

Annual Report 2023



Learn. Grow. Thrive.



Learn – Grow – Thrive

www.nashuaalc.org

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Message from Carol: A Core Program, Poised for Expansion



- Carol Baldwin, Executive Director

Yes, you 're interpreting the information here about our Early Childhood Adventures (see Sidebar) correctly! And yes, we care for 6-week old infants through Pre-Kindergarten children.

The Adult Learning Center has one of the most robust, comprehensive and well-respected childcare programs in the State. Its mission stems from the founding of the ALC back in the 1970's, with the recognition that educating and training people for the workforce and self-sufficiency simply could not be achieved without providing quality, affordable child care.

I am deeply proud and gratified about the way Early Childhood Adventures has evolved and grown over the decades. We've incorporated the most cutting-edge curriculum and "best practices" for giving our youngest students the best possible start, while remaining true to our original mission of affordable and nurturing care.

Like any program that is now decades old, we've had to adapt! Just one current statistic tells an amazing story of resiliency. The program had to be shut down during Covid, survived the pandemic, reopened with just 25 children, then went to 40, and is now back at 62 enrollees.

We are – again - fully staffed and engaged in some leading-edge work using the Pyramid Model. In 2017, New Hampshire became the 28th Pyramid Model State, bringing together leaders from public and private organizations concerned with the social-emotional development of young children and their families. We all recognize that children need positive relationships, and, for over 20 years, the Pyramid Model has worked to support social and emotional development in early childhood classrooms. Through evidence-based research, innovative techniques, and global reach, this model empowers children, birth to 5 years, to succeed in school and in life, regardless of ability.

This model is gaining traction state-wide, and the importance of providing quality childcare is viewed as a high priority in today's economy. At a recent Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce economic outlook event, the lack of childcare and housing were among the challenges discussed. Speakers cited data and statistics that show the need for thousands and thousands of child care slots to help parents get back into the workforce.

"It is estimated that there are 16,500 parents in the Granite State who are not working because they are caring for their young children. When you think about industries struggling with staffing, these 16,500 parents could go a long way to resolve (these) shortages."

- Economic Outlook/Legislative Kickoff Breakfast, Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce, January 19, 2024

Our robust child care program has never been more necessary, and at the very heart of the Adult Learning Center's mission of enabling every individual, no matter what their background or age, to Learn, Grow, Thrive.

- Carol Baldwin, Executive Director

Early Childhood Adventures serves children from six weeks old through Pre-Kindergarten

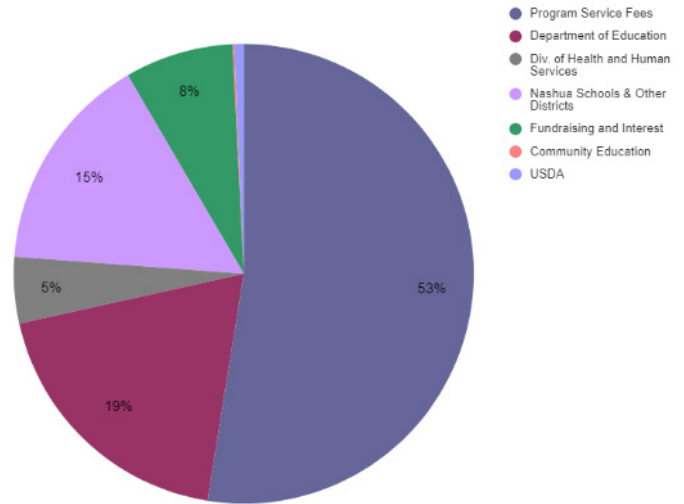
We offer full time, year-round care, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-5:30 PM for:

- Infants - (6 weeks to 12 months) are encouraged by our philosophy that infants "can do." We provide a nurturing, warm, stimulating environment.
- Infant/Toddlers - The older infant and younger toddlers (12 months – 2 years) learn through "messy art" projects, manipulative materials, and nursery gym. We sing, play, dance, and read with children to develop their language skills.
- Transitional Toddlers – Our older, physically active toddlers (2 years 9 months – 3 ½ years) are exploring and on the move – both indoors and outside.
- Preschool - Children (3 ½ - 4 ½ years) learn through "play with a purpose" in an environment that invites them to manipulate materials, ask questions, and find answers.
- Pre-Kindergarten (4 ½ - 5 ½ years) learn the skills they need to succeed in school. Structured centers, activities and themes give children pre-reading, writing and math skills to help get ready for kindergarten.

