



RAISING  
HANDS  
Literacy Project

# 2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

imse  
institute for multi-sensory education

concepts (c-d)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

RED WORDS

2.

1.

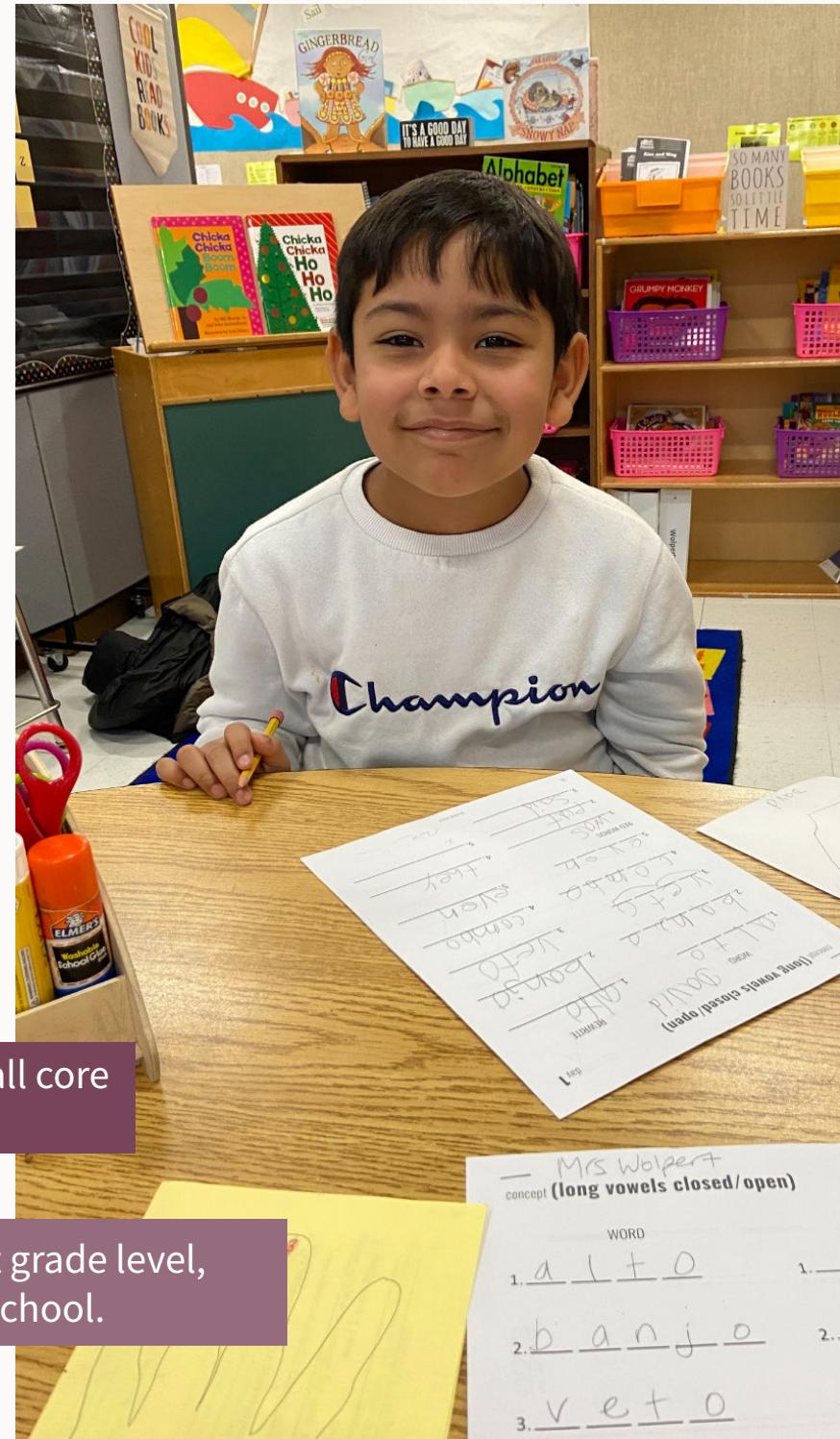
# OUR MISSION

Raising Hands Literacy Project is dedicated to empowering underserved students by providing high-quality, individualized tutoring and innovative enrichment programs. We aim to close academic gaps, build confidence, and inspire a love for learning through personalized support and hands-on experiences. By fostering equitable access to education and nurturing critical thinking and creativity, we equip students with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed in school and beyond.

