



Executive Director's Annual Report

Celebrating 45 Years of
“Commitment to Community”

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

1981-1991

The First Decade

18 Trained Tutors to Start!



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF THE SOMERVILLE AREA

*Teaching adults
to read . . .*



Our founder, Alma Liotta



Our home

HERE'S TO ALL VOLUNTEERS, THOSE DEDICATED PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE
IN ALL WORK AND NO PAY. --ROBERT ORBEN



"Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man's help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too."

--Albert Schweitzer Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1952



Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. --Martin Luther King, Jr.



1991-2001

The Second Decade

103 Active Tutor-Student Matches



2001-2011

The Third Decade

**Started the Decade with
78 New Tutors Trained and
114 Students Served**



2011-2021

The Fourth Decade Serving 400 Students





Today, 2026

Celebrating 45 Years of Service

600+ Students Served Annually

220+ Trained Tutors





Committed Students

**640 Students
Served**

**Congratulations to all
on goals met, big and
small!**



- 282 new students assessed
- 384 tutored
- 140 attended a beginner class through our partnership program, First Steps Basic English
- 67 attended a small group beginner class taught by an LVSC tutor
- 87 attended a one or more of LVSC's 12 conversation groups
- 24 received citizenship prep support (14 new citizens!)
- 31 contributed articles to our student run newsletter (19 issues to date)

640 Students Served from 58 Countries!

Dominican Republic Russia Cuba Paraguay Taiwan Madagascar
Jordan France Afghanistan Greece India Dominica Colombia
Japan Vietnam Thailand Haiti Palestine Honduras Lebanon
Ghana South Korea Nicaragua USA Slovakia Venezuela Peru
Georgia Kazakhstan Turkey Albania Uzbekistan Syria Egypt
China Spain Poland Mexico Puerto Rico El Salvador Ukraine
Italy Jamaica Brazil Algeria Ecuador Liberia Uruguay
Pakistan Hong Kong Chile Malaysia Belarus Argentina
Philippines Iran Costa Rica Guatemala

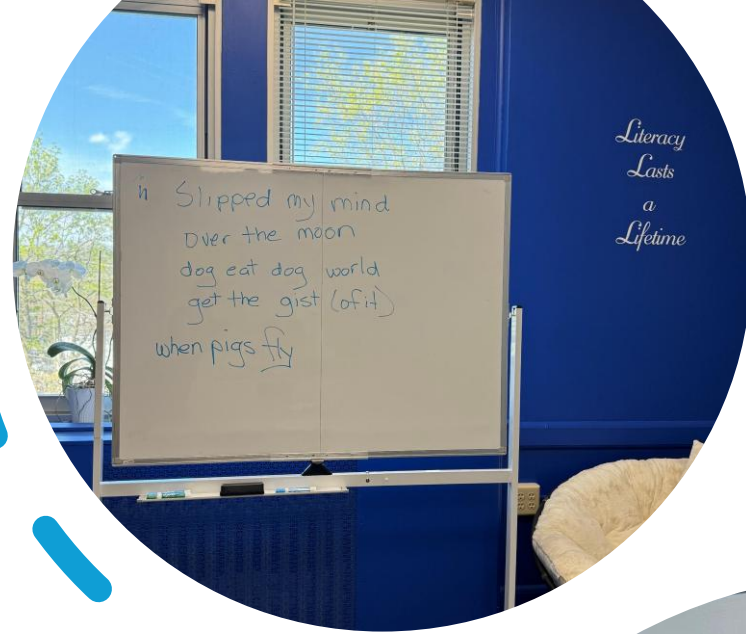


Committed Volunteers

LVSC Volunteers are the Definition of Commitment (and Creativity)

- 260 volunteers
- 231 tutors
- 13 conversation group leaders
- 11 U.S. citizenship prep tutors
- 15 assessors
- 12 event volunteers

7,000 hours of volunteer service –
a \$254,000 value. THANK YOU!





Welcome New Tutors

- 84 trained (80 prior year)
- 29 tutor info sessions
- 4 tutor training workshops



Tutor Support and Recognition

Tutors are the heart and soul of our program. LVSC is committed to increasing tutor support & recognition.

