



ESLC

EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



admin@eslcmn.org
www.eastsidelearningcenter.org
651-758-0660



WHAT DRIVES OUR MISSION:

♥ Because every child deserves someone who believes in them.

📖 Because confidence grows with every page.



🚀 Because when a child learns to read, their future gets bigger.

🌟 Because one year of growth can change a life.

🌟 Because Caring Adults Make All the Difference.



IGNITING POSSIBILITIES... A Year of Growth and Connection!

Reflecting on the past year, the impact of East Side Learning Center is unmistakable...

Dear ESLC Partners,

According to the August 2024 Minnesota Report Card, only 37.4% of St. Paul Public School students met reading achievement levels—reminding us just how essential our work is. Thanks to 9,500 hours of dedicated volunteer service, East Side Learning Center provided 15,500 one-on-one tutoring sessions for over 220 children during the 2024–2025 school year.

Together, we supported students at St. Paul Music Academy, Frost Lake Elementary, East African Elementary Magnet School, and through two after-school virtual cohorts. Our Summer Excel 2024 program brought reading to life through literacy tutoring, Reader's Theater, and Active Literacy Games enrichment—while families joined in for Reading is a Family Affair events, building skills and memories that continue at home.

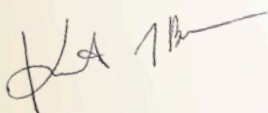
Opening New Chapters: 2025–2026 and Beyond

The year ahead brings exciting growth—new staff, new partner schools, and one-on-one reading tutoring for at least 50 additional children. We're thrilled to expand our reach to Nokomis South in St. Paul and Lucy Craft Laney in Minneapolis, bringing the joy and confidence of reading to even more students.

This progress is made possible by our dedicated community—140 volunteer reading tutors, our skilled site coordinators, program and volunteer managers, committed administrative team, and steadfast partners including School Sisters of Notre Dame, AARP Experience Corps, Liberty Plaza, and our school communities.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are opening doors, building confidence, and unlocking the potential of every child—one reader at a time.

With gratitude,



Karmit J. Bulman
Executive Director

MISSION

ESLC envisions a community where all children read with pride and joy. The mission, **"unlocking each child's potential through the foundation of reading,"** empowers children to be successful in school, graduate, and succeed in their future careers. ESLC provides one-to-one supplemental literacy support and mentoring relationships that help children thrive. Since 2001, ESLC has been supporting our community's most vulnerable children—those facing barriers to education such as homelessness, poverty, trauma, disabilities, and racial bias. Our literacy tutoring model is a strength-based approach characterized by its relationship-first, individualized approach and partnerships with families, schools, and the community.

ESLC Sustaining Beliefs:

Reading is a power for a lifetime

Every child has a right to the power of read

Advocates take action to invest in a child's brighter future.

Developing the next generation of readers and citizen leaders.

OUR TEAM

2024-2025

Staff

Karmit Bulman
Executive Director

Alyssa Hamel
Program Manager

Amelia Wherland
Program Administrative Specialist

David Romans
Site Coordinator

Jamie Cooper
Director of Development & Operations

Jill Romans
Site Coordinator

Kari Westby
Site Coordinator

Laura Moyer
Site Coordinator

Mary Fritz
Executive Director

Nzula Muthoka
Site Coordinator

Paula Mielke
Site Coordinator

Peggy Jackson
Volunteer
Recruitment VISTA

Yvonne Brazelton
Volunteer Manager

Board of Directors

Kathleen Jorgensen, Chair
Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer, US Bank

Shari Blindt, Vice Chair
Director of Philanthropy/Associate Director, Saint Paul Parks Conservancy

John Schnedler, Treasurer
Large Bank Field Examiner, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)

