



Friends of Portland Adult Education

Greetings, Friends!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Annual Report for Friends of Portland Adult Education. As we reflect on the past year, we can't help but be amazed by the resiliency, adaptability, and determination of our community.

Despite many challenges – the pandemic, economic uncertainty, and a dramatic increase in demand for our programming – we have remained committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities to adult learners in Portland. Our hybrid learning model – offering opportunities to learn both in-person and remotely – continues to thrive and enables us to serve even more students annually. In 2022 alone, over 3,000 students enjoyed programming at PAE. Incredible!

One of the key strengths of our adult ed program is our commitment to equity and

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inclusion. We recognize that our adult learners come from all walks of life, and we strive to provide individualized support and resources to help them succeed. Our staff and teachers are deeply dedicated to creating a warm, safe, welcoming environment for our students every day . . . and this is something you can feel from the moment you enter our school building.

We are not alone in this important work! PAE is proud to work alongside local partners, businesses, and agencies to identify the educational and training needs of Portland's refugee and immigrant community – and to develop programs that meet those needs. Through these partnerships, we are able to connect students with opportunities that truly create a sense of structure, stability, and belonging.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on our successes and expanding our offerings to meet the ever-evolving needs of adult students in Portland. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your ongoing support of Portland Adult Education. We are honored to serve this vibrant, diverse, and dynamic community, and we look forward to continuing our work for years to come!



Sincerely,
Rob Wood
 FPAE Board
 Chair

Remembering Arline Saturdayborn

By Trace Salter and Rebecca Strauss

Arline Saturdayborn, a beloved PAE friend and colleague, passed away on February 7, 2023. You may have known Arline or heard about her tremendous impact. She was an inspiration to PAE students, teachers, staff and the greater community through her teaching, her work with sustainable compassion and her enormous, generous spirit. Arline exhorted us to view teaching as peacework and to be fully alive by taking care of ourselves.

Colleagues speak of how Arline moved them: “When her voice boomed and her smile beamed as she greeted her students and colleagues, Arline made me feel

as though hard work and joy are partners; [Arline’s messages were] filled with love, inspiration, and the feeling that you could overcome anything if you choose to. I will hold her dearly in my heart; Her curious mind and strong spirit were an inspiration to me.”

In 2017, Arline’s daughter, Caitie Whelan, organized a fundraising campaign in honor of her mom’s birthday. The goal was to purchase METRO bus passes for PAE students who needed safe, reliable transportation to and from our school. The campaign was wildly successful and even featured in the *Portland Press*



Herald. Today, we’re pleased to renew this opportunity to be generous in Arline’s name and spirit. We’ve created the Student Bus Fund Pass in memory of Arline Saturdayborn, and you can support the campaign by visiting friendsofpae.org/donate. Your gift will help more PAE students fully participate in their education – exactly as Arline envisioned. Thank you for honoring our friend!

Writing Center Quietly Builds Stronger Writers

By Martha Winn and Rochelle Yanike Hale

“Writing in English is so hard!” – ESOL teachers often hear this exasperation from their multilingual students, and agree that writing is a trudging process for some. They notice that multilingual students’ reading, speaking, and listening comprehension skills can be on track according to their ESOL level, but their writing skills sometimes take a longer, slower trajectory to develop.

In Fall 2019, the PAE Writing Center officially opened to help bridge this gap in building writing skills for some of our ESOL students. ESOL teacher Nancy Fox, who submitted the Writing Center funding proposal to FPAE in Spring 2019, led the planning and official opening of the Writing Center. It was a drop-in model

in Room D (basement) that was staffed by 10 writing coaches, and it catered to all ESOL students, Level 1 and above. In its first 2 weeks, 25 students dropped in. That number grew exponentially once word got out. At times, there were 2-4 students working in the room with 2 teachers dividing their attention between them, with seats on the side for students to wait their turn.



Chance Ringuyeneza (left) with Gail Burnett in the Writing Center.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the entire school building closed to teachers and students, as did the Writing Center. In October 2020, the Writing Center reopened and moved from an in-person, drop-in model, to ESOL teachers Levels 3-5, identifying and referring students in their online classes to the revamped *Online Writing Center*.

