



ANNUAL
REPORT
2020-21



English **IN** Action
building community since 1994

DEAR FRIENDS



As we wrap up 2021—year two of the global pandemic—we reflect on what we have accomplished in the face of unforeseen challenges, and all that we have yet to do.

Throughout these difficult times, we are humbled and grateful to know that our Roaring Fork Valley based nonprofit continues to have an outsized impact in our community. For nearly 30 years English In Action has been breaking down barriers and building deep human connections across language and cultural divides. We are awed by the courage, kindness, and generosity we witness every day in our immigrant friends and neighbors, in our volunteer tutors, and in our donors and other supporters.

Using a hybrid of in person and virtual formats, we have continued to deliver effective tutoring programs that help adults learn English and connect to volunteer community members. Last spring, in an effort to address gaping disparities in access to opportunity, we launched our new Digital Equity and Literacy program, including the hiring of a bilingual digital literacy coach. The program—described in detail in this report—has proved to be an overwhelming success.

We look forward in the coming year to serving our community to the very best of our ability, to adapting established programs to new needs, adopting new programming where gaps are evident, and to continue fostering English-language development, friendship, and connection so that every member of this community has the tools they need to pursue their dreams.

Our sincerest thanks to all of you who have helped us achieve this goal.

All the best,

Lara, Julie + Susan



Lara S. Beaulieu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Julie Comins
BOARD CHAIR



Susan Lodge
BOARD CO-CHAIR*
*term as Co-chair ended 10/21

“Thanks to English In Action and my tutor, I am able to have more in depth conversations. I feel confident and empowered. I am not afraid to ask questions and raise my voice. I can be a part of the conversation.”
— Eloise Duarte, English In Action student

LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF TECHNOLOGY

For an organization founded on creating interpersonal relationships, COVID-19 presented a huge challenge to English In Action. Like much of the world, we responded with increased use of communication platforms like Zoom. While many of our students and tutors made this transition easily, others struggled to participate in technology-based distance learning. People without the ability to communicate digitally are effectively excluded from education and much of today's communal life.

In a 2021 survey of our students, 88% felt that having an appropriate device would enable them to access online language classes. The majority of those polled expressed strong interest in acquiring more knowledge of digital communication through workshops and one-on-one support.

To meet this pressing need, English In Action launched a Digital Equity and Literacy Program in the spring of 2021. This program is designed to help our students access the internet, continue online English learning, and develop essential skills for professional and personal success. Led by Digital Literacy Coach Paulina Navas, this new program trains participants in computer basics through online and in-person workshops.

After completing a month long computer course, graduates are eligible to receive a new tablet or laptop from English In Action. Many recipients have chosen to contribute to the cost of their new computers with donations

“In our Digital Literacy classes, I’m showing our students how to connect online to meet their English tutors and so much more. It’s also to help them with their day-to-day lives.”

*— Paulina Navas, English in Action
Digital Literacy Coach*



Students learn laptop basics at English In Action during an in-person workshop, Summer 2021

to the program. Thus far, 70 students have been supported by the program and 63 have received devices. With their new digital abilities, our adult students are better equipped to seek employment, access health and personal finance information, and engage in their children's education. Knowledge IS power.

In 2022, we look to expand Digital Equity and Literacy to bring the same benefits to more of our students and to add in-depth software instruction to our workshop programming.



IMMIGRANT VOICES

“Don’t be afraid to be different. We all are! ‘She’s crazy’, they say, and I’ll tell you why. Because I didn’t have words to describe the independent and powerful woman that I am.”

— Laura Segura, English In Action student and featured Immigrant Voices speaker

Since 2017, English In Action has produced Immigrant Voices, a live storytelling event designed to empower members of our local immigrant community to *find the words they need to raise their independent voices* and share a part of their life experience with a theater audience. After 2020’s virtual version, Immigrant Voices returned live to The Arts Campus at Willits in November 2021.

In the months prior to the event, our six speakers develop, refine, and rehearse their stories through workshops and one-on-one coaching. Through Immigrant Voices, each storyteller has an opportunity to hone their English skills and build confidence public speaking. But it’s in the *telling* and the *hearing* where Immigrant Voices’ true impact lies.

By sharing her story, Laura amplifies her point of view and owns her fears. By listening to her story, the audience has a chance to learn and to reflect on what we all share, rather than how we all differ. At a time of widening divisions and growing inequities nationwide, Immigrant Voices provides our Roaring Fork Valley community a unique forum to fortify local connections and celebrate our common humanity.