- 7 tutor support groups
- 12 tutor resource emails
- Growing Student Success Center
 - 260 unique titles
 - 102 checkouts
- Fall Gratitude Potluck
- Tutor of the Month Program



Congratulations to this year's tutors of the month:

Christopher Yen, July
Kathy Memoli, August
Kathy Kolvites, September
Cathy Guberer, October
Paul Lacy, November
Amy Jones, December
Stefanie Chenkin, January
Steve Johnson, February
Katie Singh, March
Mary Ann Foley-Mayer, April
John MacMaster, May



Committed Staff



Thank You, Staff!

90+ combined years of service at LVSC

Aimee Lam, Executive Director

Stella Nieves, Literacy Navigator

Lauren Randolph, Tutor Trainer

Jennifer Kushinka, Tutor Support Manager

Susan Engelstein, Program & Events Manager

Plus, meet **Daisy**, Certified Therapy Dog & Reading Buddy. Works on most Wednesdays and when she feels like it.



Committed Board



New Board Member this Year

Welcome Janice Cmielewski!

- **Somerset County Library System NJ**
- **Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

Thank You, Board of Trustees!

LVSC's board members are trusted advisors, guardians of the LVSC mission and stewards of the budget. They are talented, intelligent, kind, generous, and fun!

- **14 members**
- **Bring diverse expertise** →
- **All volunteers**

Information
Technology

Actuary

Librarian

Financial
Advisor

CPAs

Immigration
Attorney

Business
Development

Current &
former tutors
(4)

Pastor

Corporate
Communications,
Marketing, Public
Relations

Social Policy
Foundation
Chair

Litigation
Attorney

Board of Trustees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Scott Curtis, CFP, President
Thrivent Financial

Lisa Browne, LL.B, Vice President
Lambent Data

Peter Russell, CPA-Inactive, Treasurer
Prudential Financial

Dana Ponciroli, Recording Secretary
Syensqo



TRUSTEES

Phil Armenio
GTS Johnson & Johnson Services, Retiree

Snehal Batra, Esq.
NPZ Law Group

Rachel E. Campbell, Esq.
DiFrancesco, Bateman, Kunzman, Davis, Lehrer & Flaum

Janice Cmielewski
Somerset County Library System of New Jersey

Mary Curtis Horowitz
The Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy & The Mary Curtis Horowitz Foundation

Rev. Louis A. Mattina
Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church

Tho Ngo, FCAS, MAAA
Munich Re America

Cathy Peckens, M.B.A.
Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

Mary Riccardi, CPA
The PRC Group of Companies

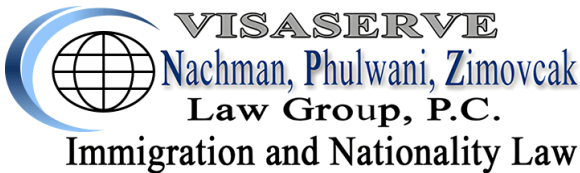
Yvonne Selander
Somerset County Library System of New Jersey



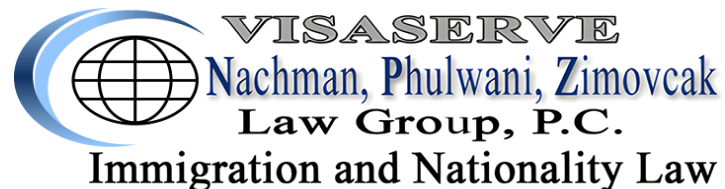
Committed Partnerships

Thank You, Community Partners

Working together, we can do so much more. LVSC is honored to partner with these outstanding organizations.



Partnering to Address Immigration Challenges



- **Virtual Workshops on Immigration and Naturalization** for volunteers, students, partners, and community members
- 6 onsite **free consultations with an immigration attorney** for incoming students

*Thank you, Snehal Batra, Esq
of NPZ Law Group*

Family Literacy Partnership



Family literacy boosts children's academic success, strengthens intergenerational bonds, and builds adult confidence—creating a powerful legacy of learning for the entire household.