Students were matched with Online Writing Center (OWC) coaches who met with them weekly for 30 minutes on Zoom. What coaches and students soon discovered is that a lot can be tackled in just 30 minutes online. Both benefitted from the sole focus each had for the other and the planned meetings proved more efficient. When Nancy Fox retired, Moira Taylor and Martha

Winn took over the responsibility of co-leading the Online Writing Center through June 2022.

This academic year, Martha Winn and Rochelle Yanike Hale are co-leading the Writing Center, and Moira Taylor is the ESOL Department Chair. Since ESOL classes are now offered both in-person and online, we made the decision to also offer both options for coaching. We also extended our pool of eligibility from ESOL Level 3 to Language Arts 100 students. About half of our students opt to meet their coaches online and the other half prefer to meet in-person. We still have use of Room D in the basement for those in-person coaching sessions. Since October, 10 coaches have met with a total of 24 students.

Does working with a writing coach for 30 minutes a week really influence students' writing?

Ifrah Gadidche is a student whose ESOL teacher, Lauren Jordy, referred her to the Writing Center for additional support. Ifrah came to Portland in the winter of 2015 with little to no English. In the winter of 2016, Ifrah was placed in an ESOL Level 3 class, took two years of Level 4 classes, one year of Writing Workshop, and by spring of 2022, Ifrah received her high school diploma from PAE. This year, Ifrah will return to PAE to take Language Arts 300 and continue her education.

Ifrah says of her academic success that she learned “a bunch of ways to write” while participating in the Online Writing Center, and “improved [her] knowledge and skills.” For example, she always mixed up simple present

and present continuous verb tenses. After working with her writing coach, Martha Winn, she perfected using those tenses correctly.

In a recent monthly meeting, the Writing Center coaches said it's the immediate connection they can make with students, getting to know students' skills and abilities and what they really need almost immediately, that makes coaching successful. Over weeks, coaches can get to a deeper level with their students and see more progress.

Many students have a fear of writing in English which makes it difficult to even get a first sentence started. Meg Warren, who has been a writing coach since 2019, expressed:

I feel strongly that students write best when they are writing about something they are passionate about or engaged in, and the Writing Center gives them the personal support and structure to do that.

Working with a writing coach complements and enriches what students are learning about writing in their classes, and the feedback is offered through a real-time conversation.

For the past two years, the Writing Center has held an online, year-end celebration to give our writers the option of having an audience for their emboldened “voices,” and to acknowledge personal accomplishments in our small but important Writing Center community. We're excited to pilot a drop-in option this spring, and we'll celebrate again in June!



Ifrah Gadidche

Enjoy samples of students' work!

To view a sample of Ifrah's writing – as well as a collection of short stories showcased at our 2022 Writing Center Year-End Celebration – visit **friendsofpae.org**.



Empowering Educators & Inspiring Students

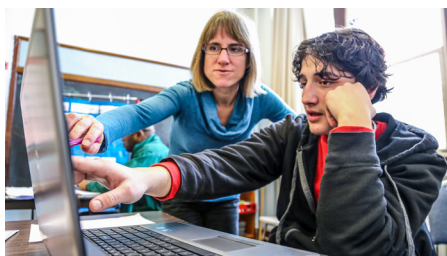
A snapshot of projects, programs, and initiatives made possible by FPAE in 2022.



PAE Staff Development: Our staff and teachers are the lifeforce of our school, and we know that investing in them is critical for improving educational outcomes. In 2022, FPAE provided staff with access to high-quality training, mentoring support, and an exciting array of professional development opportunities. When our teachers are equipped with the tools they need to address the unique challenges faced by our adult learners, everybody wins.



Workforce Development: PAE's Workforce Training programs offer pathways to careers in a variety of fields including banking, healthcare, and education. Students can choose from short-term certificate programs or longer-term courses that lead to professional credentials. In 2022, FPAE – thanks in large part to Bank of America – allocated over \$75,000 to expand our workforce training opportunities for multilingual learners. It's an exciting time to explore life-changing careers with PAE!



Student Technology Support: FPAE is committed to bridging the digital divide and promoting equity in education. This means that *all* of our adult students – regardless of their individual circumstances – are provided the tools, technology, and support they need to fully participate in their classes. Thanks to our donors and funding partners, we are proud to equip students with laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots, and other devices that promote robust, engaged learning.



