



LITERACY UNLIMITED ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024–June 2025)

Greetings from Literacy Unlimited!

It has been a privilege to step into the role of Program Coordinator this year. Though we certainly faced new and unexpected challenges, what will stick with me most is the joy of walking out of my office to find the top floor of the library filled with student-tutor pairs smiling, laughing, and learning together. Those vibrant connections are what make our program, and its incredible community, unique.

from a Framingham State University education course met weekly with English learners from our program, helping them practice their oral English through 1-1 and small group conversations. Topics at their tables ranged from favorite foods and music to childhood experiences and cultural differences. In June, one of our high-level English learners volunteered to provide a weekly Spanish class for Library staff and city employees. This program is off to a great start, and we are excited to see it grow in the months to come!



Literacy Unlimited student/tutor pair studying

Looking back on FY25, I am in awe of what the Literacy Unlimited community has accomplished. Our 1-1 tutoring program and group conversation classes collectively served over 500 students from across the world, thanks to the steadfast support of over 170 volunteers who served as tutors, trainers, class leaders, workshop facilitators, and board members. Literacy Unlimited staff also assisted 248 individuals with signing up for a library card during our intake process, giving these enthusiastic language learners access to a wealth of self-study resources.

In addition to sustaining our core services, Literacy Unlimited piloted several new programs this year with support from key community partners. From January-May 2025, students



Adult learners practicing conversational English with FSU students

As we enter into FY26, we look forward to partnering with new grantors, including Cummings Foundation and Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation, to expand and improve our programming. Simultaneously, we would like to thank all of the grantors, donors, and volunteers who made Literacy Unlimited's FY25 accomplishments possible. Your contributions have had an incredible impact on this program, the individuals it serves, and the community it creates.

Martha Coleman, Program Coordinator

GETTING CREATIVE—INSIDE THE CLASSROOM AND OUT!

The Literacy Unlimited community is full of tutors and class leaders who spark our students' learning in creative and engaging ways. Through games, art, music, and extracurricular events, our volunteers go above and beyond to make learning English fun!

We started the year with a tutor workshop on Art, Creativity and Literacy presented by Robin L Danzak, PhD and professor at Emerson College. In the workshop, tutors and conversation class leaders practiced talking about visual art and using simple drawing and sculpting to teach English. Who knew art could be such a great discussion starter for all English levels?



Conversation class practicing English using board games

Our innovative class leaders took this workshop to heart, incorporating creative learning activities into their instruction. In one intermediate class, students taught their fellow English learners how to play games like Monopoly, Mahjong, and Bingo. This was a great way for students to share their interests, learn new games, practice presentation skills, and—of course—use English.

Another class learned how to make felt birds from one of their peers. This was a great example of hands-on learning. The student instructor employed her language skills to explain how to cut, stitch, and stuff a small bird ornament or pin. Meanwhile, her classmates broadened their English vocabulary and learned a new artistic skill!

Several classes enjoyed singing, using musical rhythm, rhyme, and repetition to learn and practice English. Some of the songs we heard in the classroom were:

“Hello, Goodbye” by the Beatles (1967)

... *Hello, hello*

I don't know why you say goodbye

I say hello...

“Days of the Week”, Addams Family Theme Song Parody (YouTube, 2017)

... *There's Sunday and there's Monday*

There's Tuesday and there's Wednesday

There's Thursday and there's Friday

And then there's Saturday!

Days of the week, (snap snap)...

And lastly, there were field trips for classes and student/tutor pairs touring the Danforth Art Museum, visiting the Framingham History Center, and walking the Cochituate Rail Trail. These cultural community experiences are a great way for English learners to practice their language skills in a new context.

We look forward to collaborating with our volunteers to expand upon these active and creative learning experiences in the months and years to come!



Intermediate English students at Framingham History Center

LU FOUNDATION LETTER

The Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation has had a busy year of fundraising with generous input of time and energy from members of our Advisory Board, our Foundation, and our superb office staff. Thank you all for your hard work. We could not have done it without you! We would also like to thank our broader community of supporters and volunteers, without whom our program could not exist. And of course, thanks to the City of Framingham for their generous and consistent support of our program and its work. Finally, we would like to thank the Framingham Public Library for their critical support, encouragement, office space and so much more. We could not run this program without them!

