**International Learning Center** Program Overview

639 N. 25th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233  
414-322-4777 **.** ilcmilwaukee.wordpress.com

*A Program of Neighborhood House of Milwaukee*

**MISSION: *To enable refugees and immigrants to function effectively as parents, employees and citizens****. Through learner-centered education, the International Learning Center provides individuals with opportunities to develop intellectual, social and life skills in a secure, nurturing environment where   
all cultures are valued and respected by staff and participants.*

**PROGRAMMING:** The International Learning Center serves refugees and immigrants, ***many of whom had little or no prior education in their own country***. The program’s primary components are:

* ***ESL classes*** with an emphasis on ***life-skills communications for low literacy adults***.
* Adult Basic Education in the form of ***citizenship, GED and pre-GED***, ***math***, and ***computer instruction.***
* ***Parenting support*** through award winning on-site licensed preschool, ***home visits*** by early education specialists, family-focused literacy activities, and field trips to libraries and community resources.

**REPORTED OUTCOMES for 2011-2012**

* Instructional services were delivered to adult learners in three areas: ESL (563 learners), citizenship (166 learners), and math (71 learners).
* Preschool services were provided to 40 children with parenting education for their families.
* 187 learners improved at least one grade level in reading and writing,   
  speaking and listening; or math by National Reporting Standards; others improved by smaller increments.
* 35 learners self-reported getting or retaining a job, and 56 self-reported increased involvement in their child’s education.
* 86 attained citizenship

The International Learning Center serves individuals from the city of Milwaukee and surrounding communities. Most services are provided at the 25th street site in low-cost space generously provided by the ***Central United Methodist Church***. ILC does not discriminate services based on inability to pay.

The International Learning Center adheres to ***Wisconsin State Performance Indicators for Program Quality***.   
The adult education component provides classroom instruction to help students achieve their personal goals. These goals may include improvement in basic language skills such as reading, writing, speaking, listening, as well as math and computer or financial literacy. Some participants have a goal of obtaining or retaining employment, gaining citizenship, or obtaining a driver’s license or permit. Other participants are seeking to enter a GED program.

**HISTORY:** TheInternational Learning Center began providing English as a Second Language instruction to Southeast Asian immigrants in 1981. While undergoing several name changes, it has grown from a small volunteer tutoring program to an established community-based adult literacy program ***serving over 500 individuals in 2011-2012***.

In 1996 the International Learning Center became affiliated with ***Neighborhood House of Milwaukee***. Neighborhood House is a not-for-profit agency in the settlement house tradition providing social, educational and recreational activities to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee’s diverse West Side. The International Learning Center is also part of the ***Milwaukee Area Refugee Consortium*** and works closely with resettlement agencies and other partners in the Milwaukee area.

**REVENUE SOURCES for 2011-2012**  
*Grants are reviewed annually with an informal commitment of long term support from each grantor.*

**Revenue by category   
 2011-2012**

Government

Grants 42%

Foundation

Grants 45%

United Way

7%

Private Donors

and other 6%

* **42% GOVERNMENT GRANTS**  
  *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFL);Department of Workforce Development through the Milwaukee Area Refugee Consortium (MARC); Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; Milwaukee Area Technical College and Wisconsin Technical College System (through AEFL)*
* **45% FOUNDATION GRANTS**  
  *Faye McBeath Foundation; Greater Milwaukee Foundation; Dollar General Literacy Foundation*
* **7% UNITED WAY**
* **6%**  **PRIVATE DONORS** and other sources

**PERSONNEL:** In 2011-2012 ***Anna Bierer served as Program Manager*** under the supervision of Neighborhood House overseeing ***11 part time instructors and 5 support staff***. Four instructors were certified and provided by Milwaukee Area Technical College. The early childhood program was led by two full time certified instructors.

**PARTNER AGENCIES**

* ***Milwaukee Area Refugee Consortium (MARC)***
* ***Wisconsin Literacy***
* ***Literacy Coalition of Southeastern Wisconsin***
* ***United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM)***
* ***Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) & Wisconsin Technical College System***
* ***ProLiteracy***
* ***UWM Linguistics***
* ***Marquette University Service Learning***
* ***MIAD Service Learning***

Two part-time bilingual support specialists and three program assistants assisted the instructors and students. On site language support was provided for Hmong, Lao, Thai, Burmese, Mon, Spanish, French, Swahili, Arabic, Somali, and Maay-Maay speakers. ***Fifty one volunteer tutors*** from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds (including service learners) assisted instructors. Collectively they put in ***1210*** hours of contact time in 2011-2012.

**MOVING FORWARD in 2012-13:** In response to reduced funding from AEFL and foundation sources, services are currently delivered with a staff of 10 on-site. By reducing class times from 2 hours to 90 minutes, and integrating programming with Neighborhood House, services are being maintained at nearly the same capacity as 2011-12. The fiscal picture for the past several years has shown both growth and challenges as the agency adapts to shifts in the economy.

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