



HIGH HOPES

HE'S GOT 

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

**LVA**  
SCHOOL  
AMERICAN ENGLISH INSTITUTE

# Contents

- 1 “High Hopes”
- 2 About Us
- 3 Breaking the Dam
- 4 About 2014
- 6 Financials
- 8 Where are they now?
- 10 Students’ Testimonials

# "High Hopes"

That's what a young student at the beginner level said to me once. He had high hopes, but feared that the job ahead of him was just too difficult. Although it is not an uncommon problem, it is a bit uncommon that they express their fears. My advice is to be like the "silly old ram" who, "Thought he'd punch a hole in a dam," in the well-known Frank Sinatra song, "High Hopes." If you recall, the result of the effort was, when he kept "buttin' that dam," the dam collapsed.

*"Oops there goes a billion kilowatt dam."*

The moral of the story is that persistence pays. Persistence, as educators define it, means attending classes semester over semester. That continuation is important, but it is also the hardest thing for an adult student to accomplish.

Too many things pull the student away – family matters, the need to work and the seeming lack of progress top the list.

Granted, those things would make anyone sad. But they should take heart from the message of that song, as to why the Ram succeeded in breaking the dam:

*"Cause he had high hopes, he had high hopes, he had high apple pie, in the sky hopes."*

At our school, we are all about "high hopes." As you read through this report, you will see examples of "high hopes" that were fulfilled after a lot of effort, by both teachers and students. It is often very hard to reach a goal that is so far away, but knowing that they have someone on their side to help and guide them, we know, gives a reason for our students to have "high hopes."



# About Us

“We are a community of learners, who work in partnership with each other. Teachers serve not only as instructors, but as colleagues and mentors as well.”

## Our Vision

We envision a future where the focus of education is to enable all students to achieve their educational and career dreams.

## Our Mission

The mission of the LVA School is to educate a diverse population of adults to improve their English language skills and provide them with a positive American cultural experience.

## Core Values

Passionate commitment to our teachers and the students they serve.

Commitment to integrity, accountability and excellence in education.



# Breaking the Dam Knocking Down Barriers

The number one barrier is our language. Students come to us from all over the world, with a great diversity of education, talent and ability. The one thing they share is determination – even in the face of what looks like a gigantic barrier.

How would you feel if you worked hard to get a high school diploma, only to be told that you could not go on to college because your skills were too low?

## **Cheated? Angry? Resentful?**

That happens to immigrant students every day. Their GED is good enough to get them into community college, where they are told that they still have “deficits” in their education.

At our school, we have no deficits, only skills that need to be developed, information that need to be learned. As the learning takes place, the barriers come down, like the dam, knocked down by the ram.

## **Learn to read, and write, too!**

Speaking English is important, but most of our students can speak a little English. That isn't enough today, of course. They need to read and write English as well. Our students learn to read for understanding of content, and to write. They don't just put words on paper, they learn to make an argument – to convince the reader and persuade him.

What happens to you after you graduate from a school like ours? Other schools may give you a very nice paper, telling everyone how much you studied. (We do that, too.) But how many offer to help with your letters, resumes and reports? We do. We always help our graduates as they move onward (and upward.)

# About 2014

## A year of opportunity, a year of change

In 2014, our enrollments continued to expand. More students came to us, and more of them stayed longer than ever before. They came from many countries, but all had the same hopes and dreams - dreams of cracking the “code” that is American culture and language.

They did not need motivation, only some encouragement from their mentors and friends – their teachers. We guided them through the often confusing and contradictory morass that is our educational system.

We added more technology in 2014, through the generosity of our supporters. The real credit goes to our teachers however. Without their dedication and commitment, our school would never succeed.



## **“Buttin’ the Dam”**

### *Learning for Adults - Especially Adults from Other Countries*

Every year the government spends more on education, and every year the statistics are the same:

90% of all community college students are unready for college level studies, despite having graduated from high school.

