

## Winter 2018



### Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison News & Happenings

#### **Welcome to this Winter edition of our newsletter!**

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

Our staff is busy with their daily administrative work and tutoring while our volunteers continue to donate their time and talents to both governance and fund raising. All are focused on the shared goal of helping the families being served by our program.

Please note that the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison will be closed for winter break beginning Friday, December 22 until Tuesday, January 2, with tutoring resuming on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. [Link to our calendar.](#)

### CDC-M Graduate Achieves His Goal!

**Garrett Leis** (pictured on the right) is one of our Center's graduates who went on to technical school and is now employed in his chosen profession as a lineman.

Garrett achieved a 4.0 grade point average at Moraine Park Technical College and is now an Apprentice Lineman for the City of River Falls, Wisconsin, fulfilling his dream of being a power company lineman! Congratulations to Garrett on your success! We are so very proud of you.



Garrett Leis, Apprentice Lineman for the City of River Falls, Wisconsin

Garrett and his family have been avid supporters of the Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison. Garrett spoke many times on behalf of our Center as did his mother, Lisa. They have supported our annual walk fundraiser, and Lisa is still involved in that effort every year. We truly appreciate their help, and we are very happy for Garrett.

Visit our [website](#) to see a collection of photos and information on

how many families have supported us over the years!! Thanks to all of you!

## Tutor Spotlight

What is a major ingredient in our recipe for success?

Our tutors!



This month we would like to share some information about our tutor,

### Mary Ann Francis

Mary Ann received her Master's Degree in vocational education working with at-risk kids. She retired from teaching in the McFarland school district in 2003 and began tutoring at CDC-Madison in 2006. After retiring, Mary Ann missed working with kids and felt the need to continue making a difference. She found out about the Center the same way many people have: a parent told her about our program.

During her scholar training, one of her first questions was, "Why don't they teach this in schools?"

Mary Ann has found our program to be highly effective and also tutors privately outside of the Center. Her favorite part of working at CDC-Madison is making a difference in her students' lives, and she proudly touts tales of her students' successes.

When asked if she has a quote that inspires her she relayed this classic message from Christopher Robin to Winnie-the-Pooh: "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." Now isn't that something all our students should hear?

Mary Ann strives to help each student learn to trust their personal strengths and gifts. Each student has many gifts to offer the world. We are proud to have Mary Ann as one of our tutors!

## Information for Donors



### Charitable IRA Distributions: A Great Opportunity

Taxpayers with traditional individual retirement accounts (IRAs) will be pleased to know that the IRA charitable rollover rule was made permanent at year end 2015, allowing philanthropic individuals greater flexibility in their charitable giving and estate planning. As a result, taxpayers are now able to plan their charitable giving in a more reliable way.

**If a taxpayer is required to take a minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA that he or she does not otherwise need and would like to donate, that distribution can be directed to a public charity.**

It is important to note that this is only available to taxpayers who are more than 70.5 years old, and for amounts not to exceed \$100,000. It also applies only to IRA's.

[For more information click here.](#)

*This information is not written or intended as financial, tax or legal advice. You are encouraged to seek advice from your professional advisors.*

---

## LEGACY CIRCLE

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." — Nelson Henderson*

Planning today will ensure that Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison is here tomorrow to help children read. Your Legacy Circle gift will express your core values and send the message that you believe in our mission. Your gift takes a simple designation and costs you nothing during your lifetime. It's easy and can be changed if you change your mind in the future.

Legacy circle gifts come in many shapes and sizes, and are often the best way to make a significant contribution. If you have not yet included CDC-M in your estate plans, the following are some of the most popular methods to consider:

Charitable Bequests  
Charitable Gift Annuities  
Gifts of Life Insurance  
Retirement Plan Assets  
IRAs

**While we cannot provide tax or legal advice, we can work with you to carry out your vision. The advice of an attorney or qualified financial planner is necessary to assess your personal situation and help you decide which options might best serve your goals. Your request for information will be kept confidential and is non-obligatory.**

**Contact our office at 608-252-4922 for more information.**

---

**[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](mailto:gailpiper6@aol.com).**

---

## Messages



### **From Kelly Kuenzie, Director**

It is "the most wonderful time of the year" again. The holidays are upon us and hopefully we are all spending time with family and friends - catching up and looking ahead to the coming year. Last year at this time I spoke about the larger community of dyslexia - our national and

international community. It still amazes me how wonderful and important this community is.