Financial Statement for 2022 - 2023

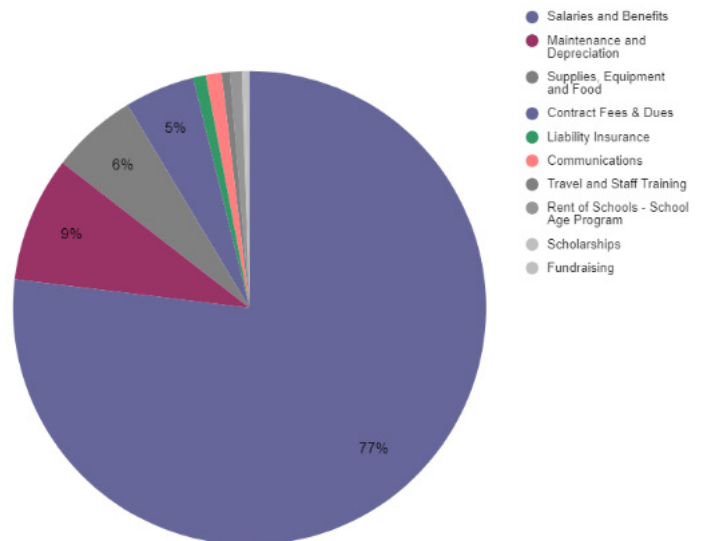
Revenues

Program Service Fees	2,642,150	53%
Department of Education	955,231	19%
Div. of Health & Human Services	234,694	5%
Nashua Schools & Other Districts	774,374	15%
Fundraising & Investment Gains	383,564	8%
Community Education	6,147	0%
USDA	33,791	1%
Total Revenues	\$5,029,951	100%



Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	3,748,186	77%
Maintenance & Depreciation	417,097	9%
Supplies, Equipment & Food	286,883	6%
Contract Fees & Dues	233,226	5%
Liability Insurance	41,867	1%
Communications	52,578	1%
Travel & Staff Training	27,891	1%
Rent of Schools - School Age Program	38,510	1%
Scholarships	8,488	0%
Fundraising	17,764	0%
Total Expenses	\$4,872,490	100%



Program Highlight: ALC Tutoring Services



According to Maria Huard, Tutoring Services Coordinator here at the Adult Learning Center, the goal of all of our volunteer tutors is “to make ourselves obsolete. We’re here to support our students as they strengthen their skills, and our hope is that they’ll reach the point at which they don’t need us anymore.”

The ALC’s Tutoring program offers adults free, confidential, one-on-one instruction in basic math and literacy, communication skills for English Language Learners, and preparation for the HiSET® exam (similar to the GED).

Students are matched with volunteer tutors, and meet individually or in small groups – at the ALC, via Zoom, and out in the community at locations that can make these services even more accessible and comfortable. Tutor Jennifer Slowikowski shares, “We have a student who speaks and

Become a Tutor

We currently have 89 tutors working with over 130 students. Tutors must be at least 18 years old and commit to working with a student for at least 6-9 months for a minimum of 1 hour each week. No previous teaching experience is necessary, and training, materials, and ongoing support are provided by the Coordinator.

understands English fairly well, and now would like to read, too. Through our individualized approach, he has a lesson plan that meets him where he is, and he’s already read his first full book.”

While many students work one-on-one with their tutors, others share the synergy that comes from a group setting. One example is the program’s Stitching Circle, where participants can crochet, knit, embroider and converse in English as they share their talents.

“I thoroughly enjoy my tutoring time. The atmosphere at the ALC is incredibly welcoming and supportive, and my students are so appreciative. Coming to the ALC is the highlight my day.”

Jay Darrin, retired math teacher

The Tutoring program benefits from partnerships with other organizations that embrace the goal of literacy. This includes the statewide NH Humanities Council’s Connections program, an adult literacy initiative that “promotes English language and vocabulary skills, and cultivates conversations” by providing award-winning free books that learners can keep.

Our ALC tutors - all volunteers and many of whom have been with the program for years - find the experience rewarding and meaningful. Mary Ann Slavin, a volunteer for 8 years, says, “For some students, their time with us can be the highlight of their week, because we’re non-judgmental listeners. We’re more than just English teachers – we’re helping them integrate into a new culture.”

The program is constantly evolving and adapting. In addition to the more traditional subjects, basic digital literacy tutors are helping students navigate an ever-changing technology landscape.

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Lessons in Strength and Fortitude



"You can make a significant difference in another person's life – all you need is patience, consistency, and a sense of humor. All of our students are looking for a 'safe' person who won't judge them for what they don't know. We have tremendous respect for our students' courage and dedication."

Maria Huard, Tutoring Services Coordinator



Nashua Adult Learning
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Giving Back in a Colorful Way

Our ALC Stitching Circle participants recently knitted and crocheted 40 colorful “Soap Sacks” containing individual bars of soap, which are in great demand, since they can’t be purchased with food stamps. These were donated to the Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter.



Please visit our web site for detailed information about our services, programs and success stories

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