

2020 Annual Report



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A Message from our Executive Director

This has been a year of pulling together with our neighbors to provide for those whose lives will be changed through the gift of literacy. This is ironic given that we've spent three-quarters of the year isolating ourselves from one another. I think this is a perfect time to quote Mr. Rogers, who profoundly stated that in a time a crisis, it is critical to look for the helpers in order to avoid losing hope. We looked for the helpers, and they were everywhere!

As a result of the generosity of donors in 2020, The Reading Group:

- Awarded \$10,570 in scholarships to students in need. Funds were donated by the Champaign West Rotary Scholarship Fund (\$1,000), individual employees through the United Way of Champaign County (\$4,658), and individual donors.
- Built a dividing wall in a former supply room to create two new classrooms with funds donated by a private donor and Rotary Club of Champaign. Labor and paint for the classroom were donated by volunteers.
- Installed a computer and security camera in the new classroom with a donation received from Target Corporation.
- Received approximately 100 books through the generosity of Mark Ramaly and bookshelves from Jim Webster of Lincoln Square.
- Installed cameras on all computers and upgraded software to allow for online teaching and purchased plexiglass shields and cleaning products for face-to-face teaching with resources provided through the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois and United Way of Champaign County.
- Filmed testimonials of three local businesspeople who are dyslexic for our website and Facebook page thanks to the generosity of Rusty and Jill Freeland.
- Upgraded all computers to Windows 10 to allow for easier distance learning with funds received from Elizabeth Goldwasser.
- Upgraded The Reading Group website to allow for easier registration with funds donated by The Raynie Foundation.
- Collaborated with volunteers from the UIUC School of Social Work's Community Learning Lab and LEAP (Linking Educators and Parents) on a variety of project that support our mission.



Of course, we would be remiss not to thank the citizens of the United States for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, all of which was used for salaries and overhead expenses. Therefore, the loan has been forgiven.

Thank you!

Jean Hinton, EdD, Executive Director

Mission & Vision

The Reading Group is a not-for-profit learning center offering one-on-one instruction for exceptional students of all ages who seek help with unique learning styles, such as dyslexia, as well as those who seek enrichment.

Founded in 1972 by Marilyn Kay, we continue to serve our mission throughout Champaign-Urbana and surrounding communities.

Our Mission

Provide specialized reading, writing, and math instruction to those who struggle with dyslexia and other learning difficulties and those seeking academic enrichment. We are dedicated to promoting community awareness and support about such learning challenges as well as fostering lifelong literacy.

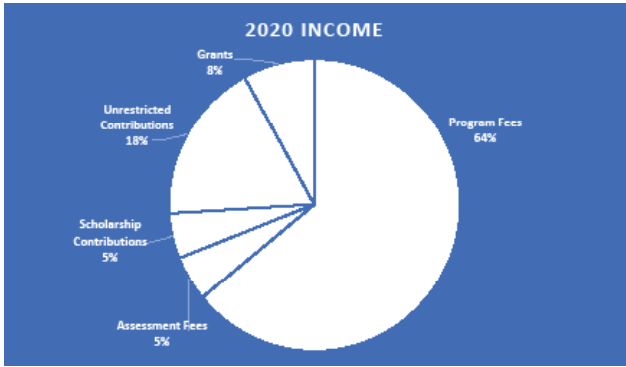
Our Vision

1. Become an accessible resource for all students who learn differently.
2. Provide training programs and resources for teachers who need education in identifying and teaching students who learn differently.
3. Support school administrators with resources needed to implement assessments and in-house 2020 Financial Report

2020 Financial Report

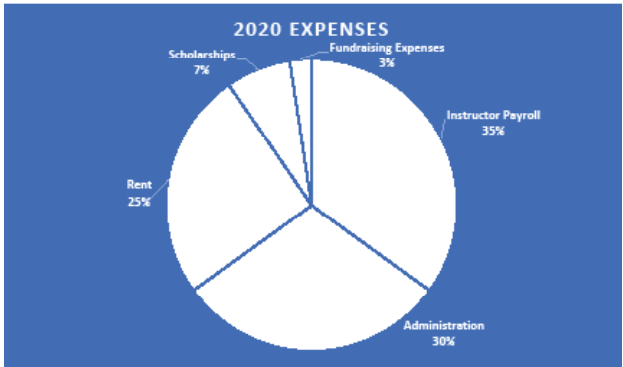
2020 Income

Program Fees	\$101,591
Assessment Fees	\$7,500
Scholarship Contributions	\$7,377
Unrestricted Contributions	\$27,819
Grants	\$13,307
TOTAL	\$157,594



2020 Expenses

Program Expenses	\$155,970
Scholarships Awarded	\$10,570
Fundraising Expenses	\$4,040
TOTAL	\$170,580



2020 at a Glance

Hours Taught

More than 1,552 hours of instruction to 115 students in 2020, down approximately 26 percent from 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students came from 17 cities within a 150-mile radius of Champaign County. Most attended public schools, although many attended private schools or were home-schooled.

Scholarships Awarded

Twenty scholarships were awarded to 11 students totaling \$10,570. All scholarships were funded through donor generosity, which is critical to our ability to provide services to students in need.

Students Assessed

Sixty-nine students were assessed by a teaching professional trained to recognize dyslexia.

How do Assessments Work?

