

LITERAL CHANGE

2022 Annual Report

 LITERAL
CHANGE

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Greetings

From our senior leadership



Dear supporters,

We are pleased to report that Literal Change made significant progress in advancing our mission of promoting literacy and education over the past year. This success would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our team, including our incredible volunteers, as well as the support of our donors. One of the highlights of the past year has been the expansion of our outreach to schools and teachers, which has helped more students develop the reading skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. We enrolled 44 teachers in our Literacy Specialist e-Course, and we have been fortunate to be able to support them in their goal to create a supportive and engaging learning environment.

In addition to our core programs, we have also engaged in a number of community initiatives that have helped to raise awareness about the importance of literacy and the challenges facing many students today. We have partnered with local schools and Parent Councils to host free workshops promoting the importance of early reading education and breaking down the recommendations in the OHRC's Right-to-Read report. As we look to the future, we are committed to continuing to grow and improve our programs. We believe that education is the key to a better future for all, and we are dedicated to providing the support and resources that students need to succeed.

Thank you for your support and for helping us make a difference in the lives of so many students. We could not do this important work without you.

Sincerely,

Martha Jodhan
Executive Director
Literal Change

Robyn Keystone
Executive Director
Literal Change

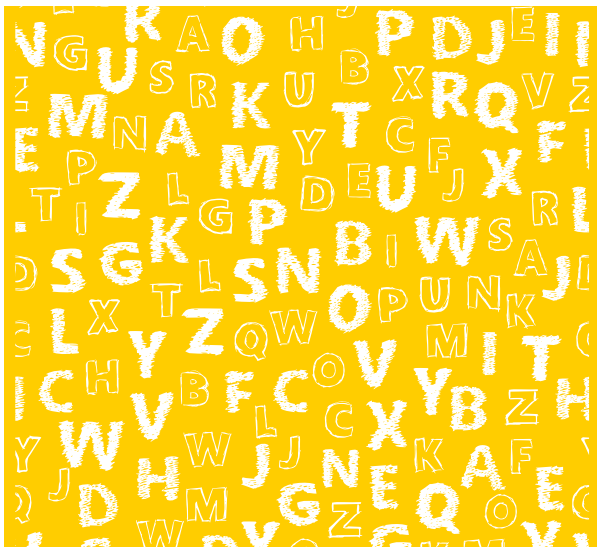
About Literal Change

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide accessible and high-quality Structured Literacy services to individuals in need, with a focus on disadvantaged and underserved communities. We strive to empower individuals to improve their literacy skills and reach their full potential through tailored, evidence-based instruction and support. By promoting the importance of literacy and education, we aim to break the cycle of poverty and promote social and economic mobility for all.

Our Approach

Structured Literacy is an essential foundation for success in education and in life. It is the foundation upon which all reading and writing skills are built, and it is essential for the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills. Without a strong foundation in Structured Literacy, individuals may struggle with reading comprehension, written expression, and academic success. Furthermore, the ability to read and write is often a requirement for many jobs and is crucial for full participation in society. By providing Structured Literacy instruction, we can help individuals achieve their full potential and succeed in their personal and professional lives.



Projects Highlights and Numbers

As we look back on the past year, we are proud to share with you some of our key achievements, as demonstrated by the following projects and numbers. These achievements represent the hard work and dedication of our team, as well as the generous support of our donors, partners, and volunteers.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Light Into Literacy	Free workshops for Parent Councils and educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform parents and teacher about Structured Literacy; &• Promote our free literacy services
Primary Curriculum	Interactive and abridged lessons customized for Primary aged learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aid educators in explicitly teach reading and writing skills to young learners
Book Drive	Books donations for the Toronto South Detention Centre Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide books to individuals on remand; &• Ensure educational books are available

44



Teachers enrolled in the
Literacy Specialist e-Course
since 2021

39



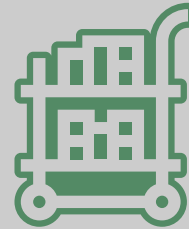
Tutors volunteered their time
with the Youth Literacy Initiative
since 2019

94



School-aged children across
Ontario have received free
tutoring from Literal Change
since 2019

38



Library Program visits to the
TSDC in 2022 to distribute book
donations

\$120K



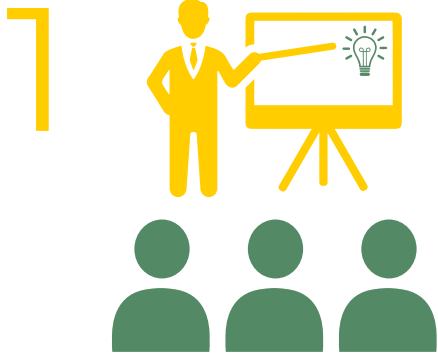
Raised in charitable donations in
2022 from private donors and
foundations

2000



Books donated to the TSDC
library in 2022, including
essential educational material

Our 2023 goals



Train 50 teachers to become Literacy Specialists using our e-Learning course.



Provide free remedial tutoring to 45 youth learners in need.



Hire a literacy coordinator to meet the need for remedial tutoring at the TSDC.