Margaret Penn, Secretary
Co-founder, Burke & Penn

Cristóbal Cevallos
Senior Marketing Manager, Ecolab

Dave Romans
Site Coordinator, East Side Learning Center

Evie Samuelson
Business Manager, MN Ovarian Cancer Alliance

Joan Schlichting
Retired, Occupational Therapist

Jason Bounsavath
Senior Trust Officer, US Bank

Jordan Carrera
Senior Associate, First National Bank of Omaha

Liz Wynne, Treasurer
Executive Director, Student Achievement Minnesota, LLC

Mandy Gleason
Project Planner, Parent and community Volunteer

Mohamed Abdurahman
School Counselor, East African Magnet Elementary School

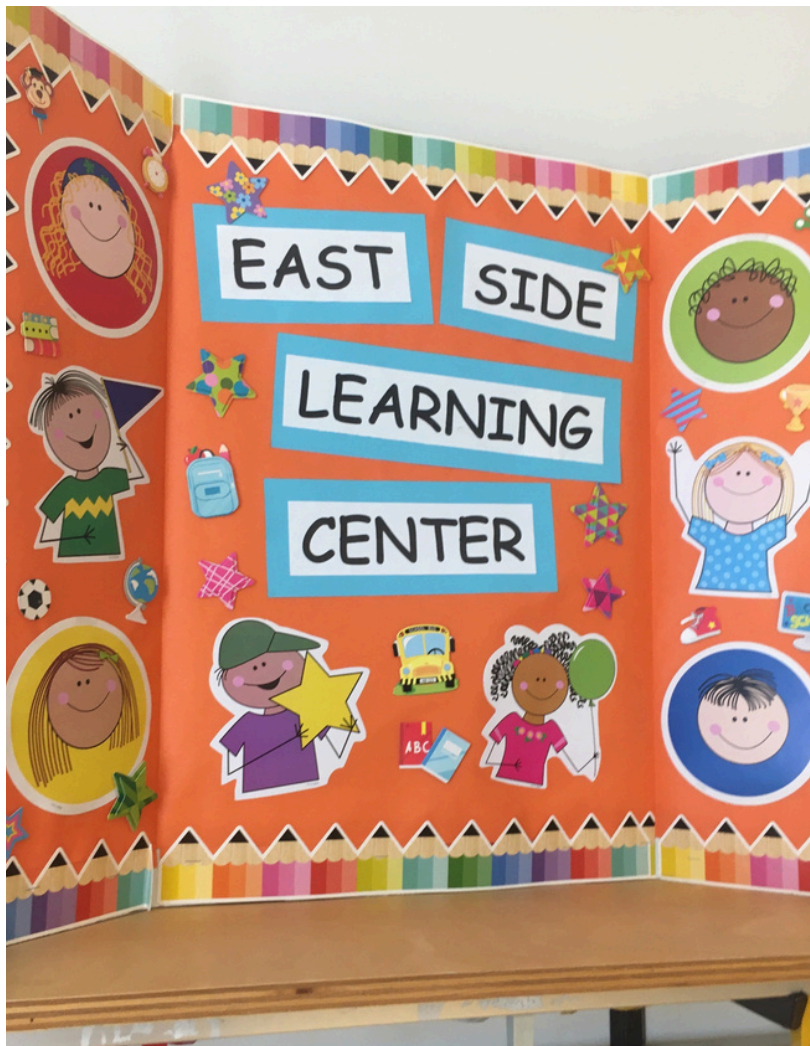
Ryan Fahrman
Senior Director, Service Strategy & Support, Self Esteem Brands

Sailaja Chandrapati
Director Intellectual Property Strategy, Neogen Corp

Sr. Cheryl Marie Wagner, SSND, Chair
Retired Educator

Sr. Mary Willette, SSND
Retired Educator

Traci Leffner, Vice Chair
President, Sovran, Inc//Crescent Career Center



To contact the board,
please email board@eslcmn.org or
call (651)758-0660 and leave a message.

We Couldn't Do it Without You Volunteers

East Side Learning Center is deeply grateful for our volunteer, whose dedication, patience, and compassion make all the difference for our students. Through your dedication, mentorship, and encouragement, children gain the skills and confidence to thrive as readers and learners. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your time, energy, and belief in our mission continue to inspire everything we do.

112 Volunteers in 2024

9,500 Total Volunteer Hours

\$332,453 Cost savings to ESLC because of volunteers*

**as determined by the 2024 Independent Sector Value of \$34.79/hour*



STUDENT SUCCESS

KINDERGARTEN

- 100% met Benchmark for letter name identification
- 100% met Benchmark for letter sound identification

1ST GRADERS

- 58% met end-of-year Benchmarks for fluency and/or accuracy
- 58% made Accelerated Growth

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH

72% of students demonstrated growth on the Panorama Assessment of Social Emotional Learning

2ND GRADERS

- 96% met Benchmark for fluency and/or accuracy
- 64% made Accelerated Growth in fluency and/or accuracy

3RD GRADERS

- 93% met Benchmark for fluency and/or accuracy
- 48% made Accelerated Growth in fluency and/or accuracy

*Accelerated Growth:

Student is Growing Faster than expected for their Grade Level

*Benchmark:

Student meets Grade Level Reading Expectations

Behind the Numbers Are 220 Smiles, Stories, and Successes!



YEAR IN NUMBERS

2024-2025

ST. PAUL

St. Paul tutors say it takes a community to help kids read, and they're volunteering to prove it

Students at East African Elementary Magnet School in Frogtown are embracing the help -- with a majority of them being English language learners.

