



Stern Center
for Language and Learning

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2024

Annual Report |



**“Thank you
for teaching
me about
words.”**

– Dominic, age 5
Lamoille County Early Learning Center



Our Impact This Year



10,745+
HOURS OF STUDENT
SERVICES

180K
INCOME-BASED
AID TO FAMILIES

400+
SCHOOLS
SUPPORTED



124K
GRANTS TO
TEACHERS/SCHOOLS

110+
COURSES &
WORKSHOPS
FOR EDUCATORS

2,200+
TEACHERS & STUDENTS
SERVED



1,800+
TEACHERS
SERVED

President's Message

Laurie Quinn, Ph.D.



LEARNING IS A RENEWABLE RESOURCE.

Once a child knows how to learn, that capability continues to appreciate, growing year over year from initial investments of hope and caring. There are thousands of ways that the Stern Center nurtures learning in the course of each busy year, and every

fall this Annual Report collects highlights of how our work together continues to reap a harvest that nourishes individuals and lifts communities.

The learning confidence and capability we foster changes lives well beyond school years, as it develops into meaningful employment, the ability to help one's own kids, and the chance to give back to the community. For the many teachers pursuing their professional learning with us, evidence-based knowledge that is classroom-ready brings gains for every child, renews professional purpose, and amplifies impact across a career.

Without the confidence that success in learning brings, prospects grow bleak. For youngsters whose path to success is blocked by undiagnosed difficulties or who need targeted help, withdrawal or aggression in school, isolation, self-doubt, and shame; mental health struggles or juvenile justice involvement sometimes follow all too quickly from learning hardships. The Stern Center is a family and community safety net against these scenarios, here in Vermont and nationally. This year alone, hundreds of Stern Center students kindled their individual intelligence, creativity, and potential, illuminating a more promising future. Nearly two

thousand teachers expanded their ability to teach to all learners successfully at a time when there are more students in need than ever, and making a lasting difference as an educator can feel like an uphill climb.

There is so much more to do to include every person who needs the Stern Center today and to prepare to serve every family who will look to us tomorrow. Thanks to our generous donors, we are pursuing expansion of much-needed income-based financial assistance for families, targeting more funds to meet critical needs than ever before. We're thankful to find that our supporters readily see that investing in learning yields both immediate and longer-term gains, through individual student breakthroughs as well as stronger families, schools, and communities. Giving to the Stern Center makes life-changing stories possible.

Our state, nation, and the wider world surely have a vast number of problems to face and opportunities to intervene for the better—with our financial help, with our knowledge, with acts of compassion. All of these matter. And perhaps none of these endures quite like the quiet revolution that takes place through our daily work at the Stern Center, where learning keeps renewing life's purpose, joy, and possibility.

Here's to the choices we make today to invest in the promise of every learner's future.

Social Learning & Speech Therapy

“

I could not ask for a better resource than the Stern Center to help my son continue to grow and learn how to be his best self. The Stern Center truly understands him as a unique person and can explain challenges in a way he can understand with strategies within his reach to implement.

– parent of a Stern Center student

Many of us take for granted that we know how to engage others in conversation, exchange information, and interpret the unwritten rules of social life. Yet all brains aren't alike, and some of us need support for these aspects of learning, working, and living. At the Stern Center, our social learning experts, including special educators, autism specialists, and speech therapists, are committed to helping others connect successfully and meet their communication goals. Through direct teaching, coaching, and hands-on practice, we empower clients to develop the social understanding and communication skills needed to navigate daily life with confidence.

Shaun Stephens (right),
Speech Language Pathologist,
working with a student.



441

Students Served This Year

Evaluation | Instruction | Social Learning & Speech Therapy

“

My son was evaluated [at the Stern Center] and it has been extremely helpful to have such a thorough report from a well-respected place.

– parent of a Stern Center student

Life-Changing Insight

At the Stern Center, our Evaluation team of clinical psychologists, school psychologists, and speech language experts specializes in advanced learning assessments that reveal the unique strengths and areas for development in every individual. We provide true insight, recommending effective and personalized strategies that enhance instruction and promote success in all aspects of life. Clients and families often tell us that the knowledge they gain is life-changing.

We believe that everyone, from young children to adults, deserves the chance to succeed and has the potential to thrive. Our clinical approach is ethical and thorough, benefiting from decades of combined experience and a nuanced understanding of how learning profiles, strengths, and challenges are as unique as each person.



“I'm dedicated to ensuring that the teaching of reading here in Vermont reflects the science because I want to prevent the social-emotional toll of reading failure. My work as a Stern Center Evaluator and licensed school psychologist motivates me to identify accurately and compassionately the reading difficulties that bring children and families to our team, and help all learners succeed through effective, inclusive classroom instruction.”

– Abby Roy, Evaluator





“

Her perseverance has grown significantly, and she now embraces challenges rather than giving up.

