

The Learning Source for Adults and Families, Denver, CO. Susan Lythgoe, Executive Director

Mission Statement

"We provide opportunities for motivated adult learners and families to attain their educational goals through adult and family literacy, GED preparation and English instruction."

History

The Learning Source for Adults and Families was started in a church basement in 1964 as the Adult Education Tutorial Program with 40 students and 16 volunteers. By 2004, the program had reached 1,413 adults in 16 programs throughout the Denver metro area with the help of more than 150 volunteers.

Summary of Program

Twenty programs operate in thirteen locations throughout the Denver metro area. The centers are in areas of high need and in diverse locations, from church basements, schools and recreation centers to the Denver County Jail.

- Neighborhood Learning Centers. For 40 years, The Learning Source has been providing adult basic education (ABE), GED diploma preparation and English language acquisition classes for adults in metro Denver's communities. It continues to provide these classes with the assistance of 100 volunteers each year.
- Contracts and Workforce Development Sites. The Learning Source partners with both agencies and businesses to educate potential and existing workforces.
- Family Literacy Programs. Since 1989, The Learning Source has been in the forefront of the development of family literacy programs in metro Denver. It has been recognized by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the National Center for Family Literacy. For the past eight years, The Learning Source has partnered with Aurora Public Schools to bring family literacy into schools with high populations of non-native English-speaking/low literate families. Parents come to school with their children, learn to speak English and help their children become successful.

Funding

Since it began in 1964, The Learning Source for Adults and Families has maintained a diverse group of funding sources. Their funding comes from foundations, businesses, individuals, service organizations, grants, and contracts. "I'm not shy about approaching potential funders at business meetings and social gatherings," says executive director Susan Lythgoe. In addition, during FY 2003-04, 183 volunteers donated 11, 986 hours of their time to help adults and families improve their literacy skills, learn to speak English, or prepare to take their GED exam. With their many partners, The Learning Source for Adults and Families has made a major impact in the Denver area.

Concluding Statement

A significant part of the organization's success is the strong emphasis placed on community and program partnerships. They look for unique ways in which to combine resources and talents with many different entities to provide the best quality services in the most economical way for their students. This principle has facilitated the program's ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs of their diverse communities.