



The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

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Architectural rendering of the new building.

Reading Center Moving to New Building this Fall

Anyone who has been to **The Reading Center** recently knows we are **bursting at the seams in our current 3,000 square foot space**. We have limited parking and limited tutoring space. Our staff use small, shared office spaces or have no space at all. We have a kitchen/conference room that lacks the space and layout to efficiently train adults or hold outreach events.

While an improvement from our basement origins, we are in desperate need of a professional facility to meet our growing needs and the expectations of our students, families, staff and trainees.

In January 2015 we began our capital campaign and by **January 2019 we broke ground on our new 10,000 square foot facility**. We are so excited for what this facility will offer our community.

Moving into our Innovative, Modern and Flexible Space

Picture yourself arriving at the new Reading Center facility in the fall of 2019. Our new 10,000 square foot facility will be more than 3x the size of our current space and be large enough to house all our programs. It is a modern two-story building with natural light entering the multiple common areas.

The Reading Center's name will be in large letters on the side of the building – helping the community gain familiarity with our name and mission. As you approach the building, look down at the engraved pavers to see Reading Center donor messages and names. **You will see some more space behind the building for future growth, a picnic table for staff, trainee and student breaks, and room for a future playground for our younger learners.**

Continued on page 3

2018 Year in Review – We are serving more students than ever in our 70 year history!



Cindy Russell
Executive Director

A portion of our capital campaign included a **three-year budget increase of \$500,000 to build our internal capacity to serve more students** by the time we move into our new building. As we begin 2019, I am happy to report that we have exceeded our goals! **We are reaching more students than ever in our almost 70-year history.**

Across our 1:1 tutoring program, classes, and partnerships, **we reached more than 720 students last year** – a 40% increase over 2017. Our evaluation team added more testing slots, enabling us to screen/test 46% more students than 2017. This helped us to welcome 54 new students to the 1:1 tutoring program. **Our partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club and Rochester Reading Champions enabled us to reach diverse students we have not been able to serve before.**

We are now in the second full year of having an online option for our Basic Orton-Gillingham Training Institute – and hope to launch an advanced online training course by the end of this year. The added training opportunities have driven up our training numbers by 30% over 2016. In the last three years, we added 21 new tutors serving Reading Center students! **And training more tutors to deliver lessons online has led to an increase in online sessions; they now represent more than 1/3 of all 1:1 tutoring sessions.**

Our outreach efforts have increased as well. We now offer a virtual outreach event every fall via Facebook that helps us reach thousands of people beyond Rochester. Our dedicated staff person who handles our intake calls made **contact with almost 350 people last year, answering questions about everything from dyslexia to Orton-Gillingham to programs.** And in case you missed it, our new website launched last year containing information on all our programs and collaborations.

We look forward to an amazing 2019 when we will be able to move all our programming into the new building! I hope to see you all at the Open House.

Unleashed to Succeed \$4.3 million Capital Campaign Near Completion



Brittany Thompson,
Board Chair

When the board of directors approved the strategic plan to begin a capital campaign, we were optimistic that we would be able to fully fund the campaign by the time we entered the new building! I am so pleased to share that we are on track to do just that!

The Reading Center is so fortunate to have received financial support from so many generous donors and supporters. With the entire Rochester legislative delegation's support, the state of Minnesota provided our project with **a grant of \$1.5 million in state bonding dollars.** This key endorsement of our project helped two of our other loyal foundational donors make multi-year pledges to support the campaign – **Mayo Clinic and Otto Bremer Trust.**

With the leadership of our **Capital Campaign co-chairs, Drs. Brooks and Terri Edwards and Joe Powers,** and the support of our campaign volunteers, we spent much of the last two years meeting and sharing information about the project with former board members, staff and tutors (current and past), our many alumni and many more friends. The response was amazing; we are so grateful for your support.

A record-setting \$1 million donation by the Harper Family Foundation this past December left us with less than \$60,000 to raise to have our project fully funded! Entering the new building debt-free means we will not have to dedicate funds to pay off construction debt but rather use our limited funds for scholarships and programs. We are so grateful to all of you who have contributed or pledged to support the capital campaign.

If you have not made a donation or pledge and wish to – you can contact our Development Director, Sarah Carlson-Wallrath at 507-288-5271 or visit our webpage to make a donation, download a pledge form, or learn more about our remaining recognition opportunities. We want YOU on our donor wall!

DID YOU KNOW?

5350 - Total people reached through outreach events

720 - Total students reached throughout all programs and collaborations

20% growth in our 1:1 program since 2015

35% of our tutoring sessions are now online

46% more students tested and screened over last year

30% more adults getting trained each year since adding online option in 2017

350 intake calls about our programs last year

Continued from page 1

You drive up our circle driveway passing ample parking spaces and allowing for our students to safely enter and exit the building. When you enter the building you will see our reception area with natural light and a comfortable space for students and parents to wait for sessions.