Storytellers Jorge Montiel (left)
and Iliana Rentería (right)

PHOTOS © KLAUS KOCHER

OUR IMPACT

Since 1994, 2,000 adult students have learned English in English In Action's tutoring programs with the support of over 1,250 volunteer tutors.

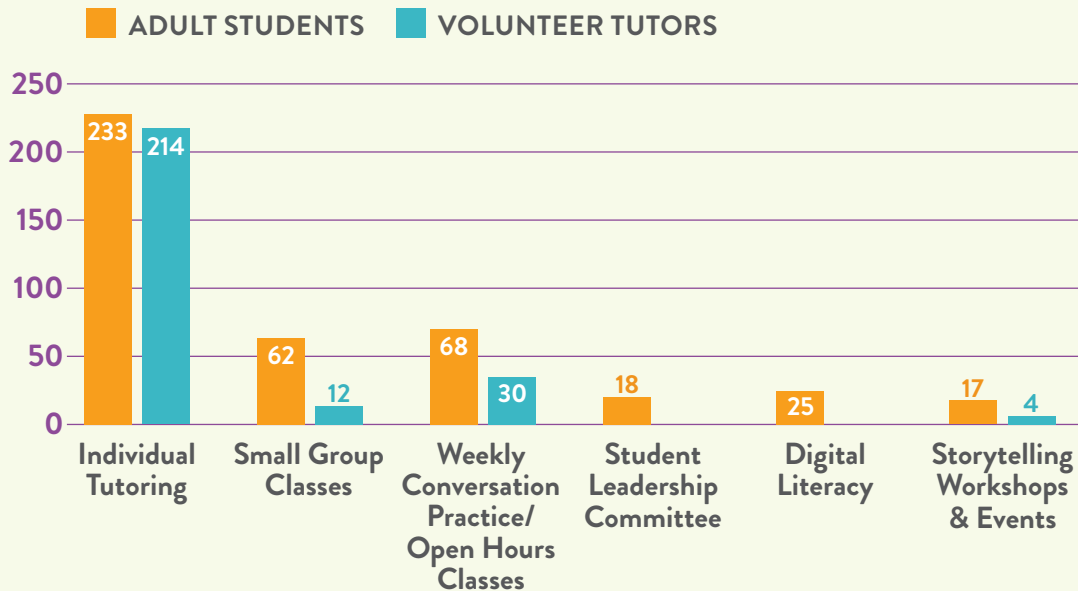
The collective contributions our supporters have made over time have strengthened the quality of life for everyone in our community by helping adult immigrants improve their language skills and bridge the cultural divide. Together we have created a more integrated, compassionate community.

ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS ARE NOW OFFERED VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON. IN FISCAL YEAR 2020-21, WE SERVED:

302
ADULT
STUDENTS

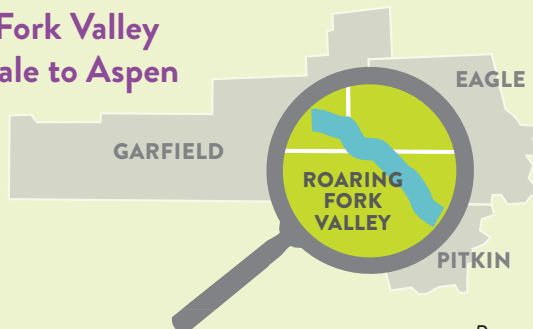
236
VOLUNTEER
TUTORS

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT *



* 25% of students enrolled in multiple programs

Serving Western Colorado's
Roaring Fork Valley
Carbondale to Aspen



Program participants enjoy making holiday crafts at The Art Base (top) and a fall hike guided by Aspen Center for the Environmental Studies (bottom).

BY THE NUMBERS

students & tutors took part in **9,000+** hours of classes, trainings, activities and events

community members volunteered **4,000+** hours

75% of individual tutoring students demonstrated improved English language skills

80% of students reported increased confidence & community participation

88% of tutors had an increased awareness of & compassion towards immigrant issues

425 community members participated in our events recognizing our diverse community

62 families with 104 children received holiday gift cards of \$50-\$100

English In Action office used for **6** mobile vaccine clinics delivered by partner agencies



SUMMER BENEFIT



Author Francisco Cantú (top). Benefit guests raise their paddles to support English In Action (bottom).

