

Learning



Stern Center
for Language and Learning

for All

Annual Report
September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

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From the heart

I am writing to express my gratitude for your generosity and thoughtful giving. My son is a recipient of your scholarship... Your gift, which allows [our son] to understand himself and achieve his goals, is one of access and one of faith, hope, and vision. Thank you for these gifts and for making sure people like my son have the chance to grow and shine."

— Scholarship recipient's parent

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this first year of my service to the Stern Center as President, the consistency of responses I hear when I share the news of my new professional role has been striking. What I have heard, again and again, is:

I'm not sure whether you know this, but the Stern Center really turned things around for [our child/our grandchild/a young person we care about]. I can't even express to you how much of a difference the Stern Center made. The impact was life-changing.

What an honor to hear firsthand these stories, testimonials to the power of learning to change the course of individual lives, to nurture families, and to enrich communities with a diversity of great minds. For 38 years since our founding by President Emerita Dr. Blanche Podhajski, the Stern Center has been steadily changing the world with one success story after another. In recognition of that legacy of impact, this Annual Report is dedicated to Blanche, with our respect, appreciation, and affection always.

Our Annual Report reflects the belief that Learning for All is essential—not a luxury or an option, but a right. Around the globe, the right to learn, and the hope offered by access to a meaningful education, is still contested, a source of struggle as well as a beacon of hope.

Closer to home, issues of access to learning are compelling and increasingly urgent. Our Vermont fourth graders' proficiency in reading, according to national benchmarks, is 37%, down six percentage points from the prior measure. Disparities of race and socioeconomic status worsen the gaps. Reading fluency correlates positively with increased educational attainment, income potential, career opportunity, and health outcomes. Now more than ever, literacy for all learners is inextricable from a meaningful commitment to equity.

Author and educator David Grant, virtual keynote speaker at last October's Annual Meeting of the Stern Center, notably describes organizations like this one as producing "social profit," distinct from the business sector's primary focus on financial profit. While we earn

sustaining revenue from the expert services and educational programs that we provide to students, families, educators, and schools, we also raise funds from all of you who share our dedication to lowering the cost of those services and programs and to advancing our impact. In fiscal year 2021, we gave away \$256,739 in financial help to those we serve. I am grateful for the generosity that makes Stern Center scholarships possible, and for the visionary focus of the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence on supporting deserving teachers in knowledge-building to succeed with every class, every year.

As the map on page 9 shows, we've reached teachers from 38 states and four countries this year. Our Academic Instruction program and our Social Learning and Communication program each increased services to students by 20%. As you explore the data and stories in these pages, I invite you to hear the voices of our learners and their family members, of teachers, of leaders for learning, and of generous donors, all motivating us to continue to generate social profit by fulfilling the promise of Learning for All.

A world in which everyone is empowered to learn is a world worth working tirelessly to achieve. May these stories point the way to a future in which every learner has the access, the support, the teachers, and the inspiration to bring forth their unique gifts in a world that awaits them.

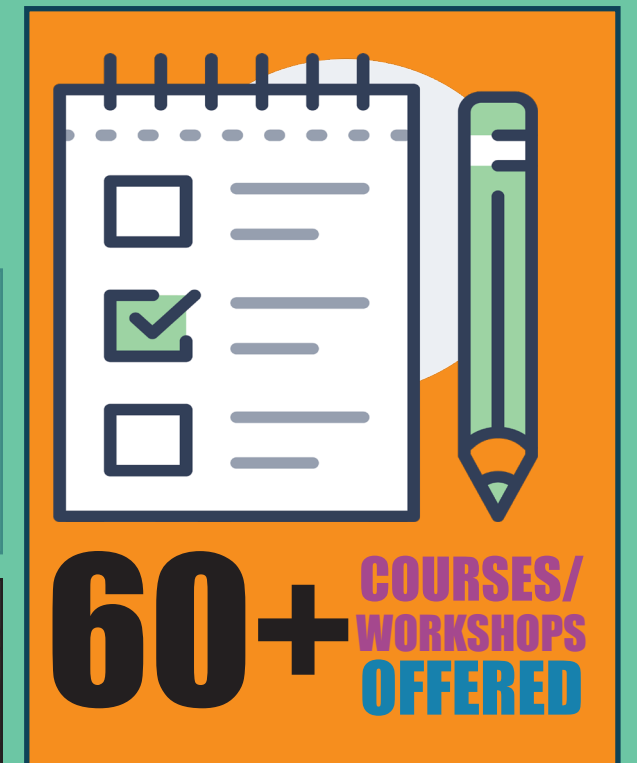
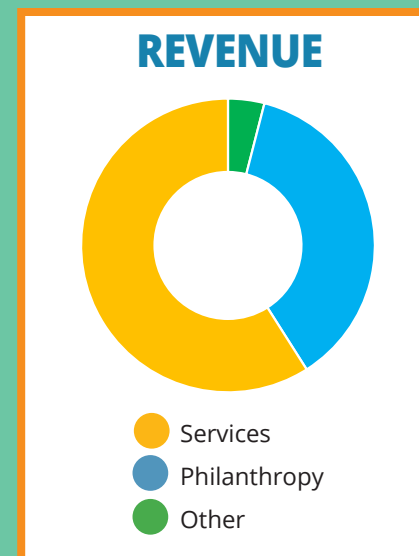
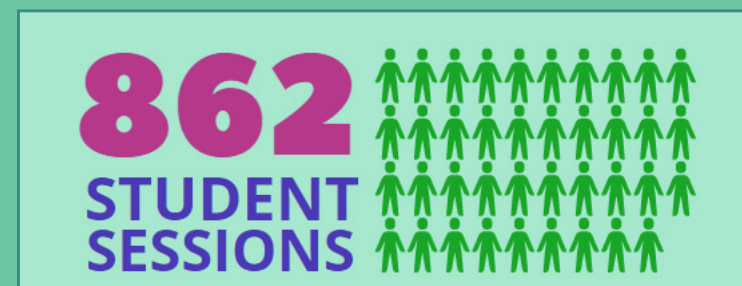
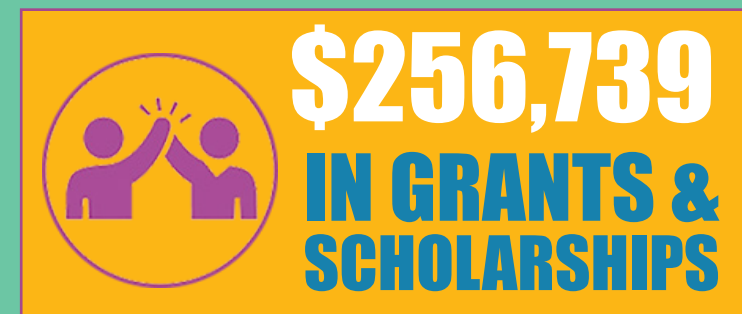
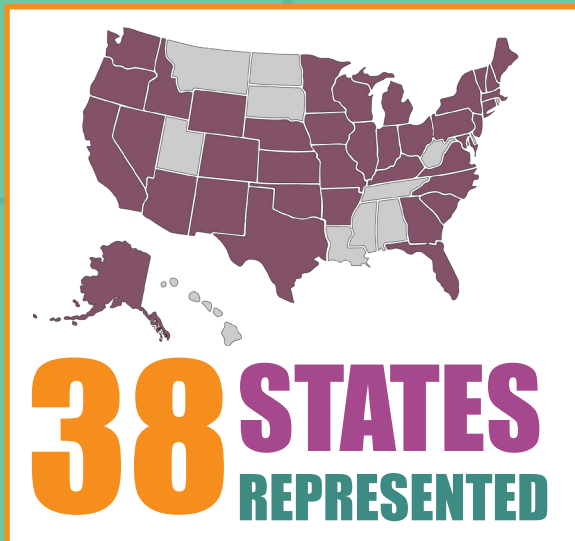
For learning,



Impact at a Glance



239
GRANTS TO
TEACHERS



THE STERN CENTER FOR LANGUAGE AND LEARNING IS A NONPROFIT LEARNING CENTER dedicated to helping children and adults reach their academic, social, and professional goals. Since 1983, we have provided evaluations, social learning programs, and direct instruction for individuals; delivered professional learning for educators; and conducted research on effective educational practices. Today, the Stern Center team provides services to students and delivers professional learning programs to educators nationally and beyond. Through partnerships with schools, institutions of higher education, and other organizations, we expand knowledge, helping all learners meet their full potential.

