



Tompkins Learning Partners ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Examples of Student Achievements

ABE Students

J. remarked after several sessions of listening, speaking, reading, and writing sounds and blending them together with tutor direction, "Now I see how words work!"

F. dictated "book reviews" based on stories read to and with the tutor. This experience of language offers students powerful opportunities to read what they themselves think and understand, often for the first time.

R. asked to volunteer at TLP while working on the math portion of the high school equivalency exam. The student gained real-life work experience stamping books, typing lists, assembling training packets, answering the phone and greeting the public. The student also passed the math subtest and obtained a high school diploma!

P. reports deriving pleasure and gaining insights from reading *News For You* and completing the weekly crossword puzzle. The student achieved an increased reading level from 4.6 to 5.8 on standardized post-testing.

K. obtained a part-time job and began to write in a journal with more confidence on a regular basis.

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Isabella and Marian's strong commitment and countless achievements built the bridge to continued student success going forward with a new tutor.



ESL Students

14 TLP students became United States citizens in 2014. Their home countries were: Burma, China, Costa Rica, Laos, Russia, Tibet, and Ukraine.



ESL students playing citizenship bingo.

Z. practiced interview and employment related vocabulary words with her tutor. She and her tutor also did some role plays to practice listening and speaking "interview English." Eventually, the student landed a number of interviews and a full-time job!

Students in an intermediate ESL group worked with their tutor over several weeks to write a short story. The tutor wrote the first line and each student took a turn writing the next part of the story. Students then read and edited the completed story, discussing and voting on any changes that they thought should be made. Eventually, the TLP Read Aloud Team performed the final piece at a public event in Ithaca.

R. and **T.** travel a lot for work but have had trouble navigating U.S. airports. They worked with their tutor to learn airport and travel vocabulary words in English such as: ticket counter, terminal, on time, delayed, and canceled.

W. works in a restaurant that takes orders for take-out and delivery. After being assigned to phone duty, the student found that she could not understand her customers. She was very familiar with the words for each dish in her own language, but she did not know their names in English. **W.** worked with her tutor to learn each entrée's English name and then practiced taking orders and saying, "please speak more slowly," "please repeat that," and "thank you for your order."

An evening ESL class worked on reading and writing friendly and business emails in English. They also practiced listening and responding to voice mail messages. 

A MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

Technology, love it or hate it, it's here to stay. This last year Tompkins Learning Partners has worked hard to have more of a social media presence. Through our website (TLPpartners.org), facebook page (www.facebook.com/tlpartners), and twitter account (twitter.com/tlpartners) we continue to reach out to current and prospective friends and volunteers to recruit tutors and tell the TLP story. Whether we like it or not, how we communicate in this world is constantly changing and as an organization we have to adapt and stay current.

However, I continue to believe that there is still a place and a need for that old-fashioned "personal touch" whether in the form of a printed and mailed letter, newsletter, phone call

or attending a meeting. After all, how would an organization like ours succeed without the very personal relationships and trust that is established among our tutors, students, staff, friends and supporters?

What happens each year at TLP may change as we adapt to the world by adopting new technology and new ways of doing things. But our core strength is found in our many personal relationships, and I am certain and thankful that will never change. Thank *you* for being a part of that personal relationship with Tompkins Learning Partners this past year. 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