1 in 5 children has dyslexia or another reading disability, yet most schools lack the resources to provide specialized support

Just 25% of teacher preparation programs fully address all core components of scientifically based reading instruction.

Nearly 65% of fourth graders in the US are not reading at grade level, making them four times more likely to drop out of high school.



# WHAT WE OFFER



Low-income students are 2-3 times more likely to struggle with reading, but only a small fraction have access to high-quality, research-based tutoring.

- ★ Free Tutoring for Low-Income Children.
- ★ Private and Small Group Tutoring
- ★ Early Literacy Classes for New and Pre-Readers
- ★ Dyslexia Screening and Comprehensive Reading & Writing Evaluations
- ★ Orton-Gillingham Training and Certification for teachers
- ★ Parent Support Services and Workshops

# STUDENT TUTORING

At Raising Hands Literacy Project, we believe every child deserves access to high-quality, research-based reading instruction—regardless of their background or financial situation.

Our one-on-one, multisensory tutoring program, led by highly effective Orton-Gillingham educators, ensures struggling readers receive the individualized instruction they need to thrive. This specialized instruction—recommended by the NJ DOE as a best practice for struggling readers—is typically only available through private schools or expensive tutoring programs, making it out of reach for many low-income families. At RHLP, we bridge that gap by offering this high-quality service completely free to qualifying students.

We recruit students through partnerships with schools, community organizations, and local agencies, as well as by posting information in high-traffic areas like food banks, libraries, and community bulletin boards. Students are invited to apply on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring that those who need support the most receive it.

# 2024



## 1870

*HOURS OF FREE TUTORING  
(5750 SINCE 2018)*



## 34

*STUDENTS TUTORED  
(94 SINCE 2018)*

# \$215,000

*SAVINGS TO PARENTS  
(\$606,000 SINCE 2018)*



## \$110,440

*SAVINGS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
(\$360,000 SINCE 2018)*



# DYSLEXIA SCREENING

Dyslexia is the most common learning disability, affecting 1 in 5 students. However, schools do not provide screening or diagnosis, and the cost for testing can average \$2000 out of pocket. At our center, we make dyslexia screening more accessible for families by offering it for free through our tutoring and community programs.

**\$6000**

2024 SAVINGS TO  
PARENTS FROM  
DYSLEXIA SCREENING

**\$210,000**

SAVINGS TO PARENTS  
FROM DYSLEXIA  
SCREENING SINCE 2018



## Words Teachers Use to Describe Our Program

A cluster of words in various colors (purple, green, blue) arranged in a cloud shape, describing the program. The words include: powerful, growth, effective, amazing, transformative, rewarding, motivating, impactfull, reflective, intense, educational, fulfilling, gratifying, and invaluable.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Only 11% of K-2 and special education teachers feel “completely prepared” to teach reading, and just 25% of teacher preparation programs fully address all core components of scientifically based reading instruction. This glaring gap leaves many students—especially those at risk—without the foundational skills they need to succeed.

<b>10</b>	RUTGERS STUDENT TEACHERS/FIRST YEAR TEACHERS TRAINED AND CERTIFIED
<b>23 (75)</b>	TEACHERS TRAINED IN 2024 (SINCE 2018)
<b>6000</b>	HOURS OF TEACHER TRAINING IN 2024
<b>\$110,500</b>	2024 COHORT SAVINGS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR TEACHER TRAINING

### BEFORE TRAINING

“I feel confident teaching reading”	53%
“I know how to effectively differentiate reading instruction to reach all learners.”	33%
“My teacher preparation program taught me how to implement a research based reading program.”	6%

### AFTER TRAINING

“I feel the practicum was a worthwhile use of my time ”	100%
“I feel prepared to differentiate lessons based on different student's needs .”	100%
“I feel more confident as a reading teacher than I did before the practicum.”	100%

# THE READING LAB

In 2024, in collaboration with the IMSE Foundation, we launched an innovative, community-based pilot program that provides free after-school reading tutoring to children in need, while simultaneously training teachers to become certified in a research-based reading program. Through the Raising Hands Learning Lab, teachers completing their Orton-Gillingham certification practicum receive on-site supervision and immediate feedback from CERI-certified dyslexia interventionists, and students receive the individualized reading help they need, which they otherwise would not have access to.