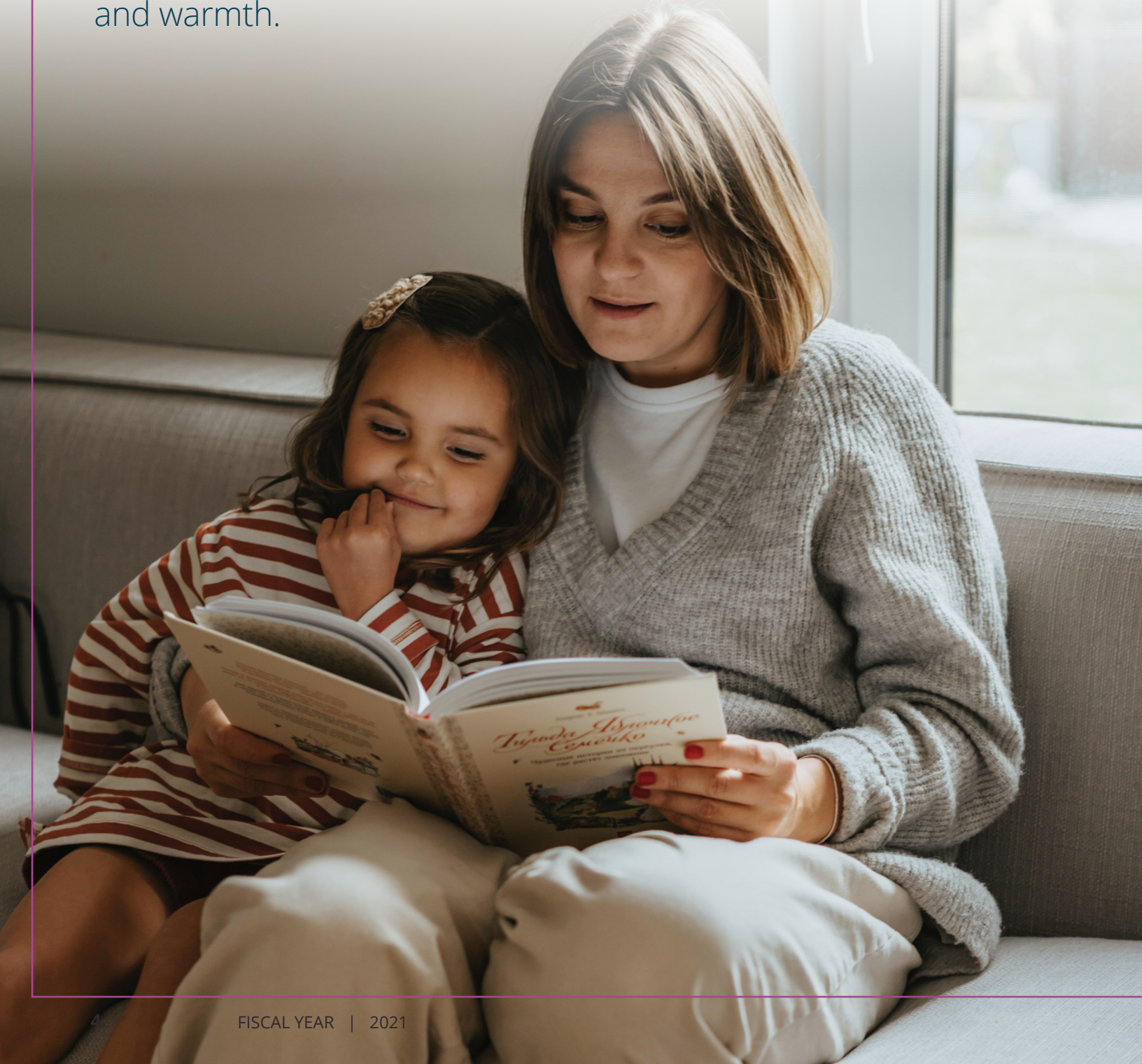
Students & Teachers Served

September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021



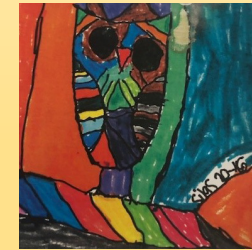
Thriving Learners

When a learner benefits from Stern Center services, the positive impact ripples beyond one life, often helping the whole family. Our expert team builds relationships based on respect, trust, perseverance, and warmth.



Parent Voices

“ [Our son’s] ability to read has improved a lot during his time with the Stern Center. He has an easier time sounding out the words he doesn’t know and his school was very impressed by his advancement in reading.”



“ Thank you so much for the generous scholarship! We are so grateful to be able to have a comprehensive evaluation for [our son]. He has been struggling for many years academically, and having a diagnosis will allow us to get him the help he needs.”

“ We were encouraged by our pediatrician to contact the Stern Center. [Our child] gets excited to work with [the instructor] who explains things in a fun, non-intimidating way. She always feels safe asking questions.”

“ My child has made significant gains in his social skills and is much more communicative and expressive, allowing him to let others know about his wants and needs, as well as helping them have a better understanding of his thoughts and ideas.”



Jodi Martin, M.Ed.
Certified Orton-Gillingham Associate

I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT LITERACY and have devoted my professional life to providing students opportunities to develop skills in, and hopefully increased enjoyment of, reading and writing.

Last week, one of my students here at the Stern Center made an error reading a word. His reaction to his error was laughter. Instead of getting frustrated, hanging his head, or mumbling negative sentiments about himself or the activity, he laughed. The mistake didn't injure him; it entertained him. He had learned that making mistakes was okay and that he was learning how to fix them. He self-corrected his error and read the word accurately on his second try.

The most significant outcome that I see with my students is when they reach a point when they can independently navigate the problem-solving process. They realize that they are capable, which is incredibly empowering.

COMMUNICATION IS ONE OF THE CENTRAL CAPACITIES OF HUMANS, and helping a person develop that capacity feels energizing and life-changing. It is enormously rewarding to see people changing their life circumstances and trajectory because of their improved ability to communicate, self-regulate, understand other people's perspectives, and engage with the world.

One very memorable moment for me was when a young adult client who had been completely nonverbal learned to use an Augmentative Alternative Communication device to speak words, and then phrases after working with the Stern Center. It is an enormous confidence-booster for the students, many of whom have lived with years or decades of being told (directly and indirectly) that they do not belong. They develop the ability to recognize the value of their own thoughts, feelings, and intentions, as well as how to receive that information from others.

Shaun Stephens, M.S.
Certificate of Clinical Competence in
Speech-Language Pathology



Our Teachers Change Lives

Meet Jodi, who teaches in the Stern Center's Instruction program, and Shaun, who teaches in our Social Learning and Communication program.

When Teachers Succeed, Learners Succeed



Grants
Make Quality
Professional
Learning
Affordable

Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence Grant.

My participation in the Stern Center’s course on comprehensive reading and writing evaluations provided me with the research and science on how orthographic knowledge develops in young readers and writers.

As an experienced Reading Recovery Teacher, I understand the importance of effective early teaching. I feel a great deal of urgency to ensure that all students develop the literacy proficiency to engage their agency and sense of social justice...

