

# The Reading Center

## Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota

www.TheReadingCenter.org



Fall 2016

### Board of Directors

Kirk Kottschade,  
Chair

Brittany Thompson,  
Treasurer

Jennifer Gowin,  
Secretary

Joyce Balls-Berry, PhD

Nicole Blegan

Paul Bucher

Danny Bucknell

John Caldwell

Amy Davis

Terri Edwards, MD

Michael Fogarty, Jr.

Marcia Henry, PhD

Jean Osman

Jeff Price

Michael Zaccariello,  
PhD, LP

### Professional Staff

Cindy Russell,  
Executive Director

Barb Arens

Christine Atkinson

Amy Basnyat

Sarah Carlson-Wallrath

Sue Christenson

Gade Grinnell

Jan Hagedorn

Kate Jirik

Fay Van Vliet

Joyce Washechek

Barbara Zelinske

### Editor

Sarah Carlson-Wallrath

## Ben Tilson

### A Millennial Local Entrepreneur - and Dyslexic

A young man in his twenties, Ben Tilson is a person to know in Rochester. If you haven't seen his new auto repair garage, Tilson's Auto Repair, then you have probably run into him doing some of his philanthropic work. He is everywhere around town. Ben is a member of the Rochester Jaycees, a group of young adults under 40, doing charitable work. He is also a member of the Rochester Exchange Club, Rochester Chamber, and Relay for Life. He is Chairman of the Board of the Commission – Mentorship of Rochester. **And he is an Alumni Speaker for the Reading Center and will be the first Alumni Emcee of our 3rd Annual Suphero Dyslexia Dash on October 8, 2016.**

I sat down with Ben a few months ago to talk about his growing role with the Reading Center. It's hard to understand how he can make time for us, but as I spoke to him, he explained why **"making time for community based commitments makes him feel alive."**

### Growing up Dyslexic

Ben is dyslexic. His father is dyslexic. He says he was diagnosed young, in early elementary school, and struggled in school. A lot. He attended private schools and graduated from Lourdes Catholic High School in Rochester. Ben says some teachers understood his dyslexia and others did not.

**Ben is a Reading Center alumnus and he is thankful for the role the Reading Center played in giving him the skill of reading.** He was tutored by several Reading Center tutors throughout elementary school. But tutoring has not ended his struggle with reading. He still finds it difficult and the source of embarrassment professionally and socially. It's something he thinks about when he writes up a ticket for a client at Tilson's Auto Repair. Or when he makes a social media post for his friends or for work.

### Earning a College Degree against the odds

But Ben persevered and it is easy to see his pride when he talks about earning a college degree despite the difficulty. Ben chose to attend Bemidji State in large part because of their disability services opportunities. He credits Kathi Hagen, former Disability Services Coordinator there, with keeping him on track at school. He calls her his angel.



Ben Tilson, Co. Owner

He says his dyslexia made him who he is today. He learned to focus on what is important, and pursue things that put him outside his comfort zone.

Ben entered Bemidji State already on academic probation due to a low high school GPA and college entrance exam score. He had to get a 2.25 GPA or higher to remain in school. **With a lot of hard work, Ben got a 3.0 his first semester.** But classes got harder and Ben reports he had too much pride to ask for some of the accommodations he was entitled to. His grades started to drop.

Ben remembers one professor in the business school who did not want to grant him an accommodation. **He recalls that this professor made him "feel stupid and not worthy of being in his class."** Ben got a D in the class and several other low grades that semester. When his grades came out he spoke with both Kathi and his dad – who he says gave him "an earful" about not taking advantage of the disability office resources. It was a dark time for Ben.

But like now, Ben decided to dig in. Ben says that if he left school, or was kicked out, he would never go back. Ben started using accommodations and reduced his social commitments in school. He had tests read to him. He was granted more time on assignments. He graduated in 2014 with a degree in business.

(continued on back page)

# Greetings from the Chair

Greetings! I was so pleased to begin my position as Chair of the Board of Directors this past July. The Reading Center is on a growth trajectory and I am proud to be involved in its leadership.

This is such a great time of year for the Reading Center. October is Dyslexia Awareness month and we have four events in October and November to celebrate it. The 3rd annual dash is October 8th, our Adults with Dyslexia Panel is October 10th and our Dyslexia Simulation is on October 18th. **I found the Simulation event an eye opening experience that made me feel the effects of those struggling with dyslexia.** Registration for all of these events is available on our website [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org).

