Celebrating Literacy in our Community
Dear Friends of Literacy,

Thank you for supporting our efforts and making this past year one of the best in TLC’s history! We are excited to share with you our successes for 2015-16.

79% of students in tutoring who received 20 hours or more of instruction were reading at grade level at the end of the school year. 95% of children in the Literacy Lab preschool program demonstrated emergent reading behaviors by the end of the year; such as reading books on their own, enjoying stories, understanding and matching rhyming words, and putting events in order. 100% of volunteers felt successful in improving the literacy skills of the students they worked with and wish to continue volunteering.

For more than twenty years, Teton Literacy Center has changed lives through the power of literacy by providing comprehensive FREE services for preschool through high school aged children and their families. Our work at TLC has been instrumental in decreasing the achievement gap in Teton County. TLC’s programs allow all families, regardless of income level, to increase their literacy in a safe, family friendly environment. Our family literacy approach creates a positive connection between parents and children and promotes literacy development.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing community support and the outpouring of encouragement that came this past year after Wyoming Legislators voted to defund all Wyoming Family Literacy programs at 8 sites across the state. Despite the 35% budget cut that this caused, our services remain intact. We are the only program in the state that has remained open. Thank you for making that possible!

The demand for TLC services through tutoring, enrichment and Family Literacy programs continues to increase and we are determined to keep providing high quality educational opportunities for children and their families. Services have increased 500% over the past 4 years and our wait lists continue to grow. In March 2016 our wait list peaked with over 40 students on the wait list for afterschool programs, 20 waiting for tutors and 27 families waiting for family literacy programs next year. 80 families were on the wait list for summer camps last year.

With your support, we can continue to decrease the educational achievement gap in our community by providing FREE afterschool clubs, summer camps, tutoring, preschool, and family literacy programs in Teton County. TLC must lead the way in our community in supporting children and their families during out of school time. Children under 18 will spend 80% of their time out of school. The programs TLC provides ensure that all students have access to high quality education outside of the school day. Without TLC services, classrooms in our community would see an increase in the number of unprepared students, a decrease in student success rates, an increased strain on resources, and a drastic increase in the learning gap between students. Literacy skills lead to job advancement, higher individual and family earnings, and decreased need for other community support services.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to eliminate the achievement gap in our community.

Laura Soltau, Executive Director
Jim Thorburn, Board of Directors President
Provide individualized literacy services to preschool through high school age students and their families.

Create a community vision for out of school services.

Foster collaboration among community partners to provide the highest level of services while maximizing resources.

Build family engagement and empowering parents with the tools to support literacy at home.

A family literacy approach is the most effective way of achieving our vision of a 100% literate community. TLC offers FREE prevention and intervention services for families with children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, in addition to Pre-K programming. Our goal is to strengthen literacy skills for the family unit through tutoring, workshops, classes and home visits.
How We Do It

The components of Parent Enrichment, Children's Education, PACT time and Adult Education integrated together create a unique and comprehensive family literacy program with a powerful impact. PACT time is interactions that bring parents and children together to work, play, read and learn. Parent-child interactions can lead to enhanced language, literacy, emotional and cognitive development of children. By increasing the quality of their interactions, parents and children also strengthen their relationships. Parent time provides training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

Why We Do It

Reading proficiently by 3rd grade is used nationally as an indicator for high school graduation rates. Children who are not proficient by third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school by the age of 19. The 2015 State PAWS assessment for TCSD#1 indicated that 37% of 3rd grade and 41% of 5th grade students are below proficient in reading. The need for intervention support through tutoring, academic assistance in engaging afterschool programs, and preventative measures through early childhood education continues to grow.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, Teton County has the largest income disparity in the United States. As a result, many Teton County families live in poverty and lack the resources needed to ensure that their children have access to enriching, out-of-school-time programming. This was confirmed by the 2015 Teton County Parks and Recreation Afterschool Survey, in which families identified cost and lack of space as the top reasons for not enrolling in programs.
Student Success and Impact

79% of students in tutoring who received 20 hours or more of instruction were reading at grade level at the end of the school year.

86% of students in enrichment who attended regularly were reading at grade level at the end of the school year.

95% of children in the Literacy Lab preschool program demonstrated emergent reading behaviors by the end of the year. Behaviors include: reading books on their own, enjoying stories, understanding and matching rhyming words, and putting events in order.