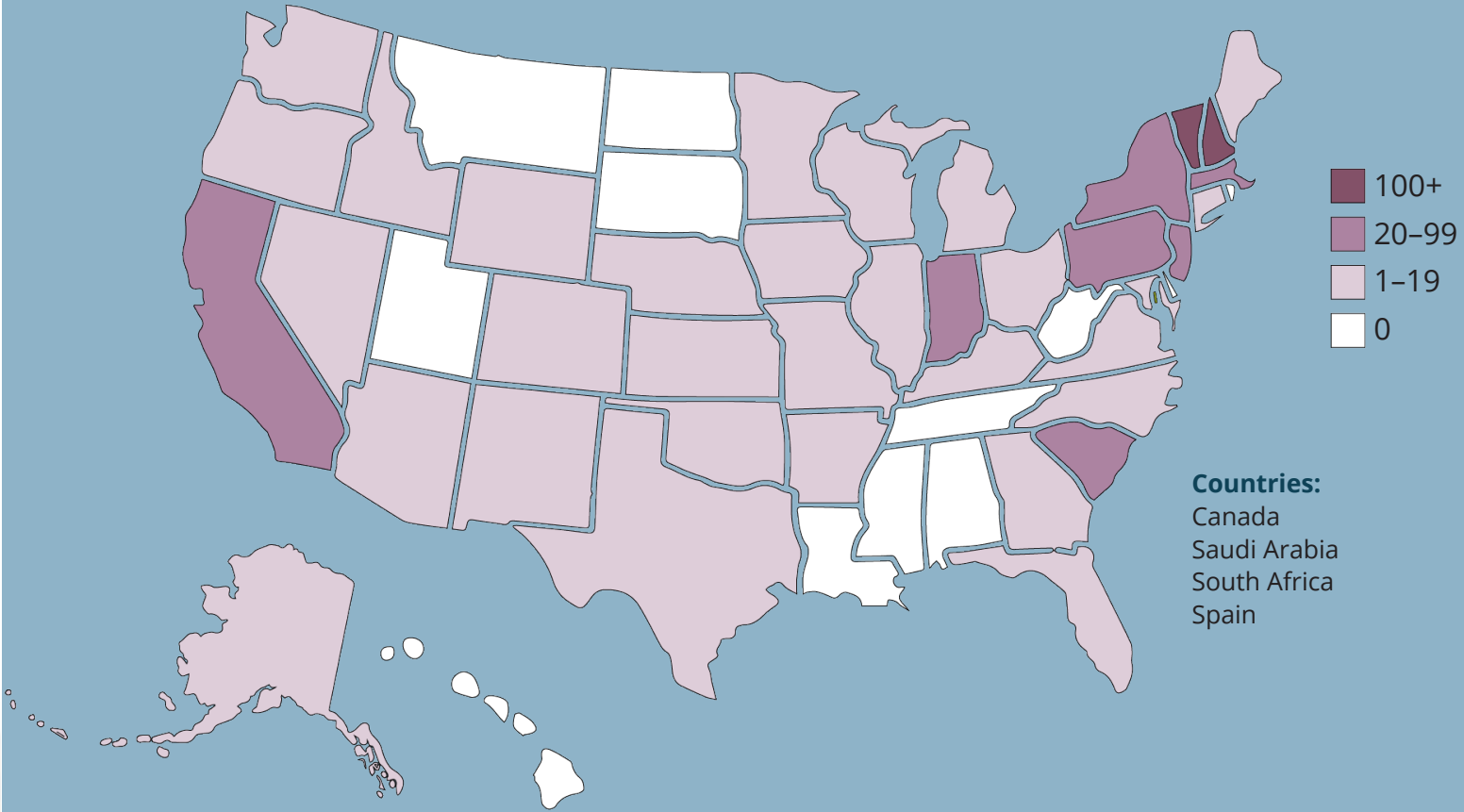
I have a better sense of where the reading and writing process may be breaking down for students, and I will ask specific questions to guide the initial evaluation and analysis process.

Sincerely,

Kristy Ellis, Ed.D.

Recent course participant (pictured at left)

Reaching Teachers in 38 States and 4 Countries



Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence Grants

Each year, the Stern Center makes grants from the Institute’s endowment in keeping with our visionary donor’s intention to support educators and the students they serve. This year, more than \$125,000 from the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence was awarded to school cohorts for professional learning; to teachers pursuing targeted new knowledge; and to learners and families with highly specialized instruction programs.

Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Recipients

	Amounts
Grants to Schools	\$110,579
Grants to Individual Teachers	\$11,889
Special Grants to Learners/Families	\$3,165*
Total	\$125,633

* Please see pages 22-23 for a view of how our Scholarship program further increases access to Stern Center services for students and families.

Shaping the Future



Fellows

Aamani Chava, M.D.
Adult and Child Psychiatry

Kristina Foreman, M.D.
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Erica Marden, M.D.
Child, Adolescent, and Adult Psychiatry

UVM Larner College of Medicine Fellows at the Stern Center



The Stern Center has been a wonderful rotation and I've learned an immense amount about how to assess children for specific learning disabilities as well as neuropsychological testing...This rotation has been extremely helpful, particularly in thinking about ways to help support patients and families in the school and home environment based on differences in learning, working memory, and processing speeds. The staff at Stern Center have been exceedingly kind, welcoming, and motivated to teach, and made the rotation such a positive experience!"

Building Blocks

Building Blocks for Literacy® offers early care and education professionals play-based activities grounded in reading science to help young learners prepare to read. Thanks to Boon Philanthropy, Building Blocks for Literacy® Online was offered to educators free for a six-month period this year.



Experts Improving Literacy Outcomes

A systems-change approach grounded in the science of reading, Lead to Read has been steadily growing as participating school and district partners make a renewed commitment to students' vital success in reading. Below, three of our experts reflect on their work with Lead to Read.



**Vice President
of Advanced
Learning,
Janna Osman,
M.Ed.**

The work of changing the trajectory on literacy is truly urgent. For me, as the point of contact that many school leaders talk with first about their goals, it's the Stern Center's commitment to a genuine partnership and strong collaboration that has made the program resonate. This is not a one-size-fits-all model. We really listen. We want to understand both the literacy data and the culture of each school, and then align those with Lead to Read's comprehensive approach. We're educators, and our Lead to Read model provides support for teachers, specialists, school leaders and others to do this hard work. We are inviting schools, districts, and supervisory unions into the work of change, and it is making a difference!

One thing we know for sure about changing literacy outcomes is that leaders and teachers need to join together to make this work. Both play a critical role in partnership with each other to improve literacy outcomes for all students. Through our work, my hope is that every teacher is able to help every learner become a thriving reader.



**Director of
Professional
Learning at the
Cynthia K. Hoehl
Institute for
Excellence, Melissa
Hough, Ed.D.**

As someone who has provided professional development in literacy for many years, consulted with districts about how to change literacy outcomes, and served as an assistant superintendent, I always dreamed about working with a team of educators committed to supporting schools in changing literacy outcomes. I so value the Stern Center's emphasis on responding to where schools are in the moment and helping them to move forward to use what we know from research and practice.

A critical part of Lead to Read is the coaching provided to teachers. Being able to talk with others about the course content—to really unpack what it means for teachers' instructional practices and examine student assessment data—is often key to making changes and more effectively reaching students. The advantages of working with a coach are reflected in the research: We know that teachers want to know why they are learning something new, they want their past experiences to be honored and respected even if challenged, they want their learning to be relevant to their work, and they want to be presented with opportunities to problem solve the situations they encounter.



**Lead to Read
Structured Literacy
Coach, Andrea
McLaughlin, M.Ed.,
C.A.G.S.**

Prior to the Lead to Read Program, I felt isolated with my desire to implement structured literacy, and now I am able to work as a coach with whole teams of teachers who want to learn more about the science of reading.

Over the past five years, or more, I have significantly shaken up my thoughts about education and teaching literacy. It all began when I took an in-depth look at my students' data and an overwhelming feeling hit me – I was doing something wrong. That's when I discovered the science of reading and pursued several courses to gain the skills needed to apply my newfound knowledge in small group reading intervention lessons. As this knowledge base blossomed, I began applying structured literacy and explicit instruction into focused lesson plans. After a short period of time, I observed my students becoming more confident with their reading and spelling skills, and they shared with me the successes they were having in the classroom.

"This class was great. Learning about how a child's brain develops when it comes to learning to talk and eventually read is fascinating. Not only will it impact my students but also [how I work with] parents."

— Building Blocks participant



Orton-Gillingham Institute

Orton-Gillingham (OG) is a flexible approach to literacy instruction that systematically teaches the structure of the English language. OG is the underlying foundation of all multisensory, structured literacy programs to promote deep teacher knowledge to improve students' reading, spelling, and writing. The Stern Center's OG Institute has been accredited with the OG Academy since it was founded in 2010.



"I am energized and excited about the progress that I witness students make when using the Orton-Gillingham Approach to teaching literacy. This professional development has changed me as an educator and has opened the world of reading to the students that I serve."

