



2021-22

ANNUAL
REPORT

English  Action
building community since 1994



CONNECT. communicate. UNIFY. empower.

Dear Friends,

English In Action was created in 1994 to help adult immigrants learn English and to promote cross-cultural community building. These remain our primary goals, but our impact is broader and deeper. We offer students the support they need to thrive in this community, develop as leaders, and enter the digital age. We provide volunteer tutors with authentic opportunities to serve others in meaningful ways and to understand the immigrant experience at a human level. Most important, English In Action is an incubator of enduring friendships that honor differences and celebrate diversity.

Please review English In Action's 2021-22 Annual Report. We are proud of our successes over the past year and the ways our programs continue to strengthen intercultural connections in the Roaring Fork Valley. These accomplishments would not be possible without more than 550 donors and 280 volunteers. English In Action's supporters include many students and tutors, who not only give their time but also their hard-earned dollars, as well as a broad base of individuals and organizations who believe in the power of effective communication.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, donations, advice, and services to English In Action over the last year! As Lao Tzu said, "Great acts are made up of small deeds." Our work would not be possible without all of you.

With gratitude,

Lara S. Beaulieu



Lara S. Beaulieu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Comins



Julie Comins
CHAIR
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David Floria




David Floria
VICE CHAIR
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"Thanks to this program for helping me in every part of my life. My English has improved over the past 9 years, and I am thankful for the staff at English In Action and all their support."

— English In Action student Gloria Castillo

*On the cover, top to bottom: A group of students hard at work; Diego Diaz (L) with his tutor Frank Sgambati; Immigrant Voices storyteller Lissette Escolero. Photo: Hal Williams.
This page: Students and tutors carve pumpkins together. Photo: Consuelo Cota.*





“Even when nobody believes in you,
you always have to believe in yourself.
The best thing we can do for
ourselves is finding our own value.”

— English In Action student
and Immigrant Voices speaker
Isabel Guerrero



BUILDING COMMUNITY by sharing stories

For the last five years, English In Action has produced Immigrant Voices, a live storytelling event designed to foster deeper community connections among people who come from different backgrounds and life experiences. In late 2022, six local storytellers, including three English In Action students, took to the stage to share a part of themselves with a full house at The Arts Campus at Willits (TACAW).

Immigrant Voices provides a special forum to fortify local connections and expand our collective narrative. By telling their stories our speakers amplify their unique perspectives and have a chance to be seen, heard, and acknowledged. Through listening, the audience has an opportunity to grow and to reflect on what we all share and how we differ.

Special thanks to Alya Howe of Writ Large, who curated the event and helped each storyteller shine.

Top left: Isabel Guerrero speaks at Immigrant Voices. Photo: Hal Williams.

Bottom left: Storyteller Ketut Siladarmawan shares a poignant moment with the crowd. Photo: Hal Williams.



Anita Abarca Nadal believes in the power of positive thinking. Her can-do attitude motivates her to seek out new learning opportunities and overcome barriers along the way. A longtime Roaring Fork Valley resident, Anita came to English In Action in 2008 with her sights set on earning her GED and resuming her career in nursing. English In Action connected Anita with her tutor, Marilyn Hill Harper, a retired anesthesiologist, due to their shared interest in medicine.

unstoppable ANITA

Now, almost fifteen years later, the two women have formed a lasting friendship. Both were delighted when Anita earned her GED in early 2022! The process was long and sometimes challenging for Anita, particularly once her classes went online during the pandemic. “I don’t know how to describe what it meant to me,” Anita said recently. “Earning my GED is such a great feeling, such a relief! And Marilyn was the right person to help me with that process.”

Anita prioritizes learning because she says it “keeps her brain busy” which is important as she ages. But she realized that to continue her education in a virtual world, she would need to learn more about technology. After completing a month-long Basic Laptop workshop as part of English In Action’s Digital Literacy and Equity Program, Anita now has her own computer that she uses to check her email, join online classes, meet with Marilyn, and connect with her church group. Having access to a computer and knowing how to operate it is a game-changer for Anita, and she is looking forward to using it for her college-level class on medical terminology.

For her part, Marilyn is excited to help Anita navigate this next course and is inspired by her student’s lifelong commitment to learning. “Anita and I have been meeting for years and have formed an ongoing friendship. I am very proud of her and her positive, never give up attitude.”

Above: Anita (R) with her tutor, Marilyn. Photo: Michele Cardamone.

BY THE numbers

We served

370

ADULT STUDENTS

280

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Our participation **INCREASED BY 21% OVER LAST YEAR.**

Small Group Tutoring classes served a total of **95 STUDENTS** — the most in English In Action's history.