76% of Lit Lab preschool students were able to read Kindergarten level texts, performing 5 months above grade level.

100% of volunteers felt successful in improving the literacy skills of the students they worked with and wish to continue volunteering.

80% of parents who participated in TLC programs increased reading with their child at home.

100% of students in TLC programs increased literacy levels.
Family Literacy Program

Number of Students: 226 (109 children and 117 parents)
Number of Volunteers: 11
Student Hours: 7175

Did You Know?
By age 3, there is a 30 million word gap between children from the wealthiest and poorest families.
– Colker, L.J. The Word Gap

The substantial relationship between parent involvement for the school and reading comprehension levels of fourth-grade classrooms is obvious, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Where parent involvement is low, the classroom mean average (reading score) is 46 points below the national average. Where involvement is high, classrooms score 28 points above the national average - a gap of 74 points. National Education Association.

If identified early and given research-based intervention, 90 to 95 percent of children “at risk” for reading failure will become fluent readers. Getreadytoread.org

“This program has brought us together as a family. My son has learned more than I thought. He feels more independent and loves learning.”
– Evelia Moreno, TLC Parent

A Family Success Story
Luz has made incredible gains during her 9 months in our Literacy Lab preschool. She is the youngest of 3, with 19 years between her and her sisters. Luz’s mother, Rosa Elena, has been an active participant in ESL classes. The connection between parent involvement and student success is immeasurable.

Luz came to school twice a week, in the morning from 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and again from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. with her mother. Luz has increased her phonemic awareness, language skills, alphabet knowledge, numeric literacy, and social skills. At the same time, Rosa Elena has increased her knowledge about school and English vocabulary. Rosa Elena feels ready and excited for Luz’s transition to Kindergarten. She feels that she has the skills to talk to her daughter’s teachers and knows that her daughter has the skills for success in the classroom.

TLC is excited to support this hardworking family every step of the way!
"I ENJOY MY EXPERIENCE AS A TUTOR WITH TLC. IT CHALLENGES ME TO LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON AND HOW I CAN TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

– TLC Tutor

Number of Students: 101
Number of Volunteer: 68
Student Hours: 1,334

An Inspiration

Antonina was nominated to work with a tutor when she was in sixth grade. She came into the program to gain content reading skills as she entered middle school. Her tutor was crucial to Antonina’s success and ensured she maintained her enthusiasm and willingness to read, while also helping her improve her ability to read high level academic material. Antonina successfully moved through middle school to high school.

As a high school student, Antonina has now chosen to support younger students in the same way by volunteering as a tutor at TLC. This year she worked with a Kindergarten student. Her time and dedication to TLC helped Esmerelda learn her sight words, work on decoding beginning texts, and gain the comprehension skills to understand the stories she read. We are so lucky to have Antonina with us this year. Thanks to all our volunteers for helping us achieve our mission.

Did You Know?

Reading proficiently by the third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. More than 80% of low-income children miss this critical milestone.

– The Campaign for Grade Level Reading
Enrichment Program

Number of Students: 441
Number of Volunteers: 10
Student Hours: 15,284

“The results TLC’s efforts have had in our valley are remarkable. WHEN FAMILIES ACCESS SERVICES FROM TETON LITERACY THEIR GROWTH IS OBSERVABLE AND MEASURABLE. Without their support our children and families in need would fall further behind, and the achievement gap in Teton County would widen.”
– TCSD Teacher

Did You Know?
Out of school reading habits of students have shown that even 15 minutes a day of independent reading can expose students to more than a million words a year.
– Anderson Wilson, & Fielding

Fostering Creative Growth

Evan and Emerson entered TLC’s Enrichment program two years ago. TLC’s Enrichment Program provided additional academic learning opportunities afterschool to challenge and engage students. Through self-selected themes, Evan and Emerson studied literacy, science and math in TLC’s Wizards and Witches Academy, Spy Club and Space club.

Evan was provided with opportunities to collaborate with peers and share and deepen his background knowledge through our theme based approach. Over time he took on leadership roles within the classroom, which challenged his comfort zone. Emerson was provided with opportunities to share her background knowledge with her peers, compelling her to deepen her understanding of topics in order to fully explain them so others could understand as well. Both students embraced learning, shined in leadership roles, and learned how to work well as a team. These are skills that transcend to the classroom and ensure students have the skills to be college and career ready.
Financials 2015-16

Teton Literacy Center is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that has operated through the generosity of this community since 1992. Located in Flat Creek Business Center at 1715 High School Road # 260, we own our building and operate rent free. This past year, we derived our revenue from charitable giving by individuals, foundations, family trusts, community organizations, corporations, and state literacy programs. The generous support from our funders enables us to offer our programs free of charge.