Our vision is that, by providing struggling readers with accessible remediation services and equipping schools with highly effective reading teachers, we will see a decrease in special education referrals and an increase in literacy rates, along with greater confidence for both students and teachers.

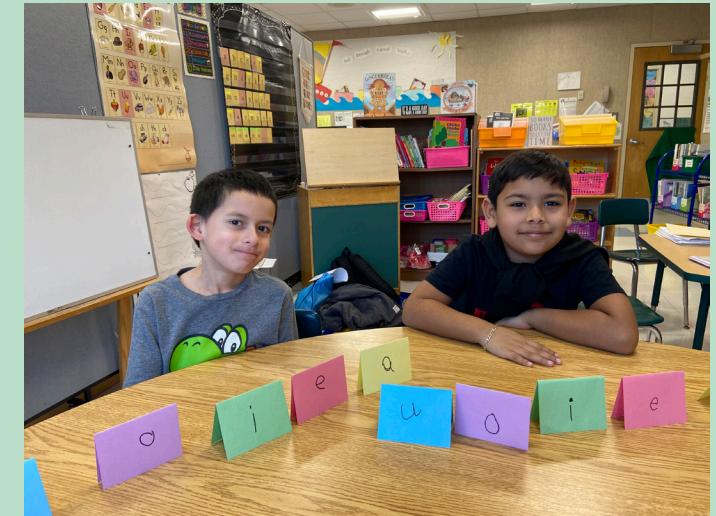


## THE READING LAB



# bright\*lings

This year, we partnered with Brightlings Tutoring Center to bring our Tutoring and Teacher Certification Program to Huntington, Long Island. Lisa, Brightlings' founder and director, was inspired by our mission and took the initiative to make a meaningful impact in her community. Through this partnership, we trained two teachers and provided four students in the Harbor Fields School District with high-impact tutoring. We're excited to continue this partnership and look forward to running the program for a second year, expanding our reach and helping even more students succeed.



**SAUER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION**

Thanks to the generous support of the Sauer Family Foundation, we were able to train and certify a cohort of 9 teachers in the South Washington County School District in the St. Paul, Minnesota area for the second year in a row. This continued partnership has allowed us to equip local educators with the skills and resources needed to make a lasting impact on students' literacy development, helping to ensure that more children receive the high-quality education they deserve. We are grateful for the Sauer Family Foundation's commitment to improving education in the community.

# What they're saying about us!

“Before starting with Raising Hands Tutoring my son struggled recognizing letters and with letter sounds. When we reviewed them he'll get extremely frustrated and say “I can't do this!” Now he feels confident and often says “I'm smart I can totally do this” when working with his tutor.”

**-Parent of RHT Student**

“Children with dyslexia are intelligent learners; when learning is a struggle they assume its because they aren't bright. When schools fail to provide these kids with the kind of learning they need, we extinguish that bright light. Kids with learning disabilities, 20% of the population, grow up thinking they are stupid. What Holly and Raising Hands Tutoring does is nourish kids with dyslexia, and other learning disabilities...showing them they are not stupid, they are, in fact, full of boundless potential. Its a life-changing impact. It certainly was for my family. Dyslexia centered learning is expensive. Raising Hands Tutoring bridges this inequity gap by bringing affordable, high quality dyslexia centered learning to all kids with a learning disability. In doing so, they nourish the next generation, bringing unimaginable benefit to those kids and our joint future.”

**-Melissa Quall, Highland Park Resident**

“The progress I've seen in my students has been nothing short of amazing. Watching them grow has been so rewarding! After conducting a mid-year assessment, it's clear that the methods we're using are really paying off. They went from 28% to 93%! What's even more fulfilling is seeing their excitement every week as they see their progress and eagerly anticipate learning something new. They cheer when they see they are able to write all of the words at the end of the week! Their enthusiasm and dedication to improving makes every session so worthwhile. It's incredible to be part of their journey and see how much confidence they gain in their reading skills.”

