

Lighting the way to a brighter future...



The past year brought many opportunities and achievements to The Learning Lamp and the children we serve. We value our community partners and the role they play in positively impacting individual lives every day!



Decade of Diversification



Impactful Partnerships



Contributions Create Opportunities



Empowerment Through Education



Return on Investment

OUR MISSION

Engaging all children in the support they need to succeed.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Success in education translates into success in life. That's why The Learning Lamp works in partnership with schools, parents, and community-based organizations to provide children with high quality and affordable preparatory, reinforcement and enrichment activities that enhance classroom learning.



OUR SERVICES
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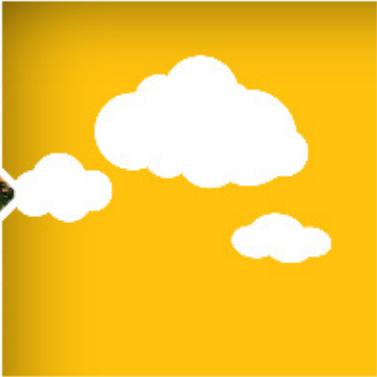


MEET A CHILD
YOU HAVE HELPED
Page 13



89¢ OF EVERY DOLLAR
FUNDS PROGRAMS
Page 23





OUR SERVICES

- One-to-one tutoring and SAT prep
- Quality, educationally-focused child care
- Literacy-based preschools
- Before and after school programs
- Engaging summer camps
- Evidence-based prevention programs
- Credit recovery and summer school
- Enrichment classes
- Online learning
- The Learning Lamp *To Go* portable programs for schools
- The Children’s Book Festival of Johnstown
- Professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals
- Alternative education programs for schools
- Staffing services for schools
- Grant writing, communications and project consulting for schools

In 2013, The Learning Lamp served 18,468 children from 70 public schools and 36 non-public, private and charter schools and other organizations in 32 Pennsylvania counties.



The Learning Lamp Marks Ten Years of *Lighting the Way to a Brighter Future* for Area Children

In 2003, The Learning Lamp was born so all children, regardless of ability or income, could access high quality tutoring to help them reach their full potential. The agency celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2013, marking a decade of steady growth driven by a commitment to identify gaps in educational services for children, and developing programs to close those gaps.



In 10 years' time, The Learning Lamp:

- served 54,164 children in 100 school districts in 35 counties
- delivered 28,500 hours of free or reduced cost tutoring
- awarded \$1.69 million in tuition assistance to deserving preschool families
- put 37,312 free books in the hands of young readers through our partnership with First Book
- assisted school districts and other human service agencies in securing \$9.1 million in grants for parenting, technology and enhanced learning programs



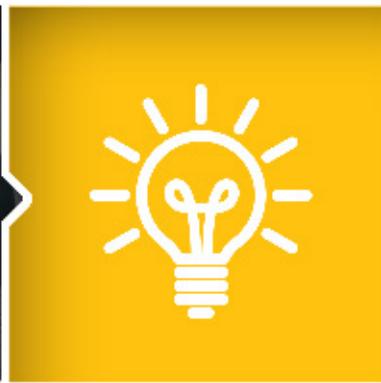
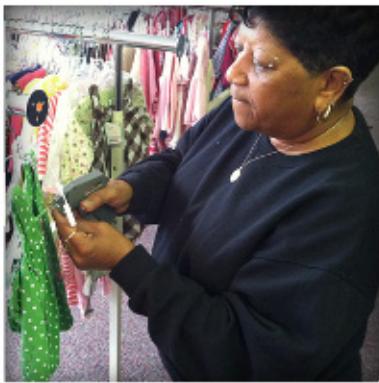
“We would like to thank you so much for the preschool scholarship awarded to our son Kalen. We truly are grateful to The Learning Lamp for their help. I hope someday we can return the favor and help future students receive a good education that they can't afford.”

– Parent
Johnstown, PA



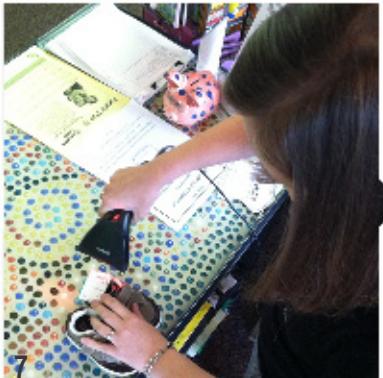


COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR THE ALLEGHENIES



The Learning Lamp Outreach Program enrolled 130 children in 2013 for free, year-round programming designed to help them stay on track in school.

