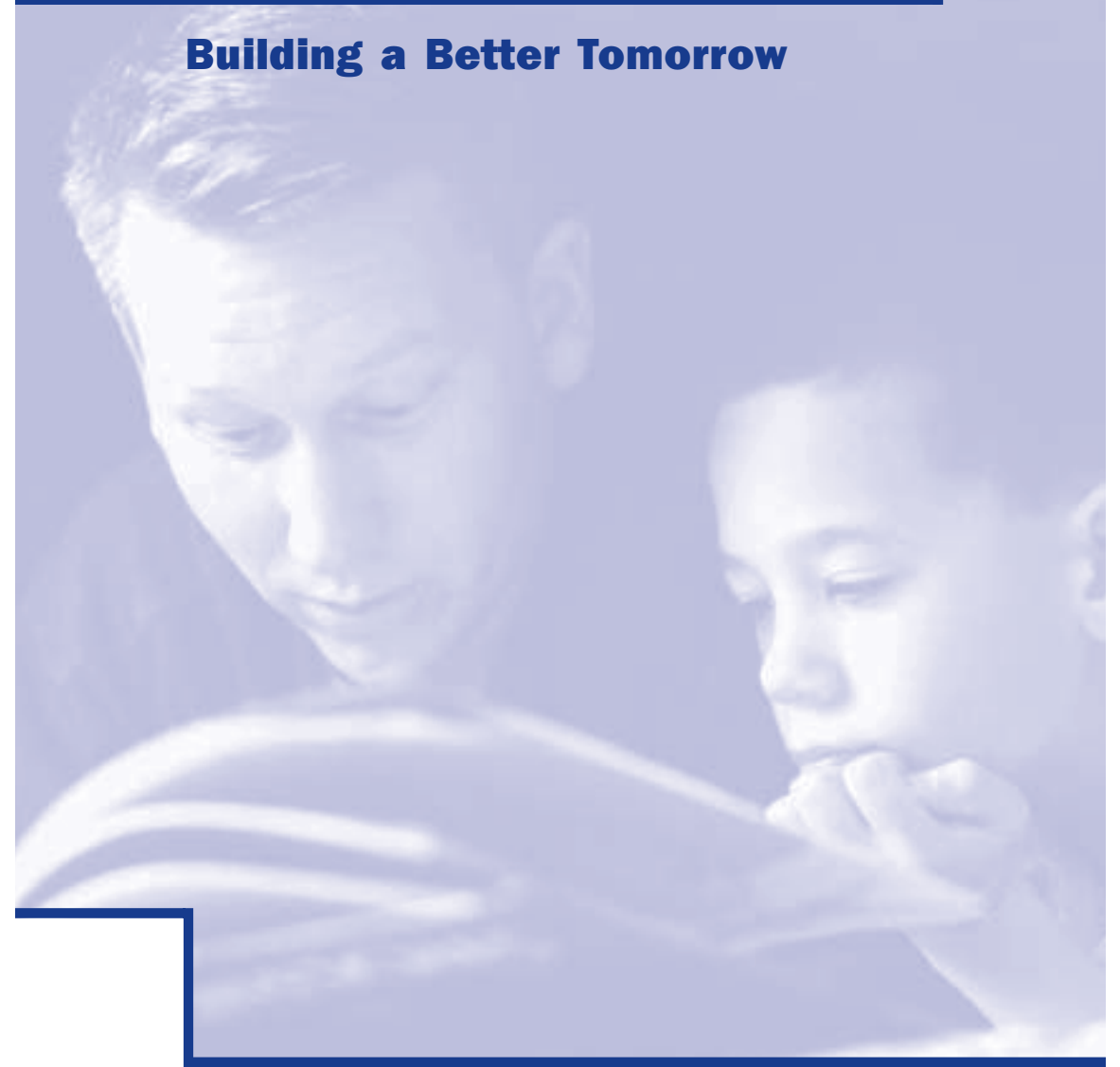


**L D A**

**Building a Better Tomorrow**



# Dear Friends,

The year 2002 was an extraordinary one for LDA. Through our educational services and programs, we **produced results for over 10,000 people in 2002**. LDA's success is largely due to customer-centered leadership, outcome-based programming, and commitment to continuous learning and refinement of our LD expertise.

**Success begins with leadership.** LDA's Leadership Team focused on developing personal and organizational accountabilities to fulfill our strategic plan and mission. The LDA Board of Directors and Leadership Team created a shared vision for quality service and collaborative strategies to position LDA as a leading resource for solving problems related to learning disabilities or related learning difficulties.