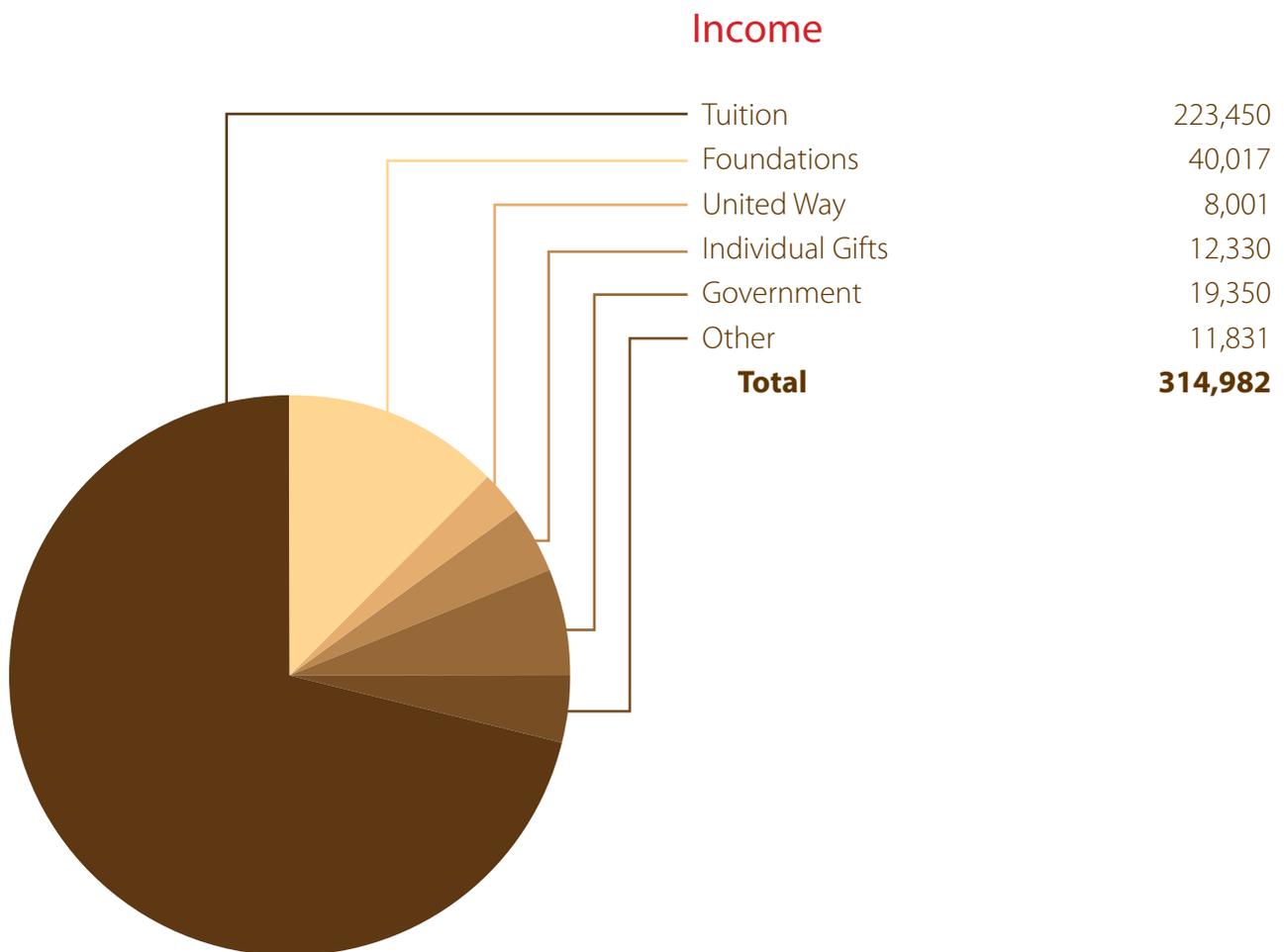
For high school equivalency (GED) graduates, the statistics are even worse – on average, only 5% of them will go on to graduate from a four year college.

Everyone knows that education is the key. Without it, that elusive prize, the American Dream, remains just that – a dream. To adult students, it often seems like that ram in the song, going up against a “billion kilowatt dam” again and again, until his head hurts.

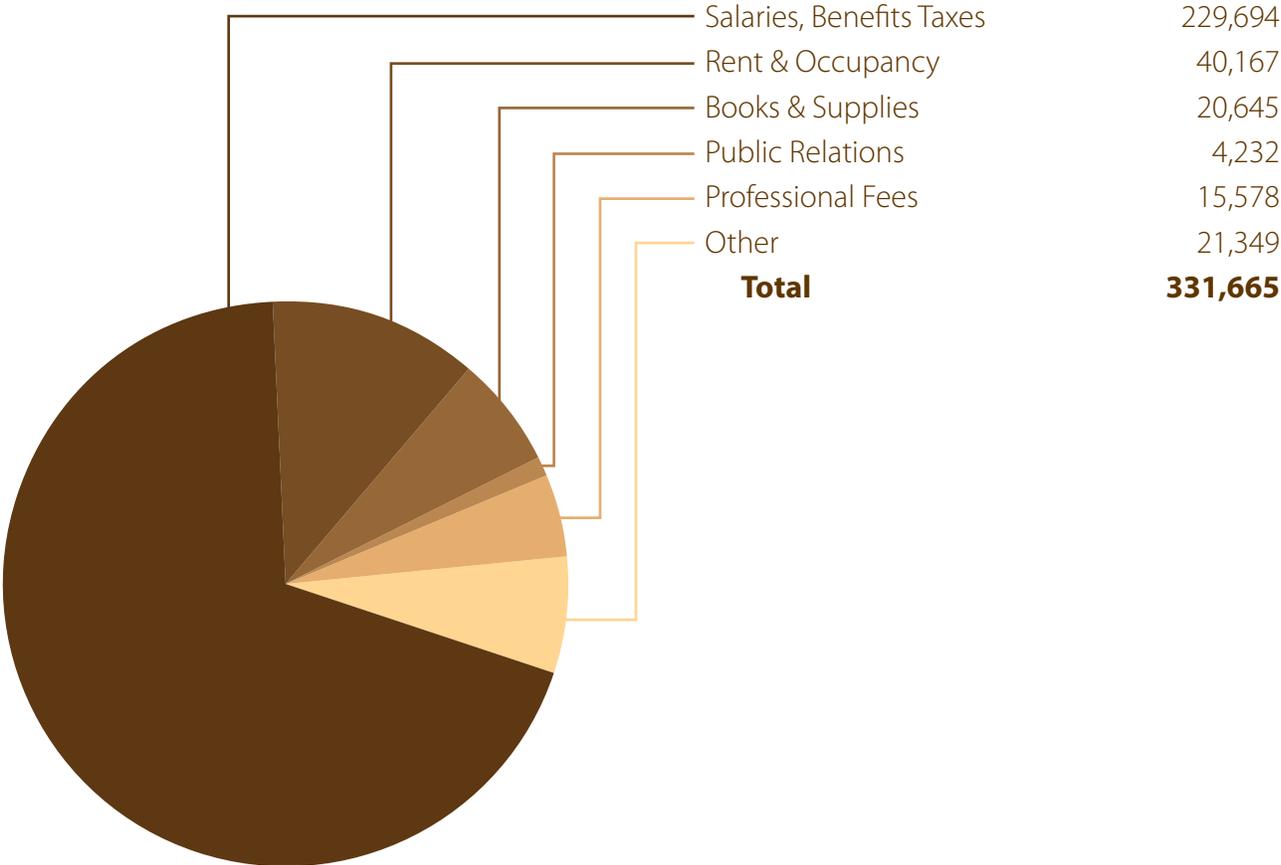
*Our message is that it doesn’t have to be painful, but it does take effort.*



