

Fall 2018



Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison News & Happenings

Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of our newsletter!

We hope you find the content informational, inspiring, and fun.

Can you believe summer is over and fall has officially arrived? Where does the time go! We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready to dive right into the school year and holiday season that is right around the corner. Plus, *October is Dyslexia Awareness Month*. In Kelly's message below you can find out about our Dyslexia Awareness Library Event on October 10th, or, [click here](#) for a pdf of a flyer with all the information. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison will be closed several times over the next few months. Please check our online calendar for the most current information. [Link to our calendar](#).

What We Love The Most: Our Students' Success!

A Limitless Future: How CDC-M Changed a Child's Reading Scores—and His Life

Anyone who talks with Logan Neupert would recognize that this is a kid with a bright future. Now a senior in high school, Logan enjoys school and is confident about his ability to succeed. His schedule is jam-packed with AP classes, his ACT score is in the top 15% and he has a clear life plan which includes attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to major in mechanical engineering. Yet only a few years ago, all this looked different. Logan struggled in school and overflowed with frustration. "I hated school," Logan said. "I thought I was just an idiot who just couldn't learn to read." Logan and his parents credit the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison as the turning point.



Logan's Graduation Picture

As a little boy, Logan was always happy and liked making others laugh. When Logan started school though, something changed. As other kids learned to read, Logan began falling behind. Some of the other kids started calling him stupid. In response, Logan acted out during reading time in order to avoid it.

Logan's teachers reassured his parents that he just needed more time—eventually reading would "click." So his parents spent more time reading with him. The more they tried though, the more frustrated Logan became. By 2nd grade, Logan regularly woke up at night screaming from nightmares. "I started to have a lot of anxiety and anger issues," Logan said. Finally, in a parent-teacher conference, his 3rd grade teacher told his parents she had exhausted all her resources.

Kerry and Dave, Logan's parents, took him to therapy as well as to doctors and specialists who ran an array of neurological tests. They came back with a diagnosis of dyslexia and enrolled him in a special reading program. The program focused on repetition and practice at home every night. Logan hated it—and his family saw little progress.

Then one day a family friend told them about the Children's Dyslexia Center. Ready for an alternative, Kerry called and got Logan on the waiting list. It took two years—until Logan was in 5th grade—for his name to get to the top of the list.

From the beginning, this experience was different than anything the family had tried before. Annette, Logan's tutor, was enthusiastic and supportive, focusing on explaining why words and syllables sounded the way they did instead of on repetition. "In my sessions with Annette, I was actually learning—not just memorizing," Logan said. "It helped me understand reading in a new way. And this time, what I learned stuck partly because I was having fun. I realized I loved learning."

Logan spent three years at the Center, attending tutoring sessions twice a week. By the time he graduated, he was reading and writing at grade level. More importantly, Logan was once again a happy, confident kid—a kid with a limitless future ahead of him. "The Children's Dyslexia Center and Annette changed Logan's life and his future," Dave said. "Those three years really changed everything."

Grants We Have Received



We are so grateful to the following organizations who have awarded grants to the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison in 2018.

- **Altrusa International of Madison, Inc.** for books and testing material;
- **ETC** for one-on-one tutoring;
- **Madison South Rotary Foundation** for advanced tutor training;
- **Magic Pebble Foundation** for general operations;
- **Old National Bank's Choose Your Charity Giveaway** for general operations;
- **The Capital Times Kids Fund** for one-on-one tutoring;
- **Wahlin Foundation** for tutor training;
- **West Kiwanis Club** for one-on-one tutoring.

How To Get Involved

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the Center? Or were you wondering how you might give back? Here are some ideas for you.

Share Your Story

We'd love to highlight more of our fabulous kids in our newsletter. Please contact Leslie Huber if you would be willing to tell your story. We are interested in the stories of current kids at the Center. We'd also love to hear from families who have a children who graduated a few years ago. Please contact Leslie Huber at lahuber@hotmail.com if you would be willing to tell your story.

Talk to Your Employer about Being a Walk Sponsor

While our 9th Annual Walk for Dyslexia took place just four months ago, we are already starting to plan for next year's 10th Annual Walk! Securing sponsors is an important part of the preparation. Sponsorship dollars stary

here in Madison to help us sustain our programs and achieve our mission of giving all children the resources they need to overcome the challenges of dyslexia and be successful. Sponsorship levels start at \$150 and include benefits such as having the company's name listed on our T-shirts and website. Contact Leslie Huber at lahuber@hotmail.com if you can connect us with your employer.