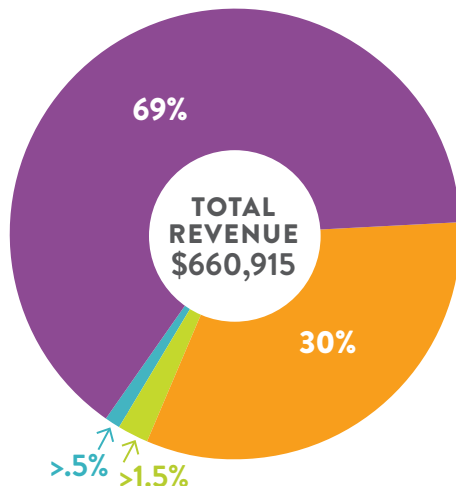
After a successful virtual Summer Benefit in 2020, we returned to an in-person event in 2021 on the rooftop café at the Aspen Art Museum. Our biggest fundraiser of the year, 160 guests heard a powerful story of hope and resilience from student speaker Paulina Navas. Hailing from Colombia, Paulina is an advanced student who joined our staff in 2021 as our Digital Literacy Coach. Featured speakers Francisco Cantú, author of *The Line Becomes a River*, and Ali Noorani of the National Immigration Forum shared insightful perspectives on the national immigration system and Cantú's first-hand experiences working with border communities in the Southwest. The evening highlighted many diverse voices from within the English In Action community and the larger impact of bringing immigrants and nonimmigrants together to foster language development and greater cultural understanding.

WE THANK THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES who helped us launch new initiatives and positively impact the lives of hundreds of individuals in our programs by supporting our Summer Benefit!



FINANCIALS 2020-21

PHOTO © MICHÈLE CARDAMONE



REVENUE —

◀ Contributions/grants: \$452,575

Individuals: \$206,908

Government: \$136,860

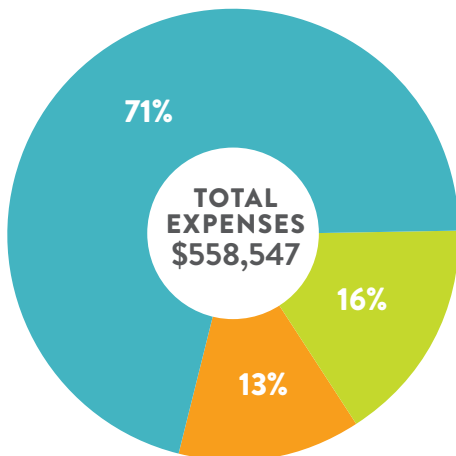
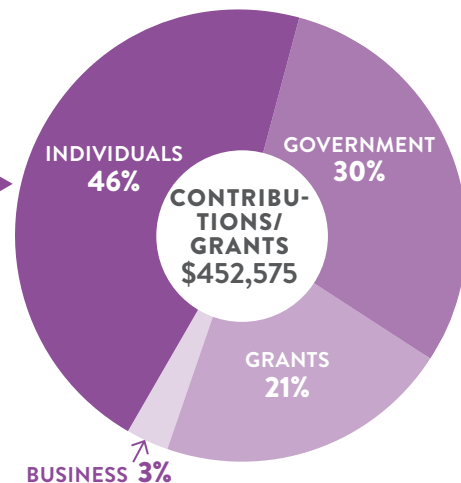
Grants: \$96,015

Business \$12,792

▶ Net Events: \$196,080
(Summer Benefit & Immigrant Voices)

▶ In Kind: \$9,125

▶ Student Fees: \$1,844
Meeting Room Rentals/Interest: \$1,290



EXPENSES —

◀ Program: \$396,265

Individual Tutoring: \$206,058

Community Engagement Activities: \$67,365

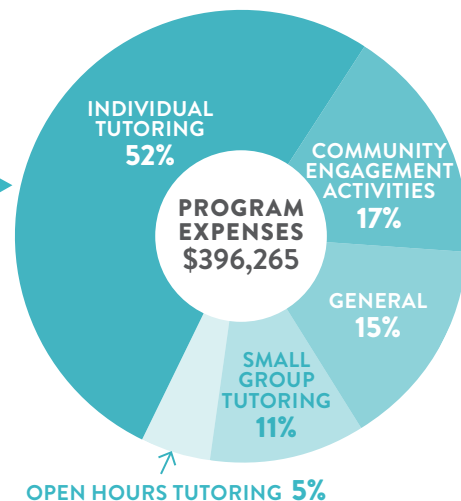
General: \$59,440

Small Group Tutoring: \$43,589

Open Hours Tutoring: \$19,813

▶ General: \$89,679

▶ Fundraising (less events): \$72,603



Based on unaudited financial statements. Reviewed statements available on request. Program expense breakdown is an estimate.