- Shared the love of reading with Middle Earth families
- 3 themed family reading nights
 - LVSC volunteer and retired children's librarian, Ms. Carol, read stories and coordinated crafts
 - Reading Buddy, Daisy, joined to provide a calming presence and non-judgmental listener for children practicing reading skills
 - Offered book give-a-way
 - Shared dinner
 - Themes: Dogs, Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo



Workplace Literacy Partnership

RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital



**BROUGHT FREE
ENGLISH CLASSES TO
THE HOSPITAL'S
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES TEAM.**



**LVSC STAFF TAUGHT
BASIC ENGLISH
CLASSES TWICE A
WEEK DURING
LUNCH HOUR.**





Statewide Partnership



**Congratulations to LVSC
tutor, Tammy Westmark, for
statewide recognition!**

**Award for Volunteer
Excellence**

**Literacy NJ Conference,
April 23, 2026**





Partnering to Provide Basic English Classes

First Steps Basic English Program

- 10 classes serving 140 students this year!
- Since Sept. 2023:
 - 549 students enrolled
 - 4,028 hours of free instruction
 - 45 classes and small groups
- Funded by Somerset County
- Partners:
 - Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board
 - Hunterdon County ESC
 - Raritan Valley Community College
 - Somerset County Library System NJ & Library Branches

Partnering on a National Stage

- Shared success of the First Steps Basic English partnership program United for ALICE National Conference hosted by the United Way of Northern NJ
- Presentation on Empowering Working Class Families Through English Literacy
 - Joanne Hala, United Way of Northern NJ
 - Aimee Lam, LVSC
 - Paul Grzella, Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board





Committed Funders

Thank You, Donors

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)



\$1,000-\$2,499

- ProLiteracy 2025 National Book Fund
- PSEG Foundation
- Somerset Patriots
- Thrivent Financial
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills

\$2,500-\$4,999

- NJ Community Fund by Johnson & Johnson
- Mary Curtis Horowitz Foundation
- Shapiro Family Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

- The Fred C. Rummel Foundation
- Plus, Matching Gifts & Volunteer Grants*

\$10,000-\$14,999

- Munich Re America
- Somerset Regal Bank Foundation

\$15,000-\$19,999

- George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation
- Song Family Foundation

\$20,000 - \$29,999

- Billian Family Charitable Foundation

\$30,000+

- Individual Donors
- Somerset County – American Rescue Plan Funds
- State of NJ

****Matching Gifts & Volunteer Grants***

- *Exxon Mobile*
- *Johnson & Johnson*
- *Munich Re America*
- *Nationwide*
- *Prudential*
- *Thrivent Financial*

Committed to Fun FUNdraising Events

Net Income:
\$36,000



Garden of Literacy Brunch & Baskets



Golf Fore Literacy

Thank You, Event Sponsors

(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

\$150 - \$299

- Alpine Business Systems
- Bob and Mary Kane
- Libby, by Overdrive
- NPZ Law Group, P.C.
- Total Maintenance Pro

\$300 - \$499

- Edison Research
- NextT Fit Clubs, Hillsborough
- PSE&G
- Steadfast Strength and Nutrition

\$500 - \$999

- American Legion Post 304, Manville, NJ
- ENT and Allergy Associates
- Johanna Wiseman, RE/MAX Preferred Professionals
- Medicor Cardiology
- PeopleCare Center for Nonprofits
- Somerset Valley Players

\$1,000-\$1,999

- Newroads Financial Group
- Unity Bank

\$2,000-\$3,000

- Scott Curtis CFP, Thrivent Financial
- Mary Curtis Horowitz
- The Riccardi Family



What's next?

We're staying the course:

- Maintaining commitment to training and supporting our volunteers so we can serve as many students as possible.
- Maintaining commitment to providing students with quality instruction and tutors with a meaningful volunteer experience.
- Keeping current with the changing needs of our students and responding accordingly.
- Celebrating all that we are proud and thankful for! Together we've accomplished so much this past year and in 45 years.
- Identifying funding streams to maintain growth.
- Strategizing for the next five years. We'll be celebrating our Golden Anniversary: 50 years of service in 2031!

*Thank you for your
tremendous
commitment to the
LVSC community.*

