

Life Goals *achieved!*



at Blue Ridge Literacy

In the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 BRL continued to support achievement of life goals by providing opportunities to strengthen literacy skills to adults in Southwest Virginia. We offered three levels of English classes and trained volunteers determined to bring good into their community. In addition, we launched a new Special Topic For Employment Class program to target the needs of our advanced learners and continued our Citizenship classes.

LEARNERS

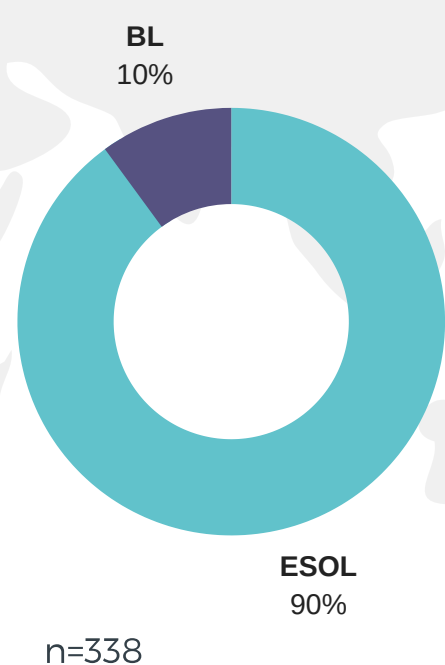
83
improved
reading level

6
became US
citizens

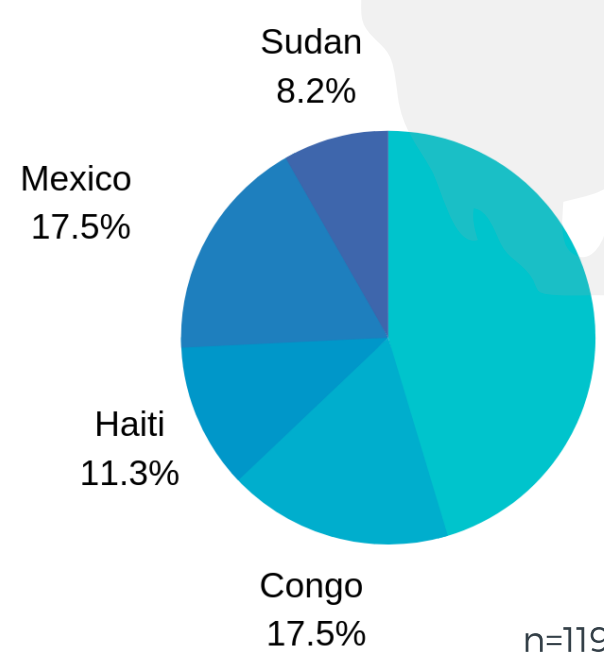
134
worked with a
1:1 tutor

204
enrolled in
ESOL classes

18
Improved
Employability
Skills



Roanoke's diverse immigrant and refugee community is reflected in the students we see at BRL. 89% of our population are ESOL learners



Our ESOL learners came from 50 countries last year. The top countries represented were Afghanistan, Mexico, Congo, Haiti, Sudan

VOLUNTEERS

7,592 total
volunteer hours

Our volunteers gave almost an entire year's worth of instruction to over 330 literacy learners.

That's a **\$187,446.48** investment into our community.

178
total # of
literacy
volunteers

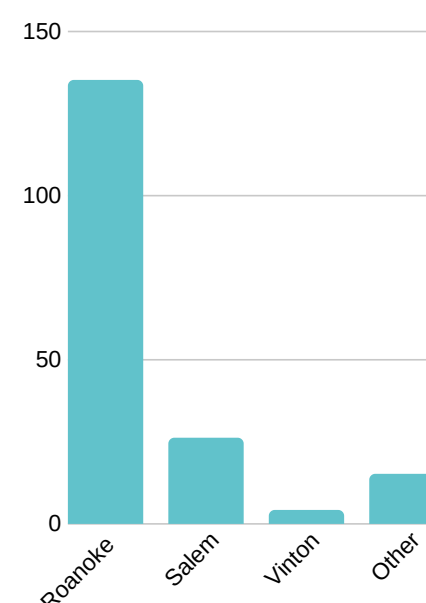
80
new volunteers
engaged

100%
of volunteers
who left in 2018
completed their
commitment

Who volunteers?



Women make up 83% of volunteers at BRL
n=147



Most BRL literacy volunteers live in Roanoke City
n=180

Life goals through literacy

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Your generous support helped over 330 adult learners last year. Thank you!



The community participates in a Swahili workshop at Williamson Road Branch Library taught by BRL's Board Member Evelyne Nzikobanyanka.



Basic Literacy Learner Dott from USA reads her story out loud at BRL's Annual Celebration.



Program Director, Sara Geres, and Lead Teacher, Mary Lowder, conduct an activity during Tutor Training at Melrose Branch Library.



Program Director, Sara Geres, gives a certificate of accomplishment to ESOL learner Francine.



Executive Director, Ahoo Salem, speaks at Welcoming Week's kick off event at the Market Building.



Learners and Volunteers share a meal at BRL's Annual Celebration Potluck at St. John's Episcopal Church.



Intern, Darren Wheelock, and beginner level ESOL learners go over a map of downtown Roanoke.



Instructor Mary and Health Literacy Class learners take a picture at the end of a HEAL (Health Education And Literacy) program.



Citizenship Class learner Lucy at her Naturalization Ceremony.



ESOL class learners visit the Taubman Museum of Art.



Former Executive Director, Stephanie Holladay, and ESOL and Citizenship learner Jasim at BRL's Summer Potluck event.



ESOL learners Francine and Byaruhanga represent BRL at Roanoke's Welcoming Week.