A PROGRAM STORY

After immigrating to the United States from her native Honduras, Sirlenis Ramirez settled in Carbondale, Colorado in 2011. As a young mother, Sirlenis felt an urgent need to adjust to her new environment in order to provide for her family. She knew that learning English would be the difference between surviving and thriving in her new home. Initially quiet and shy, after being introduced to an English In Action tutor in 2018, Sirlenis gradually started to find her voice again.

After her first tutor moved away, Sirlenis met her current tutor, Pam Cumming, in November 2020. By then, COVID-19 was raging nationwide, and English In Action programs had shifted to online formats only. Up for this new challenge, Sirlenis doubled down on her efforts to improve her English and pursue her personal goals during the pandemic. In fact, she expanded her participation in English In Action programs and took full advantage of the breadth of opportunities we provide through Individual Tutoring, Digital Literacy, Storytelling, and the Student Leadership Committee.

For Sirlenis, improving her English is about more than being able to navigate daily life in the US; it's about realizing her full potential and having a positive impact in her community. Through her weekly English conversations with Pam

and as a Digital Literacy student, Sirlenis has added to her tool kit this year. Now armed with her own computer, she can seek online information, support her sons, and communicate more professionally at work.

Through our Storytelling Workshops, Sirlenis realized that she's not alone in her struggles, and that other members of our immigrant student community have much in common with her. As a Student Leader, Sirlenis has enriched her relationships with her peers and leapt at the chance to increase her engagement in our community as a whole. Of her experience as part of the group, Sirlenis shared recently, "I feel comfortable there because I feel valued. When I speak, I feel heard. We are a team that wants the same thing for our community and are always looking for new ways to contribute. I want to be able to pay forward some of what I've received from English In Action."

English In Action not only supports students in their language development, but also helps them to pursue their dreams and thrive as community members. Through the pandemic this has become an even more important part of our mission. Sirlenis Ramirez took advantage of nearly every program we offer, and our community is stronger and more vibrant as a result.



Sirlenis (far right) celebrates completing a Laptop Basics course with her English In Action classmates.



Sirlenis (right) and her tutor, Pam Cumming, at a recent Theatre Aspen production.

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*term as Treasurer ended 10/21

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THANK YOU

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This list represents the cumulative giving of donors during our 2020-21 fiscal year (9/1/20-8/31/21).

Please visit our website for a list of donors who gave after 9/1/2021.

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* Members of the English In Action American Dreamers Giving Circle (members make a three-year commitment at a substantial level).

For more information, visit www.englishinaction.org.

** In-kind donations (donors who gave both cash and in kind donations will have two listings).

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Please forgive any omissions or errors

ENGLISH IN ACTION IS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT BELONGS TO US ALL.

Please join us again in 2022 by becoming a volunteer, a monthly donor, or joining our American Dreamer's giving circle.

Online gifts can be made at **www.englishinaction.org**.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

ENGLISH IN ACTION THANKS OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

(September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021 Volunteers)

“Never underestimate your ability to make someone else’s life better – even if you never know it.”