EcoKids
Wear. Grow. Recycle.

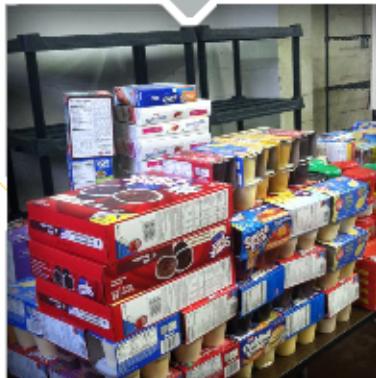
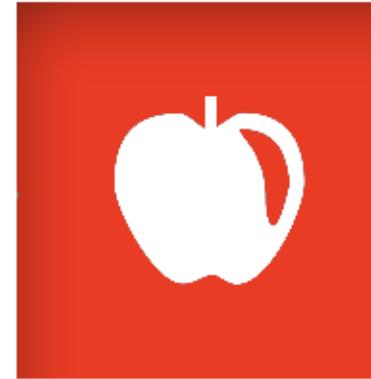


Community Foundation Grant Supports EcoKids Start-up

After operating for just six months, The Learning Lamp's EcoKids consignment boutique received a financial boost from Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA)—a \$10,000 grant to help offset start-up costs. The financial support CFA provided in 2013 was integral in covering a portion of start-up costs as the store inched toward break-even. Proceeds from sales of consigned clothing and other items at EcoKids support The Learning Lamp's free after school and summer outreach programs for children in Johnstown's Moxham, Prospect and Oakhurst neighborhoods. And the store is well on its way to making that happen. Having started with just 85 consigners, EcoKids now works with nearly 700 consigners and continues to grow its weekly sales.

Johnstown Backpack Project Launches at The Learning Lamp

Day after day, children go hungry in Johnstown. Over the weekends, the problem worsens when school meals aren't available. In 2013, The Learning Lamp joined a handful of other nonprofit organizations in forming the Johnstown Backpack Project. Funded by an initial grant from Lee Initiatives, the project sends ready-to-eat breakfast, lunch and dinner foods home with at-risk kids every weekend throughout the school year. In 2013, the project distributed about 3,500 bags or 21,000 meals to nearly 200 children. The need is great, with many families reporting they relied on the food to keep their children fed not just over the weekends, but throughout the week. As the lead organization in the project, The Learning Lamp coordinates its day-to-day operations and manages all fundraising efforts. At the start of the 2014-15 school year, the project increased its target number to 300 children.



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Community Partnerships Help Sustain Worthwhile Programs for Children and Families

The Learning Lamp could not serve the many children and families who participate in our outreach, tutoring and preschool programs if not for the support of community partners. During the 2013 holiday season, in lieu of accepting a gift from employer Conemaugh Health System, upper-level medical staff donated the value of their traditional holiday gifts to three community organizations, including The Learning Lamp. The contribution was earmarked for The Learning Lamp Outreach Program.

In 2013, contributions from community partner Conemaugh Health System made the holiday brighter for after school outreach participants.



The free drop-in program provides homework help, structured enrichment and prevention activities and a hot meal to more than 100 at-risk children in Johnstown from September through May during the school year and for six weeks over the summer. Additionally, staff of Conemaugh's marketing department volunteered to serve children and their families a delicious holiday dinner with all the trimmings—and distributed some surprise gifts from Santa, too. A big thank you to Conemaugh, as well as to culinary students at Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center for preparing the meal!



Tuition Assistance Ensures Equal Access to High Quality Tutoring

Hans Esteban's native language is Spanish. As a second grader, he was eager to learn but didn't understand what his teachers were saying. Frustrated, and with no one at home to help him overcome his language barrier, Hans' school work suffered. Then, a friend told Hans' mom about The Learning Lamp and how one-to-one tutoring helped her daughter. Now in seventh grade, Hans continues to tutor regularly and his grades have improved.

"It was a 180 degree change. He is confident, and he's happy," explained Kim, Hans' mother. "I am so grateful for his tutor and for what The Learning Lamp has done for us."

The mother of three says, financially, she could never have afforded to get Hans and his brother the help they needed with their English comprehension and other studies, if not for The Learning Lamp. Based on the family's income, the boys were eligible for tuition assistance funded through individual, corporate, and United Way contributions.

"The Learning Lamp has opened so many doors for my children, I don't know what I would have done without the help and the support." — Kim Esteban



In 2013, 411 children participated in tutoring designed to help them close skill gaps and stay on track in school.





In 2013, 248 children attended one of The Learning Lamp's eight preschool locations in Cambria, Somerset and Bedford Counties.