Student assessments are conducted by a teaching professional trained to recognize students whose neuroprocessing style inhibits them from learning from words on a page, otherwise known as dyslexia. The assessment takes about an hour, then the assessor meets with the parent/guardian to review the findings.

The student can then be assigned to work with a teacher at The Reading Group who helps the student master each level of instruction using a multi-sensory curriculum to communicate word sounds and shapes. A report of the assessment findings can be generated for parents to discuss with the student's schoolteacher.

For more information or to schedule an assessment, contact The Reading Group at 217-351-9144.

2020 Donors for Literacy

Our sincere thanks from The Reading Group and from those who benefitted from the generosity of donors in 2020.

\$1,000 and Above

Carla Caceres
Champaign West Rotary Charities
Jill & Rusty Freeland
Elizabeth Goldwasser
Leon & Jean Hinton
Kristina Miller

Tonya & Robert Newsom
Marlyn Rinehart
Thomas Ruzicka
Target Corporation
The Raynie Foundation

\$500 to \$999

Julia Atkins
George Badger
Peter & Sandra Beak
Jeffrey Brown
Paul Cole
Ann Einhorn
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana
Louis Green
Harrington Law LLC
Glenda Hutchison

William Hutchison
Pat Jensen
Elizabeth Kaufman
Marilyn Kay
Brittany Millington
Tifani Moot
Penny Porter
Karl Rosengren
Constance & Lin Warfel
James & Fran Welch

\$100 to \$499

Drew Bargmann
Theresa Benson
Camille Caldwell
Kiel Christianson
Cory & Kyle Dawson
Sarah Grison
Heartland Bank and Trust Co.
Catherine & Chad Hoffman
Bonnie Hummel
Julie Kellogg

Jessica & Jakob Lillegaard
Brenda Pacey
Gay & Donald Roberts
Robeson Family Benefit Fund
William Stewart
Jan Strutz
William Sullivan
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
Ralph & Carolyn Trimble
Anonymous

Up to \$100

Nadja H. & Carl J. Altstetter
Denise Ball
Debra Beebe
Marie Bohl
Natalie Bosecker
Morton Brussel
Judith Bryan
Beth Chato
Dolores S. Das
Christy & Michael Devocelle
Hope Eastin
Brenda & Jim Edgar
Kristin & Brett Feddersen
Helen Grandone
Elizabeth & Donald Greeley
Angela Hatfield
Debbie Heffernan
Tamara & Eric Helfer
Jan & Bruce Hinely
Sara Holder
J. Barry Howell
Harold Jensen
Tina & Brad Johnson
Brenda K.P. Kimble
Beth Koplinski
Barbara Kuhl
Elizabeth Kuntz
William Maher
Jeff Marino

Beverly Minor
Jessica Monson
Nancy & David Morse
Allison Myles
Jonathon Nadler
Fred Neumann
Alice & Howard Osborne
Esther Patt
Karen Rohrer
Carol Salo
Patricia & Norman Schutt
Michael & Kathy Smeltzer, Smeltzer
Family
Charitable Fund
Linda Smith
Patti Smith
Topper & Carol Steinman
Elizabeth Stern
Brenda Timmons
Mary Jane Tuttle
Virginia & Jack Waaler
Ann Wampler
Michelle Wang
Daniel & Wendy Weber
Scott Willenbrock
Ruth Wyman
Sandra Yoo
Rita B. & E. Landrum Young
Richard Ziegler

Other Gifts

- Champaign Jewelers, \$300 donation from their monthly “featured charity”
- Community Foundation of East Central Illinois and United Way of Champaign County COVID Fund, plexiglass dividers for each classroom, cleaning and sanitation products
- Lincoln Square, donation of office furniture
- Steve and Hugh Mulcahey, our landlords, gratitude for years of generosity and support toward The Reading Group
- Ramaly Family, donation of books

Special Thanks to Penny Porter

Penny Porter has supported The Reading Group for more than 25 years, serving on the board for nine years, a committee member, and an organizer for The Reading Group Gala.

Why?

“I worked in special education in Urbana for 22 years. When I retired, I was invited by a colleague to join The Reading Group Board (in 2006). Once I saw how valuable the work was that the Reading Group was doing for kids who learn differently and how little awareness there was in the community of that work, I felt I had to try to change that to ensure that the work would continue. “

Penny is a monthly donor, supporting the scholarship fund used to ensure that no student is turned away. Thank you, Penny!!

Making a Difference

Our teachers make a huge difference in the lives of students, helping them learn skills to succeed in school and gain confidence in their abilities. Teachers at The Reading Group provide one-on-one tutoring to help students with reading (specializing in dyslexia), writing, and mathematics.

Tutoring is available for early childhood through adult levels and lessons are designed for the student's individual needs.

Interested in becoming a teacher at The Reading Group?
Give us a call at 217-351-9144 to learn more.

Staff & Volunteers

Board of Directors*

Brittany Millington, President
Tina Johnson, Vice President
Chad Hoffman, Treasurer
Beth Chandler, Secretary
Sarah Bjelland, Director
Sheila Lamb, Director
Tim Polley, Director
Krista Schwarze, Director
Jedd Swisher, Director
Ann Wampler, Director

LEAP Committee

Kristen Fedderson
Cynthia Johnson
Marilyn Kay
Michael Marks
Nancy Parker
Kevin Seymour
Topper Steinman

Staff

Jean Hinton, EdD, Executive Director
Tom Eaton, Office Manager

*Through December 31, 2020