



Victor Valley Arts and Education Center (VVAEC), a 501c3 nonprofit
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F/Y 2015 ANNUAL REPORT: California Corporate # C3576949

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the lives of the Victor Valley community by advancing access to the arts and educational opportunities, particularly those that advance artistic pursuits.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

We are pleased to share this annual report of our activities for the past year. F/Y ending 2015 marks our second year in operation. We were founded in February, 2013, incorporated in May and received our 501c3 status in December, 2013. Last year, we produced plays for underserved populations when we received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation that services Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Our main focus this year was creating our own adult literacy program. We are building a solid foundation with our name still being in the public. Our greatest challenge is that there are very few arts nonprofits in the High Desert area. Most nonprofits and donors focus on social services like homelessness, United Way services, animal rights and various other outreach dealing with poverty or drug rehab issues.

While we were founded under the initial premise of building a state-of-the-art performing arts center and still hope for this to happen, we are moving in new directions with other programs as well so we can continue to fulfil our nonprofit mission to serve the public.

Hence, this year we created an adult literacy program. Other than programs within the libraries, we are the only independent adult literacy program run by a nonprofit.

We will continue to strive to find ways to be of service to our community.

David S. James

BANKING / FINANCES

In addition to our savings and checking accounts at Desert Community Bank (DCB), we also continue to maintain an account with the High Desert Community Foundation (HDCF), as well as PayPal.

Our closing balance for all accounts on June 30, 2015 was **\$1194.00**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of this fiscal year, our board consisted of: Edward Friedman, Esquire (vice chair), Joseph Moon (treasurer), Davida S. James (chair), and Stephanie Brynjolfson (secretary). David H. Smith and Mary Langer Thompson resigned.

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNUAL REGISTRATION

We were current with our RF-1 filing for the California Attorney General's Office. It is this registration that gives you the legal right to solicit money as a charity.

DEVELOPMENT / GRANTS

Most private foundations do not award grants to nonprofits until they have been in existence for at least three years. Hence, the importance of our affiliation with the High Desert Community Foundation continues since they can act as our fiscal sponsor on grants. But we also constantly research a variety of grant opportunities and solicit donations from volunteers and our board. We applied for those grants for which we were eligible. Most of our financial support continues to come from our board of directors, for which we are grateful. Because we have such low overhead and everything is done by volunteers, we have very little overhead.

EQUIPMENT

Because of the ARPIE grant we received in the fall of 2013 (events were produced in May, 2014), we purchased sound and presentation equipment that is now part of our ongoing inventory. Our equipment list now includes a wireless PA system, microphones, chairs, scripts, tables and a printer donated by a donor. The value of the sound equipment and our printer is approximately \$1,000.

HIGH DESERT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (HDCF) AFFILIATION



We continued our affiliation with HDCF maintaining the minimal amounts required. We also continued to apply for grants with HDCF as our fiscal sponsor.

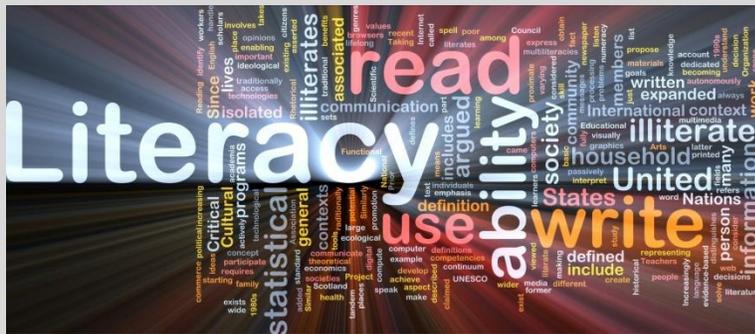
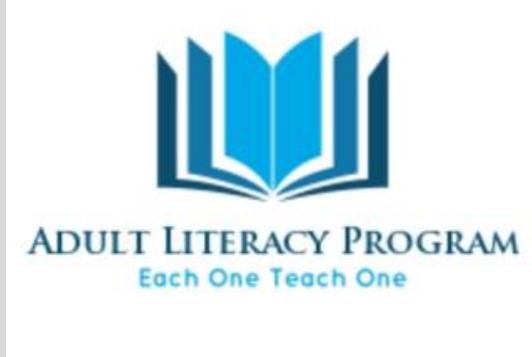
IRS FORM 990-EZ FILING

