



ELL Foundation, Inc.

2019 Annual Report

P.O. Box 19975, Cincinnati, OH 45219

<http://www.ellfoundationcinci.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ELLFoundationCinci/>



ELL Foundation, Inc.

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Su Casa Hispanic Center



2019 ELL Foundation Recognition Breakfast



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Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the English Language Learning Foundation, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our students and to our important charitable organization. Our mission of **helping English learners to become successful in their academic lives while fostering their cultural identities** would not be possible without your support and the support from caring individuals just like you throughout Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

With your help, we accomplished a great deal in 2019. At our 11th Annual Recognition Breakfast in February, we awarded \$18,100 in scholarships to 32 local English learners who are enrolled at the following colleges and universities: Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, Gateway Community & Technical College, Miami University-Hamilton, Mount St. Joseph University, Northern Kentucky University, Ohio State University, Ohio State– Lima, University of Cincinnati, and UC Blue Ash. We also awarded one \$500 emergency tuition grant to a student at Northern Kentucky University. Finally, I'm proud that we were able to offer \$1,884 in financial support for a variety of extracurricular experiences that were attended by hundreds of local K-12 English learners throughout Greater Cincinnati.

The ELL Foundation remains committed to serving local English learners so they can achieve their own American Dream and serve in their communities as role models. Some of our students have overcome serious barriers to achieve academically. Some are single parents. Some spent months in refugee camps after fleeing attacks committed by the Syrian government. Others fear deportation raids. I encourage you to consider how you can give back to support our local EL students. Give today to support college scholarships, emergency grants, and extracurricular experiences for local English learners. Our students have worked hard to pursue their education, and they deserve our support now more than ever!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith W. Lanser".

Keith W. Lanser, MA
Board President
klanser@ellfoundationcinci.org





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Student Stories

ELL Foundation Scholarship Recipients Shine

Students Excel in Academics, Commitment to Give Back

2019 Andrea Cheng Scholar: Mels Mbuyi

Mels Mbuyi firmly believes it's important to do what's right – even when that isn't easy.

“Serving my country and my community has been my life,” says Mels, originally from the DR Congo, who was awarded the ELL Foundation's 2019 Andrea Cheng Scholarship.

But while working in a bank in his native country, Mels also risked his life to stand up for basic human rights, including denouncing the Congolese government's abuse of power. Eventually, Mels felt compelled to move to the United States as a refugee.



Mels enrolled in Cincinnati State to pursue his dream of being an accountant and data analyst. There he excelled academically and mentored other students in accounting classes. With a mission to lead by example, he also served as a youth leader of the Association of the Congolese Community of Greater Cincinnati and helped other students enter higher education. In addition, he has assisted the transition of asylum-seeking families from the DR Congo to Cincinnati.

In the fall of 2019, Mels, an accountant, stepped up to service again by agreeing to become the Board Treasurer of the English Language Learning Foundation. “We are so fortunate to have Mels' expertise in this vital role as well as his perspective as a Foundation scholarship recipient,” says Keith Lanser, Board President of the Foundation.

2019 College Student of the Year: Laurette Kameni

Laurette Kameni knows how fortunate she is to be majoring in pre-business administration at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. “Being in the United States pursuing higher education is a huge privilege for me, one that my mum and millions of girls in Africa do not get to have,” she says.

Originally from Cameroon, Laurette was selected by the English Language Learning Foundation as its 2019 College Student of the Year. She credits her mother, who never got the opportunity for higher education, with instilling in her and her sisters the importance of education, service and hard work.



Laurette maintains a 4.0 grade point average and has served in Student Government and the International Student Organization at Cincinnati State. Like other ELL Foundation scholarship recipients, she also is passionate about giving back to others. Having experienced, with her sisters, the hardship of running out of food, Laurette became the volunteer Operations Coordinator at Cincinnati State's food pantry. She also help helped out at her church with activities including collection, packaging and distribution of gifts for the elderly.



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Student Stories

In May of 2019, Laurette enthusiastically accepted an invitation to be an ambassador for the English Language Learning Foundation as the featured speaker for Friendship Force of Greater Cincinnati, a nonprofit organization with a mission of encouraging all people to share in international friendships and global understanding. She explained that she does not consider her background as a setback, but rather as a stimulus that drives her to do her best.

“I believe every human being can contribute in his or her own way to put a smile on someone’s face,” she says.

2019 High School Student of the Year: Helen Kidane

Helen Kidane, recognized by the ELL Foundation with the High School Student of the Year Award, started her journey to Cincinnati on foot, in darkness and in fear. She and a school friend – determined to escape compulsory military service in Eritrea, an autocratic country in northeast Africa where they grew up – traveled 67 miles over three days to a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

“The journey was dangerous but I believed that it was worth the risk for my future life ... During the day we hid in caves and rested. I was so scared of hearing the hyenas screaming in the night,” she says.



