



BETTERTOGETHER

Making Minnesota (and our nation!) stronger with partners by our side

MINNESOTA
LITERACY COUNCIL
annual report 2015





GO FURTHER TOGETHER

We brought the Library and Literacy Leadership Institute to North Dakota

After successful runs with cohorts in Minnesota and Wisconsin, we convened the Library and Literacy Leadership Institute in North Dakota. It brought 17 library and community programs from across the state together for organizational development through mentorship, seminars and conferences. One notable impact is that four small community programs are joining forces as a single nonprofit.

TOGETHER WITH:

- The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library
- Otto Bremer Foundation



EUGENI
ENGLISH STUDENT

“ People at my work told me I’m learning English very fast. And I could use imperatives when I was building a deck with my father-in-law. I want to improve my English to 100%. ”

We were sought by FedEx Ground to pilot workplace English classes

From their headquarters in Pittsburgh, FedEx Ground approached us with a new opportunity: piloting workplace English classes for their employees. We began classes in March 2015 at the company’s St. Paul hub, where a small but loyal group are improving their work and family lives through better English.

TOGETHER WITH:

- FedEx Ground - national headquarters
- FedEx Ground - St. Paul hub

We saw Northstar Digital Literacy Project expand to 28 states

Launched in 2012, the Northstar Digital Literacy Project has already expanded to 254 sponsoring sites (workforce centers, community colleges, nonprofits, etc.) in 28 states and territories. Adult students can use free online assessments to see what digital literacy skills they need to work on. Upon mastery, students can earn certificates in eight standards — like basic computer skills, Microsoft Excel and social media — to demonstrate their proficiency to employers.

TOGETHER WITH:

- The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Minnesota Department of Education
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium
- Saint Paul Public Library



KELSIE
VISTA MEMBER

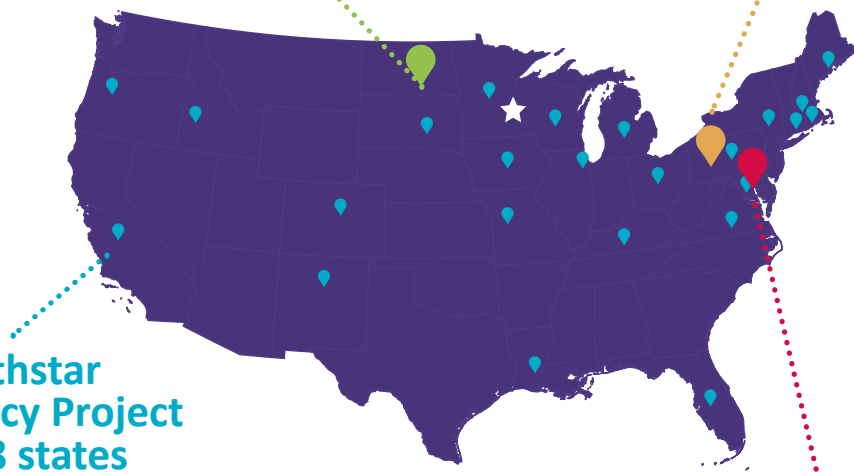
“ Financially, it would not have been possible for me to serve without holding a second job. I have diabetes, so I feel safe knowing I have enough income for healthy food and medical expenses. I’m incredibly grateful that this change has been made. VISTA is an amazing opportunity to gain experience and give back to the community I call home. ”

We inspired a national policy change for AmeriCorps VISTA members

In fall 2014, we penned a letter to the leaders of AmeriCorps VISTA asking for a policy change: allow VISTA members to hold part-time employment on top of their full-time service. By spring 2015, we learned that our letter (signed by 10 other local VISTA sponsor sites who agreed) inspired the change. VISTA members across the country can now hold second jobs—a key to recruiting VISTAs with a desire to serve but an economic need to supplement their modest living allowance.

