



# 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT





## Thanks to your support, 2018–19 was an amazing year for Hill Learning Center.

We empowered thousands of students and educators in the Triangle, across North Carolina, and beyond. We lived into our new brand and expanded vision to ensure **ALL children with learning and attention challenges receive the instruction and support they need - regardless of where they attend school or whether they have a formal diagnosis.**

It is impossible to adequately express my gratitude to all of the donors, partners, parents, educators, and students who make up the community that is Hill Learning Center.

Two things I know for sure: **we are better together, and we need all of you as we continue to increase our impact.**

It is equally difficult to chronicle all you helped us accomplish last year, but here are a few highlights:

- ◆ Hill School provided individualized instruction and support to 186 courageous K-12 learners representing 70 area public, private, and home schools - our biggest year yet.
- ◆ Thanks to you, our successful financial aid campaign expanded access to Hill School, Summer, and Tutoring, and boosted partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Durham and Orange Counties, Durham Public Schools, and Students To Scholars.
- ◆ 1,252 educators participated in Hill Professional Development, and 274 of them enrolled in more than one training.

- ◆ In collaboration with the NC Department of Public Instruction, we provided literacy training to 336 district leaders and teachers from 99 NC school districts and 14 charter schools.
- ◆ More than 500 teachers used the Hill Reading Achievement Program (HillRAP) Digital iPad app to teach 5,000+ struggling learners to read in 35 NC public school districts and 7 states.
- ◆ Through new partnerships with KIPP Delta in Arkansas and The Dyslexia Resource in Atlanta, we teamed up to provide technology and research-based reading instruction to students growing up furthest from opportunity.
- ◆ Curriculum Pathways®—provided by SAS contributed pro-bono software development services to make the Hill Learning System an even better technology tool for educators.

Your gifts also enabled investment in our faculty and staff, upgrades to our campus and infrastructure, and expansion of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives with our employees and board of trustees.

Because of you, we have accomplished all of this, and more, on behalf of the 1 in 5 students with learning and attention challenges. Thank you for your belief in their success, your commitment to their growth, and your support for their unique strengths. **We truly are better together.**

With deep appreciation,

Beth Anderson  
Executive Director



## Your gifts inspire us.

They power the community that is Hill Learning Center.

As you flip through the pages of this annual report, you'll see that it looks different from years past. This year we are focusing on the impact of your giving.

When you contribute, our Hill community grows stronger. Every gift makes a difference to the students, families and teachers who walk through our

doors. Every gift helps touch the lives of hundreds of teachers and students across 35 NC districts, 7 states and 2 countries where Hill-trained educators help children with learning differences and attention challenges. Every gift helps a child succeed in school and in life.

Sharing the tremendous impact of your support is our way of saying thank you for being a part of our community.

Together, we are better.

*A complete list of donors who contributed to Hill Learning Center between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 is available at [hillcenter.org/our-supporters](http://hillcenter.org/our-supporters).*



## Hill is deeply committed to empowering the 1 in 5 students who learn differently.

Hill invests in our people and programs so that we can continue to help public, private, and homeschool students gain the skills and confidence to learn and succeed, regardless of where they attend school.

Today, we serve students by providing direct instruction in reading, writing, math, and executive function skills for K-12 students. Parents travel many miles so their children can participate in Hill Student Programs, sometimes even relocating for the summer or school year to be nearby. Educators from across North Carolina and beyond seek out our training and technology so that they can implement proven methods in their own classrooms.

The word is out. Hill Learning Center is a hub for high-quality instructional practices.

That's why Hill aspires to continue providing excellent instruction, tools, and resources for students and educators, while also expanding beyond our walls. Through educator training and partnership development, Hill will become a national leader for equitable, differentiated, research-based instruction for all students with learning differences and attention challenges.

We seek to ensure every child who learns differently receives the instruction and support they need and deserve, including those often furthest from opportunity.

It starts here. It continues only with your help.