On the first floor, we will have a spacious conference room with the ability to seat 60 people in rows of chairs for an outreach event or tutor meetings, or 30 trainees at tables for Orton-Gillingham Training institutes. A separate kitchen will be off to the side for staff and trainees to make a cup of coffee or heat up lunch without disrupting those in the conference room.

Four dedicated rooms on the first floor are large enough to use as tutoring, testing or practicum rooms for our trainees. Toward the back will be a large area for staff to have their own work stations in an open, collaborative office plan environment.

Upstairs, there will be 5 more testing/tutoring rooms, a dedicated room for our 4-6 year old Reading Club students, and two medium classrooms. Basked in natural light, tutors and parents will find our new library as a resource; and there will be plenty of space for storage of materials and student files.

As you walk through the building, students will see **photographs of accomplished dyslexics in our Hall of Heroes** providing inspiration for their future, despite the difficulties they are experiencing now.

Our tutors will be able to store their lesson materials in tutor lockers, eliminating the need for them to haul materials back and forth. Informal meeting spaces will exist throughout the building for tutors to plan lessons between students or meet a colleague.

With the growth of our online programs, the building will be more technologically capable than our current space. The training and tutoring spaces will be built to contain sound and will have video and WIFI equipment to enable users to be online for training and tutoring sessions.



Top: Capital Campaign Co-Chairs with Reading Center students at our September 2018 Groundbreaking. Middle: Foundation and support beams went up at the new site in January/February 2019. Bottom: Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Dr. Brooks Edwards, Dr. Terri Edwards and Joe Powers after the land purchase in winter 2018.

Due to state bonding requirements, the building will be energy efficient, even sporting solar panels on the roof!

Programming can return to The Reading Center

One of the best parts of the new facility will be the collaborations that can take place inside our walls. **Our tutor professional development opportunities can move back to our building. Tutoring sessions that have been offsite can return – allowing more opportunities for students and tutors to interact with each other.**

While we thank the many churches and nonprofits that have lent us space over the years, we will be happy to move our summer school, reading club and adult education courses back under one roof!

Move in Fall 2019

Construction will be completed this summer and we hope to move in late summer/early fall. Stay tuned for details on our open house. **We cannot wait to show you what we have all been working toward – a facility that will be a place of pride for both those that work in the building and the families we serve.**

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Harper Family Foundation grants \$1 million to Reading Center's Capital Campaign!

Late last year, The Reading Center received the largest gift in our history from the Harper Family Foundation. The \$1 million gift was received in December 2018 and, when built, will be recognized with a sign on our new building: The Reading Center, Harper Family Building.

Foundation Chairman and Rochester physician, Dr. Mike Harper, was approached by two successful Reading Center alumni about our capital campaign – Dr. Brooks Edwards and local businessman Joe Powers. Following the introduction, Reading Center Executive Director Cindy Russell was invited to present to the Harper Family Foundation Trustees about our mission and capital campaign.

The Harper Family Foundation likes to give to educational causes. Dr. Harper says The Reading Center's mission to "give people the skills they need to succeed" resonated with him and the other trustees.



Dr. Mike and Mary Harper, their children and grandchildren.

The foundation was founded in Omaha, Nebraska in 1992 by Dr. Harper's father and mother, Dr. Charles and Joan Harper. Over the past twenty-seven years, the Harper Family Foundation has given \$75 million in grants to charitable causes.

Control of the foundation has remained in the family; and now Mike Harper and his three sisters, their spouses and children, make decisions about which charitable causes to support.

Thank you Harper Family Foundation for this transformational gift!

Thank you and best wishes to Barb Arens and John Sears

Two people, a long-serving staff member and a volunteer will not be moving with us to the new building. **Administrative Assistant Barb Arens** has been the friendly face greeting students and trainees at our front desk since 2001. She will be retiring in March. **John Sears**, husband of former Executive Director Nancy Sears, has been serving as our volunteer IT professional for the last 20 years. **We thank them both for their service – and best wishes!**



John Sears



Barb Arens

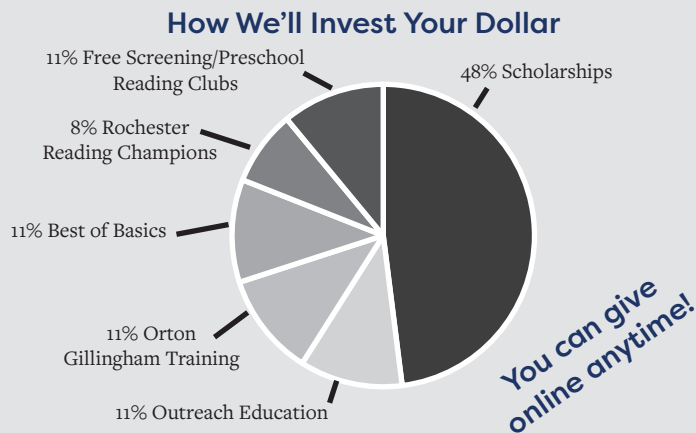
Become a member of the Paula Rome Legacy Society by naming The Reading Center in your will. If you notify us of your designation, we will include your name as being a member of the society.