Emily Peden, parent of a Stern Center student

When Confidence Becomes Success

A Family's Story

Discovering our child's dyslexia in winter of 2020 was pivotal for our family. Finding the Stern Center in summer of 2021 had a profoundly positive impact on her academic journey and personal growth.

When we first learned about our child's dyslexia, she needed immediate support before entering 4th grade. The Stern Center provided the specialized help she needed.... She enjoyed her virtual tutoring so much that we continued into the fall and switched to hybrid sessions last year. She bonded deeply with her tutor.... Her perseverance has grown significantly, and she now embraces challenges rather than giving up. Writing letters and postcards has helped her practice, and her knowledge of English nuances has deepened. She often surprises us with insights, like when we play Wordle together.

We're profoundly grateful for the Stern Center's support and look forward to our daughter's continued growth. The Stern Center has empowered her to embrace her dyslexia and thrive.

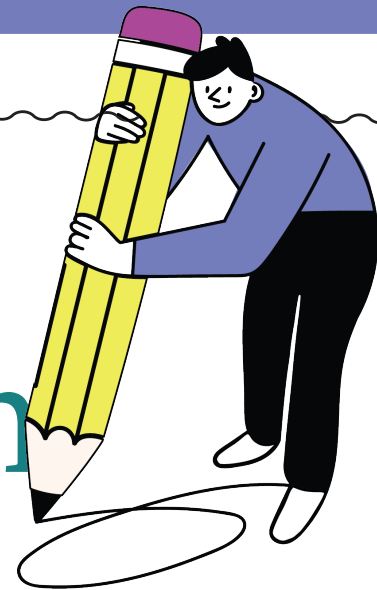
PICTURED TOP LEFT:
Evelyn (left) and Emily (right) Peden





“Janna’s expert instruction and in-classroom modeling empowered our teachers to confidently implement new pre-literacy strategies. This approach...ensured that each child received instruction based on precise developmental assessments. The partnership with the Stern Center has been invaluable.”

– Christy Swenson, Director of Capstone Head Start



Building Strong Kindergarten Foundations

In the heart of Vermont, a new initiative has begun to transform the educational journey of young children as they prepare to step into kindergarten. Teaming up with early educators who recognize a critical need, this project in collaboration with Head Start deepens preschool teachers’ knowledge while screening young learners to identify the ways their early learning play can target language and learning development for future reading success.

The Stern Center’s **Reading Readiness Check-Up** was devised to follow the hierarchy of skills acquisition outlined in the Common Core State Standards for

kindergarten. The goal is clear: to ensure that all children enter kindergarten playfully interacting with language, knowing their letter sounds, finding joy in learning, and ready to read.

In its first year, the initiative has reached the Capstone Head Start programs in Barre at the Learning Together Center, in Morristown at the Lamoille County Early Learning Center; and at Head Start Collaborative Classrooms in Northfield, Williamstown, and Washington Village.



The Stern Center’s Janna Osman with Head Start early educators.



Hoehl Institute

Teachers as Learners

Why is learning for educators so important to the Stern Center's mission? In short, because teacher knowledge is make-or-break in student success. When children learn in a classroom led by an educator equipped to put research into practice, students thrive, not just for one school year, or for some students, but for all students, and over the many years of a teaching career.

