Every day I am inspired by our students’ perseverance and courage. They overcome shame and fear to walk through our doors. Each wants to improve their literacy or English language skills for different reasons. Some want to be better parents, others seek more secure employment or to be more engaged community members. All want to be the best version of themselves. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and low-literacy. Those who come alongside us make our work possible. Thanks for impacting over 200 individuals in 2016-17!

You have made our community stronger.

Autumn Weil
Executive Director

Blue Ridge Literacy Council (BRLC) is dedicated to transforming lives through improved literacy and English communication skills for adult learners.

Did you know that consulting firm A.T. Kearney estimates, “for every dollar spent by volunteer literacy organizations to tutor adults, $33 in economic benefit is returned to the overall economy”? 

Blue Ridge Literacy Council 2017 Annual Report
Success Stories

**English As a Second Language**

"I understand English better than before. I can talk with my family and with other people. I feel happy, proud of myself. I'm happy to translate at work. I can talk much better with my daughter. I help with her homework. I can ask about her day in school. I understand what she wants. My husband and I understand each other better than before. I can understand better the news on TV. I can ask in the store what something costs and understand the answer. I text with my friend. When I go to a restaurant, I understand what they are saying. I'm proud of myself because I understand, write and read better English."

- ESL Student

**PRE-GED® Student**

"I am a student who is very grateful for learning English. And thanks to teacher Cindy for the patience she has to teach me, because I am like a little girl crawling in English. Thank you to Blue Ridge Literacy Council to open a door of opportunity for me. So that way I can keep learning English and in this way with my effort I will see one day my dream come true. Thank you so much. - PRE-GED® Student"
Financial Report

Revenue
- State Support: 27%
- Community Grants: 40%
- In-Kind Space: 8%
- Contributions (Individual & Business): 25%

Expenses
- Programs: 80%
- Management & General: 12%
- Fundraising: 8%

BRLC Leadership Circle
The BRLC leadership circle is comprised of individuals committed to ensuring that our mission is achieved every year through an annual unrestricted gift of $1,000 or more.

16-17 Leadership Circle Donors:
- Anonymous Philanthropists (2)
- John & Judy Hansen
- Fred & Jill Hart
- Nancy Keswani
- Rickey & Earnestine Parker
- Stan & Sharon Tirrell
- Stephen & Autumn Weil
- Hank & Melinda Whitmire
- Barbara Wilcox & Robert Regner

Grant Funders:
- Community Foundation of Henderson County
- Community Foundation of WNC
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
- Henderson County
- NC Community College System
- United Way of Henderson County

BRLC Legacy Society
Our legacy society donors make arrangements with the Community Foundation of Henderson County (CFHC) or their attorneys/financial planners to provide a gift to operational funds or BRLC’s endowment, managed by CFHC. These gifts ensure long-range sustainability.

Business & Community Partners
- Beverly-Hanks & Associates of Hendersonville
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Books for Good, Inc.
- Carland & Andersen, Inc.
- Current by GE/GE Foundation
- Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Inc.
- Fazio Golf Course Design
- First Citizens Bank
- First Congregational UCC
- First United Methodist Church
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation
- Hampton Inn Brevard
- Harris Teeter, LLC
- Hendersonville Lightning
- Hola Carolina
- Horizon Heating and Air Community Fund
- Image Solutions
- Kimberly-Clark Berkley Mills
- Norm’s Minit Mart
- Pardee Foundation Hospital
- PEO Sisterhood Chapter H
- Printville
- Rug & Home
- Sam’s Club of Hendersonville
- Southern Alarm & Security
- State Farm Companies Foundation
- Thursday Thrift Shop St. James Episcopal Church
- Times News
- Triangle Stop Food Stores
- Wilsonart
- WTZQ
**2016-17 Board of Directors**

- **Rickey Parker** President
  Affiliation: Kimberly-Clark

- **Melinda Whitmire** Vice President
  Affiliation: First Citizens Bank

- **Jill Hart** Secretary
  Affiliation: Realtor®/Broker

- **Tim Putnam** Treasurer
  Affiliation: SunTrust Bank

- **Connie Backlund**
  Affiliation: Carl Sandburg Home (retired)

- **Lorin Gabriel Page**
  Affiliation: Strauss Attorneys, PLLC

- **Judy Hansen**
  Affiliation: International Consultant (retired)

- **Keith Johnson**
  Affiliation: Edward Jones

- **Nancy Keswani**
  Affiliation: Corporate Marketing (retired)

- **Robin Paulison**
  Affiliation: Blue Ridge Community College

- **Vincent Pizzo**
  Affiliation: Pardee Hospital

- **Trina Rushing**
  Affiliation: Henderson County Library

- **Sharon Tirrell**
  Affiliation: Nonprofit Management (retired)

- **Barbara Wilcox**
  Affiliation: University Administrator (retired)

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**STAFF**

- **Autumn Weil**
  Executive Director

- **Jan Lanier**
  Lead Program Coordinator

- **Amber Hollinger**
  Adult Basic Education Coordinator

- **Sarah Staggs**
  Part-Time Administrative Assistant

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**Program Year 2017 Impact Numbers:**

- **232** students assessed
- **194** students matched with tutors or placed in groups
- **146** volunteers donated
  **13,904** hours
  the equivalent of **$335,642.56**
  or 7 full-time staff members.
- **60%** of students served increased their literacy skills
- **65** students enrolled in our Citizenship Programming

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