hnat  
Alice and Greg Janak  
Nicola and Adrian Johnson  
LC Floral Designs  
Mike Lamb  
Virginia Lee  
Yan Le Lui  
Ashley Mullins  
Shane Oommen  
Jessica Russell  
Ann Smith  
Kathleen and Paul Spellman  
Susan and Robert Schlein  
Melanie Slagle  
Carol and Michael Stamatedes  
Lauren and Bill Stratton  
David Timmermeyer  
Jackie and Tom Walters  
Beth and Lane Wolf

### Generous In-Kind Supporters

Absolutely Focus Media  
Brandani's Restaurant and Wine Bar  
Cajun Movers  
Rebecca and Jeff Deurlein  
HR In Alignment LLC  
Houston Diamond Outlet  
Mosset's New American Grill  
Off The Vine Bistro  
Pamela Printing  
Pier 36 Seafood Restaurant  
The Pub Fountains  
The Rouxpour  
The Swinging Door  
Raising Cane's Sugar Land  
Safari Texas Ranch  
Sterling McCall Lexus  
Ula's Mexican Restaurant  
Veritas Steak and Seafood

**Since 1987...**

- Over **\$20,000,000** has been returned to the community in volunteer tutoring services alone
- Over **1,000,000** tutoring and learning lab hours have been donated
- Over **4,700** tutors have been trained
- We've graduated our first class of career certification students
- Since 2007, **120 students** have become U.S. citizens
- Since 2005, **151 GED students** have reported to us that they received their GED
- Programs have evolved from one basic literacy program to 6 different curricula, meeting the changing needs and demographic of Fort Bend County

**2016-2017 Events**

The **Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee** raised over \$40,000

**Bike the Bend for Literacy** raised over \$27,000

**Reading between the Wines** raised over \$167,000

**THANK YOU to ALL FRIENDS OF LITERACY** for the head start on 2017—2018's fiscal year!

**2017-2018**

**Board of Directors**

Beth Wolf, Chair  
 Bill Stratton, Treasurer  
 Leticia Lowe, Chair Elect  
 Jeff Tallas, Secretary  
 David Timmermeyer, Past Chair

Jack Bennett  
 Sonal Bhuchar  
 Jack Booker  
 Helen Bow  
 Camille Brewer  
 Susan Denman-Briones  
 Dr. Rebecca Deurlein  
 Dustin Fessler  
 Karen Harding

Bill Hickl  
 Chris Hill  
 Gena Horak  
 Ava Humme  
 Dr. Mary Jackson  
 Rosemary Jones  
 Holly Kaminga  
 John Loper  
 Erin Miles

Suzanne Mottin  
 Crystal Moya  
 Angela M. Pfeiffer, Ph.D.  
 Steve Smith  
 Brian Tave

**2017-2018**

**Advisory Council**

Rehan Alimohammed  
 Mary Gayle Brindley  
 Angela Cox  
 Charles Dupre

Mary Favre  
 Kim Galloway  
 Susie Goff  
 Pam Duggan Gray  
 Kathy Keene  
 Don Kerstetter

Dee Koch  
 Jim McClellan  
 Thomas Randle  
 Jim Rice  
 Linda Steele

For more details,  
 please see our 990 at  
[www.ftbendliteracy.org](http://www.ftbendliteracy.org)

*Changing Lives*



**Literacy Council of Fort Bend County**  
 12530 Emily Court | Sugar Land, TX 77478  
 281.240.8181 | [www.ftbendliteracy.org](http://www.ftbendliteracy.org)

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