Start a bookclub at the TSDC in collaboration with the Toronto Public Library.

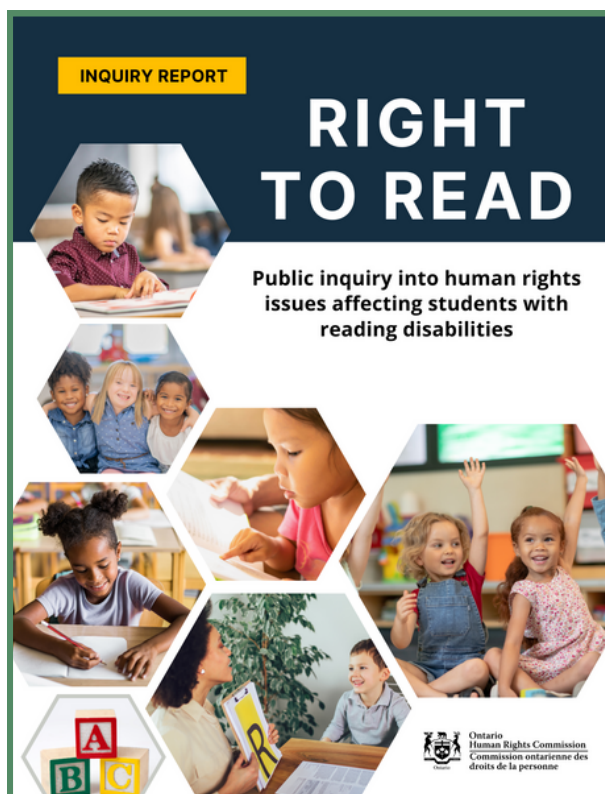
Responding to the Right-to-Read

In February of this year, the Ontario Human Rights Commission released the Right-to-Read report, declaring that Ontario schools are failing students with Learning Disabilities and recommended an evidence-based methodology to reading and writing instruction.

The OHRC echoed our concerns as a literacy charity involved with schools across Ontario and reaffirmed the instruction methodology we have been using since 2016. We are motivated to have this information more publicly available and we are helping parents and teachers unpack the information in the report through efforts like our Light into Literacy campaign.

The report also strongly emphasizes teacher training, finding that "teachers are not given sufficient education and support" and that they "learn very little about how skilled reading develops and how to teach word reading using proven approaches/structured literacy in their pre-service and in-service education and professional development.

This is an issue that our team, which consists of trained educators and parents, has been aware of and worked to present a solution for through the creation of the Literacy Specialist e-Course.



Responding to the Right-to-Read

The report also emphasized the importance of early evidence-based assessments. In response to this and to calls from teachers asking for more accessible assessments, we created a modified assessment for teachers to use in their classrooms. Our team is also focusing on increasing our outreach to Special Education teachers in Primary Schools, who work with students at the most crucial age of reading and writing acquisition.

We understand that the recommendations of the report are not binding on schools and will continue to advocate for equal access to literacy education alongside students, parents, and teachers.

We are determined to bridge the gap in literacy education and provide support to the students who need it the most. We are determined to empower students,

teachers and parents with the tools, knowledge and resources to ensure all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.



"WRITING IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL, WORK AND LIFE. LEARNING TO READ IS NOT A PRIVILEGE, IT IS A HUMAN RIGHT. THIS INQUIRY WILL ASSESS WHETHER SCHOOL BOARDS USE EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES TO MEET THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATION"

*OHRC CHIEF COMMISSIONER
RENU MANDHANE*

https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/ohrc-launches-right-read-public-inquiry

Student Spotlight

In conversation with a Literal Change student*:

Tell the story of how you started with Literal Change?

"The way I found literal change is a very personal one. Throughout my life, I have been passed around by councillors, psychiatrists and therapists. About 2 years ago I found a therapist who stuck with me to help me with my day-to-day issues, and eventually, helped me with my learning disability diagnosis. After leaving high school without graduating, I had to take an English course to qualify for my diploma. Learning from my extreme difficulties with school and specifically English classes, my therapist recommended Literal Change to help me graduate."

Before you started with Literal Change, how did you feel about reading and writing?

Reading and writing could have been a fantastic outlet for me, considering I'm naturally a creative person, but going through school and having the background that I have made that impossible for me. First of all, I'm a first-generation immigrant who grew up learning 3 languages at home. That would have been fine if not for my learning disability, which left me with half-baked versions of all 3 languages. Through school, having a disability taught me that even if I tried my hardest to keep up with classmates, I could never be at their level, which is very disheartening. Stress over school has made me hate reading and writing and even made me anxious to do anything related to it.



*student asked to remain anonymous.

Student Spotlight

In conversation with a Literal Change student:

How do you feel about reading and writing now?

Although school still makes me anxious, having someone help and guide me through lessons is extremely relieving. Completing assignments can be fun and I don't have to be scared of deadlines because my tutor helps me pace myself and keep me on track. I also picked up reading books because of the lack of pressure from school. I've started to pick up creative writing too to test out the things I've been learning in my course.