TOGETHER WITH:

- City of Saint Paul Mayor’s Office
- College Possible
- Emerge Community Development
- Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
- Initiative Foundation
- Minnesota Campus Compact
- Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
- Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota
- Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation
- Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation





ACHIEVE TOGETHER

48 STAFF MEMBERS + 694 VOLUNTEERS + 91 VISTA MEMBERS + 18 BOARD MEMBERS + 942 DONORS

TOGETHER WE...
Served
Minnesotans

96%
of parents took steps (such as scheduled reading time) to make their home more literacy-rich.
EARLY LITERACY AND FAMILIES

2,094
kids received summer reading enrichment. Of those who were tested, 85% maintained or improved their sight-word mastery.
SUMMER READS

7,123
hours of distance learning were logged by students. Adults who paired distance learning with in-person classes were 50% more likely to make a level gain.
OPEN DOOR LEARNING CENTER (6 SITES)

4 in 5
hotline callers took the next step and contacted a school.
ADULT LITERACY HOTLINE

Assets (\$2,562K total)
\$1,122K Cash and cash equivalents
445K Accounts/grants receivable
113K Other current assets
174K Long-term assets
708K Endowment

Liabilities and Net Assets (\$2,562K total)
\$92K Accounts payable
281K Accrued expenses; other current liabilities
356K Unrestricted net assets
550K Board designated net assets
708K Board designated permanent endowment
575K Temporarily restricted net assets

EACH DAY
ON AVERAGE, HERE'S WHAT WE ACCOMPLISH:

- 53** books are given to kids in need
- 9** people receive tutor training
- 103** volunteer hours and **285** student hours are logged
- \$1,028** in funding is leveraged by VISTA members
- 8** hotline callers are referred to classes
- 1** volunteer is placed in a literacy program

TOGETHER WE...
Supported
Organizations

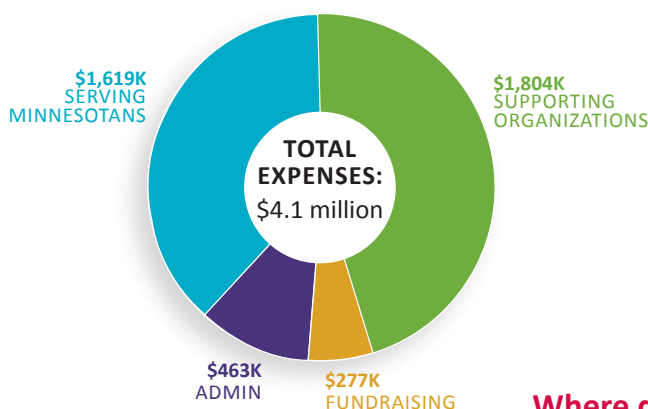
9 in 10
literacy programs say volunteers trained by us are more effective than those with no training.
TUTOR TRAINING

60,114
hours were served by volunteers supported by VISTA members.
LITERACY VISTA

84%
of volunteers were still in their role three months after we placed them.
VOLUNTEER OUTREACH

850,000
digital literacy assessments have been taken since the Northstar Digital Literacy Project began in 2012.
LITERACY STRATEGIES

515
Adult Basic Education professionals attended a technology training.
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES



FOR OUR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Where did our support come from?
\$4.18 million revenue (Unrestricted from audit)

- 62%** Government grants (\$2,744K)
- 18%** Program service fees; other (\$788K)
- 12%** Corporate and foundation grants (\$539K)
- 7%** Contributions; special events (\$330K)
- .2%** In-kind contributions (\$11K)

STAFF SUCCEED TOGETHER *AmeriCorps/VISTA members

- | | | | | | |
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INVESTING TOGETHER

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\$100,000+

Otto Bremer Foundation

\$20,000 - 99,999

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Family Heroes - \$5,000+ per year for 5 years
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Learner Heroes - \$1,000+ per year for 5 years

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Continued on next page...



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500 donors multiplied their generosity through our match campaign. We thank the F.R. Bigelow Foundation, The Saint Paul Foundation and a pool of past and present board members for making this \$50,000 campaign possible.



INVESTING TOGETHER

Thank you, donors! (Contributions from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.)

...continued from previous page.

\$50 - 99

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◇ Multi-year pledge

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♡ Contributor to our matching pool (see below)

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mnliteracy.org/hotline

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