Our preeminent Bright Stars event this fall will mark the 65th year of the Reading Center serving students and families with dyslexia. We will celebrate this milestone at our annual event that highlights a nationally recognized successful adult with dyslexia. **This year our Bright Stars Event features accomplished and awarded children's book illustrator Jerry Pinkney.**

Mr. Pinkney won the prestigious Caldecott Medal for his book, *The Lion and the Mouse*, his adaptation of the memorable Aesop fairy tale. He is so talented and prolific that he has been awarded over 100 recognitions for his illustrations. Mr. Pinkney will speak about finding your individual strength. He saw at an early age that despite his struggling with reading, he had an amazing artistic talent.

**We are pleased to welcome Mr. Pinkney at two events. One is a FREE family friendly event hosted by the Rochester Public Library from 2 - 3pm.** This event will be catered to children and youth. In the evening, he will give the keynote address at our dinner to celebrate the Reading Center's 65 years of service to the community. Tickets for the free family event and ticketed celebratory Bright Stars dinner are available on our website, [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org). Space is limited for both events so pre-registration is encouraged. Signed copies of Mr. Pinkney's books, *The Lion and the Mouse*, and *The Christmas Boot*, will be available at each event.

You won't want to miss these fall events! I will see you there!



Kirk Kotschade  
Board Chair

# From the Executive Director's Desk



Cindy Russell  
Executive Director

Dyslexia Awareness month – October – comes at the time in the school year when students who are struggling start to stand out. School began a few weeks ago, but after the kids and teachers settle in and do a little review, the new work of the school year begins. And some of our kids start to show signs they are not keeping up.

It is fitting that we ramp up our awareness events during this time of year. These events – many that are very well publicized by our local media partners, let people know that the Reading Center is here as a resource for parents, teachers and students. You can check out our calendar of events at the back of the newsletter.

As supporters of the Reading Center, you are our best advocates. And I am regularly asked how people can help the work of the Reading Center. I will give you a few ideas! First, I encourage you to share our events with anyone who you think may benefit. You can send them to our website, urge them to "like" our Facebook page, or ask them to contact us to be put on our email and newsletter mailing lists.

Second, we have shared our efforts to receive \$1.5 million in state bonding money to help jump start our capital campaign for a new building. **Our request was very well received and we were included in the final bonding bill of the 2016 session, had one passed the final night of session.** We now await news of a special legislative session to complete this and other legislative priorities. In the meantime, it is election season. We do not endorse any specific candidates, but if you find a candidate door-knocking at your home, or if you are attending a community event or parade and see one of our elected officials – talk to them. Remind them of the important work that we do, and how kids with dyslexia are struggling in our schools. Those conversations do make a difference – and will be important if we need to try again for bonding funding next legislative session in January 2017!

Thanks again for all the work that you all do for the Reading Center and our community. See you around town at our events this fall!

## Are you a Thrivent Financial Family?

*The Reading Center is eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars!*

The Choice Dollars® portion of Thrivent Choice allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach grant funds each year.

If you are a Thrivent family, consider recommending the Reading Center for Thrivent Choice dollars to further the cause of literacy in our community.



# 2016 Dyslexia Awareness Events

## Mark your Calendar for our October/November Events

October is Dyslexia Awareness month. The Reading Center is holding four events in October/November to help our community understand our mission, dyslexia, and how the one in five persons with dyslexia are contributing to our communities.

### Oct. 8th: 3rd Annual Superhero Dyslexia Dash 5K Fun Run/Walk

**Time:** Check-in, 9 a.m.; 1 Mile Kids' Run, 9:45 a.m.; 5K Run/Walk, 10 a.m.

**Location:** Begin/End at Soldier's Field Picnic Shelter area

Join us for the **3rd Annual Superhero Dyslexia Dash 5K Fun Run** on Saturday, October 8, 2016. The run (or walk) begins and ends at Soldier's Field Park in Rochester. Registration is available online at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org), or in person on the day of the event (pre-registrations by 9/23 are guaranteed a race shirt). Fun prizes and activities. Family Rate: \$60/2adults, up to 3 kids, Individual: \$30, Child: \$7; Senior: \$25, Team of 4+: \$25/each; Spectator: FREE.