**-Miss Salerno, 2nd Grade Teacher, Bartle Elementary**

“Partnering with Raising Hands Tutoring with the support of the IMSE Foundation, presents a valuable opportunity for our district. This program represents an investment not only in our educators' professional growth but also in our students' long-term academic success.”

**-Michele Rodrigues, Director of Instruction Highland Park School District**

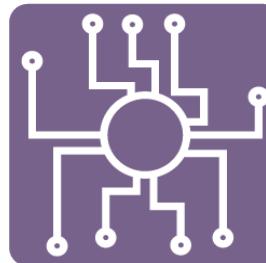
“I am proud to work as a tutor for Raising Hands, providing free, high-quality reading instruction to students from low-income families in our community. Opening the doors to reading success for a child is life-changing and benefits all of us.”

**-May Lewis, M.Ed., RHT Teacher**

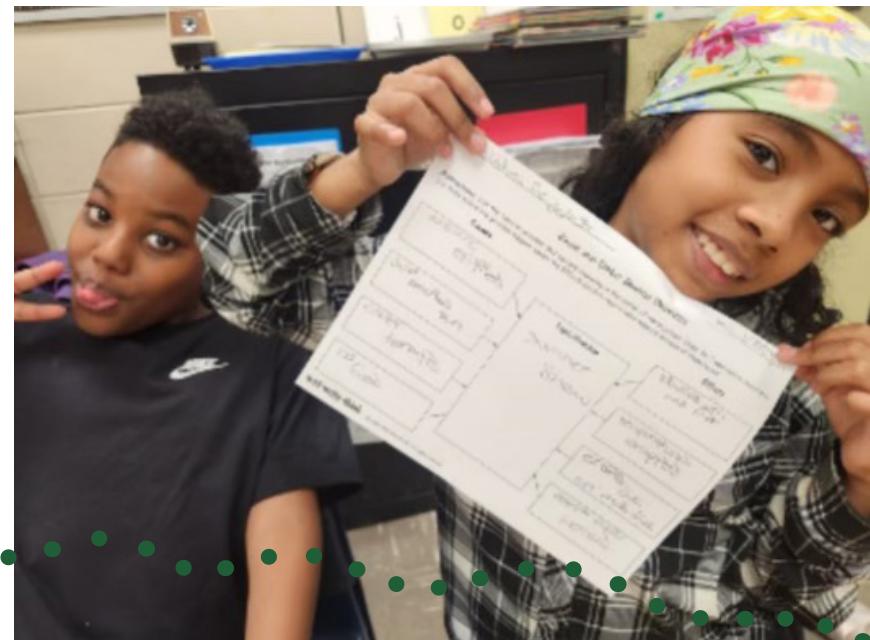
# COMING IN 2025...

## STEM

In 2025, Raising Hands is planning to introduce a STEM component to its literacy program in Hackettstown, NJ. This pilot program, sponsored by The Reed Family, will provide underserved children with access to enriching STEM experiences that will complement their literacy development. By integrating hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, and math, the program aims to equip students with critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for their future careers. This initiative will help bridge the literacy gap while preparing students for success in an increasingly technology-driven world.



Raising Hands is teaming up with Dyslexic Edge to create a powerful initiative that tackles both the immediate need for better literacy and long-term educational growth. By working together, we aim to help students improve their reading skills while also giving them the tools they need for future success. This partnership will amplify our efforts to make sure all kids, especially those underserved, have access to the resources and opportunities they deserve.



# OUR PARTNERS



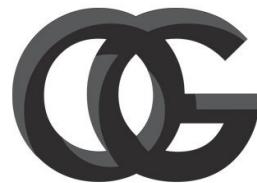
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SAUER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



JOHN BEN SNOW  
FOUNDATION AND  
MEMORIAL TRUST  
INVESTING IN PEOPLE



ORTON-GILLINGHAM  
MULTISENSORY READING



FOUNDATION

bright\*lings

 DYSLEXIC EDGE  
PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

 THE Provident BANK  
FOUNDATION

## OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

Get In Touch! [info@raisinghandstutoring.org](mailto:info@raisinghandstutoring.org)