By Anthony Lonetree
The Minnesota Star Tribune
OCTOBER 31, 2024 AT 1:09PM



Volunteer reading tutor Anne Troner plays a letter-recognition game with kindergarten Madina Mohamed Hussien at East African Elementary Magnet School on Oct. 22 in St. Paul. (Star Tribune/The Minnesota Star Tribune)



9,500

VOLUNTEER HOURS



220

STUDENTS



15,500

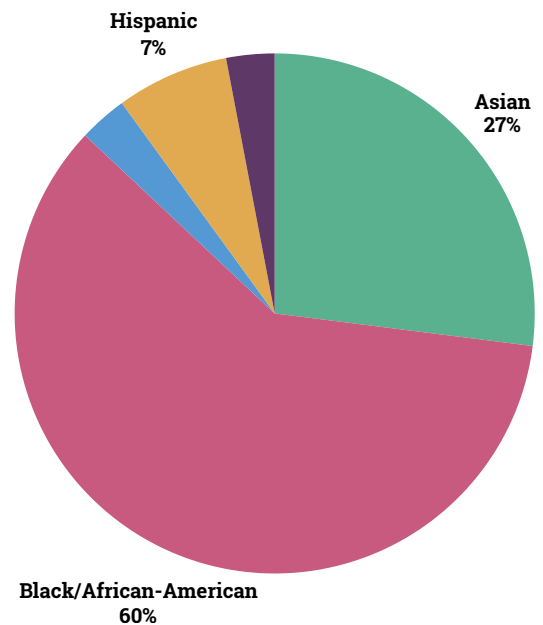
TUTORING SESSIONS



Student Demographics

| | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 60% | Black or African-American Students |
| 27% | Asian Students |
| 7% | Hispanic Students |
| 3% | White/Caucasian Students |
| 3% | Multi-Racial Students |
| 58% | Female Students |
| 42% | Male Students |

Racial Demographics



In Their Own Words

"When you see a student flourish and start picking up the joy of reading, it's just so marvelous and rewarding. And I have such a joy for reading. I love to share it with other students."

Peggy Jackson, ESLC Volunteer Manager

"I've gotten better at reading. My favorite thing about tutoring is, like, finding words in the dictionary. The three biggest words are vocabulary and dictionary and comprehension."

Israh, ESLC Student

"One young boy I had didn't really want to come to tutoring. And then as we work through, I tell him, good job you learn something new. High five him. Pretty soon he didn't want to miss it."

Scott H., ESLC Volunteer

"They're teaching me things, too. You know, they are. I'm learning from them, and they're learning from me in different ways. But we're learning from each other."

Julia D., ESLC Volunteer



"We're grateful for everyone's effort and time invested into this program, which provides us with an amazing opportunity. For all the volunteers being available to support the students, and also to the students for coming home from a long school day and putting in the effort to continue learning after school is done."

Parent of ESLC Student

Igniting Possibilities

**Together, we are building brighter futures—
one child, one book, and one moment of success at a time.**

East Side Learning Center is deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, businesses, faith communities, organizations, and anonymous donors whose generosity makes our work possible. Your commitment ensures that children receive the personalized literacy support they need to succeed—in school and beyond igniting possibilities for the future leaders.

MULTI-YEAR GIVING PARTNERS

East Side Learning Center is deeply grateful to the members of our Multi-Year Giving Societies—our **Literacy Leaders, Chapter Builders, and Story Starters**—donors whose sustained, multi-year commitments ensure lasting impact for our children. Their ongoing generosity builds the foundation for brighter futures, one reader at a time.

John Riehle, Literacy Leader
Dorothy Inde, Story Starter

Kathy Hoffman, Story Starter
Phil Schroer, Story Starter

PARTNERS IN LITERACY

Academy of Our Lady
of Lourdes Rochester
Franciscans
Adaire Lassonde, SSND
Alan C. Williams
Alan Schuweller
Alfred Colling
Anita Russo
Ann Ricketts
Anna Richie
Audrey Lindenfelser,
SSND
Barbara McQuillan
Barbara Zins
Benjamin A Jarvis
Bob Huber
Bonnie Lovell
Bonnie Saumweber
Br. Michael Kadow
Bryan W. Huisman
Carol Conrad
Carol Seiler
Carolyn Verret
Cheryl Marie Wagner
Cindy Mullan