I traveled to Atlanta, GA for the International Dyslexia Conference last month and was warmed once again to see so many people from across the world who are working to remediate dyslexia and spread awareness about this disability. Our Centers champion the children who work so hard to move forward with dyslexia despite the many challenges they face. I witness the

importance of our tutors and dedicated families each day as we connect with kids struggling to make it through each school day.

I am reminded that there is no quick fix! There have been recent "research" postings in social media saying that dyslexia is a problem of the eyes. That it can be corrected with vision therapy or special lenses. This is not true. We live in a time where instant gratification is the norm and sometimes the information received is not at all correct.

Tutors, families, students, and those educated through our Centers and programs know what is true and don't believe these false claims and misinformation. Children's Dyslexia Centers, Inc. strives to be a stable servant of successful research providing effective teaching for the affected 20% of the population suffering with dyslexia. For all the support of the Masons and the wider Madison community, we thank you!

Have a wonderful holiday and very Happy New Year!

## T-Shirt Artwork Contest

### Walk T-Shirt Artwork Contest Has Begun!

It's time to get those pencils, crayons, markers, and paper out! Help our 9th Annual Walk for Dyslexia by submitting your artwork to be considered for the front of the walk t-shirts. Click below for information flyer and consent form.

*Deadline is January 15, 2018.*

[Contest Announcement with Guidelines](#)  
[Parent Consent Form](#)



## Grins, Giggles, and perhaps Groans



*Question:*

What is large, grey, and doesn't matter?

*Answer:*

An "irrel-a-phant"!

## Famous People With Dyslexia

Scientists, artists, architects, astronauts, musicians, engineers, inventors,

*"If you want to succeed, double your rate of failure"*

-Thomas J Watson, first President of IBM

Thomas Watson was the first president of IBM and is one of many successful business professionals with dyslexia.

---

**You've heard their names and read their stories.  
Let's talk about HOW they got to their place  
in society and achieved success.**

### **Seven Secrets of Success**

What are the common threads among all the success stories we read about famous people with dyslexia? How can you as a parent or teacher, best help your child or student to succeed?

There is no magic bullet for success, no hidden secrets, just old lessons that we have to remember, or relearn. Here are seven common themes we found in the stories of these successful people and many others:

#### **1) Never Give Up**

Just like the quote above from Thomas Watson says, "double your rate of failure!". You just can't give up. Success often comes at the tail end of a whole series of failures. Keep working at it and celebrate each success along the way!

#### **2) Expect to Work Harder**

You're going to have to work harder and fail more than others. Steel yourself and be ready! Someone without dyslexia may learn the alphabet or a phone number with just a few repetitions, a dyslexic person may need 20.

#### **3) Keep your Expectations Low**

That's right, keep them low! Much of the disappointment and frustration in life comes from overly high expectations.

One of the most famous people with dyslexia, **Jay Leno**, put it nicely:

"If you don't think you're the smartest person in the room and you think you're going to have to work a little harder, and put a little more time into it, to get what everybody else does, you can actually do quite well. And that's been my approach."

#### **4) Overlearn, Overpractice**

Professional golfers practice the fundamentals of grip, stance and swing mechanics almost every week of their life. All professional athletes spend more time training than playing - and they are the pros!! Even the most famous people with dyslexia have to work very hard for their success. When you think you have learned something stone cold, keep practicing and practicing. Overlearning is mastery!

#### **5) Find your Strength**

Failing is no fun, and while doubling your rate of failure is a direct route to success, it's really not much fun. Discover what you, your child or your student can do well, and do that - a lot! **Tom Cruise** and **Keira Knightley** loved acting and that's what they did - a lot! **John Lennon** loved music, and he played constantly. Our sense of who we are and our feelings of self worth are often tied to what we can do well. And we can all do something well. Find it, or help your child or student find it!



## 6) Encouragement

In a world that too often brings bad news or disappointment, we all feed off of encouragement. We just can't get enough encouragement, so be sure to give it enough. This is especially important to someone struggling with dyslexia. Celebrate every success, mark every accomplishment, and remember an accomplishment is sometimes simply not giving up!