Support Our Programs

Has the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison made a difference for you and your family? Giving to our programs helps us provide these important services to other families. Or are you looking for a way to change a child's life course and help her achieve her potential? When you donate to CDC-M, you help children improve not just their reading and writing, but their self-confidence.

[Donations can be made via our website. Click Here.](#)

If you would like a report of donations you have made to the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison, contact Gail Piper at 608-242-9282 or gailpiper6@aol.com.

Raffle/Silent Auction Items Received!

We want to acknowledge the generosity of those who donated items for the 2018 NFL Alumni Association-Madison Chapter banquet silent auction that was held this past summer. The banquet silent auction is one facet of this annual event that raises money for local non-profit organizations.

The Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison received 100% of the money raised for these donated items. The grand total amount raised by the NFL Madison Alumni Association event for the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison was \$17,800.



Frank Productions donated four front row Gold Circle tickets to Counting Crows valued at \$300.



Oak Bank donated a game camera.

Chad and Casey Kimmel donated two UW men's hockey tickets, two UW men's basketball tickets, and two UW homecoming football game tickets.

Tom Schmidt donated a lovely owl picture/etching.

Messages

From Kelly Kuenzie, Director

Another school year is under way and as we dig in and plant the seeds for the academic season, I am



reminded of how very important the tutoring we offer at Children's Dyslexia Center – Madison truly is.

Research tells us that one in five individuals is dyslexic. This learning disability affects not just the individuals who have it, but also the family and

community they are a part of. Dyslexia can affect development in regard to social skills and self-image. It can cause depression, stress, and anxiety in otherwise very talented and intelligent people.

The tutoring we offer at the Center goes beyond literacy skills. Our tutors, along with the help and support of our staff, give children the skills they need to succeed in the classroom which ultimately help them to be successful in life. We build confidence and strength in each tutoring session so students can shrug the weight of depression, anxiety, and stress and ultimately believe in themselves.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. Please help us to spread greater awareness about this learning disability to those around you. The work we do makes a difference in so many lives! If you know a child or family that is struggling with dyslexia, please refer them to one of our three Children's Dyslexia Centers in Wisconsin – Madison, Milwaukee or Eau Claire. And if you are able, **please join us at the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison's Fourth Annual Dyslexia Awareness Event at Madison Central Public Library. The event will be held October 10th at 5:30pm.** Masons, students, parents, and supporters are all welcome. A light meal will be served.

Dyslexia Awareness Month

Join staff, students, and families from Madison's Children's Dyslexia Center to learn more about dyslexia and how we can all support our kids, students, friends, and neighbors who struggle to read printed words. A light dinner will be served before a short film screening and a brief panel discussion highlighting local resources. Young people ages 8 and up especially welcome! Online registration for this event is appreciated but not required.



Wednesday, Oct 10
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Central Library Children's Room
201 W. Mifflin Street

www.madisonpubliclibrary.org



Wed Oct 10
5:30 pm

From Roger Nitzsche, Board President

"TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN"

It is hard to believe that the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison is starting it's **nineteenth year** with a very successful history.

Our Center has graduated a total of 249 students in the past eighteen years. With the continual growth and improvements we have made over the years, along with our continual increase in the operating budget, we are proud to

say that we can still offer this dyslexia tutoring program **free of charge** to the public.

A great deal of credit and gratitude must be given to our Fund Raising Committee for meeting the increased challenges each year. We want to **thank all of our supporters** – individuals, corporations, foundations, fraternal and service organizations, churches, and more -- for their great support in the form of donations, grants, and bequests that make this possible.

We also want to thank **Don Soberg 33°**, Past Deputy for Wisconsin, Scottish Rite, for his most generous estate bequest. *Did you know that Don Soberg was the founder of our Center?* Both he and his wife Pat were also very generous donors over the past years to the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison. With a recent large bequest from Don & Pat to our restricted fund, our sustainability is assured for the future.

We are pleased to continue our contract and partnership with the Madison Metropolitan School District, and we are continually looking for ways to reach out to our neighboring South Central Wisconsin communities to provide this most needed tutoring program.

To summarize, the past eighteen years & looking to the future, it could not have been done without all the caring, dedicated, resourceful individuals who are the heart and soul of this cause. Gratitude and THANKS to all.

Grins, Giggles, and Perhaps Groans

What is the difference between a cat and a comma?

A cat has claws at the end of paws;

A comma is a pause at the end of a clause.

