## FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name:</th>
<th>Literacy Together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name:</td>
<td>Igniting Superhero Readers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reporting Quarter:

- **Quarter 1** (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)
- **Quarter 2** (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)
- **Quarter 3** (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)
- **Quarter 4** (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)

### Narrative summary of grant related activities

**Quarter 1**

The new year is off to a great start. We served 90 children through three sites over the summer: Youth Transformed for Life, Christine W. Avery Learning Center, and the YMCA at Johnston Elementary. Summer camp students who completed pre- and post-assessments showed an 86% improvement rate. We employed 29 paid intern tutors over the summer, and currently have 12 paid interns committed to the academic year. We are actively recruiting both paid interns and volunteer tutors. Recent volunteer efforts include a presentation to the student body at Buncombe County Early College, outreach at UNCA, and outreach at Warren Wilson College. We are currently serving a total of 45 youth through 1:1 tutoring. The following are quotes from intern tutors:

1. **One of my students started out trying his best to sound out words. Let's use the example of "cat." He'd say C-A-T, but then when he tried to say the word all together, he'd say "at." Now, he's reading C-V-C words with ease and is working on harder concepts. He gets so excited when he's able to do it and I tell him how proud I am of him. He laughs and smiles, he's so excited about everything. I'm hopeful that he's going to be just a little bit more confident going into school this year.**

2. **I hope to continue to tutor children in a similar way in the future wherever my college experience takes me. In the summers, I would love to participate in Literacy Together's internship programs again.**
### Progress toward annual goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Annual Goal</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
<th>Progress toward Annual Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of total students participating in literacy programs</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of paid tutor interns</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students completing reading assessments who improve in one or more literacy skill areas</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Actual Results (Enter Data)

Please only include new data for the specific quarter.
## FY2024 Buncombe County Strategic Partnership Grant Report

**Organization Name:** Literacy Together  
**Project Name:** Igniting Superhero Readers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Quarter: (Check one)</th>
<th>Reporting Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Quarter 1 (July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Quarter 2 (October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Quarter 3 (January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Quarter 4 (April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending Category</th>
<th>Starting Budget</th>
<th>Quarter 1</th>
<th>Quarter 2</th>
<th>Quarter 3</th>
<th>Quarter 4</th>
<th>Amount Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$ 15,000</td>
<td>$ 14,945</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$ 55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies/Materials</td>
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<td>$ 629</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$ 9,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing/Marketing</td>
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<td>$ 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
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<td>$ 923</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
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<td>$ 1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance and Bonds</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance</td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutor stipends</td>
<td>$ 15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 50,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 38,497</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 11,503</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comments:

Support docs attached to email
Literacy Together

Transforming Lives Through Literacy
Formerly Literacy Council of Buncombe County
We're celebrating 37 years!

We used to be the Literacy Council of Buncombe County, and we changed our name in January 2021.

—

literacy council of buncombe county

Today a Reader. Tomorrow a Leader.
Our Mission and Vision

Our **mission** is to transform lives and communities through the power of literacy.

Our **vision** is a just and equitable community in which literacy is accessible and achievable for all.
We offer four FREE programs:

1. Adult Literacy
2. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
3. Youth Literacy
4. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library
1. Adult Literacy Program

The Adult Literacy program teaches reading, writing, spelling, and math to adults who read at or below a basic skills level. Students may come to Literacy Together because they want to improve job prospects, help their children in school, or enroll in a High School Equivalency Program. Students with learning differences such as dyslexia might be looking for better ways to navigate their everyday reading and writing tasks. Although English is their native language, Adult Literacy students struggle with recognizing sounds, decoding words, and comprehending texts. Adult Literacy lessons are built on individualized strategies that help students improve these skills. This program serves approximately 50 students per year.
2. English for Speakers of Other Languages

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program teaches oral English, reading, and writing to adults who have immigrated to the U.S. from around the world. ESOL is the largest program at Literacy Together, serving approximately 250 students annually. Our students’ most common goals in learning English are to improve their employment prospects, help their children in school, and pass the U.S. Naturalization exam.
3. Youth Literacy

Youth Literacy improves the academic achievement of children and teens from low-income families who struggle with literacy skills. The project trains tutors who provide free, one-on-one instruction in reading, writing, and spelling. This program serves approximately 90 students per year.
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library impacts the pre-literacy skills and school readiness of children under 5 in Buncombe County. The program mails a new, free, age-appropriate book to registered children each month until they turn five. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library creates a home library of up to 60 books and instills a love of books and reading from an early age. We're serving over 5,100 kids in Buncombe County, and 1 in 10 children under five in the US receive Imagination Library books.
JULIE TAYLOR, YOUTH LITERACY PROGRAM DIRECTOR
The Igniting Superhero Readers Internship

In the summer of 2021, the Youth Literacy Program partnered with Youth Transformed for Life and the Christine W. Avery Learning Center to create the Igniting Superhero Readers Summer Camp, an eight-week program working with elementary-age students in the Asheville area. Igniting Superhero Readers Summer Camp emphasizes recruiting youth of color for paid internships to serve as tutors. Recent research shows that students of color taught by those who share their identities and cultural backgrounds benefit academically and emotionally (source: Teach for America, June 2019). The interns receive training in phonics-based instruction to work with the students daily to build literacy skills and a love for reading! In addition, the Igniting Superhero Readers internship will continue throughout the school year, thanks to a grant from the City of Asheville.