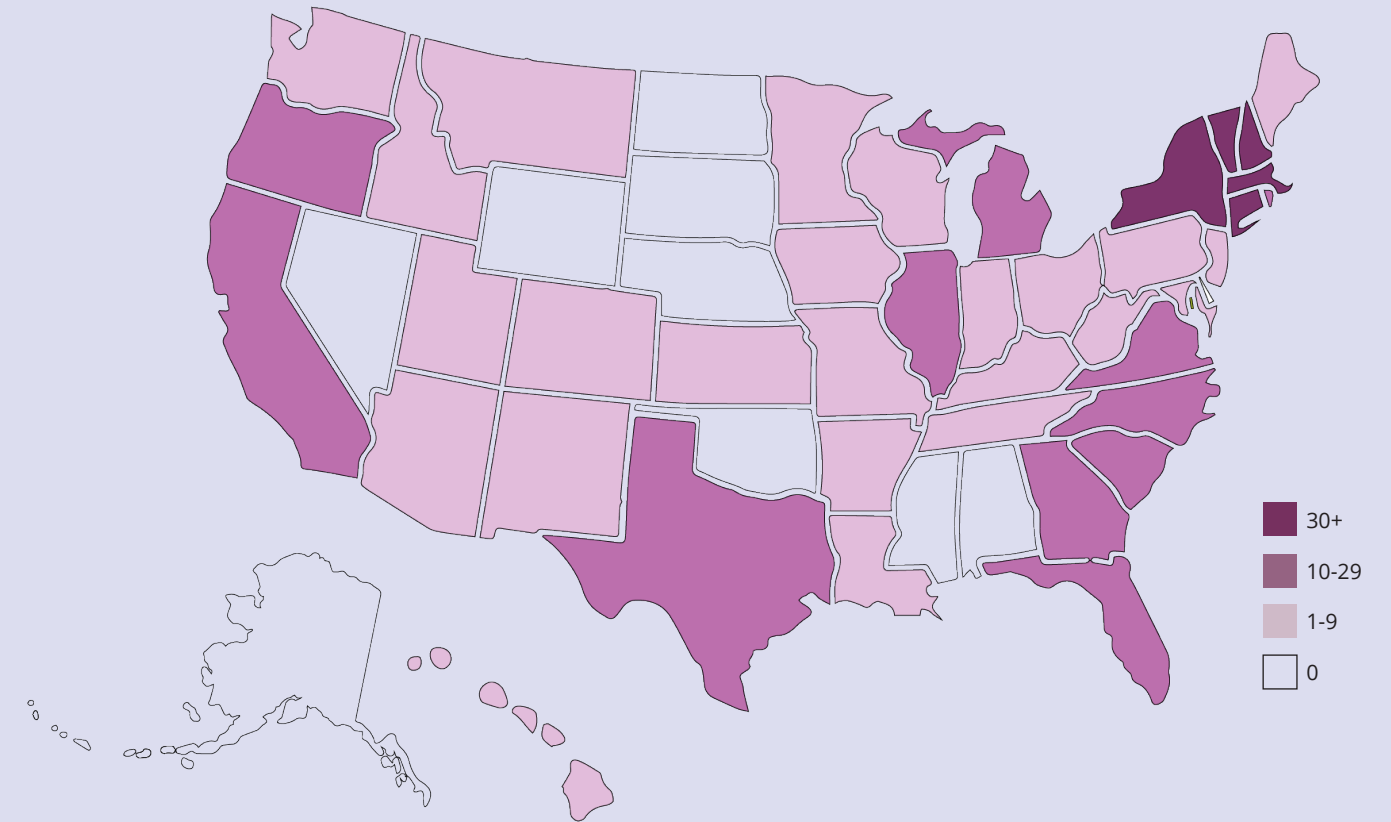
Through the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute, the Stern Center provides crucial support to teachers in Vermont and beyond by offering grants for professional learning. When a teacher is motivated to develop as a professional so they can give their very best, the Hoehl endowment reduces financial barriers to that worthy goal, advancing equity of opportunity in education.

“

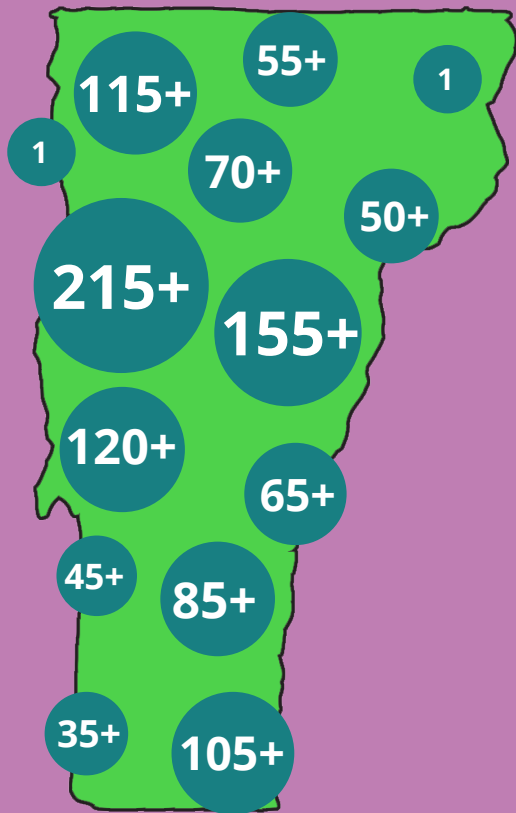
Thank you for helping to provide such rich, empowering, and purposeful experiences for teachers, for maintaining high expectations to achieve this level of practical application, and for providing funding to support teachers like me in low-budget school districts. All of our students deserve high-quality literacy instruction, and that begins with high-quality educators.

- an educator in Barre

Teachers Reached in the United States and Beyond



- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Arizona | Idaho | Massachusetts | New York | Texas | COUNTRIES
Brazil
Canada
Croatia
Jamaica
Malaysia
Mozambique
Philippines
Qatar |
| Arkansas | Illinois | Michigan | North Carolina | Utah | |
| California | Indiana | Minnesota | Ohio | Vermont | |
| Colorado | Iowa | Missouri | Oregon | Virginia | |
| Connecticut | Kansas | Montana | Pennsylvania | Washington | |
| Florida | Louisiana | New Hampshire | Rhode Island | West Virginia | |
| Georgia | Maine | New Jersey | South Carolina | Wisconsin | |
| Hawaii | Maryland | New Mexico | Tennessee | | |