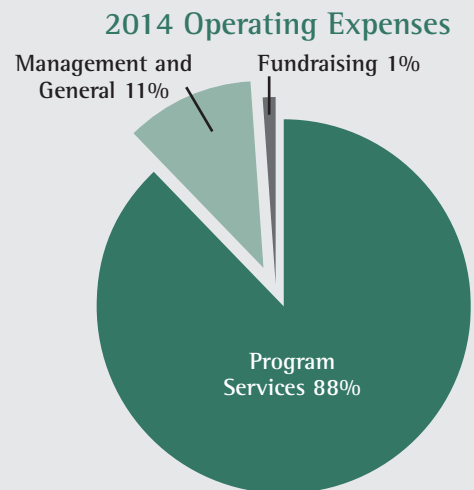
David H. Smith

Examples of Student Achievements— ABE Students *continued from cover...*

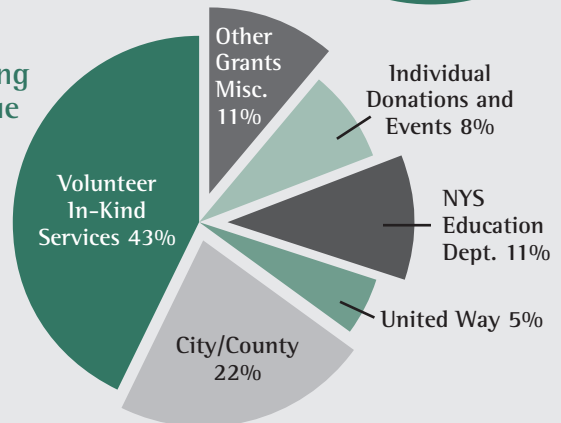
Several Dryden area adults participated in basic computer sessions funded by the State Library Association through a partnership grant with Finger Lakes Library System and Southworth Library. Without too many exceptions, students evaluated themselves as novices, stating that they "knew nothing" and that they "wouldn't be able to learn much, either." Evaluations from participants proved otherwise. Most students stated they gained confidence and usable skills beyond what they thought possible. One woman stated that she is "now unafraid of being given a computer as a gift from her stepson." 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

2014 Financial Report

Tompkins Learning Partners' operating budget was approximately \$392,000 in 2014. We are pleased that 43% of our revenue was in-kind volunteer tutor hours.



2014 Operating Revenue



Students' Places of Birth

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Algeria | France | Taiwan |
| Armenia | Guatemala | Thailand |
| Brazil | India | Tibet |
| Burma | Iraq | Turkey |
| Cambodia | Iran | Ukraine |
| China | Japan | United States |
| Colombia | Laos | Uzbekistan |
| Ecuador | Mexico | Vietnam |
| Egypt | Russia | |
| El Salvador | South Korea | |
| Ethiopia | Sri Lanka | |

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

Third Annual Crossword Competition

Tompkins Learning Partners is pleased to tell everyone about our third successful Finger Lakes Crossword Competition which was held on Saturday, March 7, at Boynton Middle School. Twenty-five teams and 21 individuals solved original crossword puzzles created by our volunteer Puzzle Master, Adam Perl, of Pastimes Antiques.

Winners' names are engraved on our Crossword Competition plaque at our office. Each winner also received a signed copy of Merl Reagle's latest book of crossword puzzles, a copy of Adam Perl's *Tiny Town Teasers*, and a bracelet designed by Gary Weissbrot (similar to the very popular World Series of Poker bracelets.)

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to our media sponsor, *The Ithaca Times*. The wonderful publicity they gave our event was a big contributor to our success. We also want to thank our other generous underwriters: Chemung Canal Trust Company, CFCU Community Credit Union, Tompkins Trust Company, Cornell University Press, and Planned Parenthood.

During our Competition, players had a chance to bid on some great prizes. Thanks to these donors for their support: Will Shortz who donated an autographed crossword puzzle tie and Adam Perl, who donated a customized crossword puzzle. Thanks, also, to the following for donating gift certificates: Agava, BoatYard Grill/Ciao! Of Ithaca, Falls Restaurant and Tavern, Hangar Theatre, Hazelnut Kitchen, Island Fitness, John Thomas Steakhouse, Just a Taste Wine & Tapas Bar, Kitchen Theatre, Lucas Vineyards, Maxie's Supper Club & Oyster Bar, Mercato's Bar & Kitchen, Moosewood Restaurant, Northstar House and Taste of Thai.

We were especially fortunate to have special guest Rex Parker in attendance again this year. He publicized our event in his crossword blog and helped explain the rules of our competition to our players.

Everyone enjoyed music provided by Alejandro Bernard-Papachryssanthou on piano and Sam Shuhan on bass. They added a nice touch to our event before and after the timed Competition.

Four of our dedicated tutors—Lizzy Evett, Carol Hockett, Anne Mazer, and Pat Woodworth—also joined us to read some of our student stories. They did a great job!



Crossword Team: TLP volunteers Pat Woodworth, Lizzy Evett, Ginny Schumacher, and Carol Hockett complete their first TLP Crossword Puzzle Competition blending error-free wordsmithing and contagious good humor.