During the Winter of 2016, Wyoming State Legislators voted to defund Wyoming Family Literacy programs across the State. This resulted in a $210,000 funding gap starting July 1, 2016 for Teton Learning Center.

This spring, our Board of Directors embarked on a campaign to raise $1 million to sustain our critical services and programs for the next 5 years. As we map out long term funding solutions, your continued financial support is critical in ensuring that all of our programs remain intact.

Revenue Sources

- Public 54%
- Events 12%
- Foundations 13%
- Individuals 16%
- Contracts 5%

Total Revenue $794,189
(This does not include $135,550 of advance individual donations to the sustainability campaign.)

Expenses

- Family Literacy 47%
- Enrichment 38%
- Tutoring 8%
- Administration 3%
- Fundraising 4%

Total Expenses $583,376

$210,000 Wyoming Family Literacy funding terminated July 1, 2016

100% of TLC students illustrated gains in reading level during the year.

Looking Forward
- New funding model
- Fund reserve goals
- Long term sustainable funding
Thank You Donors

Support from our donors allows the Teton Literacy Center to further our mission of changing lives through the power of literacy. Contributions directly support the FREE programs we provide to families and children of Teton County, Wyoming. We are grateful for the gifts we received from the following donors between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Laura & Stephan Abrams
Marcia Kunstel & Joseph Albright
Emily & Jim Ambler
Rae Ambroz & Richard Uhl
Adrianna & Jason Anderson
Yarit Andracca & Eduardo Maldonado
Betty & Shaun Andrikopoulos
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Barbara & Gerald Aronowitz
Marieluise Hesselt Artzt & Ed Artzt
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Anne Berry
Carol & Dennis Berryman
Martha & William Best
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Book Club, In Memory of Loved Ones Passed
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Susan & John Jackson
Jackson Curbside Recycling
Jackson Hole News & Guide
Jackson Temp Services, Inc.
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Charles & Martha Lutz in honor of Mike Lutz
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Carole & Jack Nunn
Jack and Carole Nunn
Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
Julie & Hugh O’Halloran
Julie & William Obering
Pamela & Rick Ofstein
Janet Olivares
Anna & Jeff Olson
Kevin Olson
Marge & Gil Ordway
Thank You Volunteers

Our volunteers motivate, encourage and support students and families with reading and writing development.

Noah Barnhart
Lee Baulknight
Carmen Bedolla Perez
Kathleen Belk
Betsy Beristain
Caroline Berner
Chris Bessonette
Kayla Bonilla
Juliet Born
Wren Buchenroth
Joe Burke
Cathie Burkland
Joyce Butcher
Esperanza Carrillo Granados
Ann Carruth
Nancy Carson
Andy Carson
Lana Centrella
Frederick Coombs
Arthur Coronztes
Grace Cosgrove
Kathy Cottom
Ruben Cruz
Joannie Epstein
Madeline Ewing
Petra Fossil
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Kendall McCune
Shawn Means
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Bella Morris
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Hayden Peery
Liz Poniarski
Antonina Profaziola
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Randy Reedy
Robyn Reedy
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Barb Scher
Debbie Schlinger
Kelsie Schwartz
JD Statter
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Anne Stalker
Sandy Strout
Ian Tyree
Claudia VanRemoortere
Nathan Watson
Rhonda Watson
Dabney West
Mike Wierda
Diane Winder
Roxana Wortman
Bob Zelhio
Rob Zoppel

Make a difference in the life of a student. Become a volunteer today!

Volunteers are matched based on interests, schedule, abilities and program needs. No experience necessary.

For more information please call 733-9242 or email Kristin@tetonliteracy.org
Did you know?

TLC serves 18% of Teton County School District at a fraction of the cost of what the school district would pay.

2016 Upcoming Events

**September 10**
Old Bill’s Fun Run on Town Square

**September 12**
Fall programs begin at Teton Learning Center

**November 12**
Jackson’s Got Talent at Pink Garter Theater