

# c o m p u t e r

# C.O.R.E.

*Building Careers and Community*

## 2011 Annual Report

### Executive Director's Message

What a year! We spent much of 2011 adding depth and strength to what we do. In particular, we strengthened:

- **Our partnership** with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), to put more students on the path to more education and better careers;
- **Our connections** to corporations, to enhance our base of volunteers and to provide more employment opportunities to our graduates;
- **Our teaching**, updating the classroom materials and providing new avenues for instructor training.

Thanks in large part to research and analysis done through a 2010 **Taproot Foundation** service grant, CORE's board of directors has adopted a 2012-15 strategic

plan focusing on the following priorities:

- Community partnerships to expand opportunities for CORE students;
- Employer relationships to increase engagement with CORE;
- Branding of the organization;
- Sector training to continue to increase our ability to meet client and employer needs.

This is an exciting time for CORE as we continue our work to best serve our community.

"How do we do what we do, and get the results we do?" This is a question I'm asked several times a week, usually followed by a request for copies of our curriculum, our tracking database, or our fund-

ing requests. All of these are indeed fabulous tools, but **CORE does what it does due to phenomenal volunteers, wonderful students and great staff.** CORE is the people involved; CORE is you. Thanks to each of you!

There is no way (or space) for me to adequately thank each person who has contributed to CORE's success in 2011, but I would like to thank a few particular individual volunteers: President **Bo Pham** and incoming president **Bob Carroll**, Computer refurbishment team leaders **Ken Neidorf** and **Ed Delacruz**, "CFO" **Sharon** and "CTO" **Jim** – who have gone above and beyond their "titles" to do whatever is needed to make CORE what it is today. Please say "thank you" the next time you see them.

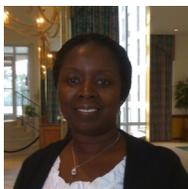
*Lynn O'Donnell*

### Success Story: Joyce

Joyce came to Computer C.O.R.E. with secretarial skills from her home country of Ghana, but no computer skills.

After completing the class, Joyce got a part-time job as a church secretary. She competed for the job against other applicants and was offered the position after demonstrating her typing skills of over 40 words per minute, and after

completing a timed test that required her to create and print a Word document in less than five minutes. Joyce has said that her supervisor is very pleased with the way Joyce has applied her skills in meeting the administrative needs of the church.



Joyce recently started a 3-year program at Northern Virginia Community College to become a nurse.

"I cannot put into words all of the good things that Computer C.O.R.E. has done for me," says Joyce. She is enjoying her success and has referred many of her friends to CORE so that they may succeed as well.

### Computer C.O.R.E.

#### 2011 Board of Directors Chair

Bo Pham

#### Vice Chair

Ken Neidorf

#### Treasurer

Hank Schlenker

#### Secretary

Patricia Lunt

Abdul Agermoune

Bill Browning

Robert A. Carroll

Jim Ewalt

Ashley Lawson

Jim McCaffery

Matthew McQueen

#### Advisory Board

Deborah Bosick

John Nelson

Justin Wilson

Serving students at four locations:

#### Alexandria

3846 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22302

#### Seven Corners

2855 Annandale Road

Falls Church, VA 22042

#### Fairfax

9019 Little River Turnpike

Fairfax, VA 22031

#### Herndon

701 Bennett Street

Herndon, VA 20170

*CORE's Mission is to help low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills they need to pursue career aspirations.*

**Building Careers and Community**

**c o m p u t e r  
C.O.R.E.**

3846 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22302

Phone: 703-931-7346

Fax: 703-931-6062

E-mail:

info@computercore.org

**Success Story: Sher**

Sher and his wife moved here from Nepal to seek the American Dream. He has a law degree and worked in the law field in Nepal for 20 years.

During his time at CORE, he discovered that he loves to



work on computers, so now his career goals include becoming

ing a computer technician or programmer. Eventually he would like to be able to practice law in the US.

Sher is very motivated to learn, as he has demonstrated by taking ESL classes, completing the six-month CORE course, and enrolling at NOVA while working full-time as a cashier. Since coming to this country, he has continually sought ways to gain knowledge and learn new skills. For the past few years, his career and life goals have

included improving his English language competency and increasing his computer skills. He believes that these are essential skills to have in order to succeed and prosper in the US.

According to his CORE instructors, Sher is a hard-working, personable student who picked up computer skills quickly. Sher believes he has a bright future in the computer or legal field, thanks to Computer C.O.R.E.

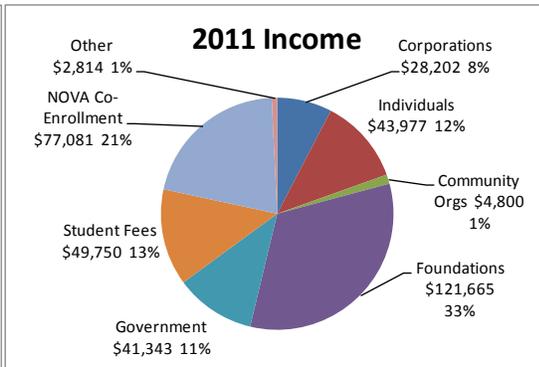
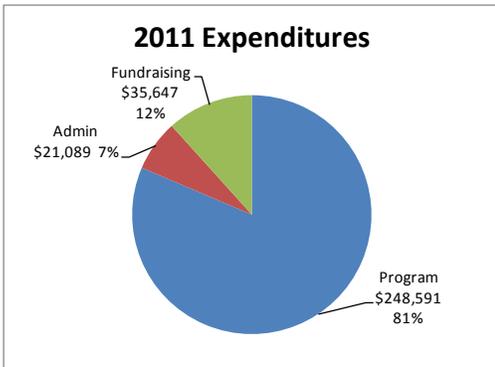
**Highlights from 2011**

- We opened a 4th classroom site, at Herndon United Methodist Church, to serve students in the western part of Northern Virginia.
- 171 students graduated from our program, and 75 of them received college credit at NOVA for their CORE coursework.
- In our most recent survey of the 2011 alumni, 53% of the spring graduates and 61% of the fall graduates who responded reported that they had gotten a raise, a promotion, or a new job.
- Seven percent of the fall graduates and 20% of the spring graduates reported taking additional classes after finishing the CORE program.
- CORE was awarded a service grant from Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging Arts to refresh our website.
- The Center for Nonprofit Advancement named our board of directors as a semifinalist for its Board Leadership Award.

**"My experience working with Tseyon was excellent. She was professionally dressed, a good listener, and...she learned fast. [I would] welcome Tseyon returning if she wants/needs more practice inputting data!"**

**—Gwen Mullen, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, about a student who volunteered in her office**

**2011 Financial Summary (Unaudited figures)**



**"I cannot put into words all of the good things that Computer C.O.R.E. has done for me."**

**—Joyce, 2012 CORE graduate**