

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
VOCAL AmeriCorps
(Volunteer Outreach for Community Action in Literacy)
2019/2020

Host Sites

Centro Romero, 6216 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60660

Centro Romero, located on the northeast side of Chicago in the Edgewater neighborhood, is a non-profit organization providing options and opportunities for low-income Latino and other immigrants. Services offered include ESL and Spanish Literacy, Family Literacy, Immigration Services, and various programs for youth and women. Through education, Centro Romero emphasizes the development of the whole family unit, the creation of community leadership and self-reliance.

Contact: Katie Maranzana, Adult Education Program Director 773/508-5300 ext.15

Centro Sin Fronteras Community Services Network, Lincoln Methodist Church, 2009 W. 22nd Place, Chicago, IL 60608

Founded by Emma Lozano in 1987 to keep the legacy of her brother Rudy Lozano alive, Sin Fronteras is one of Chicago's oldest existing Mexican organizations. Centro Sin Fronteras, whose mission is to provide outreach, education and services to principally the low-income immigrant population, is based in Pilsen but offers services in numerous communities in Chicago as well as some suburban communities.

Contact: Pastor Emma Lozano 773-847-7282

Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition, 641 W. Lake – Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60661

The Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition advocates for and develops implementation strategies for improving adult literacy and the adult basic education system via a coordinated effort to: Improve the quality and build the capacity of adult basic education programs; foster an adult education infrastructure that adequately transitions learners into the workforce or post-secondary education; and, promote equitable access to quality education for all ages throughout the city.

Becky Raymond, Executive Director 312.659.1520

Chinese Mutual Aid Association, 1016 West Argyle Street, Chicago, IL 60640

Chinese Mutual Aid Association is a fast-paced organization, dedicated to fostering the integration of the Pan-Asian immigrant and refugee community into U.S. culture. Established in 1981, CMAA has become a cornerstone of the Uptown community, providing programming for generations of low-income youth, adults, and senior citizens. The Adult Education and Workforce Department provides English as a Second Language, Financial Literacy, and Computer classes, and assists clients with transitioning into the workforce, through workshops and individualized counseling.

Contact: Alana Slezak, Assistant Manager, Education & Employment 773/784-2900

Instituto del Progreso Latino (IDPL), 2570 S. Blue Island, Chicago, IL 60608

IDPL is an educational organization whose mission is to contribute to the fullest development of Latino immigrants and their families through education, training and employment. With offices in on the southwest side of Chicago and several different service locations, IDPL offers a continuum of adult education services from learning how to read in Spanish to the GED and onto college level classes ABE and pre-GED classes are also offered, as is English literacy for students with less than a 6th grade education in their first language. Also offered are computer literacy programs, internet access and employment-readiness and job placement assistance.

Contact: Luisa Sanchez, Spanish Literacy Program Coordinator 773/890-0055

Literacy Chicago, 641 W. Lake Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60661

Literacy Chicago is a nonprofit organization that empowers individuals to achieve greater self-sufficiency through language and literacy instruction. For more than four decades, thousands of adults have participated in the broad range of programs Literacy Chicago has developed, including basic literacy,

GED preparation, English as a Second Language. Workforce Development, and Citizenship Program. Literacy Chicago continues its learner-focused programming by relying heavily on the efforts of volunteer tutors, and frequently offers ancillary classes such as health literacy, computer literacy, and financial literacy, to support the language/literacy options.

Contact: Joanne Telser-Frere, Program Manager 312/870-1100

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois (LVI), 641 W. Lake Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60661

LVI is a statewide organization that is committed to developing and supporting volunteer literacy programs that help families, adults and out-of-school teens increase their literacy skills. Founded in 1983, LVI conducts activities in four program areas – Resource and Referral, National Service, Correctional Education and Information and Advocacy.

Jump Start at the Illinois Youth Centers (IYC)

A program of LVI that recruits retirees, especially retired teachers, to serve as tutors and mentors for youth incarcerated in the IYC.

IYC-Chicago, 136 N. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

Contact: Alex Dunbar, 312/857-1582

IYC-Warrenville, 30 W 200 Ferry Road, Warrenville, IL 60555

Contact: Teresa Urfer, 630/983-6231

Literacy Works, 641 W. Lake Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60661

Literacy Works' mission is to strengthen adult literacy, parent education, and workforce development programs by developing and providing innovative training and knowledge-sharing opportunities for professionals and volunteers. Each year, Literacy Works trains nearly 1,000 community volunteers and literacy provider staff who work with tens of thousands of adults enrolled in Chicago-area literacy and employment programs. Literacy Works also provides networking opportunities program for staff and recently developed a Clear Language Lab, which is a consulting group that works with organizations to deliver their message in a clear way to help ensure that the people who need the information can actually understand it.

Contact: Becky DeForest Program Coordinator, 773/334-8255

Sunshine Community Services Center, 701 May Street, Kewanee, IL 61443

The Sunshine Community Services Center (SCSC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides a variety of educational programming and other support services to children and families in the west central Illinois city of Kewanee. The SCSC is the sponsor of the Step Ladder Tutoring Program which operates in the city's Middle Schools and through its CAPE-E (Communities Advancing Potential through Education and Empowerment) program, which is a collaboration with LVI, serves as a volunteer connector for various community agencies in the city of Kewanee. As part of its CAPE-E program, SCSC has nine AmeriCorps serving in educational and empowerment capacities in the Step Ladder Tutoring Program, Salvation Army, YMCA and Abilities Plus, which is an agency service individuals with disabilities. A small but mighty force, the SCSC earned for Kewanee a Governor's Hometown Award in 2017.

Contact: Etta LaFlora, Executive Director, 309-853-7751

Waukegan Public Library, 128 North County, Waukegan, IL 60085

A collaboration of the Waukegan Public Library and the College of Lake County offering a wide array of services including: basic skills assessments, specialized instruction by professional staff, one-to-one and small group tutoring by staff and volunteers, peer mentoring, computer, ESL and family literacy instruction.

Contact: Margie Taylor, Adult Literacy Director 847/623-2041 847/623-2902 (fax)

World Relief Chicago, 3507 W. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

World Relief-Chicago's mission is to engage communities to foster dignity and wholeness for immigrants and refugees in transition. English language and literacy development to obtain employment and integrate more fully into the Chicago community is a key avenue that World Relief uses to accomplish its mission. Education services include intensive English Language Training part-time ESL programming, family literacy and in-home tutoring. Also offers weekly employment preparation and cultural adjustment training.

Contact: Mike Moline, Director of Education Services 773/681-8560 773/583-9410 (fax)

World Relief DuPage/Aurora, 191 S. Gary Avenue, Suite 130, Carol Stream, IL 60188

The mission of World Relief is to empower local churches to see the most vulnerable people transformed economically, socially, and spiritually. World Relief DuPage/Aurora (WRDA) serves the immigrant and refugee communities in DuPage County and greater Aurora. WRDA's Social Services program provides immigrants and refugees with the support and tools needed to achieve stability and move toward health integration into their local community including case management, employment services, children and youth services, mental health counseling, and support for WRDA's Education/ESL programming.

Contact: Alison Bell, Program Manager, 630/462-7566