Vermont Teachers Participating in Our Professional Learning

by county, September 2023-August 2024

Addison	120+
Bennington	35+
Caledonia	50+
Chittenden County	215+
Essex	1
Franklin	115+
Grand Isle	1
Lamoille	70+
Orange	65+
Orleans	55+
Rutland	45+
Washington	155+
Windham	105+
Windsor	85+



Vermont

1,158 Educators Served
151 Towns
229 Schools



National/International

1,804 Total Educators Served
39 States
9 Countries



Orton-Gillingham Institute

The Rewards of Empowered Teaching

The Stern Center's Orton-Gillingham Institute has been at the forefront of educational empowerment, offering extensive coursework and practicum experiences for educators alongside groundbreaking reading initiatives tailored for schools and districts. Led by Director Peggy Price and Assistant Director Amy Ducey, both Fellows of the national Orton-Gillingham Academy, along with their dedicated team, the Institute advances reading equity in the classroom by imparting strategies and techniques that even seasoned master's-educated teachers may not have encountered. Their dedicated efforts turn reading teachers into literacy champions, build community among educators, and change outcomes for children.



**Amy Ducey, M.Ed., F/OGA,
Our Assistant Director**

AMY IS A PASSIONATE EDUCATOR with a deep commitment to literacy and reading development. After earning her degree in Elementary Education and a Reading Specialist endorsement, Amy initially felt ill-equipped to teach reading, especially for students with dyslexia. This experience led her to pursue further training in the Orton-Gillingham (OG) Approach through the Stern Center, and she became a certified expert. Recently named a Fellow of the prestigious national OG Academy, Amy helps transform classrooms by providing structured literacy tools to teachers. Her dedication to this work extends beyond the classroom, creating impact that ensures students and educators alike experience life-changing success.

“

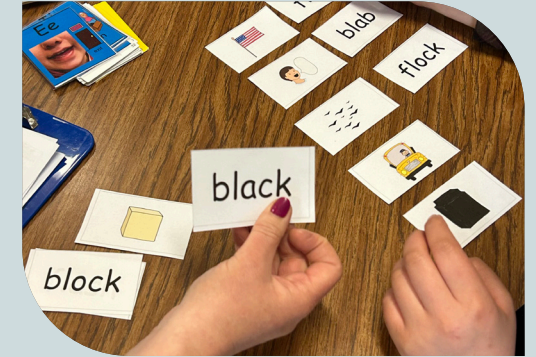
—MONTREAL, QC—

Transformational is the word that best describes the impact the Stern Center OG training had on me. Not only for my practice, but for our school, which is a bilingual French and English curriculum. This is the only approach I have seen that transfers between the two languages.

— **Patricia Harries**
Head of Student Support,
private bilingual elementary school
in Montreal

A Teacher's Success: Meet Erika Monaghan

Erika, an English Language Teacher, uses the Orton-Gillingham (OG) Approach to effectively teach English as a second language. OG helps students with diverse needs, regardless of their language background. Erika reports that her training has led to significant improvements in her students' reading and writing.



OG training has equipped me with the knowledge to effectively teach students who struggle with reading in English. It helps me determine where to start instruction and what to focus on, considering the structure of their native language and their literacy in it.

— Erika Monaghan, English Language Teacher for Multilingual Learners at the Shelburne Community School





A Visionary Philanthropist:

Sinclair Sherrill's Commitment to Advancing Literacy with the Stern Center

SINCLAIR SHERRILL is the co-founder with Sebastian Scripps of Boon, a nationwide education nonprofit. A seasoned nonprofit leader and consultant with over forty years of grant making, fundraising, and board governance experience, Mr. Sherrill became associated with the Stern Center in 2011 through his focus on helping to solve the reading crisis in the U.S. Since then, he has become a steadfast philanthropic partner with the Stern Center, helping raise nearly \$1M to support our shared mission.

In 2018, Mr. Sherrill established Boon Philanthropy with the specific goal of identifying and implementing comprehensive philanthropic solutions to reduce the inequities in America's reading crisis by raising and distributing private funding for individual teacher training scholarships and free tutoring for low income and minority students in structured literacy, grounded in the science of reading. For decades, Mr. Sherrill has been a director and grant maker at a family foundation supporting fields such as education, literacy, and learning disabilities. He received his BA at Harvard University, and a juris doctorate from the University of Puget Sound/Seattle University School of Law. He is an honorary member of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As Stern Center President Laurie Quinn describes it, "The Stern Center's partnership with Sinclair Sherrill has affirmed our purpose, broadened our reach, and strengthened our organization. He continues to be a treasured friend to our mission."



“

I've worked with hundreds of nonprofit organizations across a wide range of sectors, and I have never seen one more responsible, more accountable, more effective as stewards, or more complete partners than the Stern Center.