Demand for High Quality, Affordable Preschool in Bedford County Sparks New Classrooms

The Learning Lamp expanded its preschool program in 2013 with a new location in Everett, Bedford County. At the invitation of Everett Area School District, The Learning Lamp opened a classroom in donated space in the elementary school and registered 17 children almost immediately. The demand for affordable preschool in the Everett area is evident as typically half of all kindergarteners enter school without the benefit of a formal pre-k experience. More than 75 percent of children received income-based scholarships and/or received federal child care assistance during the 2013-14 school year. Also in 2013, The Learning Lamp scrambled to add a second pre-k classroom at nearby Bedford Elementary when a longtime preschool provider in the community closed its doors just weeks before the start of the school year. The Learning Lamp pulled from its existing resources to accommodate parents and children stranded by the sudden closure.



The Learning Lamp distributed \$71,656 in preschool tuition assistance to families in 2013.

(Research demonstrates that every dollar spent on a quality early learning program saves between \$7 and \$17 in spending on social services later in a child's life. Using an average of \$12—in 2013, The Learning Lamp helped our region avoid \$859,872 in future social services spending.)



The Children's Book Festival Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

The Children's Book Festival of Johnstown gained new support in 2013 when it won a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This enabled The Learning Lamp to host not one, but two nationally known children's authors as headliners. Nick Bruel, author of the New York Times bestselling *Bad Kitty* chapter book series and Suzanne Bloom, author of 2013 PA One Book *The Bus for Us*, delighted festival-goers with their real-time illustrations and interactive presentations. Attendees were also mesmerized by the authentic African music and folk tales of master storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston.

Not surprisingly, participation before and during the festival hit new heights. All three headlining artists visited area schools and libraries to deliver pre-festival programs—and with rave reviews. Actual attendance at the festival doubled from the previous year and included triple the number of at-risk children. In all, the 2013 festival reached 5,500 children and adults, sparking an interest in reading among children, promoting reading as a family and putting books in the hands of children with limited access to them at home. The success of 2013 clearly contributed to The Learning Lamp's winning a second \$10,000 NEA grant for its 2014 festival. The 2013 festival was later selected as a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts "Best of the Best" arts initiative—one of only four projects across the state to earn the distinction.



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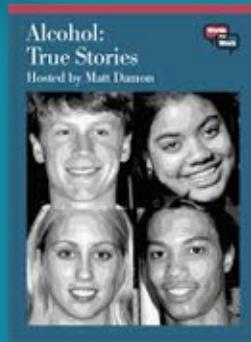
The Learning Lamp Expands Drug and Alcohol Prevention to Middle and High School Students

The Learning Lamp continued to expand its evidence-based drug and alcohol prevention offerings in 2013 with the addition of Alcohol: True Stories (ATS) and LifeSkills® Training (LST). ATS is an impactful video-based program for high school students that shares stories of real-life teens and the tragic consequences they encountered as a result of drinking alcohol. The program, which was funded by a two-year grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, kicked off in October 2013. In year one, ATS reached 1,130 students at nine schools in Cambria County and two schools in Somerset County. At the half-way point of the two-year grant, the program had already reached two-thirds of its target audience of 1,700 students.

Also in 2013, the United Way of the Laurel Highlands and Cambria County Drug and Alcohol Program funded The Learning Lamp's launch of LifeSkills® Training (LST). The first of three levels of the proven substance abuse prevention curriculum for grades 6-8 was delivered to 602 middle schoolers from three Cambria County school districts and one non-public school. The Learning Lamp's prevention team reached nearly double the number of students projected for the program's pilot year. With the addition of ATS and LST curricula and the ongoing Too Good for Drugs program, The Learning Lamp replaced fiction with fact about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs for third through twelfth graders in virtually every public school in Cambria County!



In 2013, 4,933 children in Cambria and Somerset counties participated in school-based prevention programs designed to help them avoid peer pressure and drug and alcohol use and make good decisions.





Imagination Playground Unlocks Children's Creativity

New to The Learning Lamp *To Go* in 2013, Imagination Playground pairs children's imaginations with a set of large foam building blocks of various sizes and shapes. The possibilities are truly endless! Children learn through play while exercising sensory, motor, and intellectual skills in an adaptable format that encourages working as a team as they create imaginary skyscrapers and highways, forts and bridges. The Learning Lamp shared its newest portable teaching tool with families of young children at kids' fairs, the Children's Book Festival of Johnstown, summer camps, Richland Community Days, MessFest at Laurel Arts and our own Kids' Day Out programs.