2019 Bright Futures Campaign We need you to ensure that scholarships and tutors are there for students in need!

Help a child reach his or her potential one lesson at a time through the **2019 Bright Futures Campaign**. Last year, thanks to donors, The Reading Center provided more than \$50,000 in scholarships to families that could not afford Orton-Gillingham tutoring.

Thanks to the **Rochester Scottish Rite Children's Foundation**, we have **\$10,000 in matching funds available to double your donation**. Even if you do not pay on your pledge until the end of December, any pledges received during the Bright Futures Campaign will be matched, first come, first served while the matching funds last!

Funds raised during the Bright Futures Campaign **provide scholarships for children whose parents are unable to afford testing and tutoring and to underwrite our Training Institutes and Best of Basics**. It's all about making sure that children have confidence in themselves and can read. Children with dyslexia deserve a Bright Future.



Student Classes

Best of Basics – a good summer option for all students!

Our 25th annual Best of Basics **Summer Program** helps students in a way that a regular summer school cannot. We welcome students - those with learning and attention difficulties, as well as those looking to prevent the summer slide. Our small group classes and one-on-one options focus on building skills using the multi-sensory, Orton-Gillingham Approach.

Students from pre-K to 12th grade can start the next school year with a boost to their skills. Our 25th annual Best of Basics will be held from **July 11 to August 2**. Choose from small group classes or one-on-one options focusing on reading, math, study skills and writing. **Some options are even available online!**

Registration is open now! For a full listing of Best of Basics Summer Program classes and registration information, please go to www.TheReadingCenter.org



Professional Development Classes

The Reading Center has developed several tiers of professional support for adults wanting to help struggling students. Registration is available on our website.

New to Dyslexia? Take our new **Dyslexia 101** for the Classroom Educator online course. This is a **5-hour class** that covers the basics of what a classroom educator should know about dyslexia.

Now Enrolling
July Class!

Ready for More Training? We offer our **Basic Orton-Gillingham Training Institute** three times a year online and twice per year in Rochester. This 120-hour course provides in-depth training on the structure of the English language and the Orton-Gillingham approach. It includes a practicum component to fine-tune your skills on real students with Master Teacher supervision. Scholarships and tuition reimbursements are available.

Our **Advanced Orton-Gillingham Training Institute** is offered once per year during June in Rochester and is being developed for online training. Successful graduates of this program are able to work with students in 6th grade through adult. To enroll, you must have six months of practice between Basic Training and the start of Advanced.

Now Enrolling
June Class!

Are you a Graduate of our Basic or Advanced Training Program? Your professional development opportunities do not end when your training ends. We have a 90-day online **Refresher Course** that you can take to refresh your skills. This is ideal for someone who has taken a break from teaching using Orton-Gillingham in their classroom or practice. Gain access to online training videos and more. Register on our website.

Do you want even more support?

Become a Professional Member of The Reading Center. Gain access to training videos and lesson planning documents, the opportunity to consult with Academy Accredited Master Teachers, and the opportunity to log on to monthly professional development meetings with the option to join small group discussions with fellow tutors.

Newsletter Donor List

August 11, 2018 – December 31, 2018

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 at scarlsonwallrath@thereadingcenter.org.

If you would like to make a contribution, please use our secure online server at www.TheReadingCenter.org, contact us at 507-288-5271, or use the enclosed envelope.

Paula Rome Legacy Society those honoring The Reading Center with a planned gift

Kevin Kvale
Tony Love
Leone & Thomas Mauszycki
Joe Powers
Lois Saxton
Marguerite K. Smith
Erik and Eileen Thorpe
Bruce Wolfson

\$1,000,000

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\$25,000 and Up

Mayo Clinic *
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Allegra

Rochester Post Bulletin

Quarry Hill

Dyslexia Dash 2018

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\$500



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Gingerbread House

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Post Bulletin

Pasquale's Neighborhood Pizzeria

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Rochester Public Library

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‡ Our monthly sustaining donors

^ Donations given through Thrivent Financial

Choice Dollars

∞ Donations given through United Way Olmsted County

• Donations given to Dr. Terri Edwards Scholarship Fund

◇ Donations given through IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign





The Reading Center

DYSLEXIA INSTITUTE OF MN

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to fund Scholarships
and Programs
Ends May 30

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Orton-Gillingham
Institute
JULY 11 - AUGUST 1

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

Reading Center
Spring Open House
APRIL 29

Advanced Summer
Orton-Gillingham
Institute
JUNE 13-27

Best of Basic
Summer Program
for Students
JULY 8 - AUGUST 2