– Sinclair Sherrill

Generosity & Gratitude

Visionary Circle

\$100,000 & Up

Peter and Margie Stern & The Morris & Bessie Altman Foundation*
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Founders Circle

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\$10,000–\$24,999

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Carol and George Terwilliger
Barbara and Ed Wilson
Matthew Zahn

\$500–\$999

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David Usher
Tim and Julie Van Voris
Constance and Lawrence Walsh

\$250–\$499

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Andrea B. Rogers
Stephen Scheu
Roberta, Richard & Tracy Stein
Scott B. Yeager and Christine L. Packard
Elaine Zembko

\$100–\$249

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Michael and Marion Abajian
Saul and Kathy Agel
Sage Bagnato
Tanya Benosky
Gerri and Sam Bloomberg
Gloria Boucher

We thank all those who made gifts in support of every learner. If we have inadvertently omitted any names, we apologize and ask you to contact us with the correction. This listing includes donations and pledges received during FY24: September 1, 2023–August 31, 2024. Multi-year pledges are marked * and planned bequests are marked ♦.



Brown Masonry, LLC
 Peter Brusman
 Peter and Jane Burroughs
 Alden Cadwell
 Karen Cannon
 Michael and June Carrera
 David and Cathleen Cohen
 H. Lynne Collins
 Paula and PM Costello
 Brian and Sherrill Crabtree
 Phyllis Crews
 Samuel and Anne Dixon
 Patricia Dombrowski
 James and Dorothy Douglas
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 Sally Fenix
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 Maureen and Jack Webb
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Gifts in Memory of

*The names of those being remembered appear in **BOLD** letters and are followed by the names of those who made the gifts. This listing includes donations received September 1, 2023 thru August 31, 2024.*

Leslie Watson Botjer

Robert Botjer
 Ryan Botjer

Ann K. Cenci

American Online Giving
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 Tanya Benosky
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Jean Foss

Donald and Suzanne Foss

Iris Gardner

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 Gardner-Morse

Murray Goldsmith

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Pat Greene

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 Milton and Carolyn Frye
 Giuliana Robertson

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 Julie Erdelyi
 David and Margaret Gelinias
 Robert Golin and Sheryl
 Andreas Golin
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 Samuel Hoar, Jr.

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Robin and Randy Bertrand
 Tim Burke & Laurie Caswell
 Burke
 Julie Erdelyi

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Michael Allen

Ed and Brynn Kusiak

Sandra B. Boyer

Sally Conant

Laurie Caswell Burke

Evelyn Pratt Hoar and Samuel
 Hoar, Jr.

Kusiak Family

Ed and Brynn Kusiak

Clara Peterson

Garth Peterson

Blanche R. Podhajski

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 Golin
 Kenneth Kreiling Esq
 Bud Meyers and Ruth Farrell

Louis B. Polish, M.D.

Deborah Schapiro

Luca & Stern Center for Language and Learning Instructors

Megan and Wayne
 Munson-Warnken

Retirement Wishes to Laurie Caswell-Burke



Laurie showed unfailing dedication to the Stern Center for Language and Learning in her 20 years of service on our development

team. A consummate friend-raiser and ever-passionate champion of our mission, Laurie's tireless efforts helped secure the resources we and our clients rely upon, and fostered the community engagement that continues to be our inspiration. Her determination has enabled us to support countless individuals in their learning journeys. The Stern Center is grateful for Laurie Caswell Burke's service, and proud to celebrate her lasting legacy as she begins her retirement.

Neil Mintz

Gerry and Peggy Shapiro

Laurie Quinn

Shelley Richardson

Peter and Margie Stern

Michael and Marjorie Stern

Ed Wilkens

Julie Cadwallader Staub
 Kimberly Hornung-Marcy and
 Theodore Marcy
 Michael and Mary Scollins
 Marissa and Jackson
 Strayer-Benton

Adam Wing

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 John Hawkins
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 Jon and Jennifer Pizzagalli
 Sarah Puretz and Steve
 Barkyoumb
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 Parker Shenk

Woodworth Family

Stephen Scheu

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Because Learning Endures

Named scholarships are vital to increasing access to income-based financial assistance for services at the Stern Center. Our gratitude to all whose generosity supports equal opportunity for learners.

Michael Allen Scholarship
Charles Bartlett Scholarship*
Eileen Bonner Botjer Memorial Scholarship*
Leslie Watson Botjer Memorial Scholarship*
Ann and Gene Cenci Scholarship*
John Connell Scholarship*
Ursula Crews Memorial Scholarship*
T. Peter Doremus Jr. Memorial Scholarship*
Friends of the Stern Center
Endowed Scholarship*
Pat Greene Memorial Scholarship*
Sarah Gray Gund Memorial Scholarship*
William Cameron Hagedorn
Memorial Scholarship*
Katie Doremus Halsey Scholarship*
Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute Scholarship*

Kusiak Family Scholarship
Joan and Herbert L. Martin, M.D.
Memorial Scholarship*
Podhajski Family Scholarship*
Lou Polish Scholarship*
Paul Post Memorial Scholarship
Eleanor "Chris" Pratt
Memorial Scholarship
Humbert L. Riva, M.D.
Memorial Scholarship*
Neil Shapiro Memorial Scholarship*
Smallwood Family Scholarship*
Paul Toomey Memorial Scholarship