We had enthusiastic participation in the May Baskets Raffle fundraiser with displays of jam-packed gift baskets at both Framingham libraries from mid-April through the end of May, raising more than \$6,000. We are enormously grateful to the corporate, small business, and nonprofit sponsors, as well as private individuals, who contributed money and beautiful gift baskets for this event. We would also like to thank our corporate friends for their matching gifts and foundation donations, with special thanks to the IBM Corporation. We are happy to report that our first Jack's Abby Brewing night was a successful start to what we hope will be an annual summer event – a fun social gathering where we also raise money for Literacy Unlimited.

Additionally, we are indebted to Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts for their substantial financial and programmatic support, and for being steadfastly dedicated to our cause.

Lastly, we are immensely grateful to our individual supporters for believing in our mission and making personal donations amounting to more than \$25,000.

We proudly offer all of our services to our students for free and therefore we do rely on your gifts and grants to keep our program going. You can know that during fiscal year 2025, your generosity helped us train over 45 new tutors, support 206 tutor-student pairs (with more to come), run over 20 group classes, purchase teaching materials, and pay our hardworking office staff. Thank you for being part of the community that makes our work possible!

Sincerely,

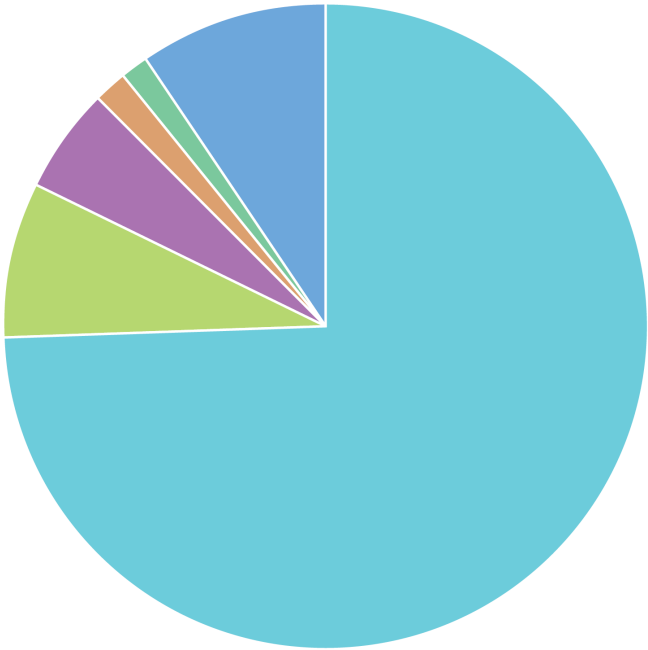
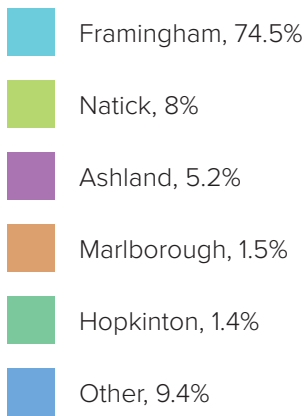
Peter Bearor

President, Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation



May Baskets raffle winner with her haul

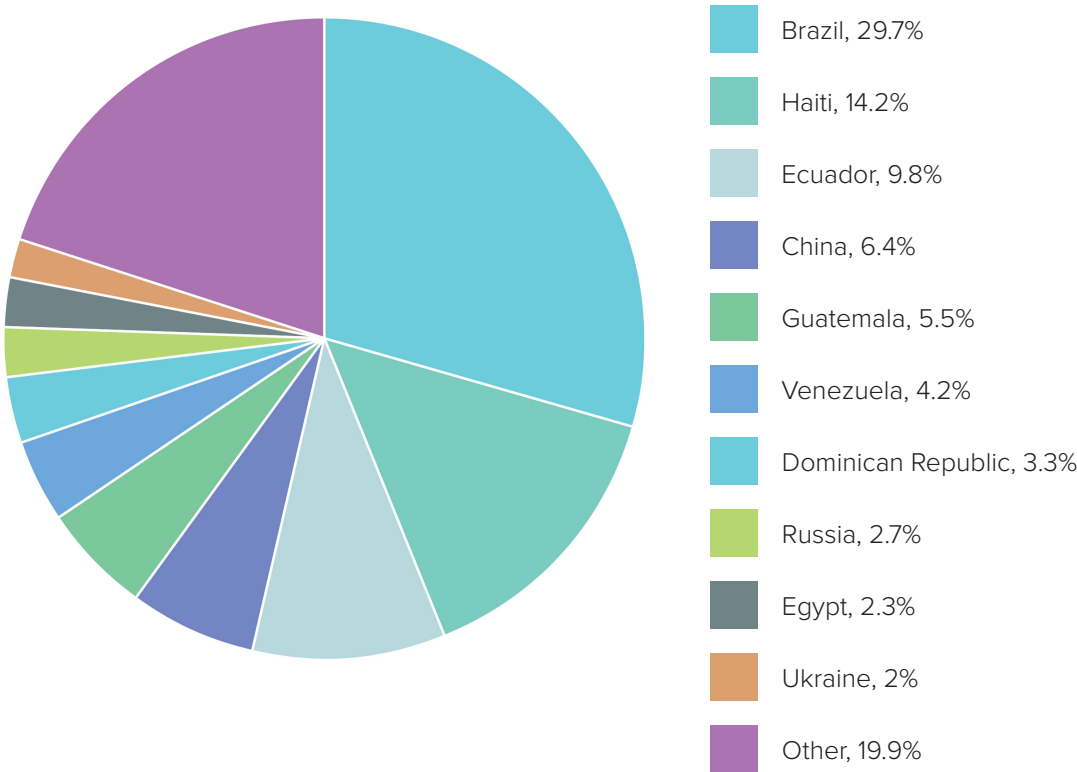
STUDENTS BY CITY/TOWN



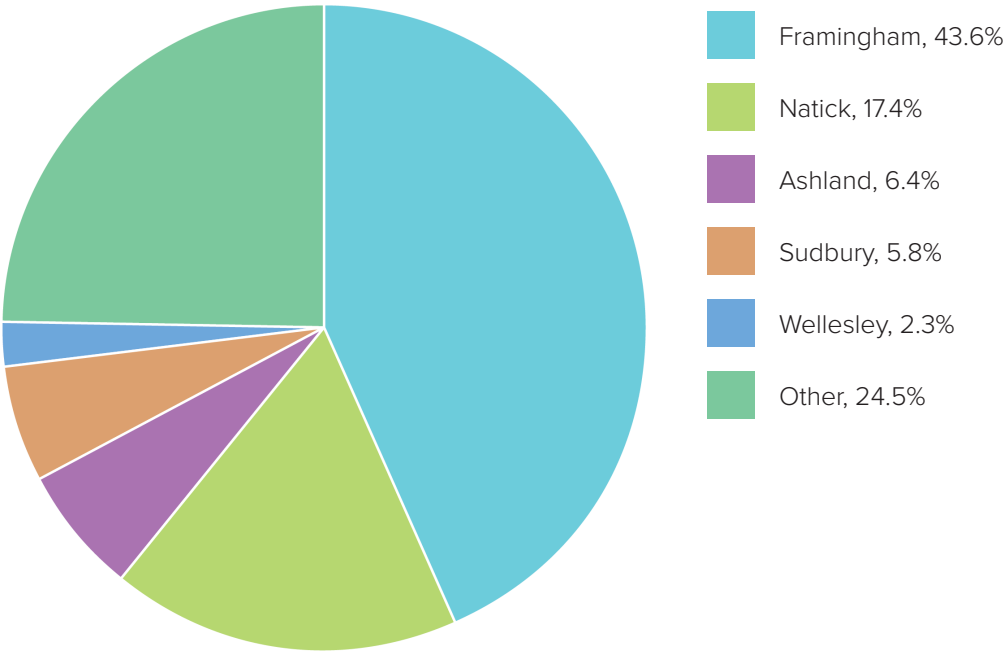
“I feel very strongly that being a part of Literacy Unlimited is about much more than learning or teaching a language—it’s about connecting people.”