The Crossword Committee—Gary Weissbrot, Adam Perl, Sue Lason, Grace McMenamin, and Dave Smith—have already started to make plans for our next Crossword Competition in March 2016! 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Students Served

(See Page 1 for Student Accomplishments)

| | ABE & IYS | ESL | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Instruction >= 12 hours | 55 | 80 | 135 |
| Instruction < 12 hours | 27 | 36 | 63 |
| Total Students | 82 | 116 | 198 |

Active Volunteers

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| ABE & IYS Tutors | 33 |
| ESL Tutors | 63 |
| Other | 16 |
| Total Volunteers | 112 |

Volunteer Hours

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| ABE & ESL & IYS Tutors | 6,174 |
| Other Volunteer Hours | 482 |
| Total Volunteer Hours | 6,656 |

TLP Board of Directors

Beth Putnam, *President*
Grace McMenamin,
Vice President
Cecilia Campbell,
Treasurer
Sue Lason, *Secretary*
Joyce E. Barney
Patricia Carey
Susan A. Currie
Jim Groves
Gail Salk
Kim Winter Smalt
Kari Stamm
Tom Weiler*
Gary Weissbrot

*Term ended 9/14

TLP Staff

David H. Smith,
Executive Director
Arline A. Woolley, *ABE*
Coordinator
Helen Ranck, *ESL*
Coordinator
Shannon Alvord,
Outreach &
Recruitment Program
Assistant
Sharon McGee,
Administrative
Assistant
Amy Porfirio, *Program*
Support Assistant
Shelley Garvey, Barbara
Hatt, June Locke,
Volunteer Librarians

TLP's Mission

Our mission is to help adults and young people (incarcerated youth) 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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2014 TLP Tutors *This list compiled from the 2014 calendar year*

Lori Abbott * Phil Antweiler * Pat Avery * Elisa Avila * D. G. Bancroft * Cheryl Barbasch * Ed Baxter * Michael Bend * Kris Bennett * Becky Bilderback * Carmen Blankinship * Linda Bowman * Joe Boys * Sandy Boys * Evan Buntrock * Lisa Buttner * Carmella Calabrese * Jean Celeste-Astorina * Sara Che * Cathy Chesnut * Doug Chesnut * Alison Christopher * Winnie Chu * Judit Ciarrusta * Cory Cochrane * Mary-Lynn Cummings * Kalyn Deans * Audia Denton * Andrew Dunn * Susan Earle * Sheila Emborski * Naomi Erkan * Elisa Evett * Nelly Farnum * James Feltus * Andrew Fields * Robert Fragoza * Carol Franco * Emily Fridlund * Julie Gokhman * Glynis Hart * Barb Hatt * Joshua Head * Carol Hockett * Leslie Horowitz * Kaitlin Hulbert * Julie Jackson * Gary Johnson * Tayo Johnson * Victoria Jordan * David Jung * Linda Keeler * Diana Kenyon * Tanya Kingsley * Lina Krian * Allegra Lambert * InShik Lee * Nahyon Lee * Rick Lightbody * Craig MacDonald * Anne Mazer * John Mazzello * Mary McIlvennie * Scott McIlvennie * David Moreau * Juana Munoz * Mary Lee Noden * Alex Ogle * Ellen Palm * Joseph Parks * Katherine Payne * Christine Philipp * Veronica Pillar * June Pollack * Wally Powers * Robin Remick * Larri Richmond * Jennifer Roach * M.P. Robinson * Ginny Schumacher * Rich Seegers * Rich Shaw * Diana Sinton * Katherine Skura * Edie Spaulding * Jim Spear * Catherine Spirito * Carol Stammer * Janet Steiner * Therese Stewart * Nancy Suci * Barb Talbot * Bill Tyler * Marian Van Loan * Pat Wagner * Tom Weiler * Amalia Weinberg * Sally Wessels * Joyce White * Lola Winter * Rich Winter * Kacey Wochna * Pat Woodworth * Cora Yao*

**TLP would also like to recognize the following non-tutoring volunteers for their many dedicated hours: Phyllis Allen, Alpha Phi Omega (Cornell), Judith Ashton, Gabriela Balbin, Ellen Bonn, Linda Bors, Patricia Carey, Becky Chabot, Mary Chapman, Rhian Ellis, Molly Elmo, Sasha Endo, Jody Gabler, Deb Gagnon, Shelley Garvey, Jim Groves, Judy Groves, Wendy Gutman, Carol Hockett, Tysheem Hope, Wen Fang Hung, Sue Lason, Mark Lason, Hser Kaw Ler, June Locke, John Mazzello, Grace McMenamin, Eh Monday Paw, Eh Thehday Paw, Adam Perl, Wally Powers, Gail Salk, Darcel Small, Blute Moo Soe, Rachel Testman, Charlie Tilton, and Gary Weissbrot.*



Community Partner