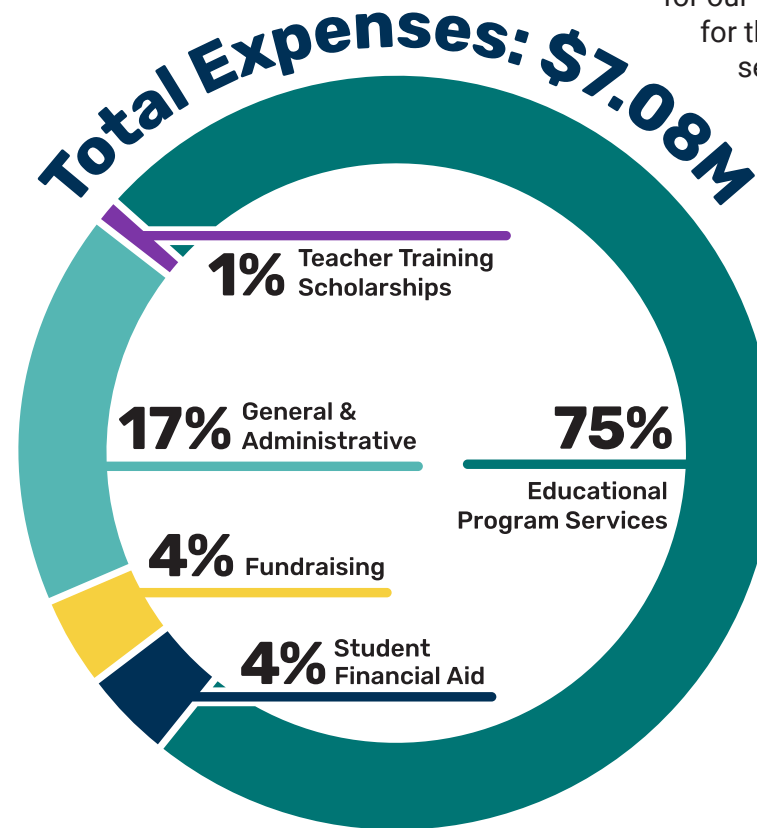
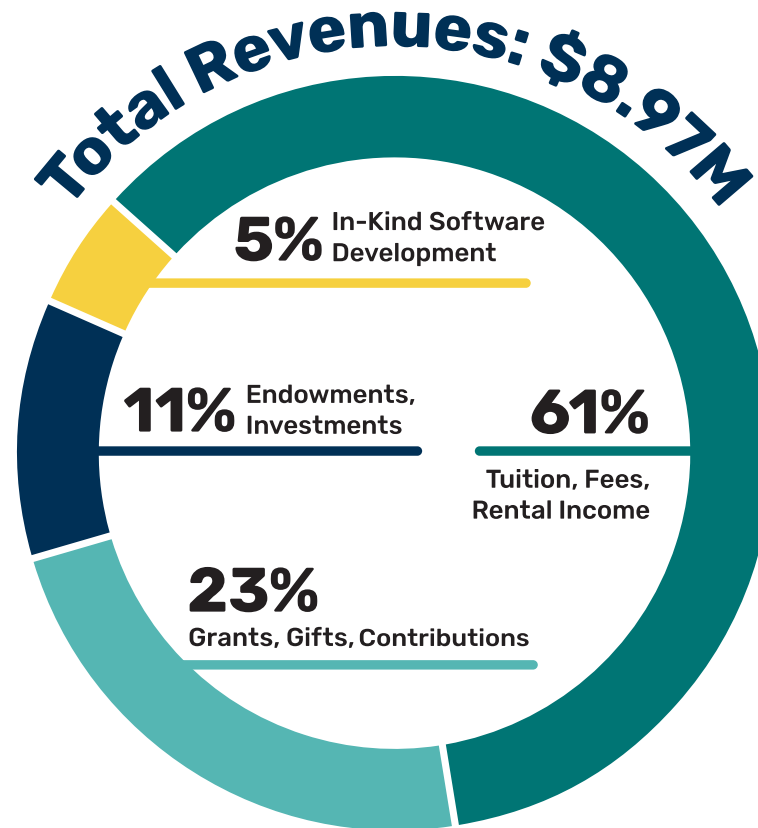
# WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

## Every Gift Makes A Difference

A significant portion of the operating budget—23 percent—is covered by gifts to our annual fund, gifts for special projects, and income from endowment funds. Your contributions make a huge impact on our community; the quality of our people, programs, and trainings; and the continued financial viability of Hill Learning Center. Last year we received over \$1.6 million in contributions, including more than \$430,000 in unrestricted gifts and grants.