— Hilary Paquet, Special Educator in Montpelier, Vermont

Learning Evaluations

Stern Center Evaluators provide state-of-the-art learning assessments to identify strengths and needs as a foundation for improved instruction and success at home, in school, and in the workplace. Our team includes clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, a neuropsychologist, and speech-language pathologists, all focused on helping children and adults to achieve their potential.

“ *I just wanted to let you know what a pleasure it was meeting with you and to thank you for all the amazing time, care, focus, and attention you invested in testing [our child]. Yesterday was an incredibly positive, uplifting, affirming, and wonderful experience for her!*” — **Parent of a student**



Colleen Chow, M.Ed., F/OGA

Director, Learning Services at Fraser Academy, Vancouver, BC

Fifteen Canadian Educators Learn with the Stern Center

This course was extremely helpful in deepening my understanding of assessment. It provided me, and is providing my colleagues at Fraser Academy, with a clearer lens from which to view psycho-educational assessments to better target our interventions.

"I can think of no other course that offers this level of depth."

It was such a gift to have an instructor who has such a deep understanding of not only assessment but also intervention. I can think of no other course that offers this level of depth. The case studies were a highlight of the course because they allowed us to delve into the nuances of cognitive and achievement testing, which is integral to the success of our students.





This Annual Report Is Dedicated to
Blanche Podhajski, Ph.D.
Visionary Founder
Stern Center President Emerita

For 38 years, from founding the Stern Center in 1983 to her retirement in early 2021, Blanche collaborated with other experts to find common goals in educating all learners. She advocated for her ideas, earned philanthropic support, and found partners in education intent on ensuring that all learners have the chance to realize their potential.

Throughout a career spanning five decades, Blanche has impacted learners and educators throughout Vermont, the Northeast region, and the nation, as well as globally with learners traveling from as far as Russia and China, and educators from around the world using virtual learning opportunities to access courses and coaching. We celebrate her vision and drive as a continued inspiration in our work today!



Stern Center Milestones

- 1983** The Center for Language and Cerebral Function founded
- 1988** Renamed the Stern Center for Language and Learning in honor of founding benefactors, Bernice and Milton Stern
- 1989** First Professional Learning Symposium
- 1995** TIME for Teachers training developed
- 1996** Smallwood Family Scholarship Endowment established
- 1997** Building Blocks for Literacy designed
- 1999** Vermont Lab School developed
- 2003** UVM College of Medicine Collaboration created
- 2007** Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence endows professional learning for teachers
- 2008** Social Learning and Communication Services established
- 2009** Wilson Language Training partnership established
- 2010** Orton-Gillingham Institute accredited by the Academy of OG Practitioners
- 2015** First MindPlay publication
- 2017** Stern Center Transformation envisioned, including Lead to Read and online learning
- 2018** Lead to Read is launched
- 2019** Building Blocks Online created in partnership with Champlain College
- 2021** Lead to Read expanded to fully online model

“Blanche’s total confidence in all of us as young learners facing what felt like impossible tasks...she instilled in us that same confidence...her faith that any child can succeed...” — Former student’s tribute

Generosity & Gratitude

Visionary Circle

\$100,000 & Up

Anonymous ◇
The Morris & Bessie Altman Foundation *
Canaday Family Charitable Trust *
Geoffrey Gund Foundation *
Hoehl Family Foundation *
Bernice and Milton Stern Foundation
Peter & Margie Stern

Luminary Circle

\$50,000-\$99,999

Michael & Mary Scollins ◇
Founders Circle
\$25,000-\$49,999
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Ann A. Mergens Foundation
Deborah Schapiro & Louis Polish Visionary Fund

President’s Circle

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
Pamela Clark ◇
Sarah Gray Gund *
Joan Martin & Joan Martin Estate ◇
Peter Swift & Diana McCargo
Tracy & Rich Tarrant Jr. *
Elizabeth G. Woods

Director Circle

\$5,000-\$9,999

James & Cheryl Andrew
Big Duck Canvas
Boon Philanthropy
Ryan Botjer
Graeme & Alexandra Connell
Robert & Suzanne Crews
Paul & Ellie Kenworthy *
Frederick A. Pratt
Lili Ruane
Michael & Mary Scollins
Ann Logie Smallwood
Elizabeth Steele
Robert Stern
David Usher
Thomas Wilkins *

Advisor Circle

\$2,500-\$4,999

Stephen Colbert AmeriCone Dream Foundation
Irene DeVivo
Bronwyn Dunne *
Google Matching Gifts Program
Michael & Alison Healy
Ed & Brynn Kusiak
Blanche Podhajski & Ken Kreiling
Dolores Podhajski LeConche
Laurie Quinn & Peter Sutherland
Turrell Fund
Susan Scheu Woodworth

Ambassador Circle

\$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous (3)
Benevity Community Impact Fund

Will & Pam Billings
Linda Boardman
Scott & Lori Brown
Tim Burke & Laurie Caswell Burke
Lola Van Wagenen & George Burrill
Gene & Ann Cenci
Megan & Greg Cluver *
John & Kathryn Connell *
Frank & Ducky Donath
James & Dorothy Douglas *
Melissa Farrall & Robert Barrie
Gerald & Virginia Hornung
Elizabeth Hunt & Scott Lollis
IBM International Foundation
Gerald & Jaclyn Kaminsky
Kristin Kelly & Emmet Helrich
Aileen J. Kraus
Helmud & Joan Lenes
Todd R. Lockwood Family
G. Reid & Diane Lyon
Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation
Robert & Polly McEwing
Michael Metz & Denise Shekerjian
Bud Meyers & Ruth Farrell *
Louisa Moats & Steve Mitchell
Eric & Jane Molson
Tim Neiley & Ellen O'Brien
Northfield Savings Bank Foundation
Carol & Paul Ode
Janna & Donny Osman
The Pesky Family Foundation
Jon & Jennifer Pizzagalli
Patricia Pizzagalli
The Paul Post Fund of the VT Community Foundation *
Don & Sandy Rendall
Rene Bloch Foundation

Gerry & Peggy Shapiro
David Stifler & Mary Allen Stifler *
Barry & Carol Stone *
Carol & George Terwilliger
Ed & Jill Wilkens
Adam Wing & Jeanne Landau *

\$500-\$999

Sage Bagnato
Julie Cadwallader Staub
Barbara Riva & John B. Coates
Barry & Laura Dagan
J. Staige Davis & Sarah Spink
Chris & Susanne Davis
Nancy & Richard DiVenere *
Mitchell & Kim Fleischer
Katie & David Halsey
Eileen & Michael Harris
David & Anne Hauke
Mary Lollis
Arthur Margolin & Kenneth Kahn
Hilary Maslow
Pia M. Pearce
PedsOne
Tim & Faith Rushford
William & Gail Savage
David W. Somero
Roberta & Richard Stein
Ann & Lee Van Voris
Timothy & Julie Van Voris

\$250-\$499

Anonymous
Robin & Randy Bertrand
Scott & Carol Boardman
Melvin & Katherine Bollom
Julia & Michael Caminiti
Robert & Donna Carlson
Susan & Richard Cote

Janet & Anthony DiBlasi
Ravey Dolan Giving Fund
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Valerie L. Graham
Albert & Barbara Gross
Austin D. & C. Fagan Hart
Winston & Mary Hart
John & Ann Marie Kelly
Robin Kelly & Lisa Tenerowicz
Jim Maxwell
Madeline B. Miles
Tish & Susan Mooney
Elaine Pinckney
Stephen Pratt
Paul & Joanne Reiss
Shelley Richardson
Andrea B. Rogers
Mark Saba & Karen Paul
JMM & Associates
Stephen Scheu
Jonathan Tatum
The Till Family
Michael & Valerie Toomey
Katherine Toomey

\$100-\$249

Anonymous (3)
Michael & Marion Abajian
Sue Mowrer Adamson & Duncan Adamson
Saul & Kathy Agel
Beverly Albert
Christina G. H. Atkin
Claire & Jeremiah Beecher
Margie Berger
John & Cathryn Bergeron
Jeff Berkowitz & Kristin Wright

