



San Rafael Office

1100 E Street • San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 485-3318 • Fax (415) 485-3112
marinliteracy@marinliteracy.org

South Novato Office

6 Hamilton Landing, Ste. 140A
Novato, CA 94949
(415) 506-3167 • Fax (415) 506-3170

West Marin Office

Freitas Center • Olema, CA 94950
Phone & Fax (415) 663-1849

www.marinliteracy.org



1985



2005



Looking Back

Looking Forward



Photography: Paul Kagawa
Design: Gilman Design



A joint program of the San Rafael Public Library
and the Marin County Free Library

'05 COMMUNITY REPORT

Looking Back Looking Forward

The partnership between California's public libraries and adult literacy programs began in 1984, when seed money from the California Literacy Campaign was initially distributed to 27 libraries throughout the state.

By 1985, the State Legislature had established support for the fledgling campaign with the passage of the California Library Services Act, and now, 21 years later, literacy programs are in place in 104 California public libraries.



The history of the Marin Literacy Program (MLP) mirrors the growth and development of the California Literacy Campaign in many ways. In 1985, the Marin County Free Library began providing literacy services to 51 students through the efforts of 44 volunteer tutors, with a \$31,000 annual budget funded entirely by a grant from the State Library.



A 2005 snapshot of the Marin Literacy Program shows a radically changed view. MLP is now jointly sponsored by two library districts – those of Marin County and the City of San Rafael – and serves over 950 students with close to 250 volunteer tutors annually. The budget of over \$500,000 is provided by a variety of sources, both governmental and private.

As funding sources have diversified over the course of 20 years, likewise has the variety of services offered by MLP. We have added components in Family, Inmate, and Workplace Literacy, as well as our very popular F.L.A.G.ship, a colorful mobile unit that travels from as far south as Marin City and Mill Valley, to San Rafael and San Geronimo, and north to Novato, Tomales and Bodega Bay. In addition, MLP has developed curricula to serve its diverse student population: teaching parenting skills through the use of children's picture books; developing tools to be used by people newly entering the workforce; and producing a radio program to teach second language learners in West Marin.



MLP staff has also developed outstanding training materials based on several nationally known curricula, and uses this to train community volunteer tutors, as well as inmates who then tutor other inmates.

Other changes in the past 20 years include the growth of part-time MLP staff from two positions in 1985 to eleven in 2005. As our student population has increased in diversity, our training has broadened to include similarly diverse materials for tutors' use with their students. We are serving more students with small group instruction, in addition to traditional one-to-one tutoring. E

MLP has enhanced its image with the development of attractive promotional materials, which have been essential in helping to expand our funding sources. Students are assessed regularly and, as a result, MLP increasingly has new ways to measure success. A look to the future shows a small computer lab opening at the Pickleweed Community Center in 2006, with stations available for tutor and student pairs.

MLP remains dedicated to community involvement, and links to partnerships within the community continue to grow. Family literacy, which has always been a strong

component of our program, is even more thoroughly integrated through services to incarcerated parents, through small group instruction, which sustains our connections to Marin Head Start, and through the F.L.A.G.ship's reach to isolated young families throughout Marin. And last, but certainly not least, MLP continues to provide individualized services to a community of adult learners and their families with an exceptional cadre of extremely dedicated staff and volunteers.

Please join us in this important work as we embark on our next 20 years, and beyond!



THEN & NOW

Number of volunteer tutors	1985	44	2005	242
Number of students		51		962
Tutor training sessions		1		7
Tutors trained annually		3		81
Total instructional hours		5,503		66,328
Dollar value of volunteer time		\$85,800		\$598,410
Cost per student/year		\$547		\$674
Annual budget		\$31,000		\$557,686

MARIN LITERACY PROGRAM COMMUNITY

Canal Library Center

Located at the Pickleweed Community Center, the Canal Library Center is a branch of the San Rafael Public Library and offers young families in East San Rafael an opportunity to access library resources close to home. A bilingual coordinator provides weekly preschool story-times, and a homework resource center is available four afternoons a week. Adults and children may apply for library cards and borrow books for enjoyment, as well as research information for school assignments. The Canal Library Center builds bridges between the downtown library and the sometimes isolated residents of the Canal.

West Marin Project

The West Marin Literacy Project provides English instruction to second language learners through one-on-one tutoring and small group classes. Located in the Freitas Center in Olema, the office serves as a library, resource center and computer lab. With strong community support in this rural and isolated portion of Marin County, the project sponsors bilingual storytimes at the Point Reyes Library, as well as GED, citizenship, and summer session classes, and a Summer Reading Program for children in outlying ranches.

Families for Literacy

Families for Literacy (FFL) aims to break the cycle of low-literacy by supporting parents and family daycare providers who are responsible for preschool children.



Participants receive high-quality, carefully selected children's gift books with which to build home libraries. In their tutoring sessions, adult students practice reading aloud children's picture books, which they then take home to share with their families. Librarians in three libraries jointly host storytimes with MLP to introduce FFL families to the public library and help to launch the adults and their children into a lifetime love of books.