*This Saturday!*

### Oct. 10th: Adult Dyslexia Panel Discussion Featuring Panelists: Zeb Dudek, Lois Shub and John Kottschade

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Rochester Public Library Auditorium, 101 2nd Street SE, Rochester 55904

Join us at the Rochester Public Library to hear from three successful adults with dyslexia. **This Adult Dyslexia Panel** is for parents, teachers and students to hear directly from people with dyslexia who will share their individual stories, coping mechanisms, and advocacy experiences. Prepare to be inspired!

Appropriate for teens through adults. FREE but please register at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org).

### Oct. 18th: Walk in My Shoes: An Interactive Dyslexia Simulation

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Rochester Area Foundation, 12 Elton Hills Dr NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Dyslexia is an invisible condition that can impact every area of one's life. If you have ever wondered what your dyslexic child or student experiences, please attend **Walk in My Shoes: An Interactive Dyslexia Simulation** event. This is a high impact, immersive event that will be an eye opener to the struggles that students with dyslexia face in school settings every day. Appropriate for older teens through adults.

FREE. Space is limited to 35 so registration is required at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org).



### Nov. 13th: Bright Stars Event featuring Children's Book Illustrator Jerry Pinkney

FREE Family Event: 2-3pm, at the Rochester Public Library

65th ANNIVERSARY DINNER: 4:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the Rochester International Event Center

In November, we are so pleased that Caldecott winning children's book illustrator Jerry Pinkney will be headlining two events for us. Please save the date and join us as we hear from this award winning artist who is excelling in his field fueled by his brilliant dyslexic brain.

Mr. Pinkney will be our guest at a FREE family friendly event hosted at the Rochester Public Library from 2 - 3pm. This event will be catered for children and youth.

In the evening, he will give the keynote address at our Bright Stars Event dinner to celebrate the Reading Center's 65 years of service to the community. Signed hard copies of Mr. Pinkney's books, *The Lion and the Mouse*, and *The Christmas Boot*, will be available for purchase at each event.

Registration for both events is open at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org).

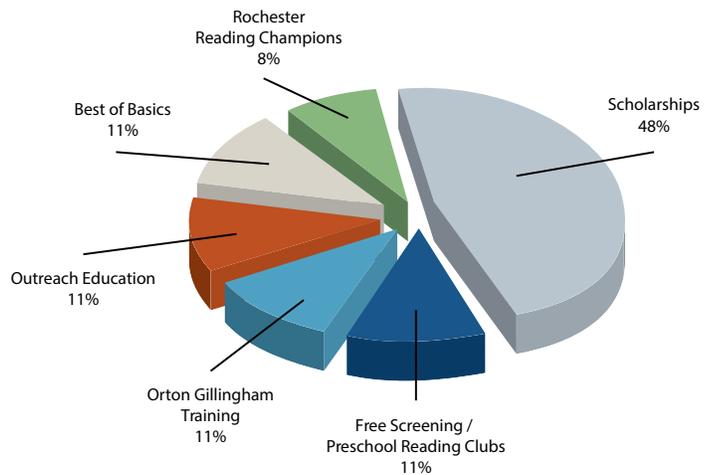


# 2016 Bright Futures Campaign Results

Great news! The final tally for the 2016 Bright Futures Campaign is done and I am pleased to report that we more than surpassed our goal. **In total we raised \$100,049 – more than 133% of our original goal of \$75,000!!** Thank you, thank you for all of your efforts to encourage donations to the Reading Center's mission. **Nearly \$50,000 will be allocated to scholarships for students in our tutoring program, classes and training institutes.**

We extend a special thanks to the **Rochester Scottish Rite, Al and Anne Koenig, and Mike and Joy Fogarty** for their generation donations of matching funds. These funds encouraged donations and put us over the top. We could not have met our goal without them, and without YOU!.

## Where Your Bright Futures Dollars Go



## The 22nd Year of Best of Basics A Success This July

K—12 students learn lifelong skills in reading, spelling, writing and math

This summer marked the 22nd year the Reading Center has run its Best of Basics (BoB) Summer Program. The BoB Summer Program is housed in Calvary Evangelical Free Church for the month of July. In total, **68 students in pre-K through 12th grade participated in our multi-sensory, phonemic, small group classes.** This format helps students in a way that a regular summer school format could not. The small group format, meeting every day for small condensed blocks of time provide students with consistent exposure using the OG approach and regular practice time to build real skills during the summer.