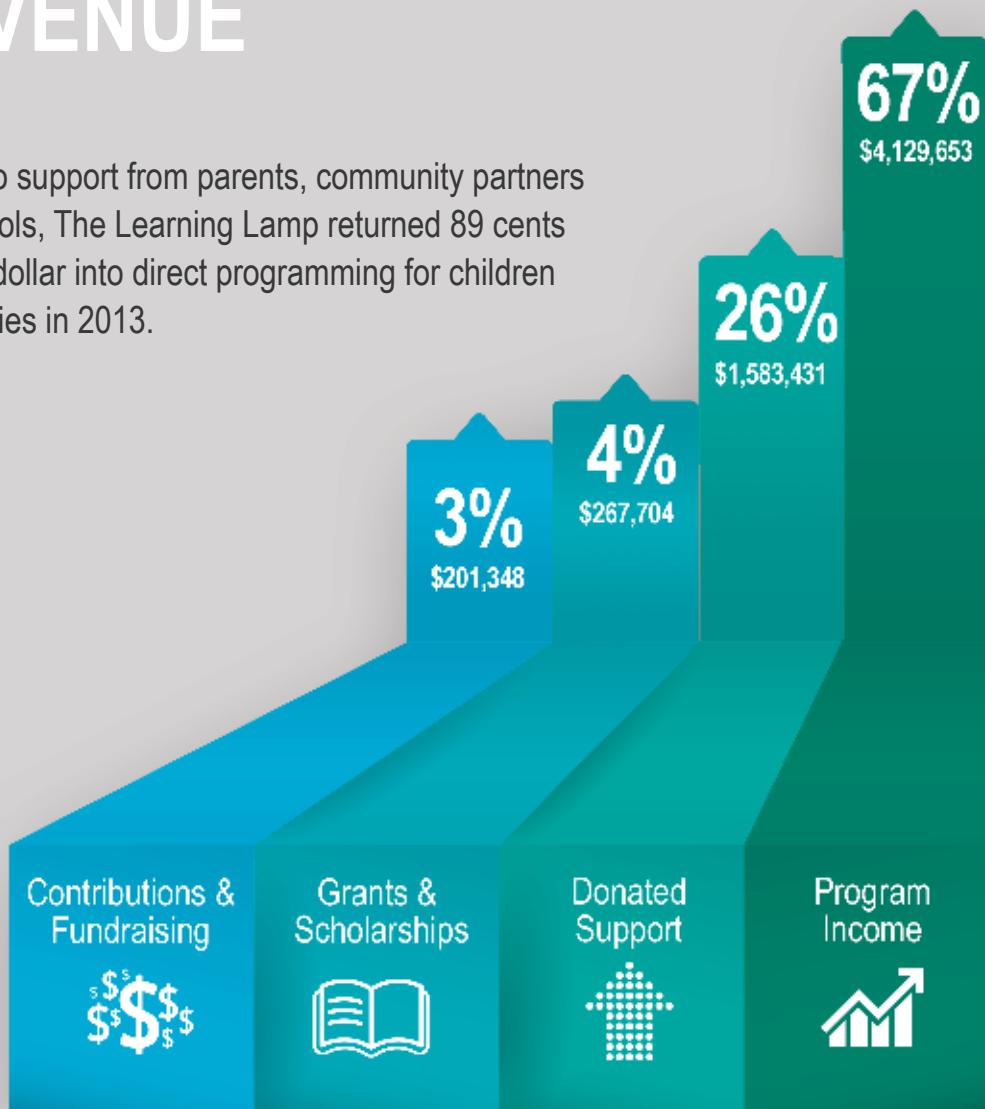
In 2013, The families of 1,193 children relied on child care, before and after school care, Kids' Day Out and summer camp programs to work full days without worrying about who was watching the kids.

(Based on a median household income of \$42,046 in the Johnstown Metropolitan Statistical Area, child care through The Learning Lamp enabled parents to earn \$50.2 million in wages last year, much of which was immediately reinvested into the community through consumer spending.)



REVENUE

Thanks to support from parents, community partners and schools, The Learning Lamp returned 89 cents of every dollar into direct programming for children and families in 2013.



EXPENSES



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“As the superintendent of a small, rural school district, our resources in both revenue and personnel are often very limited. The Learning Lamp provides a fantastic "Go To" organization that gets the job done.”

- Mr. Shawn Kovac, Superintendent,
North Star School District



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2025 Bedford St
Johnstown, PA 15904

814-262-0732

thelearninglamp.org