Copies of our IRS filings are available on our website at the bottom of the homepage under "documents." They are also available on our Guidestar page. For F/Y ending 2015, we filed the shorter 990-N post card form prior to the November 30th deadline, rather than the 990-N post card. While nonprofits earning less than \$50,000 a year are only required to file the 990-N postcard, because of the \$10,000 ARPIE grant we received last year and the series of plays we produced in low-income housing and senior centers, we felt it was important to complete the longer filing so we could highlight those events.

PROGRAMS:

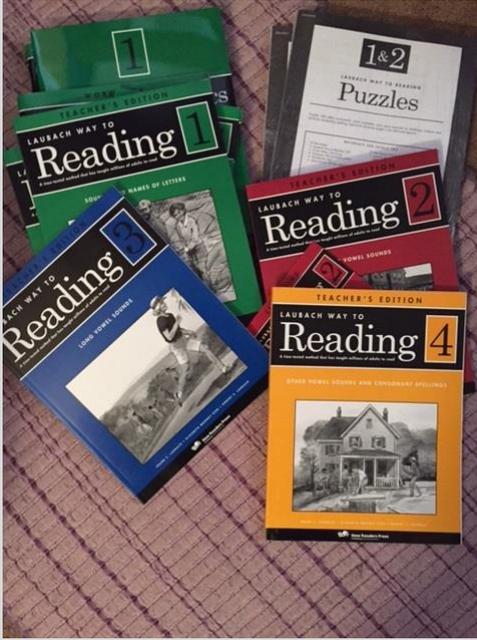
The series of presentations and rehearsals for “Love Letters and Musical Notes” last fiscal year was an intense nine-month program that consumed all our volunteers’ time. Because of that, we chose to only focus on our adult literacy program.

EACH ONE / teach ONE Adult Literacy Program

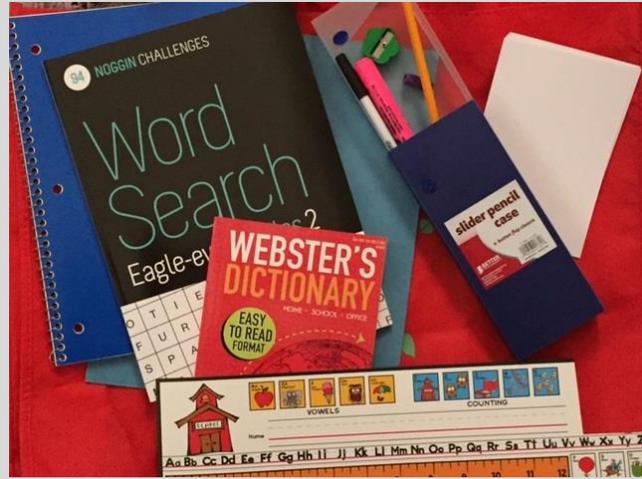


Most of this year was spent developing our adult literacy program, which was analogous to starting a school. Our executive director spent the bulk of her time this year researching the best practices for literacy programs and purchasing learning materials, and developing assessment standards for the students. We also developed a training program for tutors, and designed the various steps in our tutoring program.

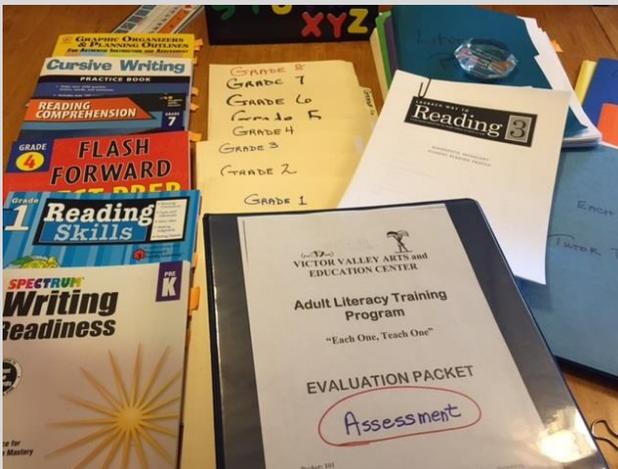
We came to realize that other than the public libraries, ours was the only private tutoring program in the High Desert. The significant feature that distinguished the program we developed from others was our willingness to take our literacy program into community centers, senior centers and low-income housing developments. Our objective was to bring the tutors to people, rather than have them have to travel to go to the program.