# Financials



### Expenses



# Where are they now?

## Professionals

Mario '99 Translator

Sergio '12 Pilot

Nick '02 Doctor

Victor '02 Teacher

Tony '03 Doctor

David '03 Doctor

Fernando '05 Engineer

Cristiani '05 Accountant

Idisdro '05 Banker

Ana '06 Veterinarian

Carla '08 Dentist

Yina '09 Teacher

Teresa '10 Minister

Valeria '10 Teacher

Angela '10 Teacher

Darci '10 Teacher

Carlos '11 Journalist

Antra '11 Economist

Carlos '11 Public Relations

Brian '11 Doctor

Rocio '12 Chemist

Sue Ellen '12 Flight Attendant

Alessandro '13



## College or University

Daniel '03  
Diana '04  
Perla '04  
Anita '05  
Ana '05  
Ivan '06  
Amanda '06  
Yuri '06  
Jing '06  
Gustavo '06  
Priscilla '06  
Leonardo '08  
Alessandra '08  
Dinara '09  
Graziele '09  
Andrea '10  
Leonardo '10  
Carlos '10  
Gustavo '10  
Daniela '10  
Julio '11  
Jack '11

Han '11  
Debora '11  
Gustavo '11  
Anselmo '12  
Fernanda '12  
Anita '12  
Jaekang '12  
Lilliane '12  
Mariana '12  
Vitoria '12  
Michele '12  
Min Ha '12  
Lucas '13  
Daniela '13  
Magdalena '14  
Elizabeth '14  
Taulant '14  
Fernanda '14  
Lays '14  
Kevin '13  
Dolores '14

## Corporate

Toshi '01  
Tien '01  
Samara '02  
Esther '04  
Juan '04  
Michael '05  
Vadim '08  
Alessandro '10  
Ayeda '10  
Larissa '10  
Bernardo '10  
Barbara '12  
Patricia '12  
Carolina '12  
Melanie '12  
Camilia '12  
Vera '12  
Carla '14

## Local Business

Ullyana '12  
Tino '96  
Nadir '01  
Orlando '01  
Carlos '02  
Wilson '03  
Jose '04  
Marisa '04  
George '04  
Linsa '04  
Paula '05  
Felipe '05  
Gilson '05  
Vanessa '05  
Ligia '10  
David '10  
Christian '11  
Vinicius '11  
Nancy '11  
Lisa '13  
Muhammad '13  
Daniela '13  
Jose '13

# Students' Testimonials

"I am very pleased to be writing about LVA School. When I enrolled, I thought this would be an average English school, but happily as it turns out, it is quite the opposite! At first I would think that I would only "do what I have to do" and go home. Throughout the weeks I started to realize that the school feeling was fading and a family-like atmosphere was taking its place. I deeply appreciate the teachers' efforts and patience with me and my fellow students."

***Mirna***

"LVA School has a good team, good way to work! Thank you Mr. Harvey, David, George, Jurgita and others teachers! I am very happy learning English with you guys."

***Felipe***

"LVA School is a family place. All of the people help you and support you to make you become fluent in English!!! I don't have anything bad to say, just that you are THE BEST!!!"

***Fernanda***

"LVA makes you feel at home even miles away from your home country, teaching more than English and showing the true meaning of friendship."

***Lays***

"Thank you LVA School for all your help in improving my English and my knowledge about life around the world. Also for supporting me and all other students in everything. Without doubts this is an unforgettable experience."

***Rebeca***



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