

VMLC



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Mission

VMLC is dedicated to improving English literacy levels among non-English speaking adults and children by providing programs in communication and life skills. We do so in the belief that the ability to understand, read, write and speak English contributes to independence, productivity and the overall well-being of our students, their families and the greater community.

Overview

Description VMLC provides free educational programs for approximately 900 adults and 195 preschool children who reside in two low-income, highly diverse areas in Dallas. VMLC receives no government funding, relies heavily on volunteers as teachers, and collaborates with other organizations to provide its students with the services they need to become permanently self-sufficient.

Investment Opportunity VMLC is seeking \$50,000 to expand the West Dallas program to serve an additional 80 adult students and 35 children. West Dallas currently has a waiting list of community residents who would enroll in the program if VMLC had space available. VMLC is seeking \$26,000 to pay for playground equipment for the West Dallas program, which has no outdoor equipment for the children attending the Early Childhood Education Program.

Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP) inducted VMLC into the portfolio in 2010. DSVP is committed to seeing the mission of VMLC strengthened and expanded. Our engagement strategy involves building their capacity in the areas of **Strategic Planning, Marketing/Public Relations, Development, and Information Technology**. Our team of Partners is lead by Lead Partners, Elaine Bernstein and Phyllis Bernstein.

Need for Change

- In Dallas County, one out of every 5 adults cannot read and write in English at a basic level.
- The price tag for adult illiteracy is more than \$17 billion per year nationally in lost income and tax revenue, welfare, unemployment, crime and incarceration, and industry training costs.
- The high school attrition rate in Dallas County is 35%, which is greater than the state average of 31%.
- In the two zip codes VMLC serves, 20.5% and 37.1% of individuals are below poverty level, which significantly exceeds the U.S. average of 12.4%.

Opportunity for Social Impact

- Increasing the number of preschool children from non-English speaking families who have the English and development skills necessary to succeed in school.
- Developing the self-confidence of parents so they may be effective advocates for their children's education and health by offering adult English classes in conjunction with VMLC's Early Childhood Education Program.
- Improving the English proficiency of non-English speaking adults, thereby increasing their ability to obtain and retain higher paying employment that will lift their family out of poverty.
- Empowering VMLC students and families to improve their lives by providing them with the services needed to increase their independence and better their communities through collaborations with area service providers.

Program Focus

Programs and how they impact our clients:

Early Childhood Education Program provides a proven English language program to the young children of adult day students.

Family English Literacy Program provides adult students the opportunity to learn English in morning and afternoon classes at the same time as their children are enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Program.

Workforce English Literacy Program provides adult students who work during the day the opportunity to learn English in evening classes.

Empowerment Program provides students with the cultural knowledge, leadership skills and confidence they need to use their newly acquired English language skills and function productively in society.

Affecting systemic change by:

- Eliminating barriers to learning by offering programs that are free of charge, within walking distance, offered both during the day and at night, and include an early childhood education program.
- Creating a continuum of learning within the family by providing English classes to both the parents and their young children concurrently.
- Creating collaboration among service providers to improve the quality of students' lives and decrease duplication of efforts.
- Developing a volunteer driven ESL educational model that can be cost-efficiently duplicated in other communities.



Organizational Performance

Population Served	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adults Served in Workforce English Literacy Program	363	321	446	450
Adults Served in Family English Literacy Program	347	343	447	450
Children Served in Early Childhood Education Program	167	200	195	195
Volunteers	322	355	360	400
Volunteer Hours	9660	12107	14103	16000

Financial

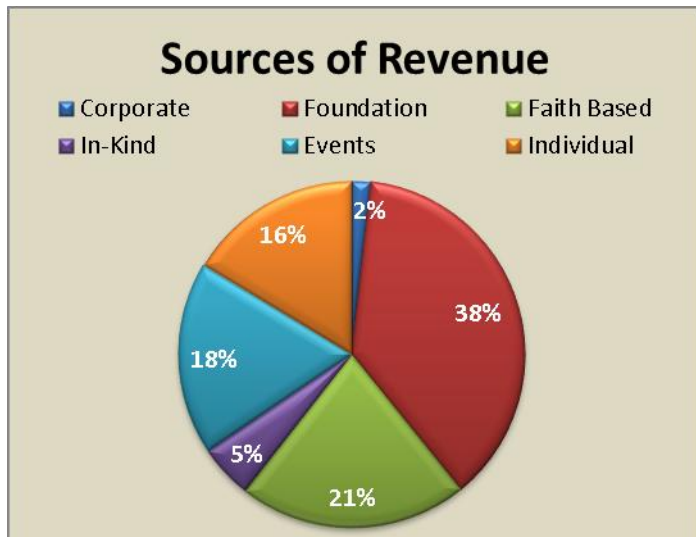
- Annual cost of one adult student in Workforce English Literacy Program \$340.
- Annual cost of one adult student in Family English Literacy Program \$300.
- Annual cost of one child in Early Childhood Education Program \$1,000.

Proven Social Impact

- 24% - Average rate of improvement in English literacy proficiency by adult students
- 24% - Average rate of improvement in English language skills by Preschool children
- 32% - Average rate of improvement in employment by students
- 39% - Average rate of improvement in computer skills
- 55% - Average rate of increased involvement in child's education
- 85% - Average rate of improvement in student's confidence

Statistics

Current Annual Budget Revenue 2010-2011: \$584,650
 Projected Annual Budget Revenue 2011-2012: \$647,400



Funders and Collaborations

Funders:

- Dallas Women's Foundation
- Junior League of Dallas
- M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation
- Medical City Dallas
- NorthPark Presbyterian Church
- Northwood Woman's Club
- Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church
- Richard & Enika Schulze Foundation
- The Hirsch Family Foundation
- The Heglund Foundation
- The MR and Evelyn Hudson Foundation
- The Rees-Jones Foundation
- Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation

Collaborations

- AgriLife Extension
- Dallas Children's Theater
- Injury Prevention Center
- Lutheran High School
- Prevent Blindness Texas
- Texas Woman's University
- Vickery Meadow Legal Clinic



Ways to Invest

DSVP Investment to date: \$22,500
Desired Co-Investment: \$76,000

- \$50,000 allows VMLC to double the number of daytime students served in West Dallas.
- \$26,000 provides playground equipment at VMLC's West Dallas campus.
- \$1,000 finances one child in VMLC's Early Childhood Education Program.
- In-Kind Gifts: School supplies, nutritious snacks, volunteer services