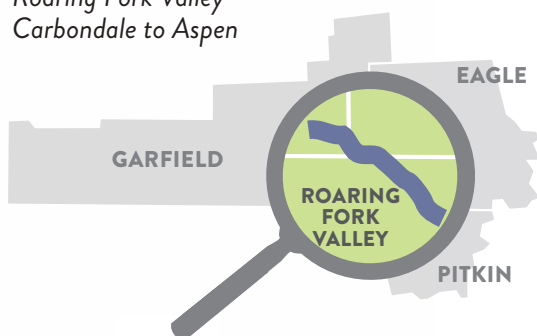
Our Digital Literacy + Equity Program has more than doubled its impact, **GROWING FROM 25 TO 81 STUDENTS.**

Volunteer tutors donated **5,376 HOURS** of their time.

We offered **40 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES + WORKSHOPS** for our students, tutors and families.

Nearly **900 PARTICIPANTS** took part in our community engagement activities including storytelling workshops, civic leadership, art + outdoor activities, and more.

Serving Western Colorado's
Roaring Fork Valley
Carbondale to Aspen



ENGLISH IN ACTION'S PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO GROW AND THRIVE.

Thanks to the generous commitment of our students, tutors, and donors, we are able to build a stronger community together by helping immigrants learn English, access new opportunities, and build cross-cultural friendships.

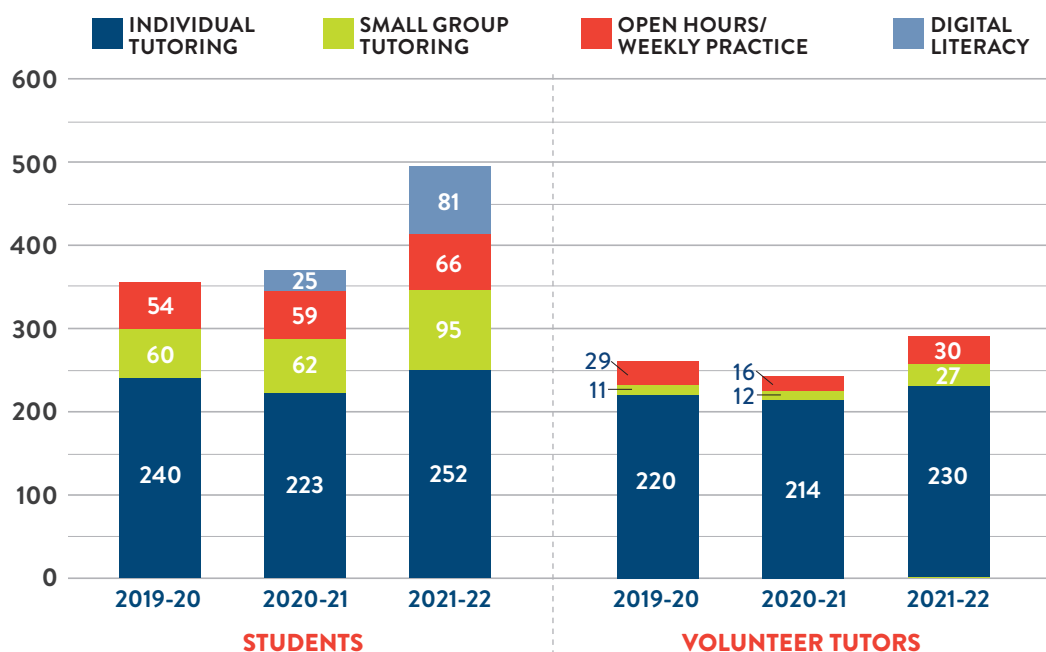


"The beauty of being a teacher is that you're always learning things from your students. The work that you are doing with your students is making you get out of your own way. That's why it's fun!"

— English In Action volunteer tutor
Glenn Rappaport

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT*

Overall enrollment **INCREASED BY 34%** in our 2021-22 fiscal year!



*Many of our students and tutors enrolled in multiple programs.

72% of students demonstrated improved English language skills

79% of students reported increased confidence, a critical factor to acquiring language

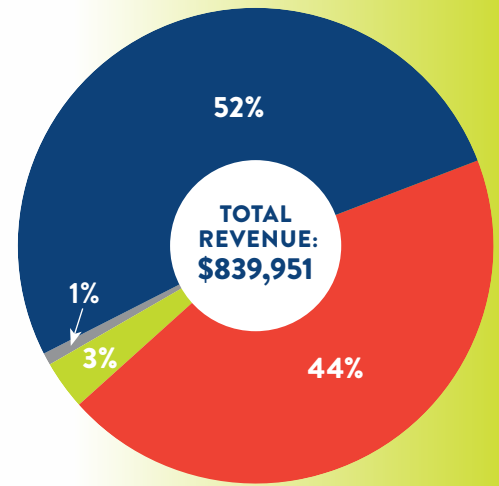
88% of tutors reported an increased awareness of and compassion towards immigrant issues