## Gifts to Student Financial Aid

Gifts to student financial aid provide families in need with essential financial support to make attending Hill School possible. In 2018-19, \$278,295 was awarded to 33 qualified families. We send special thanks to all 532 donors who contributed to the Wendy B. Speir Student Financial Aid Fund challenge and the 2019 Hill Mile.



## Gifts to Teacher Scholarships

At Hill we persistently try to address barriers to access—for students and for teachers. One way we do this is by awarding scholarships to teachers for our professional learning opportunities. Too often, teachers must pay for their own continuing education; many schools and districts have severely limited budgets for the training teachers need to improve their skills. The more scholarship dollars we can provide, the more teachers can learn, grow, and ultimately empower the students in their classrooms. Last year donors contributed \$38,000 providing scholarships to 199 teachers.

## Gifts to Partnerships

Collaborating with public school districts requires a creative funding model, and it is the projects that have support from within their community that ultimately make the most progress and benefit the most students. An individual, foundation, or group of community leaders can be the catalyst for change. Investments in our district partnerships have funded HillRAP training and tutoring, individualized coaching, and technology purchases. Individuals and foundations contributed \$578,000 to our partnerships, helping us serve students, teachers, and schools in 35 school districts and 7 states.



# Hill Happenings



1. Hill's supporters celebrated Wendy Speir's 38 years of service by contributing to the Wendy B. Speir Student Financial Aid Fund challenge, ultimately raising \$358,000 for families in need.
2. The Waynell Morris Fund for Mothers who Advocate for their Children hosted Debbie Reber, New York Times best-selling author of *Differently Wired*.
3. Donors in Stanly County came together to raise nearly \$300,000 to support HillRAP expansion in their public schools.

4. Erin Rolandelli, Director of the Barnhill Family Foundation awarded Hill with one of nine "Pave the Way" multi-year grants.
5. Master Literacy Trainers participated in Hill's Structured Literacy workshop in Boone, NC as part of a partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction.
6. KIPP Delta is using HillRAP to reach struggling learners in their schools in the rural Arkansas Delta.

7. Duke Energy welcomed Hill Math trainers to deliver a packed workshop at Piedmont Community College in Granville County.
8. Hill welcomed leaders from Florida Center for Reading Research to North Carolina.
9. Davie County teachers engaged in role-play during a HillRAP Digital training.
10. Philanthropic contributions brought 20 struggling readers from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Durham and Orange Counties to Hill for twice weekly tutoring.



## On the Rise

Thanks to your incredible outpouring for Hill Mile and the Wendy B. Speir Student Financial Aid challenge, we raised \$358,000 to help more families in need enroll at Hill School. Your generosity allowed us to expand our 2019-20 financial aid budget to \$365,000, a 31% increase over last

year. An additional \$10,000 in gifts provided our first ever scholarships for students to participate in Hill tutoring classes and summer programs. With this foundation and continued support from donors, we aim to expand access to Hill Student Programs each year.

**\$10,600 provided 50% tuition assistance to a qualified student**



## The Other 1 in 5

There's another 1 in 5 in our population, and that's the 1 in 5 general education teachers that feel "very well prepared" to teach students with mild to moderate learning disabilities, including ADHD and dyslexia\*.

Educators deserve better. That's why Hill's professional development offerings

are designed to empower teachers with skills and tools to reach the struggling learners in their classrooms.

From Hill's own signature workshops - over 30 each year - to guest presenters, online courses, and virtual tools within the Hill Learning System, Hill is dedicated to supporting teachers.