Brenda S. Buzzell
Karen Cannon
Michael & June Carrera
Dennise R. Casey & Neale F. Lunderville
H. Lynne Collins
Sally Conant
Paula & PM Costello
Phyllis Crews
Greta D'Agostino & Family
John & Joanna Ellis-Monaghan
Dan & Amy Feeney
Jean & William Fifield
Barbara Fisher
Stephen & Kelly Fiske
Marylin H. Fletcher
Fusun T. Floyd
David & Margaret Gelinaz
Alex Graham
L. Stephen & Ruthann Hackett
Fran & Larry Ingram
Elaine & Frank Ittleman
Lynne & Scott Jaunich
Nancy Jenkins
Kapil Joshi
Peter & Anne Kreisel
Harlan & Linnea Lachman
Brian & Tasha Lansbury
SJ Larkspur
Patrick & Marcelle Leahy
Kathy & David Leo-Nyquist
Molly & Tom Loomis
Jonathan & Margaret Lowell
Tom Lyttelton
Joan Madison
Keith & Lucy Marston
Patrick & Jill McCaffrey
Jacqueline McGlenn
Stephen & Susan McGrath
Angela & Wallace McLean
Donald & Susan Miller
Julia & Justin Molson
Barbara Moore
Evergreen Evaluation & Consulting
Robert Von Stade & Elizabeth Munson
Deb & Bob Olsen
John & Robin Orcutt
Annika Paarens-Dano
Paul & Dorothea Penar
Jane & Robert Perrin
Gregory & Diane Peters
Garth & Clara Peterson
Frederick & Janis Peyser
Robert & Patricia Phillips
Daniel Johnson & Lisa Pizzagalli
Matthew T. Plasse
Nancy T. Post
Mark Brooks & Mary Powell
Helen Powers

Sarah Puretz & Steve Barkyoumb
Gay G. Regan
Bonnie Reid Martin
Michael & Kristin Ridge
Amy Riha
Patrick Robins & Lisa Schamberg
Christopher & Judith Shaw
Joseph & Margaret Sheehan
Katharine Shepherd & Bern Terry
David & Patti Smallwood
Aaron Smith
Dolores & Haviland Smith
Irene & Rooster Steiner
Paul & Brenda Stephens
Michelle & Dave Szabo
Ben & Debbie Taggard
Brian Till
James & Bonnie Wallman
Peter Welch & Margaret Cheney
Leigh F. & Mary Karen Wheeler
James Wick
Kyle Wiese
Scott B. Yeager & Christine Packard
Matthew Zahn

\$50-\$99

Anonymous
Karen & Matt Andrus
Victoria & GianPiero Anelli
Peter & Jane Burroughs
Sally B. Caswell
James & Jill Coffrin
David & Cathleen Cohen
Richard & Rose Colletti
Anne Conlin
Paul & Nancy Cotton
Brian & Sherrill Crabtree
Donald & Lynn Cummings
Cliff & Kim Deetjen
Barbara & Sean Devine
Samuel & Anne Dixon
Alan & Linda Elrick
Paula M. Flaherty
Sara Linda Gebo
Melissa & William Hensen
Carol Hinkel
Daniel & Susan Hudson
Robert & Betty Ann Jones
Andrea Kelly & Laura Ramirez
Peter & Joyce Klinkenberg
Alan & Jane Lane
Martha McAuliffe
Walt B. Levering & Carolyn Ruschp
Delight Wing & John Long
Stephanie Lylis
J. Duncan & Belle McDougall

Mary L. McGrath
John & Roberta Morrison
Megan & Wayne Munson-Warnken
Michael O'Brien
Lars Olson
Scott & Roberta Pennington
Peggy Price
Sylvia M. Robison
Jocelyn Secker-Walker
Anne & Peter Silberfarb
Cameron Stevens
Grace Sweet
Abigail Yeager
Ziembko Family

Up to \$50

Anonymous (2)
Cena Abramo
Margaret D. Adams
Cynthia & Shawn Allen
AmazonSmile Foundation
Jo-Ann Beaudin & Paschal DeBlasio
Linda Beaumariage & Edward Jodice
Iris M. Berezin
James & Carol Bouyea
Sandra Boyer
John & Gena Callan
Amy Ducey
Martha R. Fraser
Recille C. Hamrell
Lee Clark Hoehn
Debbie Ingram
Elizabeth Keenan
Gina Kells
Paul Forenza & Kathleen Kolb
Kimberly Hornung-Marcy & Theodore Marcy
Tilton Medical Associates
Jay D. Petrillo
Sweet Bug Boutique
Martin & Julie Richards
Peter & Gayle Shaw
Adam Stankiewicz
Tracy Stein
Shaun Stephens
Eliane Strip
Rup & Patricia Tandan
Paulette Thabault
Charles & Mary Ann Wolf

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.*

Leslie Watson Botjer
Robert Botjer
Ryan Botjer

Ursula & Jack Crews
Saul & Kathy Agel
Brian & Sherrill Crabtree
Phyllis Crews
Patrick & Jill McCaffrey

Charles Erdelyi
Ed & Jill Wilkens

Michael Flaherty
Paula Flaherty

Jean Foss
Donald & Suzanne Foss

Pat Greene
Anonymous
Aline Dulaney

Jeanne E. Jenkins
Nancy Jenkins
Joan Martin

Dr. John LeConche
Dolores Podhajski LeConche

Herbert L. Martin, M.D.
Scott & Lori Brown
David & Peggy Gelinaz
Joan Madison
Joan Martin
Deborah & Bob Olsen
Andrea Rogers
Paul and Brenda Stephens

Joan Martin
Robin & Randy Bertrand
Scott & Lori Brown
Jacqueline McGlenn
Shelley Richardson
Ed & Jill Wilkens

Patrycia Pellegrino
Blanche Podhajski & Kenneth Kreiling

Charles M. Poser, M.D. & Joan Poser
David & Peggy Gelinaz
Eliane Strip

Paul Post
Paul Post Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation
Nancy Post

Phyllis D. Powell
Joan Martin

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 FY21: September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021. Multi-year pledges are marked * and planned bequests are marked ◇.

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Eleanor (Chris) Pratt

Chris Pratt Opportunity Fund of
the VT Community Foundation
Frederick Alcott Pratt

James Redford

Lola Van Wagenen

Humbart L. Riva, M.D.

Barbara Riva Coates

Neil Shapiro

Tim Burke & Laurie
Caswell Burke
Martha Fraser
Sara Gebo
Al & Barbara Gross
Harlan & Linnea Lachman
Ann A. Mergens Foundation
Mark Saba & Karen Paul
Gerry & Peggy Shapiro
Joseph & Margaret Sheehan
Matthew Zahn

Annette Stein

Roberta & Richard Stein

Bernice Stern

Elizabeth Munson &
Robert Von Stade

Paul Toomey

Katherine Toomey
Michael & Valerie Toomey
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Timothy & Julie Van Voris

Lester & Elizabeth Wallman

Christina G. H. Atkin, M.D.
Helen Lynne Collins, Ph.D.
Angela & Wallace McLean
Paul & Dorothea Penar
James & Bonnie Wallman

Ellen Wilkens

Robert & Suzanne Crews
Scott & Roberta Pennington

Patricia Zyber

Joan Martin

Gifts in Honor of

*The names of those being honored
appear in **BOLD** letters and are
followed by the names of those
who made the gifts.*

Michael Allen

Ed & Brynn Kusiak

Laurie Caswell Burke

Sally B. Caswell

John Boyd Coates, IV

Barbara R. & John B. Coates

Friends of the Stern Center

Claire & Jeremiah Beecher
Melissa & William Hensen
Jane & Robert Perrin
Ed & Jill Wilkens

Kusiak Family

Ed & Brynn Kusiak

Jon Pizzagalli

Patricia Pizzagalli

Blanche R. Podhajski

James & Cheryl Andrew
Melvin & Katherine Bollom
Irene DeVivo
Janet & Anthony DiBlasi
Eileen & Michael Harris
Elizabeth Hunt & Scott Lollis
Mary Lollis
Bonnie Reid Martin
J. Duncan & Belle McDougall
Madeline B. Miles
Dolores Podhajski LeConche
Shelley Richardson
Ben & Debbie Taggard
Carol & George Terwilliger

