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2011

ALPHABÉTISATION SANS LIMITES
LITERACY UNLIMITED

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2010-2011

OUR MISSION

We are a community resource dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Antoun, President
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Laura MacIntosh, Director
Margaret Martin, Director
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Alice Reed, Communications Coordinator
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Colleen Rioux, Administrative Clerk
Karen Dotto, Program Director
Martina Tchipeff, School Literacy Program Coordinator
Susan Antil, Computer Skills Program Coordinator



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

One-on-one Adult Tutoring: This is our core activity, where trained volunteer tutors meet with learners typically two hours weekly throughout the year. Tutors help learners work towards their personal, educational or employment goals by improving their literacy skills. This year we received 44 new requests (29% increase from last year) of which 20 met our criteria. The others were referred to other centers. 75 learners were registered in this program.

Testimonial: My learner needed help to write a formal letter for a job posting. We worked on it together and she got the job!

ESP (Extra Skills Practice): At the request of our learners, we added a NEW program this year. We are now offering weekly small group sessions where learners have an opportunity to practice their skills while socializing and benefiting from a nurturing group environment. Six learners were registered in this program.



Computer Skills Program: This program is made possible thanks to corporate funding. 37 learners registered to receive private instruction from volunteer computer tutors this year and the demand for this program continues to rise. We increased the number of computers and purchased additional software. We also offered learners and tutors 4 hours per week of extra access to the computers between their one-on-one sessions. We now have 15 trained computer tutors.

Testimonial: I am now using the computer to find information and do things like listen to the news online.

School Literacy Program: Corporate funding helped us to maintain this program that targets at-risk high school students. Now operating in four local high schools, this program continues to be in high demand. 77 students were registered, meeting weekly with volunteer tutors for a one-hour session during the school year.

Testimonial: One of our students started volunteering to read out loud in class - what a difference a year makes!



Family Literacy Day: 300 individuals participated in FLD activities organized in partnership with other organizations. This year's theme was Play for Literacy. A successful board-games activity was held at Riverdale High School for families involved in Brookwood Basketball, and a pajama and games day was held at two local daycares.

International Literacy Day: September 8th brings an opportunity to celebrate ILD and the importance of literacy. We sent out letters to our previous golf tournament sponsors to update them on our activities.

Community Outreach and Presentations: 612 individuals participated in five different outreach activities organized by Literacy Unlimited. In addition, our executive director spoke to 50 members of the Montreal Area Decorative Painters and one of our learners and his tutor spoke to 17 members of the Rotary Club of Montreal-Lakeshore.

Testimonial: This has been a real eye opener, I can't imagine my life if I couldn't read.

Learner/Tutor Social Events: 158 individuals attended six different events organized to bring together learners, volunteers, and supporters to socialize and celebrate together – Holiday Social, year-end picnic, and Oasis program events.

SUPPORT & RECOGNITION

Library and Resource Centre: A fully-automated library and resource centre, housing 2,862 items (books, periodicals, games, and computer software) is open 44 hours a week to all registered learners and volunteers. Moreover, the full collection is searchable on our web site.

Basic Tutor Training Workshops: New tutors are required to complete a 12-hour course before being placed with a learner. Two workshops were held this year, training 19 new tutors. A training session was held to train six tutors who will specialize in teaching computer skills. In addition, four training sessions were held for 28 tutors in the school literacy program.

Tutor Professional Development: Giving our tutors opportunities to advance and grow is important to us. Tutors had an opportunity to attend four different workshops this year: *Library Resources, Tutoring Techniques, Introduction to the New Computer Program and Learning Disabilities*. 51 participants attended these workshops.

Testimonial: The workshop was very impressive, and a real learning experience for me as a tutor.

Volunteer Recognition: Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization so recognizing their efforts is vital and essential. Thank-you cards were mailed during National Volunteer Week, two volunteers received special recognition at the AGM, and holiday greetings were mailed to all our volunteers.

Proud to Learn Awards (*Sponsored by Institut de cooperation pour l'éducation des adultes*): 7 learners were recognized for distinguishing themselves as outstanding adult learners.

PUBLICITY, PROMOTION & COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media: Social media is a powerful tool and we are taking full advantage of the benefits. Our Facebook page is updated weekly; we have 120 fans and 60 monthly users. We gained exposure through the Quebec English Literacy Alliance blog and we are exploring the use of Twitter. Several of our Board members use LinkedIn to mention our name and promote our activities.



Website www.literacyunlimited.ca: Our website averages 600 hits each month and continues to improve. It is used to provide information, promote our organization, communicate with stakeholders, and boast our accomplishments. The on-line library is more user-friendly and we have added a link to our Facebook page.

