



FY 2014 & FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

Our Programs	I
Our Year	
Letter from Shenna Bellows, Interim	2
CEO & Will Kilbreth, Board Chair	
Our Achievements	3
Our Stories	
Ana, ELP Student	4
Ariel, YBA Student	5
Our Financials	6
Our Supporters	
Board of Directors	7
Donors	8

Our Programs

AIMS HIGH AmeriCorps

Community Support Services

English Language Program

Family Literacy Initiative

Graffiti Busters

LearningWorks AfterSchool

Literacy Volunteers Greater Portland

Outpatient Therapy

Service Works

Targeted Case Management

Youth Building Alternatives



Student volunteer busting graffiti in Portland.

*Two inspiring years of helping Maine's children, immigrants,
and families find their pathways to success.*

Our CEO & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

We are excited to report on the last two years and look ahead to the future with you! Your support has allowed us to be successful in breaking down barriers and increasing access to learning. Your investment in our work has helped us become the powerful learning organization that we are today. With your help, we are helping youth and families to succeed.



Interim CEO Shenna Bellows and Board Chair Will Kilbreth.

This is such an important time of transition for LearningWorks. We are reviewing all of our programs and services and reflecting upon our mission to provide the best learning opportunities to at-risk youth, immigrants and low-income families. Transitions provide a unique opportunity to assess who we are and who we want to be in the future. We will be reaching out to you in the coming months for your advice and support. We hope you will engage in that conversation with us and continue to support our work moving forward.

During the transition, as we search for a new Chief Executive Officer, we hope to make wise changes that will improve our ability to serve our communities. The work that we can do together now will lay a strong foundation for a sustainable future. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shenna".

Shenna Bellows, Interim CEO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Will Kilbreth".

Will Kilbreth, Board Chair

Our Achievements



Over the past two fiscal years, ...

WE SERVED

over **6,000** youth, immigrants, and families

⌘ **6** counties ⌘ **53** towns ⌘

625 volunteers ⌘ over **105,000** hours

⌘ **15** schools

WE GREW

We opened a Graffiti Busters program in Biddeford.



We developed AfterSchool programs for 5 new elementary schools in Portland, South Portland and Waterboro.



We opened satellite offices in Biddeford, Sanford, and South Paris for our behavioral health programs.



WE WON

We were the Maine Children's Alliance **2014 Champion for Children** Giraffe Award winner due to our outstanding work in breaking down barriers and helping young Mainers maximize their potential.



Our Stories

Ana, English Language Program (ELP) Student

When Ana came to the U.S. from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2012, she didn't know what she was in for. She applied for a U.S. visa with dreams of new opportunities and security for her and her family, and was confident that her bachelor's degree, teaching experience, and ability to speak several languages would ease her transition in a new country.

Once she arrived in America, however, Ana quickly realized that her inability to speak English was a problem. "I could not express myself. I could not get a job, I could not find a place to stay." Ana was silenced by her inability to speak English, and she worried that she had made a mistake coming to the United States.

After hearing of Portland's thriving Congolese community, Ana bought a one-way bus ticket to Maine in 2013. Her first night in town, Ana met a fellow DRC woman and asked her new friend how she could improve her English. The answer was easy: "We must go to LearningWorks!" "My friend took me to LearningWorks the next day, and I signed up for the English Language Program. It was the first time I felt hope [while in the U.S.]"



Ana, with ELP Director Paul Manoff

Ana's English skills came a long way in the 4 months that she participated in ELP. Thanks to her improved abilities, she now has a full time job and recently began Adult Education classes. She knows the journey will be long, but Ana plans to return to teaching someday. She believes that LearningWorks is to thank for making that goal possible. "It looks small from the outside, but this place means everything to me. ELP is not just about learning English, it is about learning to build a life here. I now know I will make it in America."

*Ana asked her new friend how she could improve her English. The answer was easy:
"We must go to LearningWorks!"*

Our Stories

Ariel, Youth Building Alternatives (YBA) Student

When Ariel first started school as a small child, she looked forward to entering the building and being greeted by teachers and friends. As the years went by, however, school came to represent a source of anxiety and dread. “Public school was difficult for me, and I never felt like I fit in. It was a daily struggle to get myself into the building.”

Despite her desire to succeed academically and someday attend college, years of bullying and intimidation by her classmates finally prompted Ariel to drop out of high school in 2014. Ariel knew that a traditional classroom wasn’t the place for her, but was unsure of her next step. “My mom found out about YBA from researching online. Thank God she did.”



Ariel, with her family, at her YBA graduation.

Ariel came to YBA nervous and not knowing what to expect. One thing she certainly didn’t expect was how at ease she’d feel there. Ariel smiles as she recalls her first week in the YBA program. “I immediately felt welcome. It was the first time in a long time that I remember actually looking forward to going to school.”

In addition to feeling comfortable, Ariel now feels confident about her future. Thanks to the small class size, she has caught up on her academics. Ariel has also discovered, through volunteering at a preschool in South Portland, that she has a passion for working with children. “After I graduate YBA and take my high school equivalency exam this fall, I want to attend Southern Maine Community College to study Early Childhood Development.” What’s been the most rewarding aspect of attending YBA? “My mom is so proud that I’m in school and getting my life back on track. YBA changed my whole outlook on life — I’m excited for my future!”

*“YBA changed my whole outlook on life —
I’m excited for my future!”*

Our Financials

Revenue and Support

	<u>FY'14</u>	<u>FY'15</u>
Government Grants and Contracts	\$2,606,766	\$2,869,981
Private Grants	\$409,636	\$464,509
Capital Grants and Gifts	\$0	\$48,167
Individual Contributions	\$85,365	\$71,167
Program Revenue (MaineCare)	\$622,321	\$639,239
Property Income	\$66,021	\$26,831
Sale of Assets (rental real estate)	\$546,866	\$157,211
Other (rental income, in-kind revenue)	\$43,392	\$14,992
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$4,380,367	\$4,292,097

Expenses

	<u>FY'14</u>	<u>FY'15</u>
Personnel Costs	\$2,250,578	\$2,441,480
Program Costs	\$652,304	\$912,093
Other Expenses	\$358,798	\$191,325
Development Expenses	\$164,316	\$144,324
Support Service Expenses	\$437,194	\$545,625
Depreciation and Amortization	\$67,404	\$48,621
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,930,594	\$4,283,468

Quick Facts:

- ↑ 10.1% in government grant awards
- ↑ 13.4% in private grant awards
- ↓ 16.6% in individual contributions
- ↑ 2.7% in program revenue
- ↑ 9% net in agency expenses

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Interim CEO, LearningWorks



LearningWorks AfterSchool Celebration of Learning at
East End Community School

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Volunteers are a valuable resource in our work to fulfill our mission.
LearningWorks is always looking for committed, reliable volunteers to
diversify and expand our students' skills. If you are interested in learning more about
our volunteer opportunities, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (207) 775-0105.

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