What is your favourite thing about working with your tutor?

I really enjoy being able to do assignments with my tutor, and receiving feedback when I need it.

It's practically impossible for me to do anything academic by myself, so I'm really happy I have a day a week where my tutor can help me work on the things I need to do.

Would you recommend Literal Change to someone who is struggling with reading and writing?

I absolutely would recommend Literal Change to anyone I know struggling with reading and writing. I've made loads of progress with the program, and I no longer feel like I'm alone in my journey with my learning.

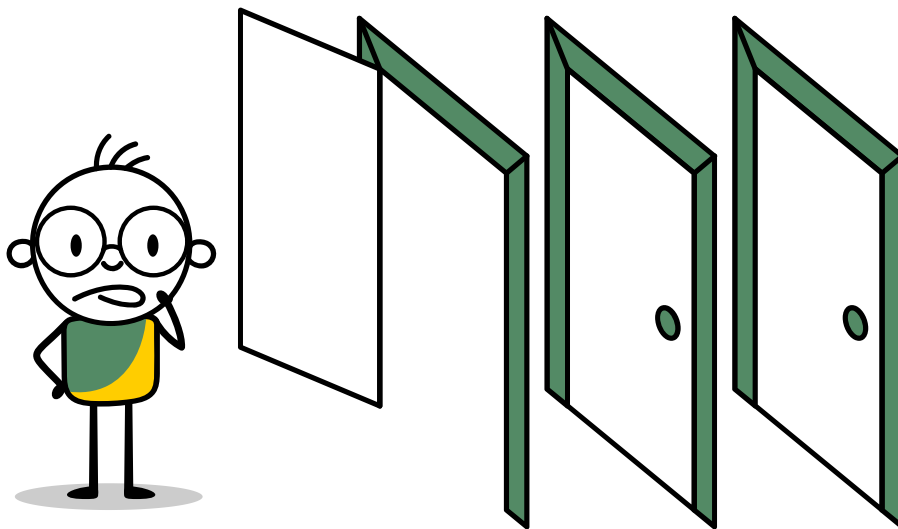


2022 Financial Summary

TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 266,290
Donations & Grants	\$ 246,000
e-Course Income	\$ 20,690
<small>Readers appreciate accurate information</small>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 163,057
Salaries	\$ 125,598
Dues & Subscriptions (including e-course)	\$ 11,374
<small>Readers appreciate</small>	
Administrative Overhead	\$ 18,606
Office and Job Material	\$ 7,477
NET INCOME	\$ 103,233

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are reminded of the ever-evolving landscape of technology and its impact on literacy. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and digital tools has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach and learn, providing new and innovative ways to improve literacy rates. However, as with any change, it is important to approach this with caution and ensure that these technologies are used to augment and enhance traditional literacy efforts, rather than replacing them. Our charity will continue to focus on providing access to traditional literacy resources and education, while also exploring and implementing new technologies that can improve literacy outcomes for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.



Our Team

GROUND CREW

ERIN LEIGH
COURSE FACILITATOR

DINA YAGHI
COMMUNITY LITERACY MANAGER

JAIAH HOWE
YLI PROGRAM COORDINATOR

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

MARTHA JODHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBYN KEYSTONE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

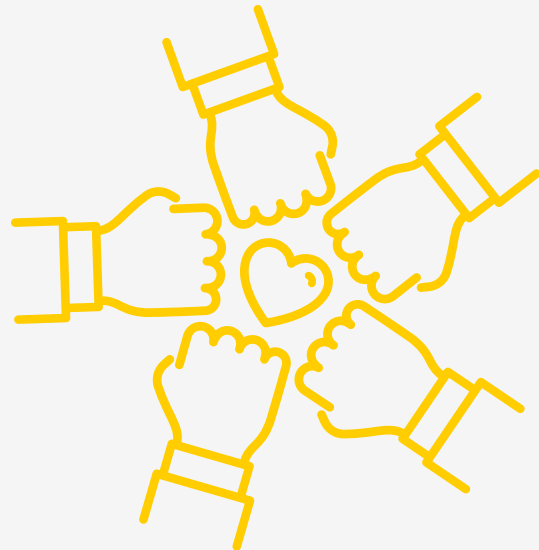
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SAM SONSHINE
CHAIR

GUILLELMO SUBAUSTE
PRESIDENT

JOANATHAN SHEDLETSKY
VICE PRESIDENT

ALEX SOARES
SECRETARY



Our Supporters

As we look back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the support of our donors and supporters. Your generosity and belief in our mission to improve literacy rates for individuals of all ages and backgrounds has been truly invaluable. Your contributions have allowed us to provide access to structured literacy resources and education, and to provide teacher training and support in structured literacy instruction. Additionally, your support has enabled us to advocate for equal access to literacy education. We are so grateful for your support, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for being a part of our journey to bridge the gap in literacy education and empower individuals to reach their full potential.



We thank you for your ongoing support of Literal Change

Let's connect:



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Literal Change
1540 Peniel Road
Lindsay, ON, K9V 4R1

Toll Free 844-916-0426
E info@literalchange.com



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