**Indicates an endowed scholarship. Endowed funds honoring a loved one are awarded annually in perpetuity after a minimum gift investment.*



Ken Kreiling

Ken Kreiling (1941 - 2024)

Ken was an ardent and generous supporter of his wife Blanche Podhajski and this organization she founded. He was an enthusiastic cheerleader for all dimensions of the Stern Center with a special passion for our scholarship program to which he was a loyal and significant donor. Blanche's partner and confidant, Ken's thoughtful, erudite contributions and enduring dedication left his mark on the Stern Center and future generations of learners through his especially generous philanthropy including establishing the Podhajski Family Scholarship Endowment.



Haviland Smith, Jr.

Haviland Smith, Jr. (1929-2024)

Hav was a loyal, dedicated supporter of the Stern Center for decades. He spent his career serving as a field officer in the CIA before retiring and settling with Dolores in Vermont, where they made their home until relocating to CT to be near family. Along with his wife Dolores (a former Board member, longtime member of the Scholarship Committee, and co-leader of the Friends of the Stern Center), Hav shared a personal and enduring appreciation for our mission and work. His wit, intelligence, and keen sense of people enlivened many Stern Center gatherings and events over the years.



Barry Stone

Barry Stone (1935-2024)

Barry was a distinguished past Board member at the Stern Center, serving 1997-2002, 1999-2001 as Chair, and as Honorary Board Member thereafter. Barry brought his trademark charm, charisma, and high energy to every aspect of his engagement with the Stern Center. His most special, personal investment was in choosing to partner with the Stern Center for the Jeff Stone Memorial Tennis Tournament honoring his son Jeff. That partnership raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Stern Center Scholarships through the Tournament's 25th year.



Lili Ruane

Lili Ruane (1959-2024)

The Stern Center celebrates with gratitude the life of Elizabeth "Lili" Arnold Ruane, whose Four Angels Fund, named in honor of her daughters, supported our work for many years. May her generous and joyful spirit continue to inspire all who knew and loved Lili.

In Loving Memory



Ann Cenci

Ann Cenci (1942-2024)

Ann, along with her husband Gene, was a decades-long supporter of the Stern Center. First brought to the Stern Center by the promise of instructional help for her son, Ann quickly became a dedicated member of the Friends of the Stern Center and a powerful, engaging ambassador for our mission. Ann's spirited, enthusiastic style brought energy and good humor to every project and event. Her tireless advocacy helped raise funds for scholarships. At her passing, Gene fulfilled her dedication by establishing the Ann and Gene Cenci Scholarship Endowment.

“

The Stern Center for Language and Learning became our lifeline, a beacon of hope in what had once seemed like an endless sea of frustration and uncertainty....

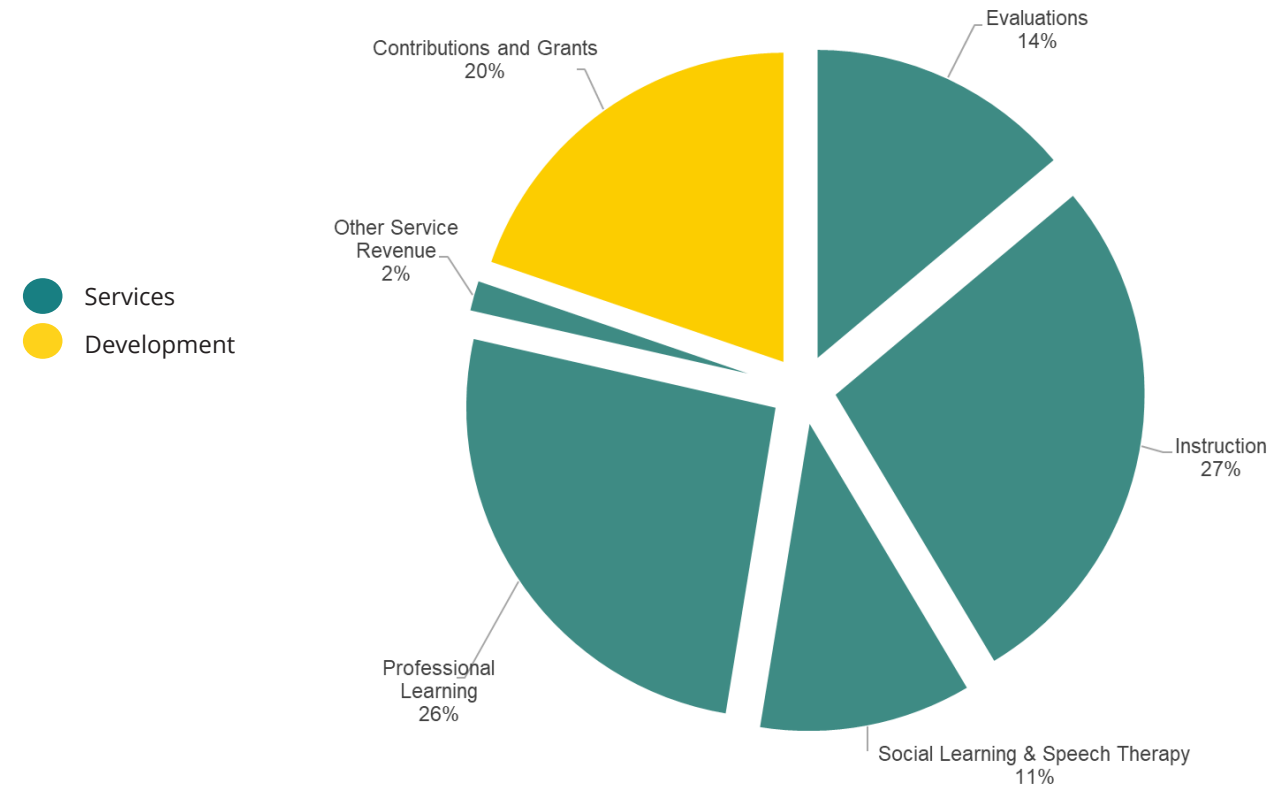
We dedicated countless hours and boundless energy to fundraisers and events aimed at giving back to the very place that had given so much to our family.