Julie Cadwallader Staub

Alan & Linda Elrick

Ed Wilkens

Nancy Jenkins
Shelley Richardson

Adam Wing

Anonymous
Sue Mowrer Adamson &
Duncan Adamson
Barbara & Sean Devine
Dan & Amy Feeney
Austin D. & C. Fagan Hart
Stephanie Lylis
Martha McAuliffe &
James Langan

Megan & Wayne
Munson-Warcken
Sarah Poretz &
Steve Barkyoub
Irene & Rooster Steiner

Woodworth Family

Stephen Scheu

Foundation Supporters

The Morris & Bessie Altman
Foundation
AmazonSmile Foundation
Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Rene Bloch Foundation
Boon Philanthropy
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne
Foundation
Canaday Family Charitable Trust
The Carmel Hill Fund
The Stephen Colbert AmeriCone
Dream Fund of Coastal
Community Foundation of SC
Ravey Dolan Giving Fund
Geoffrey Gund Foundation
Hampton Foundation
Hoehl Family Foundation
The Gerald & Virginia Hornung
Family Charitable Fund
IBM International Foundation
Mascoma Savings Bank
Foundation
Ann A. Mergens Foundation
Mount Philo Fund of the VT
Community Foundation
Northfield Savings Bank
Foundation
The Paul Post Fund of the VT
Community Foundation
Chris Pratt Opportunity Fund of
the VT Community Foundation
Ann and Frank Smallwood
Incentive Fund of the VT
Community Foundation
Bernice and Milton Stern
Foundation
Turrell Fund
Visionary Fund

Corporate Supporters

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Evergreen Evaluation &
Consulting
Forever Endeavor Software
JMM & Associates
M. Kraus & Company
LMJ, LLC
PedsOne

LEGACY FOR
LEARNING
CIRCLE

The *Legacy for Learning
Circle* honors those
who have planned
bequests to the Stern
Center. These gifts
provide enduring
support that allows
the Stern Center to
help future generations
of learners.

Legacy for Learning Circle

Anonymous (2)
Frances Bagwell*
Ted & Joan Braun
Pamela Clark
Megan & Greg Cluver
Nancy & Rit DiVenere
Kenneth Kreiling
Dolores Podhajski LeConche
Joan and Herbert Martin*
Gordon and Christena Mills*
Blanche R. Podhajski
Charles and Joan Poser*
Mike & Mary Scollins
Ann L. Smallwood
Peter & Margie Stern
Paul Toomey*
Elizabeth Woods

* Deceased

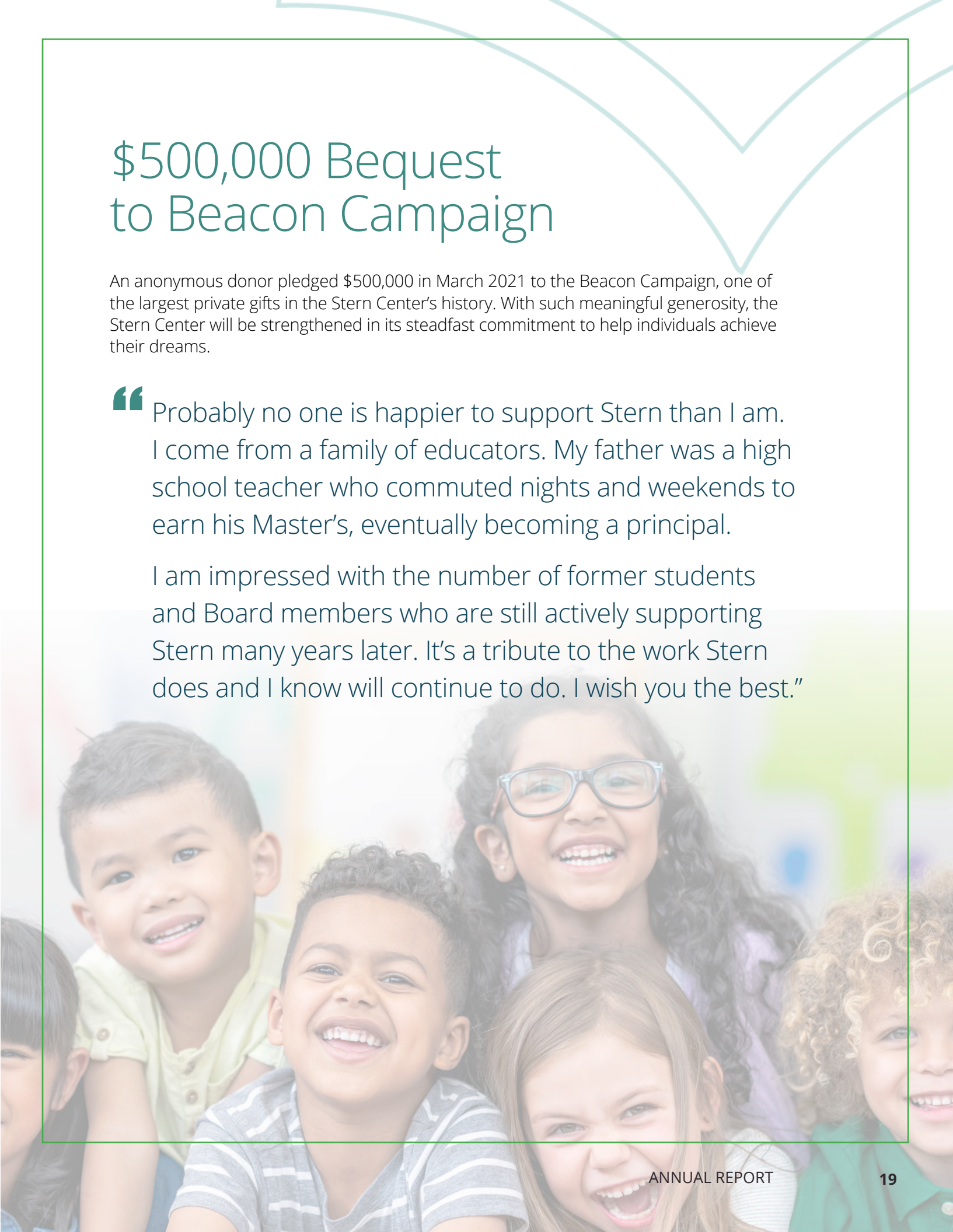
\$500,000 Bequest
to Beacon Campaign

An anonymous donor pledged \$500,000 in March 2021 to the Beacon Campaign, one of the largest private gifts in the Stern Center’s history. With such meaningful generosity, the Stern Center will be strengthened in its steadfast commitment to help individuals achieve their dreams.

“Probably no one is happier to support Stern than I am. I come from a family of educators. My father was a high school teacher who commuted nights and weekends to earn his Master’s, eventually becoming a principal.

I am impressed with the number of former students and Board members who are still actively supporting Stern many years later. It’s a tribute to the work Stern does and I know will continue to do. I wish you the best.”

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 FY21: September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021. Multi-year pledges are marked * and planned bequests are marked ◇.





A group of loyal supporters, led by our Board of Directors, launched the Beacon for Learning Campaign to ensure a bright future for the Stern Center. The campaign establishes the Blanche Podhajski President’s Chair Endowment. At this critical time of leadership transition, with Dr. Laurie Quinn taking the helm as our second President in Stern Center history, contributions to the Beacon for Learning Campaign ensure the Stern Center’s future as an unparalleled educational resource.