—Bruno, Literacy Unlimited Student

STUDENTS BY CITY/TOWN



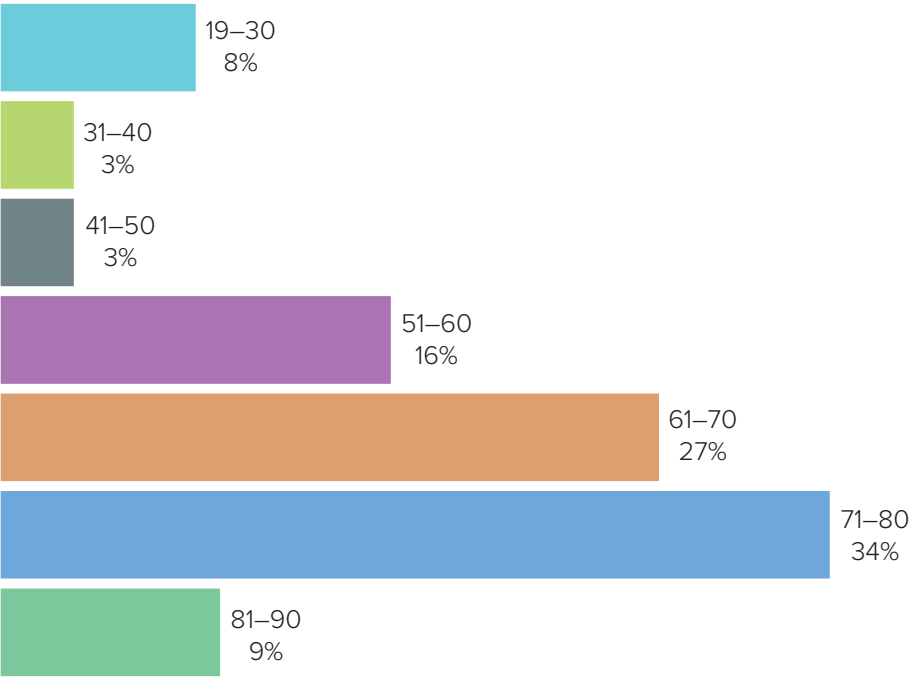
TUTORS BY CITY/TOWN



“Volunteering here has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It’s not just about literacy—it’s about the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Every learner I work with reminds me how transformative education can be. And in helping others grow, I’ve grown too.”

—Merve, Literacy Unlimited Volunteer

TUTORS BY AGE



2025 FISCAL YEAR

JULY 2024

- Beginning of Fiscal Year 2025
- Jack's Abby Neighbor Night fundraiser

AUGUST 2024

- Tutor Workshop: Making Art, Growing Language (Robin Danzak, Ph.D.)
- Ribbon cutting for new Literacy Unlimited space at Framingham Library



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Literacy Unlimited's new space

SEPTEMBER 2024

- In-person tutor training, Thursday afternoons
- Registration for new students

OCTOBER 2024

- Intermediate classes participate in "History of Immigration in Framingham" exhibit at Framingham History Center
- Tutor Workshop: Lesson Planning through Backwards Design (Marcel Lavergne, Ph.D.)
- In-person tutor training, Saturday mornings

NOVEMBER 2024

- Literacy Unlimited brings back Tutor Time—Zoom meetings for tutors and staff to connect and learn

DECEMBER 2024

- December Potluck Event

JANUARY 2025

- Online tutor training, Wednesday evenings
- Framingham State University begins "Drop-In Conversational English Practice" group
- Tutor Workshop: Simple View of Reading (Robin Danzak, Ph.D.)
- Tutor Time: Exploring Ellii, News for You, & Newsela

FEBRUARY 2025

- Registration for new students
- Tutor Workshop: Writing to Learn (Robin Danzak, Ph.D.)

MARCH 2025

- In-person tutor training, Saturday mornings
- Tutor Workshop: Pronunciation 101: English Speech Sounds and Strategies for Students (Robin Danzak, Ph.D.)