Clyde Nelson
Cristobal Cevallos
David Hammond
David Romans
Denise Tennen
Desiree Carvel
Donald Arbour
Elaine Kinnard
Elizabeth Kane
Elizabeth Keyes
Elizabeth Lindeke
Emily Hoover
Erin Simon Skoglund
Flavia Fresonke
Gail Engstrom
Happy Peris
Helen Liz Wynne
Holly Jacobson
Ida Mae Arnold
James Flink
James Hagen
James Hayne
Jane Clappier
Janet Urbanowicz
Jason Anderson

Jennifer Ryan
Jerry and Terri
Schwartz
Jill Jackson
Jill Warren
Jim Voss
Joan Gennaro
Joan Schlichting
Joanne Backlund
John Bennett
John Grace
Joseph Nolan
Joyce Herzog Vavoulis
Julie Sellars
Karen Steiner
Karmit Bulman
Kathleen M Jorgensen
Kathy Robbins
Katie Whalen
Kay Osborne
Kay Thomas
Kayley Clark
Keith Stuessi
Kelsey Bruso
Kenneth Wagner

Kim DeBaere
Kofi Bruce
Kyle Falconbury
Lauren E. Sutherland
Lew Schuweiller
Linda McDougal
Linda Tetzlaff
Lorinda Fraboni
Schlauderaff
Lynn Kennedy
Marcia Morris
Marg Penn
Margaret Roozen, SSND
Mariellyn Kuske
Marilyn Boutelle
Mark Ceilley
Mark Genereux
Mark Nupen
Markus Flynn
Marlene Johnson
Mary A Jungmann
Mary Dee Hicks
Mary E. Mohan

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mary Eileen Welsh | Pat and Gregory Reese | Samantha Stanaway | Sue Colten |
| Mary Furman | Patricia Blaskowski | Sara Kuether | Sue Eichler, SSND |
| Mary Kay Kramer | Patricia Engels | Sarah Kennedy | Susan Lynch Vento |
| Mary Koltz | Patricia Irwin | Scott Hiedeman | Susan Stabile |
| Mary Owens | Peter Redmond | Scott Koester | Terry Fleetham |
| Mary Willette | Rachel Morey | Shannon Gardner | Tim Kramer |
| Mary Zadach | Richard Gibson | Shari Blindt | Todd Jones |
| Messiah Episcopal Church | Robert DeNardo | Sharon Otoole | Toni Roe |
| Mike Hopkins | Robin Bellamy | Sherril Garahan | Trish Flock-Johnson |
| Nancy Burke | Rodrick Fields | Sherry Berry | Tyler Sack |
| Nancy Higgins | Rosemary McMonigal | Sr. Cathryn O'Donnell | Vanessa Edwards |
| Nora Lee Hornicek | Roxanne Rick | Stan Suchta | Viola Ryder |
| Noreen Thompson | Ryan Fahrman | Stefanie Pavlicek | William Brooks Donald |
| Pam Pervenanze | Sally Newbury | Stephen Kemp | |
| | Samantha Jorgensen | Steven Fishbeck | |

FOUNDATIONS & ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

AARP Foundation Experience Corps
 Athwin Foundation
 Benjamin & Marion Bregi Foundation
 C. H. Robinson Foundation
 Casey Albert T. O'Neil Foundation
 Charity Incorporated
 CLA Foundation
 Dollar General Literacy Foundation
 Ecolab Foundation
 Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
 F. R. Bigelow Foundation
 Frey Foundation Minnesota
 Hardenbergh Foundation

Kinney Family Foundation
 Linda A. Reese Memorial Foundation of The
 Saint Paul Foundation
 Otto Bremer Trust
 School Sisters of Notre Dame Central Pacific
 Province
 The Gertrude R. Shiely Charitable Trust
 The Richard M. Schulze Foundation
 The Saint Paul Foundation
 The Stablish Foundation
 Walser Foundation
 Warren Foundation

HONORS & MEMORIALS

Gifts were made in memory or in honor of the following individuals.

Advent
 Albert Herbert Polachek
 Sr. Audrey Lindenfelser, SSND
 Charlotte Gleason
 Sr. Cheryl Marie Wagner, SSND
 Dean Andrew
 Dick Arnold
 Gene Gennardo
 Jim Fennell
 John Thompson

Kathleen Jorgensen
 Marg Penn
 Mary Riehle
 Ottavio Savina
 Regina McCarthy
 School Sisters of Notre Dame
 Suzanne O'Donnell
 Sr. Thomasin Sergot, SSND
 Tom Flock-Johnson
 Tom Gavras

We strive to maintain an accurate and complete donor list. Please forward comments and corrections to admin@eslc.org.
 Our apologies for any omissions or errors in presenting our 2024-2025 donors.