– Cenci Family

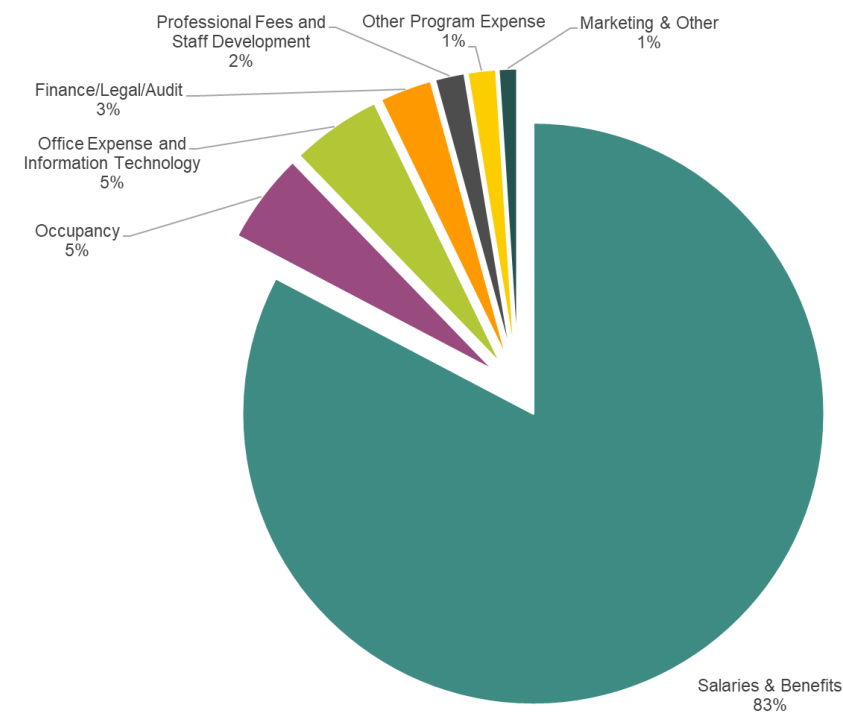


Financials

Revenue by Type



Expenses by Type



Statement of Revenue and Expenditures *

All funds for the 12 months ended August 31, 2024

	Unrestricted & Scholarship Funds	Temporarily Restricted Funds	Permanently Restricted Funds	Total
Revenue				
Evaluations	577,765	-	-	577,765
Instruction	1,143,981	-	-	1,143,981
Social Learning & Speech Therapy	462,985	-	-	462,985
Professional Learning	1,079,507	-	-	1,079,507
Other Service Revenue	69,955	-	-	69,955
Subtotal Services	\$3,334,193	-	-	\$3,334,193
Income Based Assistance	(179,379)	-	-	(179,379)
Services Funded by Grants and Hoehl Endowment	-	(186,912)	-	(186,912)
Contributions and Grants	320,327	297,250	203,311	820,888
Other Income	41,816	970,457	-	1,012,273
Discounts	(30,353)	-	-	(30,353)
Reallocations from Restricted Funds for Operations	461,753	(461,753)	-	-
Transfers From Endowment Earnings for Operations & Accessibility	117,000	(117,000)	-	-
Total Revenue	\$4,065,357	\$502,042	\$203,311	\$4,770,711
Expenses				
Salaries and Wages	2,949,912	-	-	2,949,912
Benefits	573,547	-	-	573,547
Occupancy	215,552	-	-	215,552
Office Expense and Information Technology	212,557	2,198	-	214,755
Finance/Legal/Audit	81,137	43,303	-	124,439
Professional Fees and Staff Development	70,756	-	-	70,756
Other Program Expense	67,380	-	-	67,380
Marketing	23,939	-	-	23,939
Travel	14,043	1,020	-	15,063
Miscellaneous	4,876	-	-	4,876
Total Expenses	4,213,699	46,520	0	4,260,219
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	(148,342)	455,523	203,311	510,491

*All figures represent unaudited financial results.