Famous People With Dyslexia

Scientists, artists, architects, astronauts, musicians, engineers, inventors, business leaders, government officials, -- the list goes on and on. Who is YOUR favorite?

Henry Winkler

Actor, Director, Producer, and Childrens' Book Author

March 2015; Source: www.Understood.org

Actor and author Henry Winkler has a message for parents of kids with dyslexia and other learning and attention issues to pass along to their child.

That message is: "You are all powerful. Every one of you. Even though school might be difficult, school does not define us. You all have wonderful and smart thoughts, therefore you are all smart."

Winkler is on the road again, promoting his newest book for kids. *Fake Snakes and Weird Wizards* features Hank Zipzer, a kid with dyslexia, as its hero, Winkler said in an interview with NBC's Today show host, Matt Lauer. And it's part of Winkler and coauthor Lin Oliver's mission to show kids how important reading is.

Winkler is best known to many as "The Fonz," a role he made famous in the 1970s TV series *Happy Days*. But for more than a decade, he's been an active advocate for people with dyslexia. And, with Oliver, he's been writing kids' books featuring the smart, funny Hank Zipzer.

There are 17 books in the original Hank Zipzer series. But the latest book is part of the follow-up *Here's Hank* series of books for

younger readers. These books take place before Hank was diagnosed. In the latest book, Hank is in second grade and much to his surprise, he realizes he wants to help his sister have a good birthday party.

Winkler's new book is the first published in the U.S. to use the Dyslexie font, he said to Lauer. This special font is meant to be easier for people with dyslexia to read. (At present, though, there's no clear scientific evidence that special fonts like Dyslexie do make reading easier.)

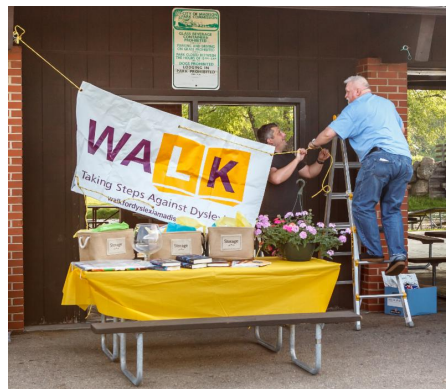
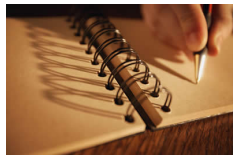
Winkler's goal is to encourage all kids to read. But he knows the challenges of dyslexia firsthand. Winkler didn't find out he had dyslexia until age 31. That was the point when his son, Jed, was diagnosed. During that process Winkler realized that he'd had similar learning challenges.

But Winkler says he did not get much support as a student. "I was only told I would never achieve," he told Lauer. Winkler proved the naysayers wrong.

He finished high school, graduated from Emerson College and received his master of fine arts degree from the Yale School of Drama. He's had a successful career as a comedian, actor, director and writer. And he's been a big inspiration for kids with dyslexia.

For more information about Henry Winkler:
[Henry Winkler Biography](#)

Mark Your 2019 Calendars



Our 10th Annual **Walk for Dyslexia-Madison** will take place **Saturday, May 18, 2019**, at the **Brittingham Park Shelter in Madison**. Registration/Check-in begins at 7:30am; walk at 8:30am.

Please note we are returning to our new location at Brittingham Park in Madison.

Visit www.walkfordyslexia.org for details.

We want to thank our 2018 walk sponsors once again for helping to make our 2018 9th annual walk a success.

[Link to our 2018 Walk sponsors.](#)

A Reminder!



Don't forget to bring in your **BoxTop\$ 4 Education** coupons to put in the collection box located in our waiting area. ***(Please be sure they are not expired.)*** Our Center has raised \$2,026.30 in the last 4-1/2 years with just those little pieces of paper!



We want to thank **Carol Skavlen**, our volunteer who is in charge of this fundraising effort. Carol organizes the coupons, checks the expiration dates, fills out the paperwork and submits everything to General Mills for our donations.

Visit [www.boxtops\\$4education](http://www.boxtops$4education) for more information about this General Mills charitable program that raises money for non-profit organizations.

And, there are coupons on the Boxtop\$ 4 Education website for you to use at the store. Check them out! [Coupon Page](#)

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We want to recognize and thank the following sustaining funders of our Center:

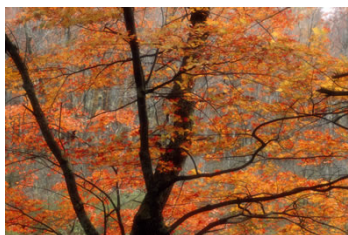
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