“I am grateful for the support of Beacon for Learning benefactors. Together, we will light the way to a world of confident learners.” — Laurie Quinn, Ph.D., President

Visionary Circle

\$100,000 & Up

Anonymous ◇
The Morris & Bessie Altman Foundation
Sarah Gray Gund & Geoffrey Gund
Blanche Podhajski & Ken Kreiling ◇
Peter & Margie Stern
Elizabeth Woods ◇

Luminary Circle

\$50,000-\$99,999

Dolores Podhajski LeConche ◇
Mike & Mary Scollins ◇

Founders Circle

\$25,000-\$49,999

Hoehl Family Foundation
Deborah Schapiro & Lou Polish
Visionary Fund

President’s Circle

\$10,000-\$24,999

Pamela Clark ◇
Don & Sandy Rendall
Kate & Bill Schubart
Ann Logie Smallwood ◇
Turrell Fund

Director Circle

\$5,000-\$9,999

Will & Pam Billings
Ryan Botjer
Robert & Suzanne Crews
James & Dorothy Douglas
Paul & Ellie Kenworthy
Justin & Julia Molson
Elaine & Gary Pinckney
Gene & Julie Richards
David Stifler & Mary Allen Stifler
Barry & Carol Stone
George & Carol Terwilliger
David Usher
Thomas & Ellen Wilkins
Adam Wing & Jeanne Landau

Advisor Circle

\$2,500-\$4,999

Donna G. Carpenter
The Mill Foundation

Ambassador Circle

\$1,000-\$2,499

Robert Barrie & Melissa Farrall
Gerri & Sam Bloomberg
Linda Boardman
Graeme & Alexandra Connell
John & Kathryn Connell
Ann DeMarle
Irene DeVivo
Richard & Nancy DiVenere
Ducky & Frank Donath
Lewis & Sandy First
Forever Endeavor Software
Jim & Liz Foster
Mack Morse & Cynthia Gardner-Morse
Michael & Alison Healy
Sam & Eve Hoar
The Gerald & Virginia Hornung Family Charitable Fund
Elizabeth Hunt & Scott Lollis
Elaine & Frank Ittleman
Ed & Bryn Kusiak
G. Reid & Diane Lyon
Joan Martin
Bonnie Reid Martin
Michael Metz & Denise Shekerjian
H. Bud Meyers & Ruth Farrell
Louisa Moats & Steve Mitchell
Paul & Carol Ode
Janna & Donny Osman
Jon & Jennifer Pizzagalli
Bill & Maureen Post
Ed & Jill Wilkens

\$500-\$999

A.D. Henderson Foundation
Sage Bagnato
Tim Burke & Laurie Caswell Burke
Milton & Carolyn Frye
Robert & Polly McEwing
Tim Neiley & Ellen O’Brien
Haviland & Dolores Smith

\$25-\$499

Beverly Albert
Robin & Randy Bertrand
Melvin & Katherine Bollom
Scott & Lori Brown
Brenda Buzzell
Julia & Michael Caminiti
Karen Cannon
John & Barbara Coates
Sarah Conant
Paula & PM Costello
Jean & William Fifield
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Mark Saba
Judith & Chris Shaw
Tammy Smith
Roberta & Richard Stein
George & Ann Till
Ann & Lee Van Voris
James & Bonnie Wallman
Matt Zahn
Ziembko Family

This listing includes donations and pledges received during the Beacon for Learning Campaign through August 31, 2021. Planned bequests are marked ◇.

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO**
144
**LEARNERS
& FAMILIES:**
\$131K+

Scholarship Program

Generous donors establish named scholarships to help students access Stern Center services. Endowed named scholarships honoring a loved one are awarded annually in perpetuity, while annual named scholarships are awarded during a single year.

Michael Allen Scholarship
Charles Bartlett Scholarship*
Eileen Bonner Botjer Memorial Scholarship*
Leslie Watson Botjer Memorial Scholarship*
William Cameron Hagedorn
Memorial Scholarship*
John Connell Scholarship*
Ursula Crews Memorial Scholarship*
T. Peter Doremus Jr. Memorial Scholarship*
Friends of the Stern Center Scholarship*
Pat Greene Memorial Scholarship*
Katie Doremus Halsey Scholarship*
Kusiak Family Scholarship
Dr. John LeConche Memorial Scholarship

Joan and Herbert L. Martin, M.D.
Memorial Scholarship*
Blanche M. Podhajski Memorial Scholarship
Podhajski Family 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
Lester Wallman, M.D. and Elizabeth Wallman
Memorial Scholarship
Stevenson H. Waltien Jr. Memorial Scholarship

* Indicates an Endowed Scholarship



In Memoriam: Joan Martin

This year we were deeply saddened to lose our dear friend and passionate supporter, Joan Martin. Joan was a vital member of the leadership core of the Friends of the Stern Center and was instrumental in their many fund- and friend-raising activities. Part of her legacy was making the lead challenge gift to help establish the Friends of the Stern Center Endowed Scholarship. In recognition for her service, she was named to our Honorary Board.

Now, with her bequest and in consultation with her family, we have renamed the previously established Herb Martin Memorial Scholarship endowment to honor them both: *The Joan and Herbert L. Martin, M.D. Memorial Endowed Scholarship*.



"We are again happy to provide support for this scholarship fund. Making the resources of the Stern Center available to a broad array of students, regardless of financial limitations, is a worthy endeavor. It is important that all young learners have access to the strategies and approaches that will allow them to become the best versions of themselves."

— Ann A. Mergens Foundation

Our Board Members

The Stern Center’s volunteer Board of Directors contributes time and talent to our organization’s success, as well as achieving 100% Board philanthropic participation annually. We honor our Board members for their commitment and are grateful for the positive impact of their stewardship.



Jon Pizzagalli, Chair
Developer, LMJ, LLC

“As Chair of an accomplished, dedicated Board of Directors, I am inspired by the Stern Center’s expertise in literacy and by the organization’s values.”

Honorary
Board of Directors

- Peter Stern, M.D., Chair
- Eugene Cenci
- Governor James H. Douglas
- Lewis R. First, M.D.
- Sarah Gray Gund
- John M. Hoehl
- Governor Madeleine Kunin
- Senator Patrick Leahy
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- Eugene E. Richards III
- Ann L. Smallwood
- David Stifler, M.D.
- Barry Stone
- Brian Till, M.D.



Will Billings

CEO, HempVet Pet Health Remedies



Ryan Botjer

Senior Managing Director, Real Estate Investment & Development, Tishman Speyer



Allie Connell

Speech-Language Pathologist, The Treatment and Learning Centers



Graeme Connell

Software Engineer, Signal

“I have seen the Stern Center change children’s lives for the better for 20 years.”
— Justin Molson



Bronwyn Dunne

Arts Administrator/Writer/Educator (retired)



Michael Healy

Managing Partner, IBM



Kristin Kelly

Director of Communications, Green Mountain Power



Ellie Kenworthy

Education Coordinator, Paul Kenworthy, DMD



Molly Loomis, Ph.D.

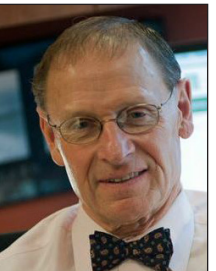
Principal, Molo Consulting, LLC



Justin Molson

Landscape Designer

“As a parent, I am forever grateful for the many services that the Stern Center is able to offer all learners.”
— Ellie Kenworthy



Bud Meyers, Ph.D.

Director, Lighthouse Evaluation, LLC



Tim Neiley

CEO (retired)



Carol Ode

Vermont State Legislator



Elaine Pinckney

Superintendent (retired)



Laurie Quinn, Ph.D.