Sue Christianson, Director of Best of Basics, believes this program helps introduce families to the variety of programs offered at the Reading Center. She says "Best of Basics is a great opportunity for parents to try out the Orton-Gillingham method and see if it works for their child. Though 10-20 sessions is just the beginning, it is enough for the child and parents to know if O-G helps!



*One BoB teacher said, "One 3rd grade boy told me he learned more in one week than he did the entire last school year! He is a sweet little guy - very bright, and also very dyslexic! He will be going into tutoring now, too!"*

It is great to see students growing in confidence over the two and four week sessions. And it is fun to see kids develop friendships with peers they may have not met before. Best of Basics, like our other group classes, give kids who think they are struggling alone, the understanding that other great kids need a little extra help to be successful too.

**Many thanks to our program sponsors: Rochester Scottish Rite Language Foundation, Olmsted Medical Center, Rochester Commercial Banks, Premier Banks, Calvary Evangelical Free Church and Johnson Printing.**

## Tutor Appreciation

On May 4 we celebrated the dedication of our vast tutoring staff at a luncheon sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Tutors, ranging from those in their first year, to the one completing her 60th year were honored. Jean Osman, our co-founder, and still active tutor was honored for her sixty years of service with a bench that will sit outside the Reading Center front door. Thank you tutors for all you do! And thank you to Thrivent Financial for helping offset the cost of this event.



*Jean Osman is honored for tutoring dyslexic students for 60 years.*

The Reading Center welcomed Amy Davis to our Board of Directors this past July. Welcome Amy!

## New Board Member – Amy Davis

**Amy Davis** is the Division Chair for Communications at Mayo Clinic. Amy and her husband, Christopher Davis, managing partner of the Davis Law Firm, live with their two sons, 14 year old Nate and 13 year old Ben, and their lab Odin in Rochester. Amy will bring her skills in communications, people management, and servant leadership to the board of directors. Welcome Amy!



Amy Davis  
Mayo Clinic

**Q: You are not from Rochester originally. When did you come and why have you decided to stay?**

**Amy:** Christopher and I moved to Rochester twenty years ago from Des Moines, Iowa when I accepted a communications role at Mayo. We've stayed because I love my job at Mayo Clinic (I pretty much have one of the best jobs in the world) and Christopher has been able to build his own law practice here. We've also established a strong network of friends who have become like family, and believe that Rochester is a great place to raise our boys. Minnesota is our home now.

**Q: What does your job entail at Mayo?**

**Amy:** I am the Division Chair for Communications at Mayo Clinic, where I oversee Mayo Clinic's national media relations, owned and social media, crisis communications and issues management and staff engagement communications activities. In other words, our team gets to tell stories about the great things happening at Mayo Clinic to people all across the country. When you do what I do as a profession, it's an honor to be able to share stories about a mission-driven organization focused on helping people.

**Q: What are your other interests?**

**Amy:** I am an avid reader, and I also love to spend time with family and friends and travel.

**Q: How did you get involved with the Reading Center?**

**Amy:** My oldest son is dyslexic and was helped tremendously by the Reading Center starting in second grade. I am so thankful to have an amazing resource like the Reading Center in our community so that my son could get the support he needed to grow not just his reading skills, but also his self-confidence. We all know the toll that dyslexia can have on kids if they don't get the tools and knowledge they need early – I am honored to help support Reading Center as a Board member.

I originally learned about the Reading Center from Dr. Brooks Edwards, one of our transplant leaders at Mayo Clinic. Brooks was an amazing resource and role model to me when my son was diagnosed.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

**Amy:** *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Q: Anything else you would like to share?**

**Amy:** We're Green Bay Packer fans -- hopefully that won't get me thrown off the Board!

## Al Koenig, great friend and Reading Center supporter

*March 19, 1938 – August 17, 2016*

A great friend and former Board member of the Reading Center, Al Koenig, passed away unexpectedly. Al served on our Board of Directors from 2006 to 2009. As a longtime member of the Scottish Rite, Al helped to establish the Rochester Scottish Rite Children's Foundation. This foundation's goal is to support students with language learning difficulties in S.E. Minnesota, and from the start it forged a strong and close supportive relationship with The Reading Center, recognizing that the Reading Center carries out that mission directly and effectively.