Net Cash from Operations	
Net from above	(\$148,342)
Depreciation and Amortization	\$116,959
Net Cash Flow from Operations	(\$31,383)
Capital Expenditures	(\$18,080)
Net Cash from Operations after Capital	(\$49,463)



Creating Impact

We celebrate the service and dedication of our volunteer Board of Directors.



Elaine Pinckney

Educator, Leader, Chair, Champion

Elaine Pinckney's service on the Stern Center Board, most recently as Chair, has built a strong team ethos among Board members that will endure well after her term as Chair concludes in October 2024. Her vast knowledge of education as a retired superintendent, principal, and teacher has guided our organization wisely and well. The Stern Center is stronger thanks to Elaine's many contributions as a Board leader.

Honorary Board

- Peter Stern, M.D.
- Eugene Cenci
- Governor James H. Douglas
- Lewis R. First, M.D.
- John M. Hoehl
- Governor Madeleine Kunin
- Senator Patrick Leahy
- G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D.
- Bud Meyers, Ph.D.
- Jon Pizzagalli
- Blanche Podhajski, Ph.D.
- Eugene E. Richards III
- Deborah Schapiro
- David Stifler, M.D.
- Brian Till, M.D.

Stern Center Board Members



Carrie Alexander
Partner
Isaacson, Miller



Ryan Botjer
Sr. Managing Director
Tishman Speyer



Michael Healy
Managing Partner
IBM



Sarah Healy
SVP of Marketing
Cabot Creamery



Carol Ode, J.D.
Vermont State
Legislator



April O'Dell
AVP of Finance
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Lori Smith
Owner
FIS Consulting



Adam Wing
Chief Revenue Officer
AbleNet, Inc.



Sharon Wood
CEO
Happy People Games



Mathew Zahn, Ph.D.
Senior Economist
Bates White



Laurie Quinn, Ph.D.
President
Stern Center for
Language and Learning

Shared History, National Impact: Meet Dr. Reid Lyon



G. Reid Lyon, Ph.D., was the Stern Center's first research director when Dr. Blanche Podhajski founded the Stern Center in 1983. An Honorary member of the Stern Center Board of Directors, he has remained a supporter. Reid was featured in the award-winning podcast series *Sold a Story* in 2022-23.

Dr. Lyon received his doctorate from the University of New Mexico in neuropsychology and learning disorders, and is a distinguished scientist emeritus of neuroscience and cognition at the University of Texas, Dallas and a distinguished professor emeritus of Educational Leadership and associate dean at Southern Methodist University. He served as chief of the Child Development and Behavior Branch of the NICHD at the National Institutes of Health and was also an advisor to the Clinton and Bush Administrations on the development of evidence-based education policy, contributing to initiatives such as the National Reading Panel and the Reading Excellence Act.

Dr. Lyon has published hundreds of peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and book chapters, and has received numerous recognitions for his work, including the International Dyslexia Association's Samuel Torrey Orton Award for vital contributions to dyslexia research.



The Stern Center has an unparalleled 40-year-plus history of bringing cutting-edge evidence based clinical programs for those who struggle learning to read. As a beacon of educational excellence, families, teachers, and school leaders would do well to look to the Stern Center.

– Reid Lyon, Ph.D.



Legacy for Learning Circle

The *Legacy for Learning Circle* is a generous group of donors who have planned bequests to the Stern Center. Legacy gifts keep the Stern Center strong so we can be there for learners in the years and decades to come.

- Anonymous
- Ted and Joan Braun
- Pamela Clark*
- Megan and Greg Cluver
- Nancy DiVenere
- Sarah Kerlin G. Gund*
- Kenneth Kreiling*
- Joan and Herbert Martin*
- Gordon and Christina Mills*
- Blanche Podhajski Kreiling

- Dolores Podhajski LeConche*
- Charles and Joan Poser*
- Mary and Michael Scollins
- Ann Logie Smallwood*
- Peter and Margie Stern
- Paul Toomey*
- Ed and Jill Wilkens
- Elizabeth Woods
- * Deceased

Please contact Ed Wilkens at ewilkens@sterncenter.org or call (802) 276-8737 to learn more about planned giving options.



*It's an amazing thing
to see the light
come back into your child's eyes.*

– from a parent's thank you note to a Stern Center donor for
support received through our financial assistance fund



Stern Center
for Language and Learning

183 Talcott Road, Williston, Vermont | 05495
sterncenter.org