Laubach literacy materials



packet we give to each student with a tote bag



Lessons and assessment materials

We started with three tutors. One woman had previously been a tutor at the Apple Valley Library. Another, Rita Wells, had 25 years-experience teaching primary school, and our executive director had been a teacher and adult literacy tutor in two other programs. Despite their previous experience, each tutor went through our training program, based very much on the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Program.

We approached several organizations about conducting the program at their space, and took meetings with them. We had a meeting with an agency that worked with newly released prisoners who were mandated to attend job training. We were hopeful that we would be able to collaborate with them and negotiate a contract to help the student population improve their reading, but it did not work out.

The first location that we conducted our literacy program was at Hesperia Senior Living. This proved to be a short-term program due to attrition and lack of follow up in residents who signed up for tutoring.



We began discussion with the Victorville City Library. This was the only local library that did not have its own literacy program because they were not part of the San Bernardino County Library system, and they did not have the funds to start their own program. We negotiated an agreement to begin conducting our literacy program at the library in the fall. We put up posters at the library and left signup sheets, which proved effective.



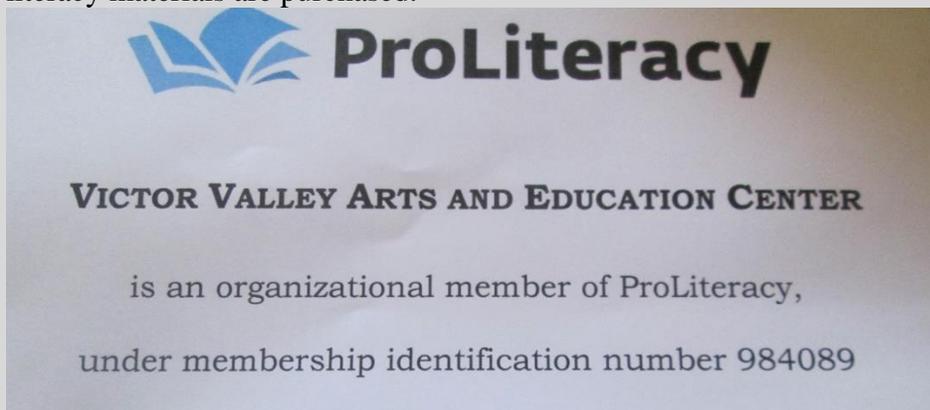
Victorville City Library

There is a huge attrition rate in adult literacy programs, including just getting students started. Many of the socio/economic issues that impeded these adults from getting the proper education while in school follow them into adulthood. Sadly, they often face numerous family and work issues that keep them from consistent attendance and focus on their studies. Among our tutors,

we encountered adults who were working two and three jobs, had childcare problems, and transportation issues.

It also quickly became apparent to us that despite our best intentions, there were adults who faced very specific learning deficits that required much more skill than we could offer them. It is quite common in adult literacy programs to have an adult who could be at a first or third grade level. But teaching adults who face learning disabilities require special skills.

We also became members of the national foundation – the Pro Literacy Foundation. This membership provides us with discounts through the New Readers Association where most literacy materials are purchased.



STAFFING / VOLUNTEERS

VVAEC operates with the help of volunteers and the occasional paid freelancer. We have no paid staff as of yet, though we certainly hope to be funded at some point to support paid staff. Our CEO receives a small monthly reimbursement for gasoline and to offset the phone line for the nonprofit. We have other volunteers who contribute their time when we have events.

CONCLUSION

We continue to meet sporadically with small groups of volunteers as advisory councils. We stay connected with various members of the community about our hopes for a performing arts complex by attending meetings and clubs.

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