FINANCIALS

Income

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Foundations/Corporations/ Government Contributions | \$404,463 |
| Individual Contributions | \$92,588 |
| In-Kind Contributions | \$341,926 |
| Earned Income | \$47,853 |
| Interest and Other Revenue | \$94,504 |
| Total Income | \$981,334 |

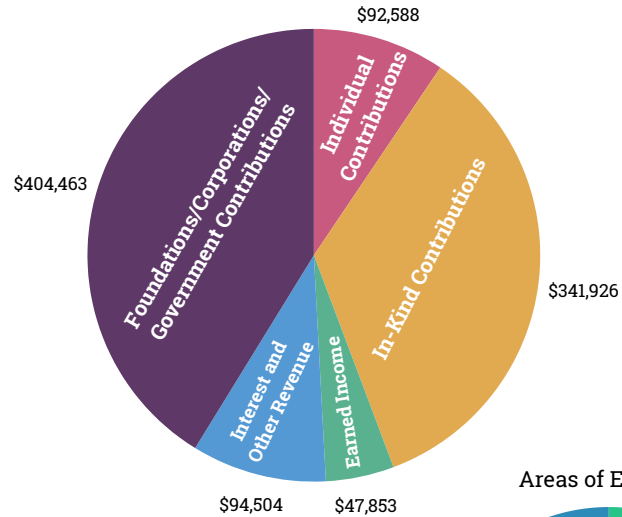
Expense

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Program Services | \$715,577 |
| Operations | \$199,046 |
| Total Expenses | \$914,623 |

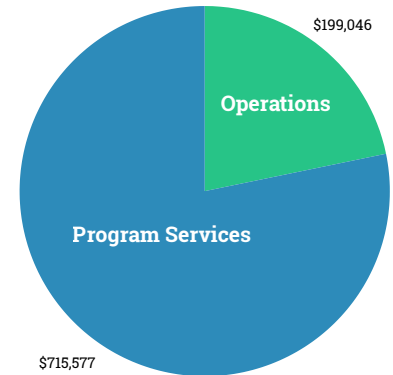
Liabilities & Net Assets

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$3,107 |
| Accrued Personnel Costs | \$17,458 |
| Operating Lease Liabilities | \$0 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$20,565 |
| Net Assets without Donor Restrictions | \$1,009,352 |
| Net Assets with Donor Restrictions | \$1,094,108 |
| Total Assets | \$1,114,673 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$1,047,450 |

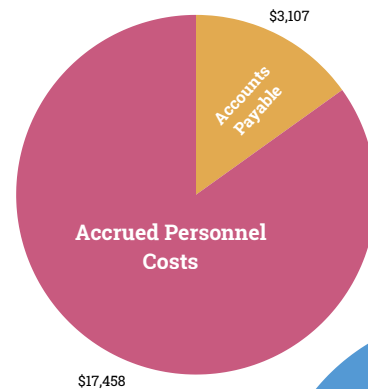
Income Sources



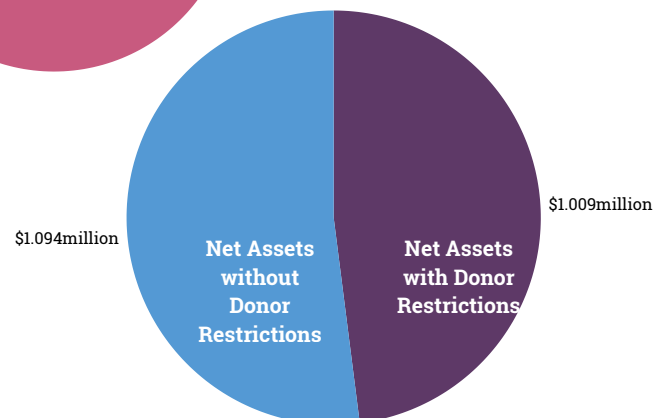
Areas of Expense



Liabilities



Net Assets



ESLC

EAST SIDE LEARNING CENTER



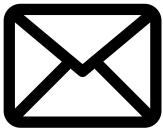
LOCATION

290 Arundel St., Saint Paul, MN 55103
P.O. Box 6703, Saint Paul, MN 55106



PHONE

651-758-0660



EMAIL

admin@eslcmn.org



WEBSITE

www.eastsidelearningcenter.org



INSTAGRAM

@eslcmn



FACEBOOK

@EastSideLCMN



LINKEDIN

@Twin Cities East
Side Learning Center

**Donate today and help us unlock each child's
potential through the power of reading!**

<https://eastsidelearningcenter.org/get-involved/>

Visit our website:

