



Tompkins Learning Partners ANNUAL REPORT 2016

MEET MERRITT: TLP's Author in Residence (pictured here with his tutor Janet Steiner)

Despite the added challenge of a recent visual impairment, Merritt dutifully meets with his tutor, Janet Steiner, for about 2 hours each week. They work on reading comprehension skills, study biographies and poetry, and identify areas of phonemic awareness to further increase Merritt's ability to read and understand text. Due to the persistence and determination of both student and tutor, Merritt raised his reading ability an entire grade level in just one year's time—an incredible accomplishment! Merritt is not only an amazing student; he is also a warm, compassionate, and funny person. It is truly a pleasure for all to have him in our building from week to week.

Over the past two years, Merritt has become a prolific writer. Like many of our adult students, he came to us with lots of interesting life experiences, some of which he's turned into short autobiographical pieces that are both humorous and moving. Here is an excerpt from one of Merritt's short stories entitled, "Being a Messenger in New York City":

...What I didn't expect was that I would meet famous people on my job. The first famous person I met was Nipsy Russell, the comedian. I went to his apartment and the doorman said to just leave the package with him. I said, "No, I can't do that. He has to sign for it."

Merritt W. came to Tompkins Learning Partners in 2015 seeking to improve his ability to read and write.

Since then, this hardworking Adult Basic Education student has done just that and so much more!



So I took the elevator to his floor and rang the bell. The door was propped open because the doorman had alerted him to my coming.

Mr. Russell came to the door. I said, "Here is your package." He said, "That's very kind of you. Thank you." And I said, "No problem." Then he said, "I have something for you." I said, "For me"? Mr. Russell said, "Yes, for you. Hold on." And he disappeared for a moment and then came back with a \$5 tip.

And as I got on the elevator, I laughed to myself. I realized what I had just seen. Nipsy Russell had rollers in his hair, plus a hairnet covering his entire head. I said to myself, no one will ever believe this...

Merritt also writes poetry and is now dabbling in creative writing. He is even a published author, having submitted an essay and poem about his love of cooking to the Ithaca Times (see the Dec. 28, 2016-Jan 3, 2017 issue). Please join us in celebrating Merritt's perseverance, dedication, and accomplishments along with those of his learning partner, Janet. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to work with students like Merritt and we invite you to check out his latest piece, along with those

by some of our other wonderful students, the next time you visit our building.

ESL Student Achievements


- ESL students came from 29 different countries in 2016
- 23 students passed their interviews for United States Citizenship
- 1 ESL student passed the TASC test and earned his high school equivalency credential
- 4 ESL students passed at least one of the subject area tests on the TASC test
- 5 ESL students passed their driver's permit tests; 4 others got their driver's licenses

ABE Student Achievements

- 5 ABE students passed at least one of the subject area tests on the TASC test
- 2 ABE students began attending TC3 classes in Fall 2016
- 2 ABE students gained or improved their employment
- 12 ABE students improved their computer literacy skills

"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are." –Mason Cooley

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

The 2016 election year draws us to reflect on leadership. Who our leaders are is important—at Tompkins Learning Partners, we are grateful for the supportive leadership provided by our Board of Directors. This group of dedicated, local community members help provide direction and guidance to staff, volunteers and students as we look to find ways to improve services and stay fiscally sound. This past year, in particular, two board members gave a generous amount of time and financial support to help us reach our fundraising goals. In 2016, Gary Weissbrot, for the fifth time, spearheaded our “Annual Finger Lakes Crossword Competition” and Grace McMenamin implemented our first “Karaoke for a Cause.” Both events brought important attention to TLP and our literacy work while providing crucial funding to the agency. If you see Gary or Grace, please thank them for being leaders who care enough to go above and beyond “the call of duty” to support our agency. 

David H. Smith

Students Served

(See Page 1 for Student Accomplishments)

	ABE & IYS	ESL	Total
Instruction >= 12 hours	18	69	87
Instruction < 12 hours	18	65	83
*Total Students	36	134	170

*Reflects numbers for program year, not fiscal year.

Active Volunteers

ABE & IYS Tutors	31
ESL Tutors	80
Other	68
Tutors Volunteering for Other Tasks	26
Total Volunteers	205

Volunteer Hours (all set for 2016)

ABE & ESL & IYS Tutors	5,879
Other Volunteer Hours	799
Total Volunteer Hours	6,678

Donors to the 2016 TLP Annual Campaign

MENTORS

\$1,000 - 4,999

Phyllis Allen
Cornell University
Edward Machak
Grace McMenamin
Beth Putnam
Thomas Weiler

ADVOCATES

\$500 - 999

Anonymous
Barry Adams
CFCU Community
Credit Union
Alice Colby-Hall
Sorel & Kurt Gottfried
Barbara Hatt
Carol Hockett
Security Mutual
Insurance Co.
Tompkins Trust Co.
Lola & Alex Winter

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\$250 - 499

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Deborah Gagnon
Chemung Canal
Trust Co.
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Caroline & Ed Cope
Bill Goldsmith
Pam Kingsbury,
Kingsbury
Architecture
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Lucinda Noble
Pam Silverstein
Chuck Tauck &
Fran Littin

Marguerite &
Norman Uphoff
Eugene & Jeanne
Yarussi

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\$100 - 249

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Kim Milling
Carl & Kay Bartecchi
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Chiropractic LLC
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Lourdes Brache-Tabar
Terita & Michael Reeve
Gail & Jim Salk
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Rebecca & David
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Willet Dairy, LLC
Suzanne Winkelman
Pat Woodworth &
Charlie Tilton
Stephen & Amy
Yale-Loehr
Joel & Cathy Zumoff

FRIENDS

\$1 - 99

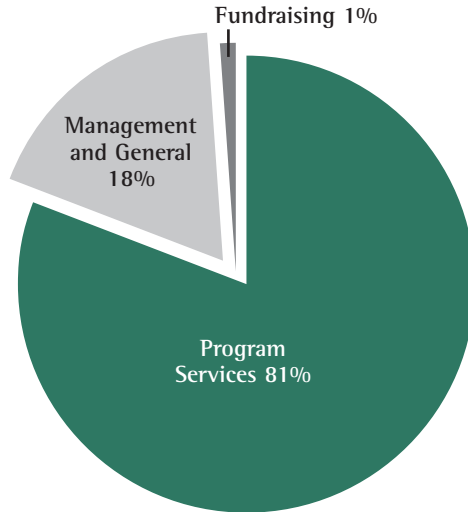
Anonymous (2)
Jonathan Albanese,
Esq.
Christine Armao &
David Price
Robert Aronson
Judith & Mark Ashton
Jim Atkinson
Rocky & Mike
Baughman
Joan Bechhofer
Louise Bement
Kris Bennett
Nancy Fuhr Bonn &
Fred Bonn
Callie Bryant
Nancy Burston
Sandra & Leo Cacciotti
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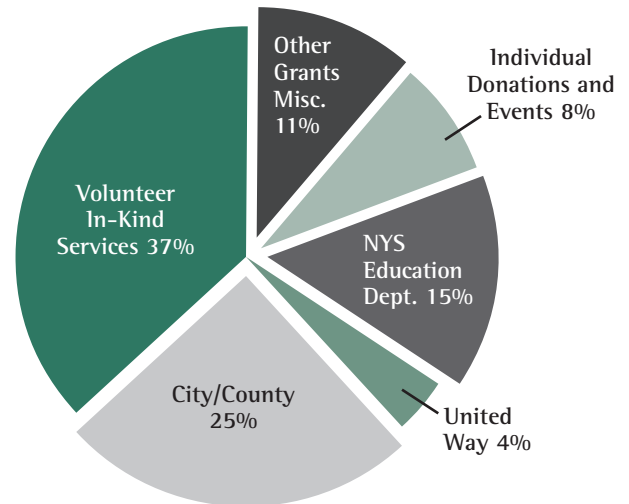
2015 Financial Report

Tompkins Learning Partners' operating budget was approximately \$456,000 in 2015. We are pleased that 46% of our revenue was in-kind volunteer tutor hours.

2016 Operating Expenses



2016 Operating Revenue



TLP respects the privacy of our students. We never use students' full names or photos without their permission.

John Maceli
Randy & Terry Marcus
Mary Maynard
Joyce H. McAllister
Donna McLaughlin-Shuereb
Philip & Mary Lu McPheron
Celia & Steve Miller
P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter B.D.
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Robert & Shirley Wirth
Madison & Mary Wright

City Federation of Women's Organizations' "Women Building Community" Grant

CROSSWORD FUNDRAISING UNDERWRITERS

The Bookery
CFCU Community Credit Union
Chemung Canal Trust Company
Ithaca Times/Media Sponsor

IN KIND DONATIONS

Anonymous (3)
Country Inn and Suites
Marian Ingerson
Victoria Jordan
Gwyn Lymberis
Perfect Painters
Adam Perl
Kimberly Plant
Patty Porter
Louise Schefkowitz
David H. Smith
Pam Solomon
Gary Weissbrot
Do Win & Swei Yu

**Gifts donated through United Way of Tompkins County designation were not listed if the donor requested acknowledgement not be made.*

GRANTS
Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library
Social Service League
Vector Magnetics Fund of the Community Foundation

Donations to HONOR or REMEMBER

*In memory of **Molly Adams***
Barry Adams

*In honor of **Joyce Barney***
Olan & Katie Forker

*In memory of **Nancy Bent***
Robert Aronson

*In memory of **Ellen Bonn***
Carl & Kay Bartechi
Nancy Fuhr Bonn & Fred Bonn
Dr. John & Melissa Callahan
Steve Carddi & Tamara Loomis
Charlotte & Ronne Coffman
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Barbara Sinclair
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Betty L. Torre
Donlad Trotter
Paul & Linde van Maanen
Sue Watkins
Tom Weiler
Joyce White

*In honor of **Family***
Marian Ingerson

*In honor of **Mr. & Mrs. Tony German***
Grace McMenamin

*In memory of **Maggie Goldsmith***
Judith & Mark Ashton
Bill Goldsmith
Satomi Hill

*In honor of **Carl Haynes***
Beverly Baker

*In honor of **Ashley & Jennifer Johnson***
Gary Johnson

*In memory of **Fred H. Kulhawy***
Gloria Kulhawy

*In honor of **Louie***
John Finnegan

*In honor of **Grace McMenamin***
Tom & Katie Hanna
Terita & Mike Reeve

*In honor of **Lucinda Noble***
Alice D. Moore

*In honor of **David H. Smith***
Howard & Rosalind Feinstein
Roger & Carole Sibley
Pam Silverstein

*In honor of **Sandra Voorhees, Gerrit Heetderks & their son Silas***
Grace McMenamin

**We apologize if we have misspelled or left any names off the donor or tutor lists—please call the office so that we may update our records.*

TLP Board of Directors

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Jim Groves
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Shelley Garvey, Barbara Hatt, June Locke, Rachel Testman

TLP's Mission

Our mission is to help adults who live or work in Tompkins County meet their personal goals, free of charge, by improving their ability to read, write, and speak English, and to use math and computers. Students achieve these goals by working together with professionally trained and supported volunteer tutors.



Tompkins Learning Partners

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Ithaca, NY 14850
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URL: www.TLPartners.org
E-mail: literacy@TLPartners.org

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2016 TLP Tutors

This list compiled from the 2016 calendar year

Lori Abbott * Anne Adams * Kevin Adelman * Cheryl Barbasch * Lori Bauer * Ed Baxter * Michael Bend * Kris Bennett * Marie Beshures * Carmen Blankinship * Sarah Bluher * Sarah Bonawitz * Linda Bowman * Marie Breshures * Steven Bunkowski * Kay Burkett * Matthew Caffrey * Sarah Callahan * Vanessa Campoverde-Ayala * Erin Caruth * Tina Champion * Mary Chapman * Cornell University TASC Tutors * Christi Cox * Stephen Day * Illari Delgado * Margaret Dyer * Allan Eaglesham * Lizzy Evett * Cristina Fernandez-Baca * Jim Finlay * Jody Gabler * Drew Gower * Sarah Gowin * Bill Greener * Alyse Harris * Barb Hatt * Carol Hockett * Marian Ingerson * Ksenia Ionova * Ithaca College Park Scholars * Julie Jackson * Verena Joerger * Gary Johnson * Linda Keeler * Russ Keeler * Diana Kenyon * Patty Kroog-Erickson * Carol Klepack * Lisa Kwortnik * Adrienne Lamb * Allegra Lambert * Edward Latson * Ben Lawrence * Sarabeth Loomis * Gwyn Lymberis * Sean Majer * Toby March * Anne Mazer * John Mazzello * Mary McIlvennie * Ashley Meeder * Steven Messmer * Madeline Metzler * Mary Milne * Linh Nguyen * James Nichols * Mary Lee Noden * Ellen Palm * Irina Peress * June Pollack * Wally Powers * Linda Radomski * Robin Remick * Larri Richmond * Shawna Robertson * Fred Schwartz * Rebecca Schwed * Rebekah Scott * Rich Seegers * John Semmler * Meredith Silberstein * Jim Spear * Janet Steiner * Natasha Steinhall * Emily Tracy * Bill Tyler * Marloes Viet * Pat Wagner * Pam Wang * Laura Watson * Tom Weiler * Madeline Weiss * Sally Wessels * Claire Whitenack * Lola Winter * Kacey Wochna * Pat Woodworth * Helen Wyvill * Lulu Zheng

**TLP would also like to recognize the following non-tutoring volunteers for their many dedicated hours: Phyllis Allen, Alpha Phi Omega (Cornell), Judith Ashton, Mark Ashton, Cheryl Barbasch, Sarah Bonawitz, Linda Bors, Kelsey Brewster, Matthew Caffrey, Cecilia Campbell, Mary Chapman, Cornell POST, Jody Gabler, Saloni Gupta, Barbara Hatt, Carol Hockett, Verena Joerger, Sue Lason, Mark Lason, June Locke, June Locke, Anne Mazer, John Mazzello, Grace McMenamin, Lynn Olcott, PerSawhtee Paw, Adam Perl, Helen Perl, Wally Powers, Gail Salk, Jami Sassone, Kaye Stone, Rachel Testman, Charlie Tilton, Marloes Viet, Gary Weissbrot, Pat Woodworth, Shelley Zhang and Lulu Zheng*



Community Partner