

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



READ
OTTAWA

Our mission is to provide adults who live in or near Ottawa County with an opportunity to improve and transform their lives by strengthening their reading and language fluency.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2024 **READ Ottawa** served over **100 new learners**, expanded our reach across southern Ottawa County to include Hudsonville. **Strengthened** our partnerships with libraries, schools, and community organizations. We created a **Memorandum of Understanding** with Allegan Adult and Online Education, Allegan District Library and the Allegan County Community Foundation to form a pilot program that mirrors **READ Ottawa**. We also launched new tutor trainings, enhanced our learner-centered resources, and **began building a foundation** for long-term sustainability and impact.

Literacy opens doors—to employment, education, citizenship, and confidence. Every success story we've witnessed this year is a **testament to what's possible** when a community believes in the power of education. Whether it's a learner **reading to a grandchild** for the first time, or **passing the GED** after months of hard work, these moments remind us why **READ Ottawa** exists.

As we look ahead, we are focused on **deepening our impact** and increasing our capacity. Our goals include growing our monthly donor program, **strengthening community awareness**, and reaching more adults who are ready to take the next step toward a better future.

Thank you to our volunteer tutors, volunteer support staff, staff and Board of Directors for being part of this journey. Your support fuels the hope, the hard work, and the transformative change that literacy brings. **Together, we are building a stronger, more equitable community—one learner at a time.**

Vicki L. Ellis
VICKI ELLIS
 Executive Director

*"When my learner started, he could neither read nor write. On the last day of class, he gave me a full sheet of paper which he had filled with words in English, Spanish, and French. I framed that paper and hung it in my office. What **READ Ottawa** can do is life changing!"*

~ Darcy, **READ Ottawa** Tutor

*"My tutor shares every American holiday with me, she prepares some treats and lets me enjoy American holiday vibes. It's hard for a foreigner to participate in the holidays, I'm very appreciative for it. My tutoring sessions make me have the chances to talk to native and learn from them. My English improves and I got more people to care about me from **READ Ottawa**."*

~ Jane, **READ Ottawa** Learner

*"As an ESL Teacher, I've seen firsthand the powerful impact of the **READ Ottawa** program. Many of my adult learners struggle with specific needs that are difficult to address in a classroom setting - for example preparing for the citizenship interview or just building confidence in every day conversation. **READ** tutors provide focused, one-on-one support, and the progress learners make is life changing. It isn't just the academic help - it is the human connection. Many **READ** tutors form deep, meaningful relationships with their learners that go far beyond lessons."*

~ Cathy, Zeeland Adult Education
 ESL Instructor

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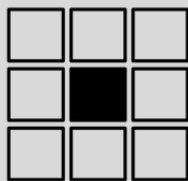
Renate Watters

Assessment Coordinator

We appreciate

our Ottawa County libraries for
supplying space and resources
that make our mission a reality.

Thank you!



Howard Miller Public Library



Spring Lake
District Library

2024**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Over 74 Learner Reading Tests completed
- Over 80 Learners enrolled in either ESL or ABE
- 37 Learners improved their literacy through the MACAE Grant Funding.
- Executed a Memorandum of Understanding for a partnership with Allegan Adult & Online Education
- Obtained record-breaking dollars from grant funding

LEARNER SUMMARY

LEARNER DATA

Total Learners Enrolled	215
NEW Learners Enrolled	81
Total ESL Learners	71
Total ABE Learners	10

**LEARNER ACTIVE GOALS**

Improve English Language Skills	67
Obtain a Better Job	15
Be Involved in Child's Education	14
Read to Their Children	14
Obtain a Job	12
Improve Basic Literacy Skills	9
Increase Community Involvement	8
Obtain US Citizenship	8
Obtain GED/HSE	6
Achieve Higher Education	5
Obtain Drivers License	5
Obtain Financial Independence	3

LEARNER OBTAINED OUTCOMES

Got involved in Child's Education	12
Obtained a Job	11
Obtained a Drivers License	8
Achieved Higher Education	3
Obtained a Better Job	2
Obtained GED/HSE	2
Improved English Language Skills	1
Increased Community Involvement	1