Helen finally reached the camp and stayed there two months before receiving permission to move to the Ethiopian capital city of Addis Ababa. A year and eight months later, she received permission to immigrate to the United States, where she was able to rejoin family members in Cincinnati. She enrolled in Withrow High School and began to pursue her dream of a nursing career.

“My goal is to attend college, obtain a degree in nursing, and to help people suffering from chronic illnesses in the USA as well as for those poor people in my former home, Eritrea,” she says. “This would be my big satisfaction.”



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Thank you for supporting our student leaders!



Strategic Plan 2022

Goal 1: Enhance Scholarships and Educational Programs

- The NKU/ ELL Foundation Academic Scholarship Program was launched, which will offer up to 5 students each academic year an annual scholarship of \$2,000 (or \$8,000 over four years per student)! All on the funds for this scholarship are provided by Northern Kentucky University. We thank NKU for this new and innovative collaboration!
- The ELL Foundation offered \$18,100 in college scholarships to 32 local English learners.
- We received 80 applications for our college scholarship program.
- Significant enhancements were made to our scholarship rubric to greater prioritize low-income students.
- A \$500 Emergency Tuition Grant was offered to a local college student.
- We offered \$1,884 in financial support for a variety of extra curricular experiences for hundreds of local K-12 English learners throughout Greater Cincinnati.

Goal 2: Enhance Strategic Management Processes & Procedures

- The ELL Foundation completed its annual review of our mission, vision, and core values at the Annual Board Retreat, and planned for the successful onboarding of new board members.
- We welcomed a new Board Treasurer, Mels Mbuyi, and new board members Kimberly Scranage and Dr. Esther Claros Berlioz.
- We updated our bylaws to better reflect the responsibilities of our Executive Team.
- The ELL Foundation secured 100% board member contributions.



ELL Foundation President Emeritus S. Margarita Brewer, SC and Cincinnati State President Dr. Monica Posey



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Strategic Plan 2022

Goal 3: Become Visible in Community/ Share Success Stories

- We promoted our college scholarship program at DePaul Cristo Rey High School's annual College Fair.
- Our Facebook page followers increased from 171 to 213 (+24.5%) our Facebook page likes increased from 166 to 209 (+25.9%) in 2019.
- Our website yielded 29,334 visits in 2019 (-25.4%).

Goal 4: Become financially sustainable

- Increased Recognition Breakfast table and event sponsorships and scholarship grants by 18% over 2018.
- % of expenses spent on ELL Foundation programs: 84% (unchanged)
- % of expenses spent on administrative fees and fundraising: 16% (unchanged)
- Total assets: \$52,411.19 (+4.7%)
- Total revenue : \$33,411.96 (-3.5%)
- Total expenses: \$31,049 (-0.87%)
- Net income: \$2,362.96 (-28.2%)

