



2020 Annual Report

Our Mission: Literacy Council of the Black Hills is a volunteer based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization providing free, individualized tutoring and group conversation classes in English to help people meet their personal goals and enhance their contributions to the community.

What we do: We train volunteers and provide adults with free, individualized tutoring in basic reading, writing and speaking, and we hold conversation classes for English language learners.

Demographics:

Employees: 1 part-time program coordinator

Volunteers: 66 volunteers

Volunteer tutoring hours, January through October/Mid November 2020: 534.25

Volunteer non-tutoring hours, January through October/Mid November 2020: 894

Total volunteer hours January through October/Mid November 2020: 1428.25;

Total students served: 62 (including 2 moved away)

Tutored ESL students: 55 ESL students (88.7%), 7 tutored ABE students (11.3%)

Tutored students: 42 female students (71.2%), 20 male students (28.8 %)

Countries of origin: Mexico, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Mongolia, South Korea, Honduras, Iran, Japan, China, Turkey, Peru, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Russia, Ukraine, Indonesia, Taiwan, Columbia, Lebanon.

Number of individually tutored students who have children under the age of 18: 17 or 27.4%

Student Goals:

- Find a job – 15%
- Write a resume, prepare for job interview – 31%
- Perform a job better, obtain a license – 37%
- Obtain a library card and check out materials – 44%
- Improve English conversation – 71%
- Write checks, pay bills – 44%
- Health education, reading medication labels – 60%
- Read a book to a child, help with homework – 36%
- Interact with teachers – 23%
- Become involved in community activities – 19%
- Obtain a driver's license – 29%
- Improved writing, reading, grammar – 66%
- Pass the GED – 6%
- Access community resources – 32%
- Citizenship – 11%



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Community Resources:

Rapid City Public Library provides phone referrals, houses resources, and provides space for tutoring, training, meetings and events.

Career Learning Center shares resources, provides feedback, and offers referrals for those of low reading levels (0 to 8th grade reading, writing and speaking), and for learners who can only meet at off hours or need extra help outside CLC hours.

Catholic Social Services provides the council with a filing cabinet to store documents and board materials.

Blessed Sacrament Church offers support, meeting location and referrals for their large Hispanic congregation.

United Way's Campaign for Grade Level Reading serves children of our students.

Rapid City Area Schools serves children, an area of literacy council interest in serving family literacy.

Readiatrics Project provides the council with children's books to give to our students.

Altrusa Club provides financial support.

Black Hills State University Lesleigh Owen of Sociology and her Catstone (a research-focused class) students chose the Literacy Council as their organization to assist and do research with. They have provided such services as: editing grants and reports, creating awareness on social media, delivering brochures, taking photos, and helping with South Dakota Day of Giving.

Supporting Organizations:

United Way

John T. Vucurevich Foundation

ProLiteracy



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Training and Assessments:

- Use of goal sheets for each student
- Achievement of individual goals reviewed periodically
- Online self-paced training through ProLiteracy
- Student and tutor assessments of curriculum materials
- Board meetings were interrupted by COVID in March and then resumed monthly meeting via Zoom in September. Annual meeting was held in November with election of officers and additional board members.