Print media: Several articles on the high school drop-out rates were featured in the Montreal Gazette, bringing literacy to the forefront. An article entitled "Literacy – it means more than you think" (written by our Communications Coordinator) was featured in the Hudson Gazette. Literacy Volunteers of Quebec highlighted our history in their 30th anniversary booklet. Community announcements advertising our services appeared in several local newspapers. West Island Community Shares (WICS) and Librairie Clio ran ads on our behalf and these were featured in the West Island Gazette. Our services were also advertised in a local church bulletin.

LU News: Our newsletter was published twice and distributed via e-mail to all our volunteers, learners, alumni and supporters. It is also posted on our website.

Promotion and Awareness: Since 2011 marks our 30th anniversary, we are creating a buzz and stepping up our promotion. We have updated our website, letterhead, and business cards to include 1981-2011. Our office features a banner “celebrating 30 years in the community” and we are planning a special event to mark this important milestone.

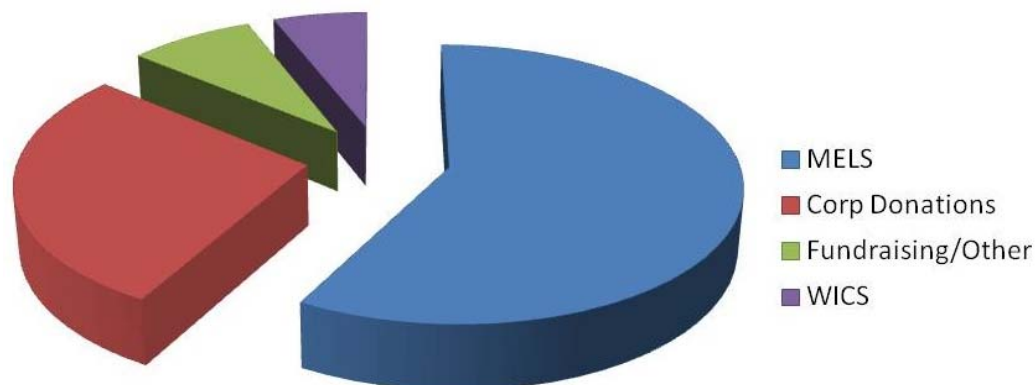
Write On! is a publication of student writings containing a collection of thoughts, opinions and stories that reflect the progress and achievements of our learners. Two editions were published: 11 learners contributed to our Adult Program edition, and 29 students contributed to the School Literacy Program edition.

GOVERNANCE

A Board of Directors, elected from and by the members of the organization, meets regularly to govern the organization. This year activities included:

- 10 regular Board meetings (held monthly)
- 1 special Board meeting (April)
- 3 Executive Committee meetings (July, August, October)
- 1 AGM (May)

FUNDRAISING



Previously, Literacy Unlimited operated with funding from one major source – le ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) – Programme d’action communautaire sur le terrain de l’éducation (PACTE). Over the past number of years, demand for our services has grown substantially, yet PACTE funding has not increased to meet this demand. This year, through various fundraising efforts and strategies, 42% of our funding came from sources other than PACTE.

This year our fundraising activities included:

- Increased funding from West Island Community Shares (WICS)
- New support from CanWest Raise-a-Reader program
- Increased funding from corporations
- Steady support from a direct mail campaign
- Steady support from fundraising activities (book sales, sporting event ticket auctions, money tins, employee volunteer programs)

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Literacy Unlimited is proud to work in partnership with the following local, provincial and national organizations:

ABC Life Literacy Canada	Movement for Canadian Literacy
Alliance of South Asian Communities	Pearson Adult and Career Centre
AMCAL – Our Place	Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School
Aditya Youth Trust Fund	Place Cartier Adult Education Centre
Brookwood Basketball	Pointe-Claire Culture, Sports, Leisure and Social Development Department
Centre for Literacy	Pointe-Claire Public Library
Cloverdale Multi-Ressources	Quebec Association for Adult Learning
COMQUAT	Quebec English Literacy Alliance
CSSS de l’Ouest-de-l’île	Riverdale High School / Riverdale Community Learning Centre
CSSS du Sud-Ouest-Verdun	Table de concertation enfance/famille de l’ouest-de-l’île
Dawson Community Centre	Verdun Anglo Family Council
DDO/Pierrefonds Public Library	Volunteer West Island
Dorval Public Library	West Island Black Community Association
Family Resource Centre	West Island Career Centre
John Rennie High School	West Island Community Shares
Kirkland Public Library	West Island Daycare
Lachine Public Library	West Island Community Resource Centre
Lakeside Academy	
LaSalle Public Library	
Literacy Volunteers of Quebec	
Literacy Foundation	

Literacy unlocks the door to learning throughout life ~ Kofi Annan

OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Each year Literacy Unlimited seeks support and funding for our various programs, projects and training that are vital to our mission. Thank you to all our supporters!



Partage Senneville Shares

