

2008-2009 Annual Report

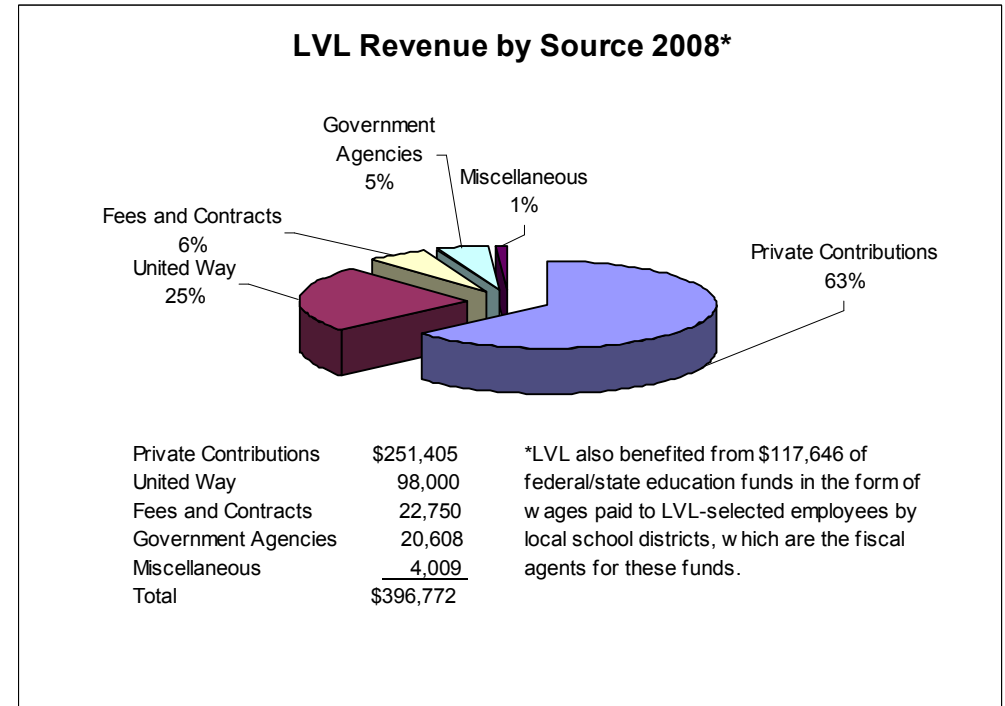


**By Nancy Williams,
Executive Director,
Literacy Volunteers
of the Lowcountry**

2008 marked the 35th anniversary of Literacy Volunteers of the Lowcountry's serving adults in Beaufort County. Since 1973, we've helped over 6000 adults become more self-sufficient, productive members of their families, the workplace, and the community.

In 2008-2009, LVL enrolled 852 students in our basic and English literacy programs at 12 sites in Beaufort, Bluffton, Hilton Head, and Hardeeville—an 11 percent increase over the previous year. With the help of 136 trained tutors supported by professional staff, 624 adults improved their reading, writing, speaking and math skills and achieved personally set goals:

- 558 improved employability skills
- 466 attained consumer skills
- 323 increased their involvement in community activities
- 57 increased their involvement in their children's education



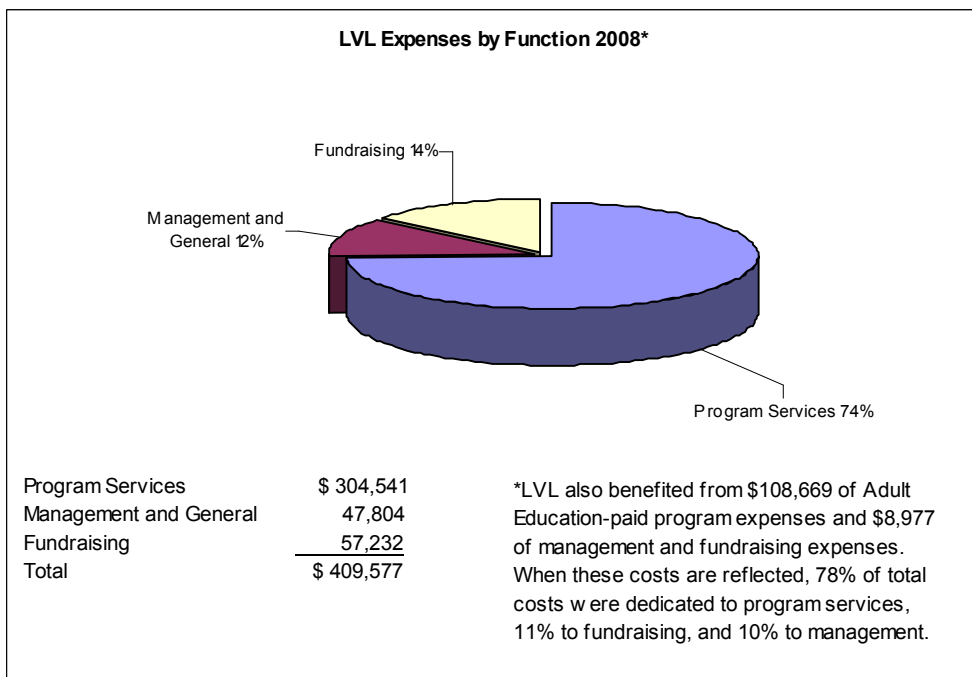
- 57 attained wellness and healthy lifestyles
- 33 entered employment
- 13 became U.S. citizens
- 4 registered to vote and voted for the first time

Among other highlights of the year were

- the opening of our new Bluffton Learning Center and headquarters and dedication of the Gisela Clark library and study room

- a collaboration with the Marriott Vacation Club whose employees were trained to tutor other employees in English
- our receiving a Palmetto Pride Award from the State Department of Education for exceeding all state ESOL achievement goals
- our third annual Cooks and Books fundraiser at the Mall at Shelter Cove

Despite the continued support of a cadre of faithful investors, LVL recorded its first—although small-- deficit in many years as the first wave of a national recession affected our operation.



Literacy Fact

Did you know that.....

Low literacy adds \$73 billion to the annual cost of delivering healthcare in the U.S.