## 7) Dedicated Parents and Teachers

Love and encouragement from parents, care-taking family members, or teachers is one very common thread in all the stories we hear from famous people with dyslexia. Be that parent, be that aunt, be that teacher. Take the time to make the difference. Build that self esteem at every turn and help them find that strength. Sometimes it's as simple as being there.

Remember that while there are many famous people with dyslexia, being famous is not success. ***Success is believing in yourself and overcoming your challenges. You can do it!***

Source: <http://www.dyslexia-reading-well.com>

## Raffle/Silent Auction Items Needed

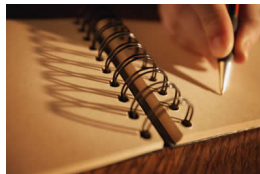
In 2018 we will have two opportunities to raise money via raffles and silent auctions. Both the Ladies Luncheon in April and the NFL Alumni Association-Madison Chapter banquet in late June are venues where we will have the chance to raise funds for the Center in this manner.

All kinds of items are welcome: gift cards, gift certificates, collectibles, artwork, jewelry, and items of interest to sports enthusiasts and participants. Items valued above \$300 are especially welcomed and will be used at the NFL Alumni Association silent auction.

If you have items valued at \$300 or more, please contact **Steve Underwood at 608-216-4589 or [scunderwood@tds.net](mailto:scunderwood@tds.net)**.

For all other items you would like to donate as a raffle or silent auction item, please contact **Sharon Mielke at 608-235-7545 or [rsmilk@centurytel.net](mailto:rsmilk@centurytel.net)**. [Click Here](#) for the form to submit to Sharon with your items for the Ladies Luncheon raffle.

## Mark Your 2018 Calendars



Our annual **Ladies Luncheon** fundraiser sponsored by the Ladies of Madison Valley Scottish Rite will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2018** at the Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. The raffle begins at 10:30am; lunch and entertainment at Noon.

If you would like to be a table hostess, contact Judi Nitzsche at

Our 9th Annual **Walk for Dyslexia-Madison** will take place **Saturday, May 19, 2018, at the Brittingham Park Shelter in Madison**. Registration/Check-in begins at 7:30am; walk at 8:30am.

Please note our new location in 2018 is Brittingham Park in Madison. Visit [www.walkfordyslexia.org](http://www.walkfordyslexia.org) for details.

608-873-643.

If you have raffle items to donate, contact Sharon Mielke at 608-235-7545. (See previous article.)



We want to thank our 2017 walk sponsors for helping to make this year's event a success.

[Link to our 2017 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 \$1,770 in the last four 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](#)

---

## Our Board of Governors

Roger Nitzsche, Chair  
William E. Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Steve Underwood, Secretary  
Paul Krueger, Treasurer  
Gail Piper, Assistant to the Treasurer  
Andy Anderson  
Don Komplin  
Michael Roering  
Peggy Rosin  
Jeanne Silverberg  
Jon Udell

Deputy for Supreme Council, 33° A.A.S.R. for No. M.J.  
Michael A. DeWolf

**Diane Anderson, Controller**

**Kelly Kuenzie, Director**

---

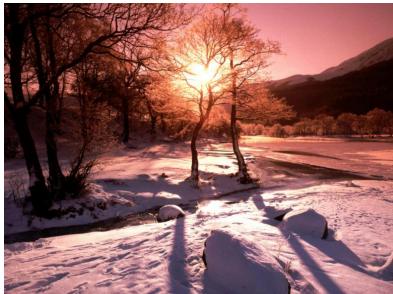
**We want to recognize and thank  
the following sustaining funders of our Center:**

Irwin A & Robert D Goodman Foundation

Madison Community Foundation

NFL Alumni Association-Madison Chapter

Steve Stricker American Family Insurance Foundation



**Children's Dyslexia Center-Madison**  
608.252.4922 office | 608.252.4933 fax  
[admin@cdc-madison.org](mailto:admin@cdc-madison.org)  
[www.cdc-madison.org](http://www.cdc-madison.org)  
[www.childrendyslexiacenters.org](http://www.childrendyslexiacenters.org)

