



With your support, Seeds, along with our students, accomplished many goals last year. We educated 1,198 students, 85 students earned their GED, and 172 students made progress towards their GED by passing at least one section of the exam. For most students, a GED is the ultimate goal, but every step towards that goal is a celebrated accomplishment.

The biggest impact of our program can be seen in the individual stories of our students:

- a grandparent who reads to their grandchild for the very first time;
- a man moved to tears after gaining the ability to read his bible independently; and
- a mom accessing resources for her children, as she now effectively communicates with their teachers.

For these students, Seeds of Literacy is the only path forward. Seeds welcomes everyone into our program and provides tailored, one-to-one support that lets students define success on their own terms and their own timeline.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Seeds' flexible, individualized structure is critical for student success, as:



76% (910) enter the program at or below a 5th grade reading level



78% (930) reside in "extremely low income households" (based on HUD guidelines)



43% (512) do not have a driver's license



18% (219) do not have reliable transportation (access to a vehicle or bus route)



87% (1,017) are pursuing a GED;
37% (436) have a goal of post-secondary education or training



42% (506) are employed;
60% (298) of those employed work full-time



50% (583) are parenting at least one dependent child; 63% (370) of parents are head of household; and 20% (121) do not have access to reliable childcare



PROGRAM IMPACT



506 employed students increased their skills and positioned themselves for advanced opportunities



153 students and graduates were connected to post-secondary education and career opportunities



583 parents improved their ability to support their children's learning, impacting the lives of 1,311 children



21,355 instructional hours were provided by tutors for a total value of \$609,000 in donated time.



A STEPPING STONE TO FUTURE GOALS

When Seeds of Literacy reopened its classrooms in July 2021, MICHELLE REID was one of the first students to return. Michelle had a larger goal in mind and knew that getting her GED was the first step of her journey. Michelle worked hard with her tutors and, eight months later, she earned her GED!

During Seeds' 2022 graduation ceremony, Michelle shared the following, "I owe a substantial amount of appreciation and gratitude to Seeds for their ongoing guidance, support, and

patience throughout my journey. The staff invests so much time and effort into their students that they start to feel like family. The tutors devote their time to ensuring the students have full understanding of what's being taught and even remain cheering from the sideline. Seeds has taught me that I must have faith in myself and to not assume something is going to be extremely difficult without an attempt to do it. I am so proud to say that not only am I a graduate of 2022, but I am now a nursing student and will also be a graduate of 2023. This is just the beginning."

PLANS & GOALS FY23

Student Recruitment: While online learning may be the best or only option for some, face-to-face instruction and hands-on tools offer an optimal learning environment. Bringing students back to class is a priority.

Health Literacy Curriculum Integration: Seeds is partnering with Baldwin Wallace University and Case Western Reserve University to integrate important health literacy concepts into our science curriculum.

Connections Project: Basic education is a critical first step to moving people into college and careers. Seeds is developing partnerships and establishing internal processes for connecting students to postsecondary education and training.



PROGRAM REACH

Seeds now serves students residing all over the world.



1,037 Ohio

764 Cleveland

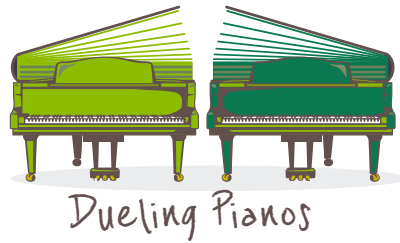
161 Outside of Ohio



10 International



THE RETURN OF IN-PERSON EVENTS



NOVEMBER 2021

For the first time in two years, Seeds held an in-person event with the return of the signature celebration, Thrive! The event looked a bit different than it had in the past, with guests wearing branded Seeds' face masks and carrying branded vaccination card holders.

Sponsored in part by Carnegie Management Development Corporation and the Litzlers, the event recognized Rich Clark* as the Cultivator Impact Award recipient. He was introduced by the inaugural recipient, Bill Litzler.

Student Jack'ee Johnson took the stage to share her journey toward the GED. Tutor Bruce Kowlaski said education is an investment, and shared anecdotes about some of the students he has tutored.

More than \$90,000 was raised to support education at Seeds.

The entire event can be viewed online at seedsofliteracy.org/thrive2021.

*Sadly, Rich Clark (right) passed away in 2022.

JUNE 2022

Dueling pianos hit all the right notes for the spring fundraiser at Music Box Supper Club in the Flats. Two-hundred guests — including sponsors, long-time tutors, board and staff members, along with new friends — sang along to classic favorites performed by The T&Rich Dueling Piano Show.

No song was out of the question, and the Duo donated the tip jar back to Seeds at the end of the evening.

Before the performers took the stage, student Ernestine shared how Seeds provided stability during an unimaginably heartbreaking time in her life. Student Aliyia shared that it is the tutors at Seeds that have made a difference in her education. Seeds gave her the confidence to keep going. They are pictured below with Site Coordinator Kara Krawiec.

Carnegie Management and Development Corporation was the "Grand Piano" sponsor. With silent auction, event tickets, and sponsorships, the event raised more than \$86,000.

You can see pictures from the event at seedsofliteracy.org/duelingpianos2022



JUNE 2022

For high school seniors, graduation is an important rite of passage. Unfortunately, our adult learners didn't have the same experience the first time around. Seeds was honored to give them a chance to don caps and gowns and celebrate their perseverance and success with family, friends, and tutors.

Tutors Jim Wood and Amanda Sebrosky were presented with the Arthur Zammikiel Outstanding Tutor Award.

Keynote speakers were three Seeds' grads: Michelle Reid from East, Chira Blackshear from the Virtual Classroom, and Joe Fine, a Seeds West student who completed his GED in the Virtual Classroom.

Read more about Michelle on the following pages.

You can read their inspiring speeches and view a recording of the event at seedsofliteracy.org/graduation2022

85 students earned their GED this fiscal year, while 172 others made gains towards that goal.