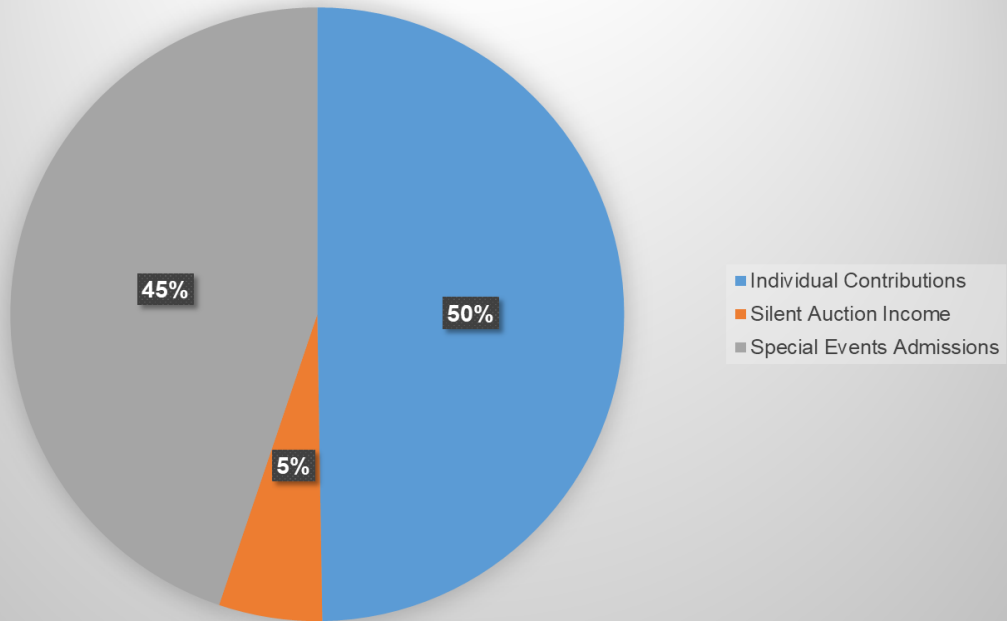


2019 ELL Foundation Recognition Breakfast

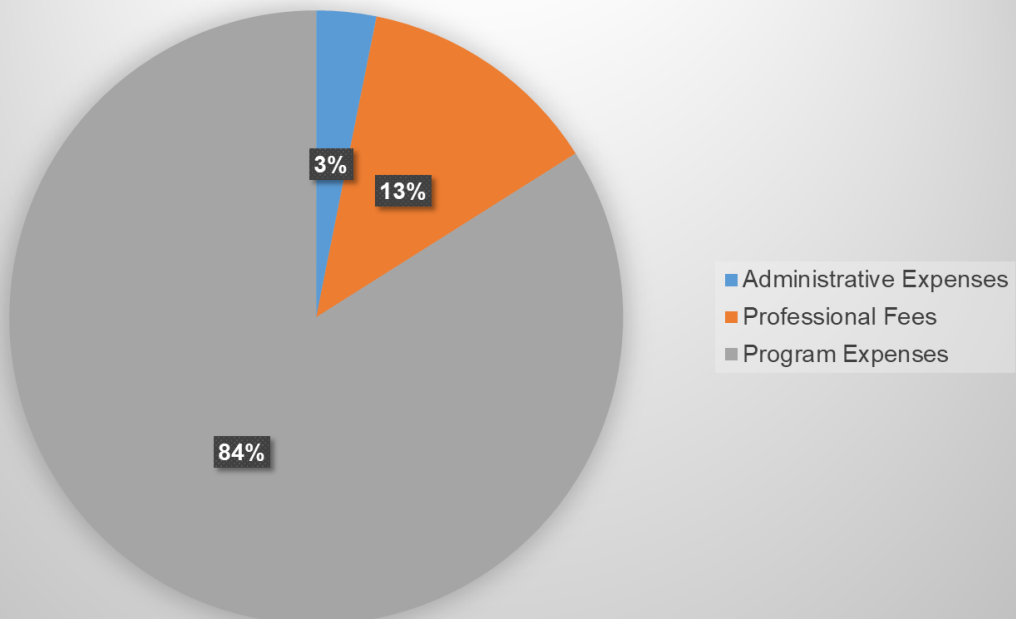


Financials

Income 2019: \$33,411.96



Expenses 2019: \$31,049





Ways to Give

1. Become an ESL volunteer tutor with Cincinnati Public Schools.

- By assisting ESL students in subjects such as mathematics, English and science, volunteer tutors and students develop mutually rewarding bonds and experiences for each other, parents, schools, and the community overall.
- If you are interested in becoming an ESL tutor, please contact JoRena Phelps at (513) 363-3252 or phelps@cps-k12.org.

2. Volunteer with the ELL Foundation.

- Do you have a special talent or skill that you could share with the Foundation? Consider volunteering with our Foundation.
- We are always looking for people to help with: volunteering on our Recognition Breakfast Planning Committee, coordinating educational experiences for local ELL students, and hosting fundraisers throughout the year.
- If you are interested in volunteering with the ELL Foundation, please contact klanser@ellfoundationcinci.org.

3. Donate to the ELL Foundation.

- Consider making a one time, recurring, or memorial donation of any denomination online:

<http://www.ellfoundationcinci.org/support-us.html>

- Checks can be mailed to: P.O. Box 19975, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
- Consider hosting a fundraiser on Facebook for your birthday benefiting the ELL Foundation!



ELL Foundation, Inc.

Thank You, Donors!

Because the ELL Foundation has no paid staff, we rely on the time, talent, and treasures of our volunteers and donors. We appreciate the contribution of each and every donor. Thank you!

Donors from 2019 are listed below:

Karen Adams	Christina Harrison	Andrew Phillips
Ruba Al-Serhan	Lindsay Hetzel	PNC Bank
S. Margarita Brewer	Geniene Hilberg	Linda Pohlgeers
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Vera Brooks	Daniel Hoying	Allison Reynolds– Berry
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Esther Claros Berlioz	Yasmeen Khan	Jacquelyn Rowedder
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Tanya DeLeone	Mar Jo Montenegro– Miller	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
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Patty Fong	Rosa Maria Moreno	UC– International
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Friendship Force	NKU– Latino Programs & Services	Rachel Von Holle
Gateway Community & Technical College	NKU– Student Affairs	Janet Walsh
Dianne Gebhardt-French	NKU– World Languages & Literature	H. James Williams
Charles Glueck	Frederick Odame	Carole Williams
Bernadine Griffith	Karri O'Hara	Joe Wilmers
Dayana Gutierrez	Aaron Parker	Bryan Wright
	Rose Paul	YMCA of Greater Cincinnati



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