– GREG LOUGANIS

Martha Aarons	Catherine Derby	Emery Holton	Shannon Meyer	Linda Schuman
Gerald Alpern	Holly DeWire	Steve Hopkins	Angelica Mojarro	Ruben Schwarte
Tait Andersen	Drew Dougherty	Mark Howard	Susanne Morrison	Carole Sharp
Ben Anderson	Hilary Duchein	Robert Hubbell**	Patrick Morrissey	Diane Sherman
Laura Anderson	Jocelyn Durrance	Sharon Huber	Julia Morton	Suzuho Shimasaki
Bronwyn Anglin	Sue Edelstein	Sierra Jeter	James Moser	Mike Simmons
Jacqueline Balderson	Melissa Eisenstat	Peter Johnson	Aaron Munch	Laura Smith
Lindsay Ball	Susy Ellison	Sandy Johnson	Tim Mutrie	Sandra Smith
Denali Barron	Katie Fales	Bennett Jones	Lynn Nichols**	Holly Snyder
Lara Beaulieu	Lynne Feigenbaum	Carolyn W. Kane	Catherine O’Connell**	Julie Sonson
Daniel Benavent	Claudio Feler	Eleanor Kaufman	Jennifer O’Keefe	Katie Stewart
Eleanor Bennett	Dan Feuerborn	Merry Keefe	Jane Pargiter	Martin Suthren
Susan Bernard	Julie Feuerborn	Sarah Kelly	Andrew Parrott	Dana (Ko) Taekyung
Jed Bernstein	Helga Fisch	Sarah Kemme	Feenagh O’Donnell Pax	Julia Tallmadge
Vanessa Biebl	Tom Fitzpatrick	Betsy Key	Rich Pearce	Laura Thielen
Nell Birk	Robin Fitzpatrick	Jo King	Carla Peltonen	Joan Tidwell
Clara Blakely	David Floria**	Peg Klein	Tom Penzel	Sara Tie
Julie Bomersback	Linnea Fong	Kerry Kleisner	Wendy Perkins	Caroline Tory
Darby Brown	Amy French	Martha Kliebert	Jeannie Perry	Sarah Tory
Timothy Brown	John Fullerton	Chris Klingelheber	Jessica Peterson	Veronica Vergara
Debbie Bruell	Noel Gannett	Kathryn Koch	Nancy Peterson	Tysiatchnaia
Jean Burks	Hilary Garnsey	Klaus Kocher	Kirsten Petre McDaniel	Barbara Uboe
John Burks	Kiara Gonzalez	Eric Lamb	Dan Pittz	Annie Uyehara
Maureen Callahan	Sophia Greiper	Rae Lampe	Polly Pollard	Heidi Vargas
Jean Campbell**	Jane Gross	Rosemarie Lavender	Steve Prudden	Deirdre Venables
Diana Cardenas*	Estela Lopez Gudiño*	Courtney Lippman	Lee Pruitt	Jordan Vogt
Elizabeth Caris	Bob Guion	Susan Lodge**	John Putnam	Ann Vores
Sarah Chase Shaw	Angela Hanley	Laurie Loeb	Gaye Quaranta LaCroix	Libby Wolfe Walters
Lisa Chiles**	Gary Harada**	Erin Loughlin	Sky Quarto	William Weidman
Susan Christman	Marilyn Hill Harper	Shelley Lundh	Kevin Rayes	Polly Whitcomb
Eric Cohen	Bunny Harrison	Allie Macciomei	Catherine Reagan	JT Williams
Jill Cohen	Jane Hart	Christy Mahon	Paula Rhodes	Kristina Wohl
Julie Comins**	Michael Hartnett	Stephanie Mahon	Renee Ritchie	Steven Wolff
Oscar Contreras	Susan Hartnett	Laura Makar	Enid Ritchy	Dan Wright
Maria Cook	Robin Haugland	Sierra Malia Fransen	Helen Rubenstein	John Wyman
Richard Cornelius	Carol Hawk	Mikki Mallory	Lynn Russell	Sarah Yoon
Susan Cottle	Chris Hazleton	Lincoln Manuel	Martha Rybak	Sue Zislis
Pam Cumming	Jean-Marie Hegarty	Linda Maslow	Veronica Sacur	
Robin Danell	Meg Hendricks	Margaret Mathers	Suzanne Scheer	
Megan Davis	Erin Henrichs	Michele McClinton	Kim Scheuer	
Isabel Day	Cecil Hernandez	David McDaniel	Rachel Schmidt	
Alex DeGolia	Will Hodges	Carly McGowan	Janet Schoeberlein	
Sharon Dequine	Tracy Holcombe	Michael McLain	Judy Schumacher	

*Student or former student
** Board member (or former)

WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF NEW VOLUNTEER TUTORS. Learn more at englishinaction.org/volunteer

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

3rd Street Center	Carbondale Branch Library	Smith Immigration
Anderson Ranch Arts Center	Governor Polis Vaccines for All	Stepping Stones
Aspen Art Museum	Intercambio: Uniting Communities	TACAW (The Arts Campus at Willits)
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies	La Medichi	The Art Base
Aspen Skiing Company	Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance (MIRA)	Theatre Aspen
Audubon Rockies	Mountain Voices Project	Valley Settlement
Basalt Regional Library	Mountain West Gives	Voces Unidas
Colorado Mountain College	National Immigration Forum	We-Cycle
Colorado Rocky Mountain School	Pitkin County Library	Writ Large & Alya Howe’s
Colorado Wild Public Lands	Power the Comeback	Performing Arts Umbrella