#### The community counts on LDA.

- LDA's community partners depend on our commitment to deliver quality programs and outcomes tailored to the specific needs of a population.
- Parents want information and understanding when their child learns differently or when they need help navigating the special education system.
- Elementary schools welcome LDA's help in developing the reading skills of children in K-3 through intensive small group instruction.
- Secondary schools appreciate LDA's assistance in facilitating transition planning, support and self-advocacy skills for high school youths with learning disabilities as they prepare to graduate and face future challenges in the world of work or post-secondary training.
- The Adult Basic Education (ABE) system statewide values partnering with LDA for teacher training and dissemination of LD resources, and access to LD diagnostic assessment services for adult learners who count on us to help them achieve academic success or to get their GEDs.

**Success is focused on outcomes.** This past year as LDA effectively solved real problems and achieved results with our community partners, we successfully leveraged a systems approach through a "Capacity Building Model" that included direct service to clients, combined with training, consultation and resources for an organization's staff. Despite a worsening economy and a challenging funding environment, LDA continues to expand its partnership base.

**LDA is positioned for a successful future.** LDA's Board of Directors approved a plan to become the Minnesota affiliate of Learning Disabilities Association of America, a volunteer, parent-driven membership organization dedicated to information, advocacy, research and education focused on learning disabilities. LDA has a long history of providing children, youth, adults and families with information and services specific to learning disabilities, and is eager to assume a greater role.

LDA has ambitious goals for improving the lives of children, youths, adults and families struggling with learning challenges. We cannot do our work without our many stakeholders. Just as the community counts on us, we count on our community – clients, friends, donors, volunteers, staff, partners, referral agencies, and the LDA Board of Directors. We extend our gratitude for the generosity and commitment of our many supporters. Thanks to each of you for your important role in partnering with LDA to build a stronger community.

Warmest Regards,



Jan Eian  
Board President



Kitty Christiansen  
Executive Director

*I always felt that I had the ability and was smart enough to do the work, but there was just a disconnect there... finding out about the learning disabilities was a relief and a weight off my shoulders; to discover what was really going on with my learning. There are people at LDA who are professionals and understand issues that children face and how learning works.*

-Past LDA Client



# Learning to Read

With the goal of promoting literacy and learning success for children at-risk for reading failure, the **Learning Connections Program** partners with Twin Cities communities and elementary schools to work with students, parents, teachers and volunteers. The program offers students an individualized, hands-on approach to reading instruction and offers parents workshops and training in activities that support literacy. Additionally, the program works with teachers and volunteers to improve reading instruction and behavior management. The Learning Connections program provided instruction to **468 children** through six community partnerships and **456 family members** gained knowledge through workshops and training.



*A student who graduated from our Learning Connections program two weeks ago went on a field trip with his class to Orchestra Hall. While the music was playing they watched a silent movie with subtitles. The next time I saw the student I asked him how the concert was. He put his hands on his hips, smiled, and said the movie had words and, "I read them all." He was very proud that he could read the subtitles.*

-LDA Staff

Thanks to The Cargill Foundation, LDA's Learning Connections program again expanded its services to include two additional elementary schools in the Minneapolis Public School district during 2002. Jefferson and North Star joined Andersen and Four Winds Elementary Schools in receiving intensive reading instruction. These school partners continued to be pleased with the results achieved in this program.

# Realizing Potential

LDA's **Individualized Educational Services** are designed to meet the specific needs of children, youth and adults each year at our Learning Center. LDA provides one-to-one tutoring, small group instruction, diagnostic assessments for specific learning disabilities, and consultations with parents and families. In 2002, LDA provided services to **210 individuals**. 97% of participants gained knowledge and skills or demonstrated success.



*In 1999, a young woman was in danger of flunking out of a law school in Minnesota. She had struggled to maintain above-average grades as an undergraduate, but was losing the battle as a law student. The Dean of her law school, who recognized in the young woman some signs indicating a possible learning disability, referred her to LDA for a learning disabilities assessment. LDA completed a diagnostic assessment, and determined that there was a learning disability. Appropriate curricular and environmental accommodations were recommended by LDA, and implemented by our client's law school. In 2002, this young woman became an attorney by passing her BAR exam! In a recent letter to LDA, the young lawyer thanked us for providing her and her law school with the information that allowed her to work to her full potential—and realize her dream.*

-LDA Staff

# Successful Transitions

**School-to-Work Transition Program** is designed to help high school youths with learning disabilities gain self-awareness and knowledge about career opportunities to enable them to make educated decisions about their future and to increase the likelihood of their self-sufficiency. During 2002, **210 youths** participated in workshops, community events, and individualized transition planning. 95% of participants gained self-awareness and knowledge or demonstrated progress toward implementing their transition plans.