TUTOR DATA

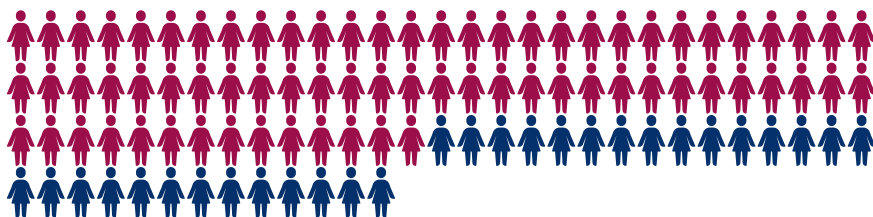
Total Tutors	177
Tutors Trained	70
Total Tutor Service Hours	3503.5



THANK YOU to our tutors and volunteers!

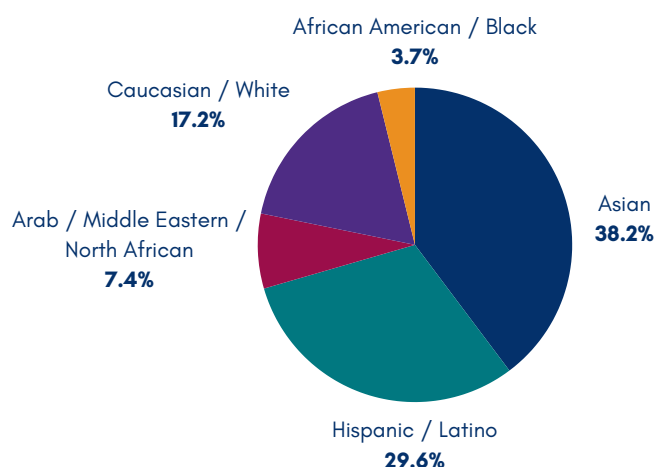
LEARNER DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