APRIL 2025

- Tutor Time: Tongue Twisters (Victoria Yordt, M.Ed.)
- Tutor Workshop: Creating Tongue Twisters for Pronunciation (Robin Danzak)

MAY 2025

- Annual May Baskets raffle fundraiser
- In-person tutor training, Thursday afternoons
- Intermediate conversation class visits Danforth Art Museum
- Tutor Time: Library Online Resources

JUNE 2025

- May Basket raffle winners drawing
- Spanish class for Framingham municipal employees starts
- June Student/Volunteer Recognition Event
- Literacy Unlimited hosts first Tutor Social—volunteer gathering for casual connection at a local cafe



Tutor, staff, and student at June recognition event

FY 2025 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME

Individual Donations	\$25,640
Corporate and Community Donations	\$6,184
Government Grants	\$57,039
Private Grants	\$16,000
Fundraisers	\$6,882
Total Income	\$111,745

EXPENSES

Staff salaries	\$92,718
Fundraising Expenses	\$1,391
Tutor Training Costs	\$6,331
Subscriptions & Memberships	\$634
Professional Development	\$1,450
Event Supplies	\$112
Taxes & Filing Fees	\$1,404
Total Expenses	\$104,040

IN-KIND SUPPORT

In-kind support from Framingham Public Library	\$25,000
In-kind value of volunteer hours	\$480,648
Total in-kind support	\$505,648

Our accomplishments this year were made possible by the generous support of our grantors, community partners, and private donors. Thank you all for sustaining our work through your gifts and grants.

THANK YOU

STAFF

- Martha Coleman, Program Coordinator
- Karen Boudreau, Office Manager
- Marjorie Solomon, Clerical Assistant

CONVERSATION CLASS LEADERS

- Elena Asenjo
- Peter Bearor
- Les Bryan
- Laurie Christie
- Lynn Dennis
- Lee Ann Friedman
- Rick Gelfand
- Amy Karibian
- Sue Kelly
- Elizabeth Kugler
- Jim Meadors
- Bonnie Mitchell
- Ines Motta
- Denise O'Hare
- Merve Palabiyik
- Valerie Rector
- Maria Ruiz
- Kathy Sastavickas
- Linda Strayhorn
- Dan Schullman
- Cathy Wadelton
- Laurie Yarow

CITIZENSHIP TUTORS AND CLASS LEADERS

- Howy Blank
- Brian Judge

MATH TUTORS

- Will Glatfelter

ENGLISH & LITERACY TUTORS

Too numerous to list individually. Thank you for all you do to support this program and its students.

ADVISORY BOARD

- Maria Barry, Chair
- Lisa Gelin, Vice Chair
- Les Bryan
- Denise Corless
- Barbara Gainsboro
- Judy Mills
- Bonnie Mitchell
- Milena Rivas
- Kathy Roth

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Robin Danzak, Ph.D.
- Marcel LaVergne, Ph.D.
- Victoria Yordt, M. Ed.

TUTOR TRAINERS

- Denise Corless
- Denise O'Hare
- Grace Spaulding

LITERACY UNLIMITED OF FRAMINGHAM FOUNDATION, INC.

- Peter Bearor, President
- Nancy Benton, Director
- Martha Coleman, Treasurer and Literacy Unlimited Coordinator
- Dawn Dellasanta, Director of Framingham Public Libraries
- Bonnie Mitchell, Clerk
- Kathryn Roth, Director (and Former President)
- Elaine Strongwater, Director

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

- Volunteers of the Friends of the Framingham Public Library
- Framingham Public Library Foundation
- Lions Club of Framingham

CORPORATE DONORS

- Boston Red Sox
- Bravo Baskets
- Dulce D Leche
- Home Depot
- IBM
- Jack's Abby
- Level 99
- New England Patriots
- Taza Chocolate
- Trader Joe's
- Vivilicious Chocolates
- Worcester Woo Sox

FY25 GRANTORS

- Community Foundation for MetroWest
- Framingham Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts (LVM)
- ProLiteracy

DONATE TODAY

Here are two easy ways to make a tax-deductible donation to Literacy Unlimited.

Write a check payable to Literacy Unlimited of Framingham Foundation, Inc. and mail it to Literacy Unlimited, 49 Lexington St., Framingham, MA 01702.

Make a monthly or one-time donation via PayPal. Simply go to framinghamlibrary.org/literacy/our-program/ or scan the QR code below to donate. Credit and debit cards are accepted.