*LDA has been a creative partner, passionately committed to my students, finding windows on the world that feels terribly illusive to students. The career speakers have been varied and engaging, the trips to MCTC are a vital link to building student confidence while solving clear logistical challenges for our program. The trips to related sites in the community help students see jobs in action that might never have crossed their experience.*

- Minneapolis Public school teacher

# Building Capacity

LDA has provided professional training, public education, products, and resources for **almost 30 years** with the goal of increasing the knowledge of teachers, parents, volunteers, schools, community agencies, and businesses to support individuals with learning disabilities. During 2002, LDA continued to broaden these services by providing organizational and school consultation to meet the unique needs of our partners. LDA's **Capacity Building and Training** reached almost 10,000 individuals during 2002. We'd like to acknowledge important partners in building organizational and community success:

- Risen Christ Catholic Elementary School utilized LDA's consultation services to develop a reading fluency tracking system in all grade levels, implement a school-wide discipline program, and access special education expertise, **benefiting over 350 children and their families as well as 20 teachers throughout the school.**
- YouthLink and LDA have joined forces to help homeless youth realize their full potential in **addition to building the capacity of YouthLink's staff to focus on academic success for these youth.**
- The Minnesota Department of Education utilized LDA's expertise in providing training and resources to Adult Basic Education (ABE) facilitators statewide. Additionally, **70 LD Diagnostic Assessments** have been provided statewide in the past year, a much-needed service for adult learners so that they gain accommodations for GED tests and develop plans for further education and work skill development.

## LDA Impacted over 10,000 Individuals in 2002

Learning disabilities and difficulties do not just affect individuals who can afford specialized learning assistance. Learning difficulties cuts across all economic and social groups and LDA is committed to serving the high risk populations.

### 2002 Demographics of LDA Participants

African American / Black	38%	Low Income	81%
American Indian / Native American	9%	Male	55%
Asian / SE Asian / Pacific Islander	3%	Female	45%
Caucasian / White	21%	Adults	11%
Latino / Hispanic	19%	Children	89%
Multi-racial	6%		

# Gifts to LDA

## 2002 Corporate & Foundation Donors

### Foundation Builders (\$30,000 +)

The Cargill Foundation  
Greater Twin Cities United Way  
The McKnight Foundation  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Minnesota Department of Children,  
Families & Learning

### Leaders (\$10,000 - \$29,999)

American Express Minnesota  
Philanthropic Program  
The Bayport Foundation  
Albert W. Cherne Foundation  
Deluxe Corporation Foundation  
E.M. Pearson Foundation

### Partners (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

The Andersen Foundation  
The Hugh J. Andersen Foundation  
Athwin Foundation  
Best Buy Children's Foundation  
ING Foundation  
Margaret Rivers Fund  
Star Tribune Foundation  
James R. Thorpe Foundation  
Tozer Foundation  
Xcel Energy Foundation

### Guardians (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

The Beverly Foundation  
Burdick Family Charitable Foundation  
The Fingerhut Family Foundation  
Ronald Fingerhut Foundation  
Minnesota Mutual Foundation  
Minnesota Timberwolves Community  
Foundation  
Peregrine Capital Mgmt/Mpls. Foundation  
Rosemount, Inc.  
The Tennant Company Foundation

### Sponsors (\$250 - \$999)

The Hubbard Foundation  
MINCO Products  
Michael Foods  
PGN Foundation  
Rush Creek Golf Club

### Friends (\$5 - \$249)

Alliant Techsystems Citizenship Fund  
AT&T Combined Campaign  
Combined Federal Campaign of the Twin Cities  
Layfayette Township United Fund, Inc.  
Lutheran Brotherhood Employee Matching  
Gift Program  
The St. Paul Companies Foundation  
Westbrook Community Chest

## 2002 Individual Gifts

### Guardians (\$500 - \$1,999)

Gary McKinley  
Thomas Ritchie

### Sponsors (\$250 - \$499)

Kitty Christiansen  
Ellen Cree  
David Dehne  
Michael & Cecelia Kava Dolan  
Janet Gulden

### Friends (\$249 - \$5)

Cynthia Bandur  
Douglas Bechtold  
Pamela Bednar  
Jacqueline Beebe  
Elizabeth Beer  
Mark Bigham  
Sara Braziller  
Dana Buska  
Paul Carlson  
Julie Clausen  
Sheila Cole  
Kristen Ekstrom-Ritchie  
Margaret Eral  
John Forsythe  
Pamela Freske  
Thomas George  
Karen Hansen  
Douglas & Martha Head

Sharon Heath  
Ann Hempel  
Bonita Janda  
Craig Kalscheur  
Peter Kerin  
David Kienitz  
Lawrence Kremers  
Rianne Leaf  
Ming Ligh  
Georgia O'Brien  
Kay Owen  
William Phillips  
Kathleen Reiter  
Cindy Rice  
Janet Risinger  
Michael Rusinko  
James Rustad  
Cathy Schmitt  
Bryan Senn

## 2002 In-Kind Gifts

Adobe Systems Incorporated  
Victoria & Jeff Weinberg  
Bob & Rhoda Radde

## Special Thanks

General Mills Retirement Plus

Weber Shandwick Worldwide for  
their generous donation of pro  
bono public & media relations  
services in 2002.