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

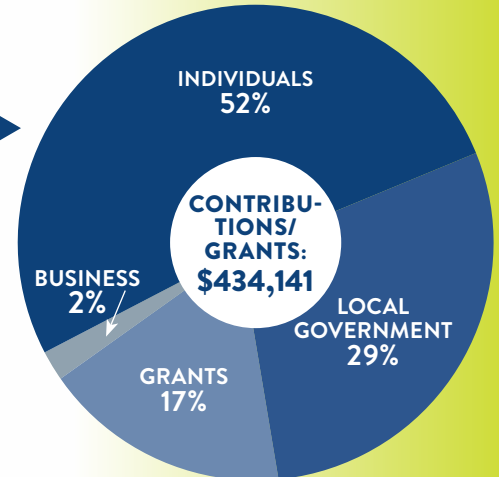
REVENUE

Contributions/grants: \$434,141
 Net Events: \$373,003
 In Kind: \$26,395
 Earned Income: \$6,412
 (Student Fees, Facility Rental, Interest)



CONTRIBUTIONS/GRANTS DETAIL

INDIVIDUALS: \$224,662
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT: \$124,810
 GRANTS: \$76,000
 BUSINESS: \$8,669



Hakakian offers new insights at SUMMER BENEFIT

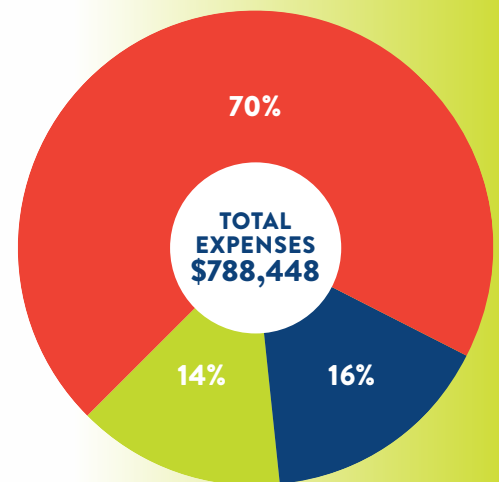
In July, more than 200 guests enjoyed an elegant evening at English In Action's fifth annual Summer Benefit. Attendees were treated to some fresh perspective, courtesy of keynote speaker Roya Hakakian. Originally from Iran, Ms. Hakakian is the author of several works, including her most recent, *A Beginner's Guide to America: For the Immigrant and the Curious*, in which she highlighted a challenge shared by all English In Action students: learning English. Appealing directly to our students in the audience, Ms. Hakakian remarked, "The arc of language learning is long, but it bends toward mastery."

We thank the many individuals and businesses who supported Summer Benefit. Every donation helps our students learn English and creates lasting friendships that continue to strengthen our entire community.

*Pictured above:
 Roya Hakakian speaks during
 English In Action's Summer Benefit.
 Photo: Klaus Kocher.*