F.L.A.G.ship

The F.L.A.G.ship (Families Learning And Growing) is MLP's mobile outreach bus. Based in San Rafael, the F.L.A.G.ship travels from Marin City and the Canal District to such outlying areas as Bodega Bay and West

PROJECTS 04/05

Marin, offering daycare providers and isolated families resources to support children's early learning and prepare them for kindergarten. The project provides educational activities, health-related presentations, information about community resources, and workshops that encourage school readiness.

Inmate Literacy Services

At San Quentin State Prison, Inmate Literacy Services provides the F.A.T.H.E.R.S. Program and sponsors Project R.E.A.C.H., an inmate-to-inmate tutoring program, for which MLP also provides tutor training. At the Marin County Jail, library services are provided, as well as instruction in basic skills, ESL, and family literacy, and jail newsletters are produced which feature inmate writings. Volunteers interested in assisting with Inmate Literacy Services are given specialized training for correctional settings, in addition to MLP's basic tutor training.

Marin Literacy Training Project

With funding from the Marin Community Foundation, tutors are trained to develop skills for a variety of adult student needs and are introduced to a combination of materials that address the low-literate population of Marin County. Prospective volunteers are required to attend an Orientation and a 14-hour training to prepare them for a successful tutoring experience. Additionally, instruction is offered in multicultural awareness, as well as in family literacy. Volunteers and staff from local agencies are invited to attend when space is available.

Marin Literacy Program Advisory Board

Members of the Marin Literacy Advisory Board live and work in Marin and have a deep appreciation for the importance of a well-educated workforce in the County. Through fundraising and community outreach, they raise awareness of adult literacy issues and encourage County resi-

It warms my heart to know that there are people, such as yourselves, that don't consider people in jail as 'throwaways.'

– Marin County Jail Inmate

dents to support the free instruction that Marin Literacy Program offers to low-literate adults in Marin. Board members are passionate about books and reading, and their fundraising and outreach efforts provide a significant contribution toward MLP's work in continuing to train volunteer tutors and

offer adult learners the instruction they need to become participating members of our community.

04/05 Advisory Board Members

Tami Stolte, President

Rodney Reyes, Vice-President

Claudia Chittenden, Secretary

David Liepman, Treasurer

Dena Hermosilla Higgins

Deborah Hoke-Smith

Julie Monson

Bea Newhall

Barbara Barwood, Program Director

Robin Levy, Development & Outreach

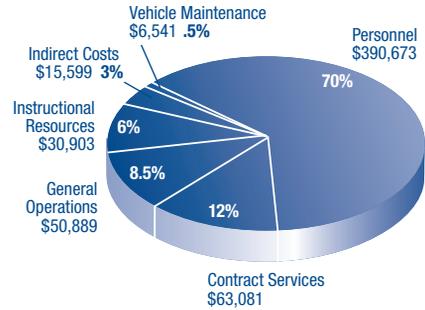
THANK YOU

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 Allensby Charitable Trust
 Around the World Bookfair, Inc/Autodesk, Inc.
 Bank of Marin
 Bella Vista Foundation
 Birkenstock/Margo Fraiser Fund
 Book Passage, Inc.
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 California State Library
 California State Library Foundation
 Citigroup Foundation
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 Friends of San Rafael Public Library
 Gallery Route One
 Green Building Company
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 Olema Farmhouse
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 Point Reyes Bookstore
 Priscilla's Pizza
 Project R.E.A.C.H. at San Quentin
 San Francisco Foundation
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 Sausalito Salvage Shop
 SBC Foundation
 Star Route Farms
 Taqueria La Quinta
 Target
 Toby's Feed Barn
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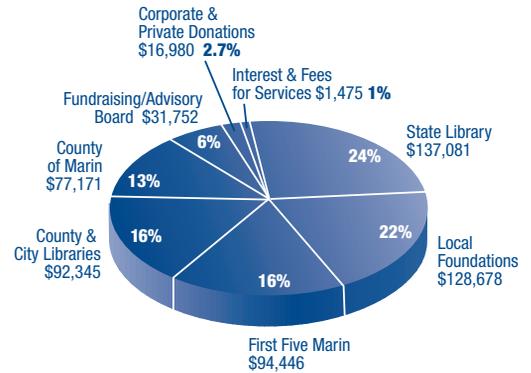
SUPPORTERS

04/05 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENSES, TOTAL \$557,686



SOURCES OF INCOME, TOTAL \$581,440



GET INVOLVED

Volunteer – In addition to our continuing need for tutors (our student waiting list is never empty), volunteer opportunities include storytimes, event planning and participation, outreach, and office support.

Donate – MLP's services are always free to students. During these times of drastic cutbacks to educational and library systems, your contribution can help provide course materials so crucial to our instructional programs.

Learn More – Attend one of our monthly Orientations, join us at an event co-sponsored by our Partners in Literacy, Book Passage and Bank of Marin, visit us at www.marinliteracy.org, or call us at **(415) 485-3318**.

We look forward to working with you.