

Reading Works 2014-2015 Annual Report



The Year In Review

Reading Works and our Impact Partners continue to evolve as a collective to regionally improve adult literacy. Working together, we developed **common success measures** across agencies and began identifying best practices that will accelerate learners toward their goals. Reading Works also raised funds for **pilot scaling projects** to test ways we can serve more learners. Solving the literacy issue in metro Detroit will require **strong public-private partnerships**. For this reason, Reading Works added **awareness and public policy** as priorities for our services to literacy providers, with the goal of directing more private, state and federal support to adult education.

We transitioned to new office space donated by **Strategic Staffing Solutions** in July 2014, and Kristen Barnes-Holiday joined us as our new Director of Program Outcomes. **Here are more highlights from 2014-2015:**



In September 2014, author and publisher **Bill Haney** dedicated the signing event for his new book, *What They Were Thinking*, to benefit Reading Works. Sponsored by **Danialle and Peter Karmanos, Jr.** and hosted by **Denise Ilitch** at her new Birmingham restaurant, **220 Merrill**, more than 100 people came to celebrate Bill and his wonderful book. Bill and his wife Marcy donated a portion of the proceeds from book sales to support Reading Works.

In spring 2015, we received two major gifts in support of our strategic plan: \$250,000 from **The Kresge Foundation**, and \$100,000 from **DTE Energy Foundation**. In addition to funding pilot scaling projects, these gifts are allowing Reading Works to expand our awareness and public policy work while continuing to provide capacity-building support to our Impact Partners.

In April 2015 we were very sad to suddenly lose our good friend and **Honorary Chairman, Alfred Taubman**. Since our founding, Alfred worked with Reading Works as a generous advisor and donor. In early 2015, he worked with board chairman Paul Anger on connecting with major national foundations to improve adult literacy in Detroit. As of this writing, those connections have resulted in more than \$300,000 support. We miss Alfred's friendship and council, and dedicated our 2015 Annual Meeting to his memory.



Another big transition took place in May 2015 when **Paul Anger** retired from the Detroit Free Press and moved with his wife Vickie to Louisiana to be near their children and grandchildren. Paul remains an active member of our board and a generous volunteer for adult literacy.



In June 2015 the Reading Works board elected five new members along with its new chair, **Thomas McGinnis of Deloitte**, who joined the board in 2014. Paul Anger was elected to receive permanent recognition as our Founding Chair; and former members **Joyce Jenereaux of Michigan.com** and **Cynthia Pasky of Strategic Staffing Solutions** were named as Honorary Chairs in recognition of their ongoing support and guidance.

We rely on the expertise and broad experience of our Impact Partners to guide us, and the generosity of **you, our volunteers and donors**, to solve the problem of adult literacy in metro Detroit. **If you are interested in becoming a volunteer**, please contact Reading Works at 313-962-6202 or pbrown@readingworksdetroit.org.

Thank you for helping members of our community gain the literacy skills they need for a better life.

Paula Brown, Executive Director
April, 2016

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Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 295,242
Other Receivable	\$ 275,000
Prepaid Expenses	<u>\$ 9,823</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 580,065</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 580,065

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 4,328
Accrued Payroll and Other Liabilities	<u>\$ 9,357</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 13,685</u>

Total Liabilities

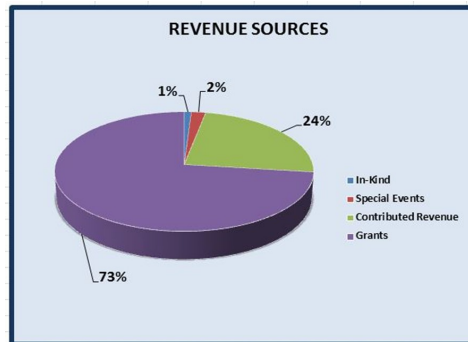
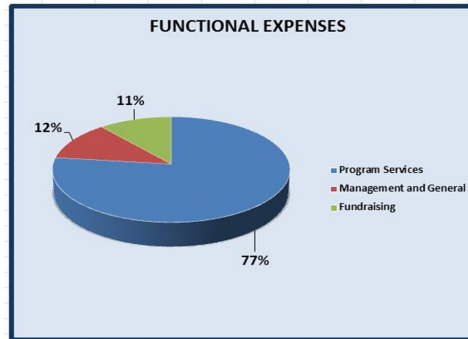
\$ 13,685

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$ 162,055
Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$ 404,325</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 566,380</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 580,065



Reading Works Impact Partners

- ◆ ACCESS
- ◆ Detroit Public Library / Parkman Branch
- ◆ Dominican Literacy Center
- ◆ Focus: HOPE
- ◆ Macomb Literacy Partners
- ◆ Mercy Education Project
- ◆ St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center
- ◆ Siena Literacy Center
- ◆ Southwest Solutions Adult Learning Labs

Thank you to our 2013-2014 donors (as of June 30, 2015)

Honorary Scholars Society (\$100,000 and more)

Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation
DTE Energy Foundation
The Kresge Foundation

Champions for Literacy (\$10,000—\$99,999)

Anonymous
The Auto Club Group
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan
Detroit Free Press
Ernst & Young
Gannett Foundation
Quicken Loans
Strategic Staffing Solutions

Advocates for Literacy (\$1,000—\$9,999)

Paul Anger and Vickie Dahلمان-Anger
Paula and James Brown
Comerica Charitable Foundation
Granholm Mulhearn Family Fund
Bill and Marcy Haney
Danialle and Peter Karmanos
Brian C. Mashburn
Thomas McGinnis
WXYZ-7 Action News and the Scripps Howard Foundation
Joni M. Thrower
Colleen Warren

Friends of Literacy (\$500—\$999)

Lori A. Boyce	Denise Ilitch
Robert Bradley	Daniel F. Smith
Gary Dembs	Friends of Unity
Detroit Branch NAACP	

Gifts In Kind

Phillip Caldwell
Detroit Free Press

Denise Ilitch and 220 Merrill
Strategic Staffing Solutions
Christopher Trebilcock

Gifts in Tribute

In Honor of:

Paul Anger

Paula Brown, CFRE
Robert Cohen
Eve Haley
Daniel F. Smith

Michael Cheatham
Gary Dembs
Cynthia Pasky
Louis C. Stokes

January Castleman

George Griggs

Tanay Crawford and Rodney Rivers

George Griggs

Mary Haller

Antioch Book Club

Geri Pappas

Joanne Vader

Karen Ritz

George Griggs

Cynthia Rowe Fisher and Ronald Rowe

Wendy Hillebrand

Debora Scola

William Laitner

A. Alfred Taubman

Mary Anne Drew

John Warner

Richard Donovan

Robert Wells

Victoria Monley

Benjamin and Michelle Wilbert

George Griggs

Gretchen Wilbert

In Memory of:

Marga Coverdill

Dorothy Wright

Claire Gorlick

Dorothy Wright

John Klimek

Lambro Niforos

Mario E. Motter

Margery Motter

A. Alfred Taubman

Paula Brown, CFRE

Mary Louise Smith

* Due to space limitation, only donors giving \$500 or more, and tributes are listed. We are grateful to all our supporters who make our work possible.