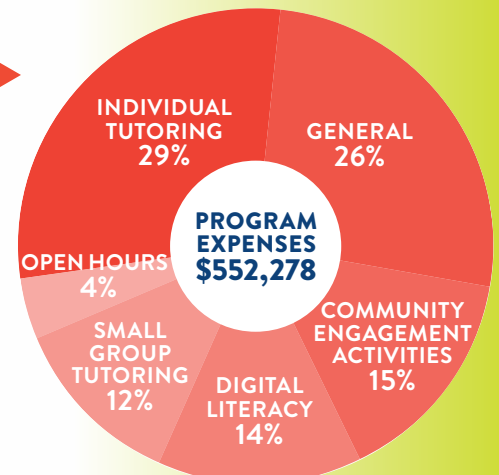
EXPENSES

Program: \$552,278
 Fundraising: \$126,307
 (Less Events)
 General: \$109,863

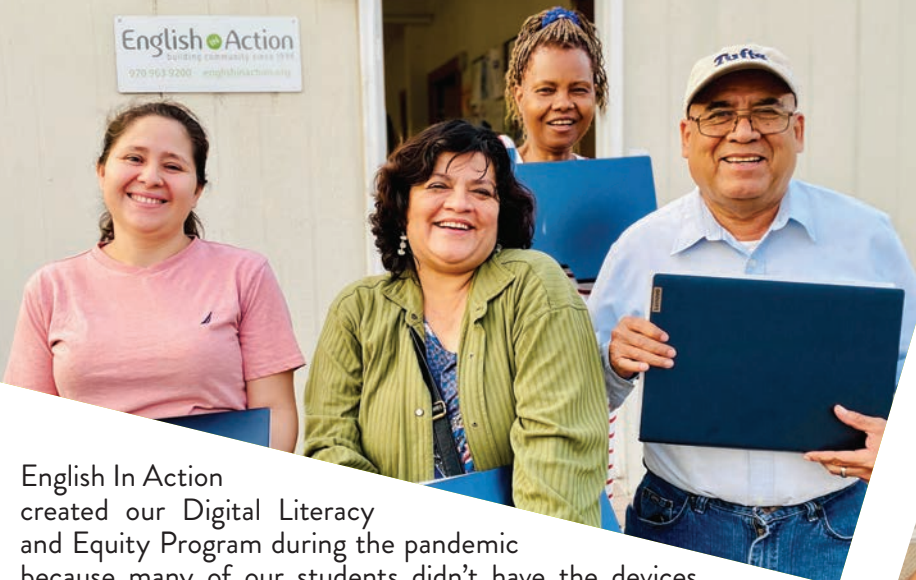


PROGRAM EXPENSES DETAIL

INDIVIDUAL TUTORING: \$160,161
 GENERAL: \$143,592
 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: \$82,842
 DIGITAL LITERACY: \$77,319
 SMALL GROUP TUTORING: \$66,273
 OPEN HOURS TUTORING: \$22,091



NOTE: Based on unaudited financial statements for operations from 9/1/21-8/31/22.
 Program expense details are estimated.



English In Action created our Digital Literacy and Equity Program during the pandemic because many of our students didn't have the devices they needed to attend online English classes and were limited by their lack of knowledge of technology. The program offers basic, intermediate, and advanced digital literacy workshops and customized, one-on-one support that help students increase their access to technology and develop skills essential in today's world. Since its inception in early 2021, our Digital Literacy & Equity Program has grown from serving 25 students in its pilot phase to 81 students last year.

the computer THAT MOVED MOUNTAINS

When Rocio Hernandez began her first Basic Laptop workshop last year, she was starting at square one. After completing those first classes with Digital Literacy coach Paulina Navas, Rocio received her very own laptop and has since used it for follow-up intermediate and advanced workshops. Rocio is now pursuing her high school equivalency at Colorado Mountain College, an opportunity she may not have been able to access prior to her participation in English In Action's Digital Literacy & Equity Program. Rocio has now learned how to register for classes online, to complete and submit her homework, to navigate banking applications, and more, all real-world skills that will set her up for success in the future.

English In Action's Digital Literacy & Equity Program is changing lives for the better and providing a powerful foundation to help our adult students, like Rocio, build new skills, seek information, advocate for themselves, and find new opportunities to engage in the community.

STUDENT LEADERS pay it forward

Since its beginnings in 2018, the English In Action Student Leadership Committee has acted as a voice for English In Action student participants, ensuring that their needs are equitably and accurately represented by our organization. To that end, the Committee has made community service and outreach top priorities. By offering bilingual workshops and events, our Student Leaders are helping other students and local immigrant community members gain access to new opportunities, professional skills, and public resources. From computer basics to mental health awareness to seminars on personal finance, English In Action's Student Leaders are making a positive impact in our community. Plans for a student-led Fiesta de Tamales are underway for 2023 — stay tuned!

"I feel fortunate to be part of the English In Action Student Leadership Committee. I feel more confident speaking in English with people. I can also see the progress I've made so far. It makes me more proud because I will continue to learn more and more as part of this organization."
— English In Action student leader Sirlenis Ramirez

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Top left: Proud Digital Literacy graduates, Summer 2022.
Right: Student Leader Sirlenis Ramirez (L) with her tutor, Pam Cumming, at English In Action's Summer Benefit.

THANK YOU

TO ENGLISH IN ACTION'S GENEROUS DONORS!

Without you, our work would not be possible!

This list represents the cumulative giving of donors during our 2021-22 fiscal year (9/1/21 - 8/31/22).

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visit englishinaction.org.

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Please forgive any omissions or errors.

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Colorado Mountain College
Colorado Rocky Mountain School

Colorado Wild Public Lands
Cornerstone Property Management
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Independence Pass Foundation
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La Medichi
Michèle Cardamone Photography
Mountain Voices Project
Mobile Intercultural Resource Alliance (MIRA)
Mountain West Gives

National Immigration Forum
Pitkin County Library
Power the Comeback
Smith Immigration
Stepping Stones
TACAW (The Arts Campus at Willits)
The Art Base
Theatre Aspen
Valley Settlement
We-Cycle
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