Many will recognize Al Koenig's name in relation to the annual "Al & Anne Koenig Matching Fund" that he and his wife Anne provided each year during the Bright Futures Campaign. This fund motivated people to donate \$689,000, over the course of each of our 9 campaigns, to benefit dyslexic students in need of Reading Center services.

In preparation for our 2015 Bright Stars Event featuring paleontologist Jack Horner, Al, his career spent in the trucking industry, volunteered to arrange for the transportation of the Sue T-Rex Skull from Quarry Hill Nature Center to the International Event Center. It was no small job to dismantle the skull and safely transport it, and then store it, in order to have it to the Event Center only on Nov. 8. Taking full responsibility to move that valuable skull to help the Reading Center's event is a perfect example of the generous, capable and responsible person that Al Koenig was. He will be sorely missed.



Al Koenig was an avid supporter of the Reading Center mission.

# Many Thanks to Our Contributors

## March 22, 2016 - August 19, 2016

We would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have so generously pledged or donated to the Reading Center. We strive to list our donors accurately, but occasionally we make a mistake. If your donation has been omitted, your entry is misspelled or put in a wrong giving level, please contact Sarah Carlson-Wallrath (scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org).

If you would like to make a contribution, please use our secure online server at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org), contact us at 507-288-5271, or use the enclosed envelope. **Please remember the mission of the Reading Center in your will. Thank you!**

### Super Heroes \$25,000 and Up

Norm and Char Hepper

### Heroes \$5,000 - \$24,999

Dorothy Callahan  
Crutchfield Dermatology Foundation  
Al & Anne Koenig  
Scottish Rite Children's Foundation  
Chris and Leo Stern

### Benefactors \$2,500 - 4,999

Residents of Charter House  
Joy and Mike Fogarty  
Norman Gillette Charitable Foundation  
Jean Osman  
Judy and Jim Sloan  
Erik and Eileen Thorpe  
United Way of Olmsted County

### Patrons \$1,000 - \$2,499

John and Marcia Bouquet  
Great River Energy  
Rick and Jane Haeflinger  
Jan and Steve Hagedorn  
Barbara Henoeh  
Ginger and David Holmes  
(in honor of Trey Holmes Family)  
Jean Jacobs  
Eugene Keller  
The Kenneth Kinsey Family Foundation  
(in honor of Elizabeth Hawley)  
Deborah and Fletcher Miller  
(in memory of Kevin Miller  
and in honor of Faye Waldo)  
Betty Sheffield  
(in honor of Jean Osman)  
Becky and John Sperling  
Think Mutual Bank  
United Way of Dodge County  
Mike and Alexis Zaccariello

### Fellows \$500 - \$999

Mark and Lucy Bahn  
Michael Bostwick and  
Constance Williams  
Jennifer Gowin  
Goodhue County Cooperative Electric  
IBM Employee Services  
Marcia and Fred Krebsbach  
(in memory of Charles Neumann)  
Ross and Peggy Mattke  
Rob and Ronda McCully  
(in honor of Marge Sweet)  
Lawrence and Claudette McDonald  
(in memory of MariAnne E. McDonald)  
Susan Persons  
Jeff and Melissa Price  
Linda Mansfield and Ronald Menaker  
Thrivent Financial  
United Way Bay Area

Suzanne Viggiano  
(in honor of Jean Osman)

### Assistants \$250 - \$499

Carl Anderson and Sherri Whalen  
(in honor of Carl and Virginia Anderson)  
Danny Bucknell  
John and Shelly Caldwell  
Jane and Mary Campion  
Susan D. Carlsen  
(in honor of Annika Peterson)  
Denise and Mike Fogarty, Jr.  
Drs. Cynthia and Michael Garr  
(Terri L Edwards M.D. Scholarship fund  
in honor of Dr. Brooks Edwards 60th  
birthday)  
Jeannine and Bill Karnes  
Patricia McCleese  
Ruth Ann Miles  
Pat and Tom Miller  
Jae and Terry Oh  
Gordy and Terri Stockinger  
Rochester Rotary Risers  
Tom Kadlec Honda  
Becky Vossberg  
Julie and David Watson

### Colleagues \$150 - \$249

Andrea and Ben Anderson  
George and Ann Fisher  
Sandra Hillesheim  
Sandy and Marion Keith  
Kiwanis Club of Rochester Golden K  
Glenn and Claire Laedtke  
Darryl and Beth Solie