President, The Stern Center

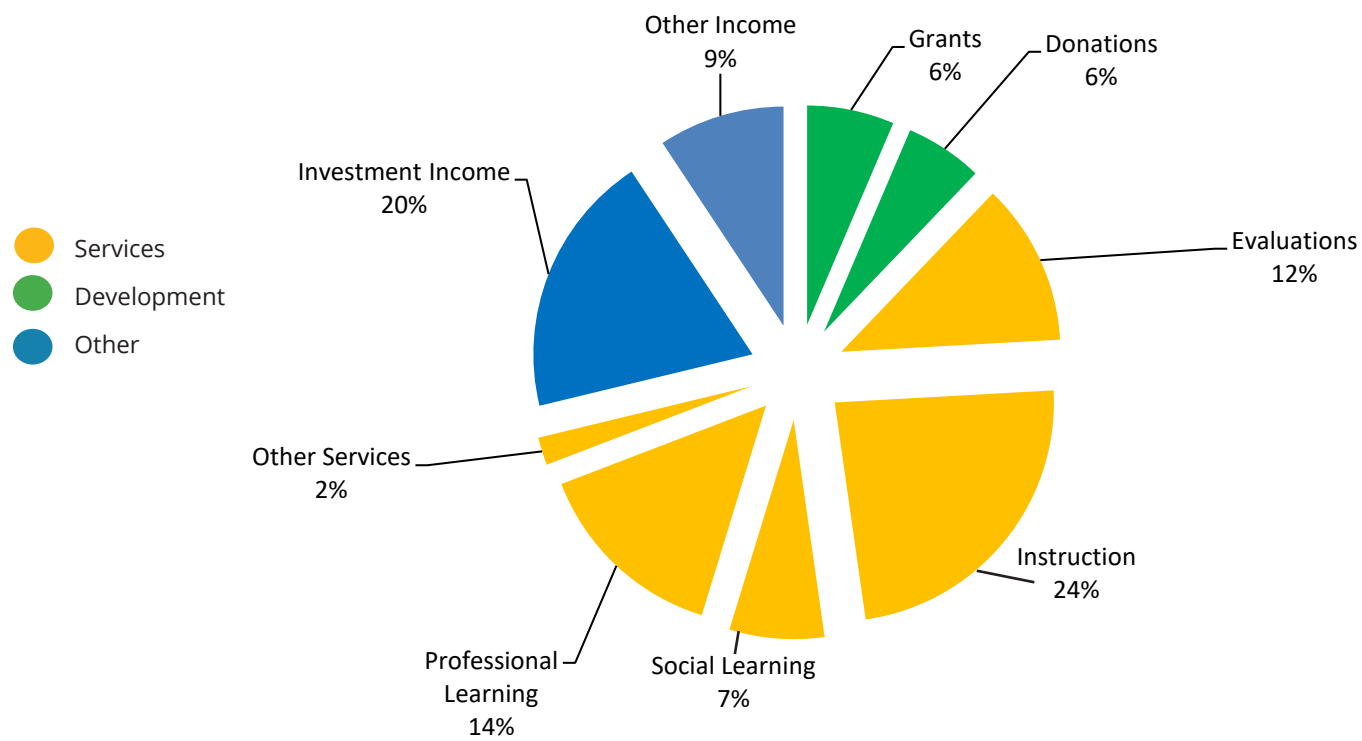


Adam Wing

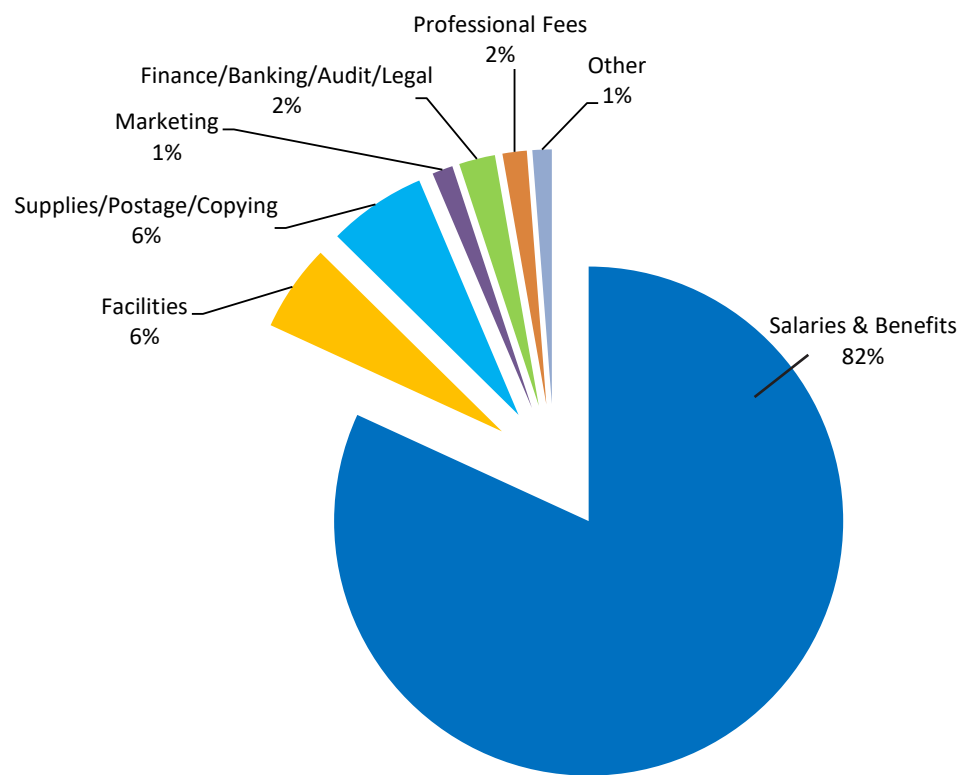
Chief Revenue Officer, AbleNet, Inc.

Financials

Revenue by Type



Expenses by Type



Statement of Revenue and Expenditures *

All funds for the 12 months ended August 31, 2021

	Unrestricted & Scholarship Funds	Temporarily Restricted Funds	Permanently Restricted Funds	Total
Revenue				
Evaluations	\$663,485	\$0	\$0	\$663,485
Instructional Services	1,310,267	-	-	1,310,267
Social Learning & Communication	387,779	-	-	387,779
Professional Learning	800,547	-	-	800,547
Other Services	113,852	-	-	113,852
Subtotal Services	\$3,275,930	\$0	\$0	\$3,275,930
Scholarships	(131,106)	-	-	(131,106)
Contributions & Grants	204,115	356,499	113,305	673,919
Other Income	516,217	-	1,079,408	1,595,625
Discounts	(43,756)	-	-	(43,756)
Reallocations for Operations	150,000	(150,000)	-	-
Services Funded by Grants	107,555	(390,583)	-	(283,028)
Total Revenue	\$4,078,955	(\$184,084)	\$1,192,713	\$5,087,585
Expenses				
Salaries/Wages	2,858,609	-	-	2,858,609
Benefits	554,668	-	-	554,668
Supplies/Postage/Copying	259,524	746	-	260,270
Facilities	230,704	-	-	230,704
Marketing	54,904	-	-	54,904
Special Events/Presentations/Meetings	7,636	-	-	7,636
Staff Development/Training	11,452	-	-	11,452
Professional Fees	51,999	12,150	-	64,149
Travel	9,046	-	-	9,046
Finance/Legal/Audit	56,494	-	39,346	95,840
Miscellaneous	14,728	163	-	14,892
Transfers between funds	(71,000)	71,000	-	-
Misc. - Program Related	8,061	-	-	8,061
Overhead Recovered/Charged	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	\$4,046,826	\$84,059	\$39,346	\$4,170,231
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets before Reallocations for Capital	\$32,129	(\$268,143)	\$1,153,368	\$917,354
Reallocations for Capital	-	-	-	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$32,129	(\$268,143)	\$1,153,368	\$917,354

* All figures represent unaudited financial results.

Our Staff

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Instructor

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Professional Learning Provider

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Director of Professional Learning at
the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for
Excellence

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Structured Literacy Coach

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Instruction & Evaluations

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SLP Evaluator

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Instructor

Leslie Sem, M.Ed.
Instructor

Michael Shapiro, M.B.A.
Chief Financial Officer

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Instructor

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Professional Learning Provider

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Evaluator

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Speech-Language Pathologist

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Instructor

Jessica Stoehr, B.A.
Executive Assistant to the President
and Social Learning and
Communication Intake Coordinator

Michelle Szabo, M.S.Ed.
Director of Instruction

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Evaluator

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Instructor

Jennifer White, Ph.D.
Learning Innovation Consultant

Carol Wieland, M.S.
Instructor

Edward Wilkens, Ed.D.
Special Projects Advisor

Patricia Willette, B.S.
Professional Learning Provider

Susan Zirpoli, M.A.
Professional Learning Provider

Our Partners

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Champlain College

Learning without
Tears™

Lexia Learning
Systems®

MindPlay

Orton-Gillingham
Academy

The Reading League

University of
Vermont & UVM
Larner College of
Medicine

Wilson Language
Training®



Memorable Moments

One of the most memorable moments happened when the mother of a third-grade girl I was seeing for reading instruction spoke to me in the waiting room... she told me that her daughter had celebrated a birthday over the weekend, and for the first time ever she was able to read her own birthday cards.

— **Carol Wieland, M.S.**

One participant, who did not readily engage with his peers or engage in novel activities, exclaimed 'This is fun!' It is rewarding to watch our students with social learning challenges build positive experiences with their peers.

— **Catherine DiBona, M.S., CCC-SLP**

This has been the most worthwhile professional development that I have taken in 18 years of teaching! I wish this was a requirement for all undergraduate/graduate students of education!

— **Educator**

