



Annual Report

July 2025 - June 2026

Dear Literacy Council Supporters:

As we reflect on FY26, I am inspired by what is possible when a community comes together around the belief that **Literacy Lifts Lives**. The dedication of our learners, volunteers, staff, partners, donors, and supporters has allowed the Literacy Council of Frederick County to continue growing, responding, and creating meaningful opportunities for adults throughout our community.

Behind every number in this annual report is a person with goals, determination, and a story of growth. Their accomplishments remind us that literacy is not simply about reading and writing. It is about confidence, opportunity, independence, and possibility.

Thank you for investing in our learners and in the mission of the Literacy Council of Frederick County. Your continued partnership makes this work possible and helps ensure that more adults and families have the tools they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Hill".



Denise Hill
Executive Director



Powered by Volunteers

215

There are 215 Literacy Council volunteers serving the community through workshops, learning labs, tutoring, and more.

16,654

More than 16,000 hours of service were contributed in FY26, allowing the Literacy Council to carry out our mission.



"I wanted to use my time to empower our residents, helping them break down barriers so they can confidently pursue their own goals in the community."

- Kishore Bitra, Volunteer

FY26 Board of Directors

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We nominated three students for the **Second Chance Scholarship** through the Community Foundation of Frederick County. We are proud to share that all three received the award, including **Steefanny**, pictured above, to help them continue their studies.



Workplace Development Program

We're helping to build essential English and job-related skills for adult learners. This year, **141 employees participated in 40 classes**. Twenty-two students received hospitality industry-recognized certifications.

Our workplace partners, including the **Tourism Council of Frederick County, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, Oscar's Alehouse, Phoenix Mecano, Wright Manufacturing, and Dairy Maid**, are helping build brighter futures across Frederick County.

ESL Programs

The Literacy Council hosted **14 Parent Literacy classes in 4 FCPS Schools/Judy Centers**. Additionally, 234 students received instructional hours in 1-on-1 tutoring and small groups to improve their English language skills.

LCFC completed **55 community classes** with several Frederick County community partners.

Thank you to all our partners, including:

- Frederick County Public Libraries
- Asian American Center of Frederick
- Justice Jobs
- Frederick Rescue Mission



"Learning a new language was not easy, especially for me. I took many classes and worked hard to improve. Over time, I began to understand and slowly I gained confidence. Today, I can speak, read, and write in English. It is not perfect yet, but I am very happy with how far I have come. Now I can talk with my neighbors, make appointments with doctors, and do many things I could not do before." - Bunkong, Adult Learner



NEW FOR FY26! Life Skills Programs

Learning Labs are an opportunity for learners to drop in and have their immediate literacy needs met. Students completed job applications, practiced interviewing, studied for their CDL, worked toward completing their GED, and more. Throughout FY26, we offered **76 Learning Labs** and **29 workshops** focused on financial literacy, digital literacy, and health literacy. In addition, three digital literacy classes were open to the broader Frederick community. Programming also includes partnerships with social service organizations, such as Justice Jobs and Serenity House, to support justice-involved individuals as they work toward earning their GEDs.

“I came to the Literacy Council to get my G.E.D. I am working so hard on my math with a volunteer teacher, and his name is Mr. Jim. I was having problems with my math, so Jim told me he only comes every other Friday.

But Jim offered to come every Friday to help me with my math. I really appreciate Jim coming every Friday to work with me. It is never too late to jump back to learning at the Literacy Council to get your G.E.D. I enjoyed doing math until I got stuck. Then I got help with the Literacy Council.

On Wednesday I work with my English tutor. Her name is Alix. We work together on my English workbook on Zoom. Every Wednesday I enjoy reading and working with Alix.

She helps me to read better and breakdown a sentence. Alix is a very good tutor. We work around our schedules. When we have a doctor appointment, we reschedule our classes. Don't hesitate to go and try to get you G.E.D. The Literacy Council volunteers go out of their way to help you.”

Anna, Adult Learner





LCFC Events

The Literacy Council's **National Read-a-Book Day** event brought families together at the Baker Park Bandshell for a celebration of literacy and learning. The event featured a free children's book distribution and opportunities to meet and hear from authors **Melinda Beatty, Alexandra Sharp, Michelyve Petit, and Cherish McMillan-Kilgoe.**

New York Times Best-Selling Author, **Jason Reynolds**, also discussed his novel, *Long Way Down*. Centro Hispano hosted a Spanish reading hour, and Frederick County Public Schools displayed artwork for students throughout the county.

In addition to National Literacy Month activities, this past spring, the Literacy Council joined Curious Iguana in hosting **Oliver James**, author of *Unread*, for an inspiring discussion on his literacy journey.

At our Reflections event, we heard the stories of our student authors as they read their *Reflections Literary Magazine* submission before family and friends.

The year ended with our Celebration of Achievements, where **Michele Corr**, Executive Director of The Delaplaine Foundation, joined us in celebrating the achievements of our learners, as well as decades of service from two tremendous volunteers, Pat and Doris.



Financials

Total Annual Income:
\$500,437

Grant Revenue:
\$342,111

Employer Class Revenue:
\$32,250

Total Expenses:
\$565,705

Visit www.frederickliteracy.org for 2025-2026
and past year Form 990s.

**Thank you to ALL of our individual,
foundation, business, family fund, and
corporate donors. We could not have made
this impact without you.**

City of Frederick
Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County
Ausherman Family Foundation
Helen J. Serini Foundation
Crimsonbridge Foundation
Community Foundation of Frederick County
Tourism Council of Frederick County
Frederick County Government
Delaplaine Foundation
Nora Roberts Foundation
Love of Christ Foundation
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Gou Family Charitable Fund
Curious Iguana Benefit Corp.
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of the American Revolution
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Frederick Ski Club
Middletown Valley Bank
Padma Paadam School of Performing Arts Inc.
Patriot Federal Credit Union
Saint Mary's Chapter All Saints Episcopal Church
United Way of Frederick County, Inc.



BECOME A LOVER OF LITERACY

Continue growing literacy in our community.

Become a Lover of Literacy by making a recurring gift. Every gift—no matter the size—helps expand access to vital literacy services and creates more opportunities for individuals and families to thrive.





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800

In FY26, the Literacy Council of Frederick County served 800 total adults, including 597 adult learners in community classes, small groups, tutoring, and life skills programming. Another 141 took part in workforce development programming.



We hope to See You for 2027 Scrabble Mania! Stay connected on social media for more updates.

FIND US!

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 www.frederickliteracy.org