Scholarships: To help our adult learners overcome financial barriers and achieve their academic and career pursuits, FPAE provides scholarships for advanced academic classes, vocational training, college preparation courses, and more. In 2022, we awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships – helping students pursue their passions, achieve their dreams, and create a better future for themselves and their families.



METRO Bus Passes: Students cannot fully participate in their education if they cannot get to school. For many – especially our asylum-seeking students living in hotels outside of downtown Portland – the cost of bus fare is prohibitive. In 2022, we distributed more than 15,000 METRO bus tickets free-of-charge. We are exploring a long-term solution to this complicated challenge, but we know one thing for certain: transportation should *never* be a barrier to learning.

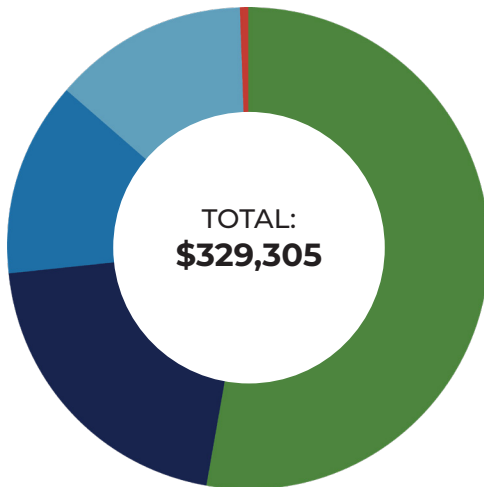


PAE Voices Series: What was once known as “Culture Club” has been reimagined into a new community event called PAE Voices Series. Designed as a forum for conversation and connection, PAE Voices Series brings together business, cultural, and community leaders to share their unique perspectives on a wide range of topics. Our inaugural event featured entrepreneurial women creating change in Maine – and it was a big hit. Stay tuned for info about our next session!

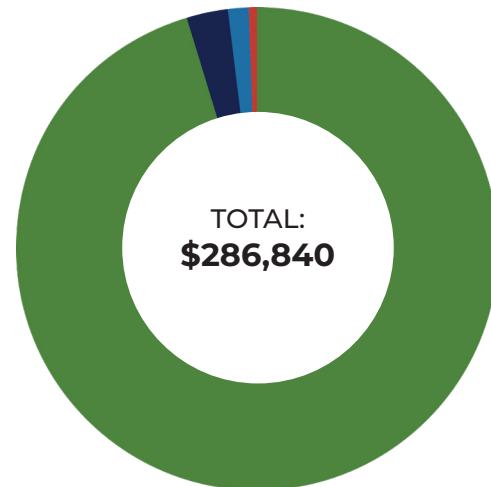
Financials + Fun Facts

January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

INCOME



EXPENSES



- 52% Grants** | \$171,775
- 20% Individual Donors** | \$67,825
- 14% Donor Advised Funds** | \$45,400
- 13% Corporate & Org Donors** | \$43,520
- <1% Other (Clynk, Smile, etc.)** | \$785

- 95% Program Support** | \$273,493
- 3% Marketing & Communications** | \$7,759
- 1% Administration** | \$3,970
- <1% Fundraising** | \$1,618



3,000+

Students served across our ESOL, Academics, Workforce, and Enrichment programs.



88

Countries of origin represented by our student body.



98

PAE staff members including 65 teachers.



1,300+

Volunteer hours logged by classroom volunteers and one-on-one tutors.



\$77,000

Dollars invested in Workforce Training programs through FPAE.



52

High School Diploma graduates in 2022 – plus an additional 22 HiSET graduates.



7,312

PAE e-newsletter subscribers



238

Followers on our brand new Instagram account @portlandadulthood



partnerships • awareness • resources

Friends of PAE Honor Roll 2022

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WEX

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- **Donate a gift of stock.** Contact Rob Wood at friendsofpae@gmail.com

Stay connected

PAE is expanding our social media! You can now find us on Instagram **@portlandadulted** as well as on Facebook and LinkedIn. Follow us for feel-good news, great photos, and more. **Thank you for believing in the power of adult education in Portland, Maine.** We are lucky to call you a friend!