We still need volunteers for this program!
Youth Literacy Program tutors work in person.

As Julie mentioned, Literacy Together has identified two afterschool programs to work with their students. We've chosen these programs because they serve primarily children of color, a step forward in addressing the achievement gap of Asheville City Schools. Tutors will volunteer once or twice a week between 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm.
Literacy Together is recruiting tutors to support 6th-8th graders in either reading or math (tutor choose their subject). Tutoring will take place twice a week at a YMCA after school program at Enka Intermediate School. Tutoring may be 1-on-1 or in small groups (tutors choose their format). Tutors will need to complete 4-5 hours of online training before they begin. Tutoring starts mid-October 2023.
Volunteers who want to work with this program have to live in the Asheville area.

Volunteers can tutor either in-person or remotely.
The ESOL Program welcomes volunteers from all over the world who are willing to tutor remotely. We now have ESOL volunteers in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, the UK, Oman, Turkey, and Germany! Local volunteers can tutor their students in person or remotely. ESOL tutors don't need to speak Spanish or the student's language.
We need more ESOL tutors!

Buncombe County has recently welcomed more people from Ukraine. We're working closely with the Lutheran Services Carolinas to provide the newcomers with English classes. We need volunteers who are willing to support them. Tutoring can be done remotely or in person. Tutors don't need to speak Ukrainian.

In addition, we have a waiting list of 100 people (most of whom are from Latin America) who have been waiting for months for a tutor.

Please feel free to share this information with your friends and family from out of town. Thanks!
Success Stories!
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
Youth Literacy Program
Adult Literacy Program
ESOL
The videos you just watched won a regional Emmy for Outstanding Public Service Announcement. The award went to Angry Unicorn Entertainment and filmmaker and producer Katie Damien.
Ways you can support Literacy Together's mission and vision:

- Become a volunteer tutor.
- Become a volunteer to help with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the little free libraries, fundraising events, office work, IT, etc.
- Become a corporate partner, or let someone know about the possibility of becoming a corporate partner.
- Come to our annual fundraising event.
- Make a donation.
- Do you support Blue Ridge Public Radio? If you donate $180 or more annually to them, you can share your on-air Day Sponsorship message with Literacy Together.
- Follow us on social media, share our posts, and subscribe to our newsletter.
- Invite us to your circles (book and movie clubs, staff meetings, etc.) so we can inform your people about Literacy Together.
- Help us spread the word about Literacy Together and the work we do in the community!
These are the next steps you'll have to take if you want to join us as a volunteer tutor:

1. Complete the "Take the Next Step" form.
2. **Attend tutor training.** Adult Literacy tutors receive 10–12 hours of training (although it can be shorter if you have experience teaching); ESOL tutors receive 7 hours of training; and Youth Literacy tutors receive about 9 hours of training.
3. **Get matched with a student.** The program director for your chosen program will match you with a student or small group of students who corresponds to your preferences. The program director will set the date, time, and location of your first meeting. After that, you will schedule your tutoring sessions directly with your student.
4. **Start tutoring.** Meet with your student(s) for at least two hours per week for a minimum of six months (Adult Literacy GED track), a year (ESOL, Adult Literacy Basic Skills track) and a school year (Youth Literacy).
Thank you so much for being here today :)}
Would you like a rewarding, PAID Internship Opportunity September through December? $15*/hour!

Igniting Superhero Readers

On the first day I sat down with one of my kids she told me that she hated reading, but by the third week I sat down and she asked if we could read a book together.
~ Tutor intern

An opportunity to make a difference in the life of a grade school student and build professional experience for your future

Literacy Together is hiring interns to provide 1:1 reading tutoring to elementary age students at multiple after-school programs in the Asheville community. The students would benefit from a champion to inspire them to become strong readers. Literacy Together will offer a paid internship for young adults, age 15 to 23, who will be trained and supported to work as reading tutors. Interns will receive an initial intensive training in an established multi-sensory approach to teaching reading, and the students will be pre- and post-tested to measure their progress.

*$16/hr for current college students and returning interns

Tutoring Sessions: 2-4 days per week (Mon-Thurs), 2-8 hours per week, between 3:15 and 5:30, hours are flexible.

For more information and application instructions: lit-together.org/internships
Would you like a rewarding, PAID Internship Opportunity September through December? Apply today - $15/hour*

Igniting Superhero Readers

An opportunity to make a difference in the life of a grade school student and build professional experience for your future

Literacy Together is hiring interns to provide 1:1 reading tutoring to elementary age students at multiple summer camp sites around the Asheville community. The students are primarily youth of color, many of whom would benefit from a champion to inspire them to become strong readers. Literacy Together will offer a paid internship for young adults, age 16 to 23, who will be trained and supported to work as reading tutors.

*$16/hr for current college students and returning interns