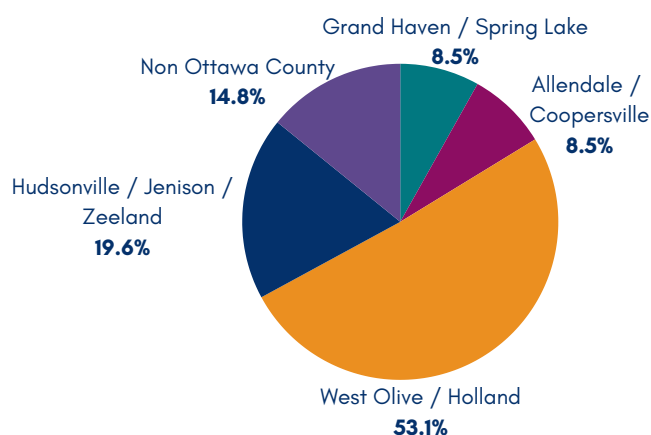


72.8% identified as female/woman
27.1% identified as male/man

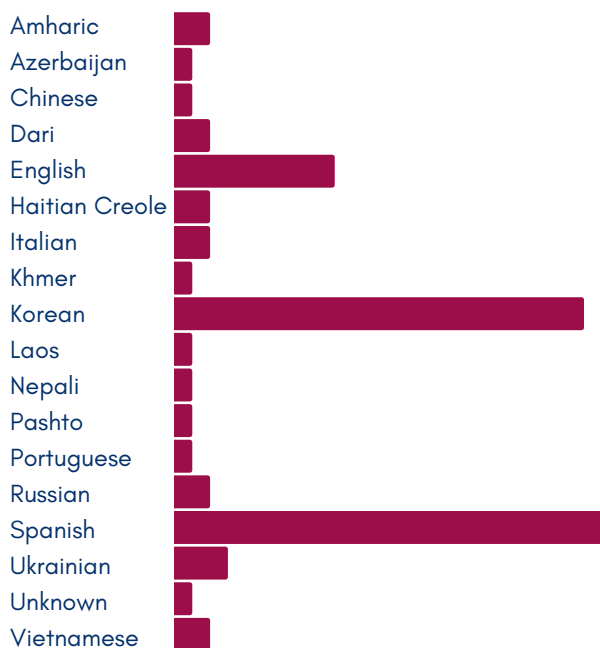
RACE / ETHNICITY



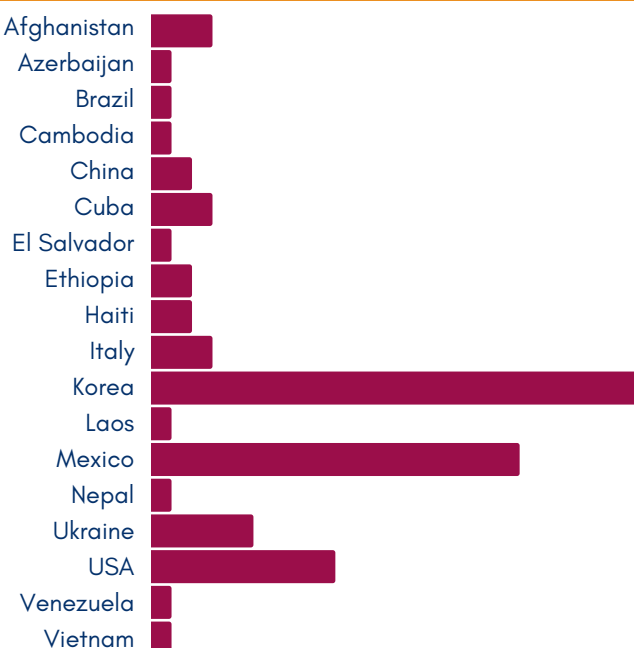
PLACE OF RESIDENCE



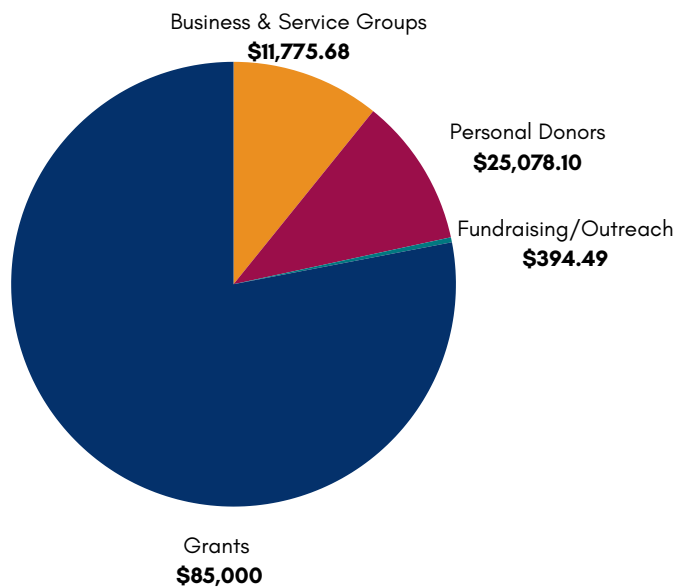
NATIVE LANGUAGES



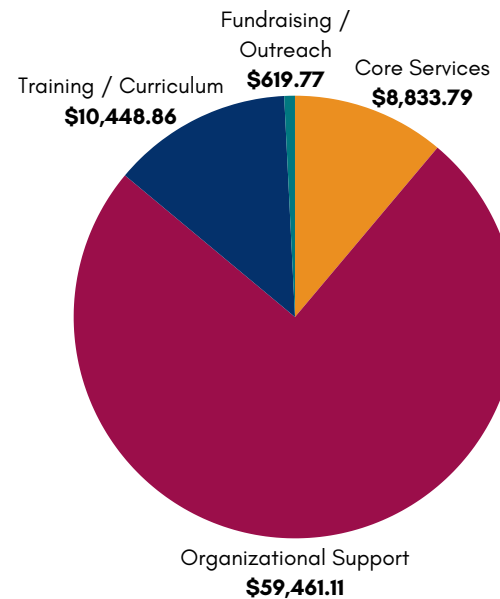
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



REVENUE: \$122,248.27



EXPENSES: \$79,363.43

On behalf of everyone at READ Ottawa, we appreciate the support and passion from each of you. **THANK YOU** to our donors for their generous contributions.

Personal Donors

Thomas & Mary Alguire
Gail Bagale
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Service Groups

United Methodist Church
of the Dunes
Zeeland Adult Education
Allegan Online Adult
Education & Public Library

Grants

Dollar General
Literacy Fund
GHACF
Home Depot
MACAE
KN Literacy Arts
ProLiteracy

Businesses

Fraternal Order of Eagles #925
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