### Friends \$50 - \$149

Anonymous  
Virginia and Carl Anderson  
Barbara and David Arlander  
Henry Beno  
(in memory of Trish Vickman)  
Marylee Bible  
Angela & Peggy Blegen  
Ron and Sally Bymers  
Kyra Campbell  
Jane and Mary Campion  
(in honor of the Reading Center Staff)  
Chuck and Gloria Canfield  
Dan and Edith Casterdale  
Ardis Christen  
Duane and Nancy Cihlar  
Ping Collis  
(in honor of Kay Hawley)  
Laurie Conover  
Susan Cox and Robert Newshutz  
Eric and Donna Dozois  
Barbara DuFresne  
Margaret and Brian Fasbender  
Jennifer Fisher

Joan Gomez  
Colleen and Bob Grady  
Ellen Harkey  
Lene Heise  
Alan and Judy Hoffman  
Paula Horner  
John and Gloria Hostack  
Roy House  
Bruce Jawer and Margo Vandrovce  
Mary Jo and Dan Kelly  
Donald and Alice McIlrath  
Mary Meer  
Jeanie and Bob Munsterman  
Bernie and Ellie Nesler  
Bob and Joan Nowicki  
Duane Ollendick  
Charles and Cheryl Palla  
Mary Platt  
Bunnie Powers  
Betty Qualey  
Bert and Jane Reiman  
Wayne and Mary Alice Richardson  
(in honor of Jean Olson)  
John and Heken Scheid  
Quentin and Gloria Schmierer  
Dean and Julie Stenehjem  
Bruce and Sarah Suino  
Edith Thurber  
Denise Walker  
Andrew and Krista Wood  
Ron Yoshimoto  
(in honor of Jean Osman)

### Associates Up to \$49

Leanne Drexler  
Rick Fishbune  
David and Renee Kreter  
Rebecca and James Schmitt  
Megan Scholer  
Kenneth Taylor  
(in memory of Art Osman)  
Janice Ulrich  
(in memory of Fred Ulrich)

### Best of Basics

#### Academic Level \$1,000 and up



#### Pupil Level \$500

Premier Banks  
Rochester Commercial Banks Association

#### In-Kind

Calvary Evangelical Free Church  
Johnson Printing

**Super Hero Dyslexia Dash Sponsors**  
**Gold Medal Level \$2,500**



**Marathon Level \$500**



**Half-Marathon Level \$250**

Agstar Financial Services

**5K Level (\$100)**

Tilson Auto

**In-Kind**

Caribou  
Chris Arens  
Culligan of Rochester  
Pasquale's Neighborhood Pizzeria

**Media In-Kind**

Fox 47  
Post Bulletin

**Non-Profit Partners**

Rochester Public Library

**65th Anniversary Bright Stars Event**  
**featuring Jerry Pinkney**

Mayo Clinic is providing matching funds for donations made at this event

**Author Level \$2,500**



**Page Level \$1,000-1,500**

Alan C. Anderson, CPA  
Dr. Charles Crutchfield Foundation  
Premier Banks

**Muse Level \$500-999**

Alvin E. Benike, Inc.  
US Bank

**Media In-Kind**

Post Bulletin

**In-Kind**

Andy Chafoulias  
AV Logic  
Gillette Pepsi  
Powers Ventures

**Non-Profit Partners**

Rochester Public Library

**Jean Osman's 60th Tutoring Anniversary**  
**Bench Contributors**

Barb and Rich Arens  
Buddy and Christine Atkinson  
Amy and Bobby Basnyat  
Ken and Elaine Bauman  
Trista and Kenneth Blazing  
Sarah Carlson-Wallrath  
Sue and Pat Christenson  
Leanne Drexler  
Jennifer Fisher  
Kay and Dennis Hawley  
Marcia and Burke Henry  
Bonnie and Frank Kottschade  
Bobbi LaRusso  
Colette Miller  
Beth Mundell  
Jeanie Munsterman  
Dorothy and Larry Peterson  
Polly Raatz  
Sharon and Jeff Rome  
Cindy Russell  
Ken and MaryAnn Sahs  
Nancy and John Sears  
Judy Sloan  
Fiona Smith  
Marge and Ron Swee  
Fay Van Vliet  
Sarah Willcutt  
Barbara Zelinske