William Shogren  
Rachel Soffer  
Arlene Sunday  
Rod Stalley  
Joe Stoebner  
C. Scott Thiss  
Lisa Thomas  
Kate Walters  
Shelley Wolson  
Carol Zieske

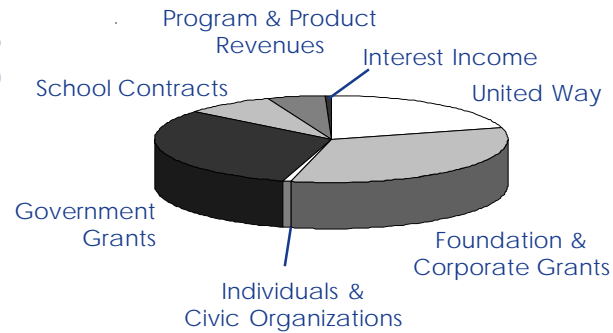
*LDA makes every effort to ensure  
that we have acknowledged all of  
our donors. Please accept our  
apologies for any unintended  
omissions or inaccuracies.*

# 2002 Financials

# Board & Staff

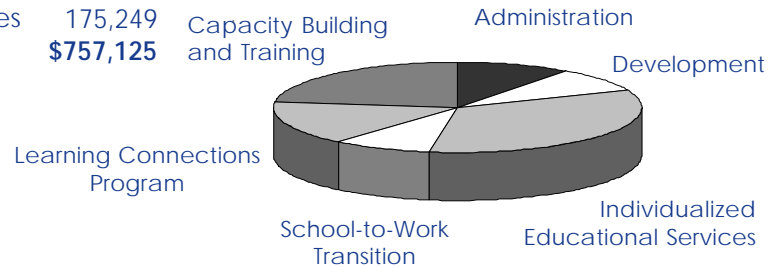
## Revenues

United Way	\$187,780
Foundation & Corporate Grants	293,586
Individuals and Civic Organizations	8,082
Government Grants	283,176
School Contracts	74,140
Program & Product Revenues	48,127
Interest Income	4,799
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$899,690</b>



## Expenses

Administration	\$75,039
Development	65,011
Individualized Educational Services	256,703
School-to-Work Transition Program	66,027
Learning Connections Program	119,096
Capacity Building and Training Services	175,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$757,125</b>



## Board Officers

Pamela Bednar  
 Carol Brumwell  
 Dave Dehne  
 Janet Eian  
 Pamela Freske

Karen Hansen  
 Ming Ligh  
 Gary McKinley  
 Charles Moore  
 Eric Remjeske  
 Lisa Steffes

## Retired Officers

Dana Buska  
 Ellen Cree  
 Ann Hempel  
 James Granger

## Leadership Staff

Kitty Christiansen, Executive Director  
 Michael Anderson, LD Assessment Specialist  
 Marn Frank, LD Adult Specialist  
 Martha Moriarty, Resource Development Director  
 Victoria Weinberg, Ph.D., Program Director

## Program & Agency Staff

Susan Ault, Teacher  
 Polly Bayrd, Psychologist  
 Pat Bender, Office Staff  
 Marilyn DiBona, Teacher  
 Nancy Breyen, Teacher  
 Doug Bronson, Teacher  
 Erin Fetzer, LD Consultation Specialist  
 Deb Frederickson, Transition Specialist  
 Molly Hostnik, Teacher  
 Miriam Kragness, Psychologist  
 Colin Marsh, Teacher

Sharalee Marsh, Teacher  
 Anne Marsnik, Teacher  
 Wendy Noakes, LD Instruction Specialist  
 Emily Nordhus, Marketing/Client Services  
 Brooke Novaczyk, Teacher  
 Kara Oettinger, Teacher  
 Monica Pellingner, Teacher  
 Rhoda Radde, Business Manager  
 Erin Schroeder, Teacher  
 Kim Sunday, LD Reading Specialist  
 Eve Williams, Summer Support  
 Mariah Wold, Program Support