**Special thanks to Thrivent**  
**Financial for sponsoring our**  
**annual Tutor Appreciation**  
**luncheon on May 04, 2016.**



*Leave a legacy for the next generation of students with dyslexia. Remember the Reading Center's mission in your will. To learn how, contact Sarah Carlson-Wallrath at [scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org](mailto:scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org).*

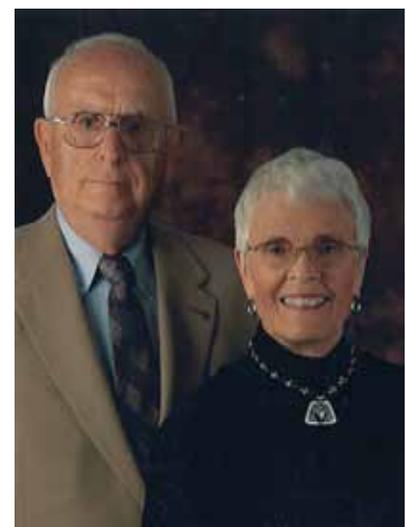
# Donor Spotlight

## The Heppers make a difference for dyslexic students

Dr. Norman and Charmaine Hepper are generous donors, helping the Reading Center meet our mission. The Heppers approached our Executive Director Cindy Russell last year, about the Reading Center's expansion plans and needs. Norm and Char wanted to be a part of our future! They pledged \$50,000 toward scholarships and toward our capacity building plan – to serve 56% more students by 2018. This money will go toward training and hiring more tutors, technology, and scholarships for the additional students we will serve.

Norm of North Dakota, met his bride Char, when they were both working at an Iowa hospital. They married in 1951 (the same year that the Reading Center was founded) and moved to Rochester three weeks later for Norm to begin his fellowship at Mayo Clinic. They remained in Rochester ever since raising their three kids. Norm retired from his work as an Internal Medicine and Pulmonology physician from Mayo in 1990 and they have kept active in retirement – most notably as elementary school volunteers at Riverside Elementary.

Thank you Heppers, for your generosity and your vision!



*The Heppers support the Reading Center's mission to help children with dyslexia to learn to read.*

847 5th Street NW  
 Rochester, MN 55901  
 website: [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org)  
 e-mail: [Read@TheReadingCenter.org](mailto:Read@TheReadingCenter.org)  
**(507) 288-5271**

**Office Hours**  
 Monday through Friday  
 9:00 am to 5:00pm

**Kids Reading  
 Kids Succeeding**  
 •  
**The Reading Center**

**These classes and events are open for registration now at [www.TheReadingCenter.org](http://www.TheReadingCenter.org)**

- |                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>October 3, 2016</b>   | Reading Club Fall Session Starts    |
| <b>October 4, 2016</b>   | Writing Class Fall Session Starts   |
| <b>October 8, 2016</b>   | 3rd Annual Super Hero Dyslexia Dash |
| <b>October 10, 2016</b>  | Adult Dyslexia Panel Discussion     |
| <b>October 18, 2016</b>  | Dyslexia Simulation                 |
| <b>November 13, 2016</b> | Bright Stars Events                 |
| <b>November 17, 2016</b> | Give to the Max Day                 |
| <b>January 19, 2017</b>  | Winter Institute Starts             |

**Save the Date!**

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>November 28, 2017</b> | Reading Club Winter Session Starts |
| <b>January 24, 2017</b>  | Writing Class Starts               |
| <b>January 28, 2017</b>  | Study Skills Class Starts          |

*(Ben Tilson, continued from page 1)*

**Giving Back Makes Ben Feel Alive**

Ben still struggles with reading but feels that his "contributions will not be on paper, but by interacting with others."



One of Ben's sources of inspiration is Simon T. Bailey, a life coach and entrepreneur. Ben has asked himself Simon Bailey's three questions to determine how to reach his full potential. 1. What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail? 2. What would you do if no one paid you to do it? 3. What makes you come alive? Ben says the answer to all of these questions is to give back and **that if he continues to talk about his dyslexia and let people know that you can be successful, have a business and friends, despite the challenges, he will make a difference.**

So despite a full time job running a business with his father and brother, and the multitude of commitments in and around Rochester, Ben is actively giving back to the Reading Center. We are so proud to have him as part of the Reading Center family and we look forward to his growing role with us into the future.