**\$1,900 provided one teacher with HillRAP training and coaching, and one year of access to the Hill Learning System, including use of the HillRAP App with an unlimited number of students.**

\*Mitchell, C. (2019, May 29). Most Classroom Teachers Feel Unprepared to Support Students With Disabilities [Web blog post]. Retrieved from [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2019/05/teachers\\_feel\\_unprepared\\_to\\_teach\\_students\\_with\\_disabilities.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/speced/2019/05/teachers_feel_unprepared_to_teach_students_with_disabilities.html)



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# Hill Happenings



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1. Students, faculty, staff, board members, parents, and friends celebrated the launch of our new brand, website and vision.
2. Summer is a time to plan, rest, and team-build. Staff teams enjoyed outings to Bull City Escape to foster community, communication, and fun!
3. Educators from The Dyslexia Resource and Marietta City Schools participated in HillRAP Digital training at The Schenck School in Atlanta, GA.
4. Hundreds of supporters participated in the 5th Annual Hill Mile in support of the Wendy B. Speir Student Financial Aid fund, raising over \$70,000.
5. We remember and honor Hill Grandparent Phil Freelon who passed away on July 9, 2019. A world-renowned architect, our campus on Pickett Road was designed by the Freelon Group under Phil's leadership.
6. An annual tradition, faculty and staff are given the royal treatment by our school families with a special Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.
7. Our 2018-19 Senior class was one of the largest in Hill history! UNC Wilmington, Alamance Community College, Guilford College, High Point University, and more are lucky to have them.
8. Over 175 students participated in Hill summer programs discovering that learning can be fun, like doing research to discover the best bubble gum.
9. The annual Spring Fest is a highlight for all Hill students!



## Good Bones

3200 Pickett Road. Our address, our home. We've got 'good bones' but with 35,000 square feet of space, you can only imagine the time, energy, and expense Hill faces annually to keep things humming.

We are proud of our school and the Kirby-Horton Teacher Training Center,

and work hard to maintain a welcoming, safe and functioning learning hub for our extensive community. Unrestricted contributions to our annual fund helped us maintain our buildings and grounds, upgrade our outdated AV equipment, and add classroom furniture for a range of learners.

**\$24,631 purchased new standing desks, wobble chairs and other furnishings**



## Learning Together

For four years Hill has invited experts to speak directly to the broad community of people who want to know more about learning differences and attention challenges. Our Community Education Series brings nationally known authors,

advocates and researchers to inform, inspire, and ignite connections. Last year, we hosted six community education events and were able to livestream these free events to reach even more interested learners.

**\$2,500 covered speaker fees and travel for one event**

*View the Community Education Series schedule at [hillcenter.org/CES](http://hillcenter.org/CES).*



# BECAUSE OF YOU...



We are inspired by Hill's commitment to equity in reaching all students with learning differences, and we challenge others to give generously to help more students realize their potential. **The more we raise, the greater the impact we will have on students and families from all backgrounds.**

—ANDY SHORT & ANDREA VIZOSO  
HILL SCHOOL ALUMNI PARENTS



**Our time at Hill has been transformative and life changing for our daughter, and for us as a family.**

We started unsure of her specific challenges, and even more uncertain how to navigate them effectively. After two years, we as a family, and most importantly our daughter as an individual, have experienced success and gained confidence. We understand more about her learning style, and what allows her to succeed. That is an amazing gift.

—AMY SIMONSON  
CURRENT HILL SCHOOL PARENT



We are elated to have this research-based instruction made available to our students. What makes this stand out from all the other instructional techniques is the seamless merging of research-based reading and technology. Our teachers are able to instruct students on their individual levels all at the same time through the use of the app. **The exceptional students of Yadkin County Schools are receiving the best reading instruction available!**

—KRISTI GADDIS  
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES, YADKIN COUNTY SCHOOLS



Hill provides the tools and framework, while still allowing each teacher to teach to their personal style. It's addictive to me because **I get the opportunity to see those reading light bulbs come on time after time after time.**

—HEATHER COOK  
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST,  
DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Our Mission

Transforming students with learning differences  
into confident, independent learners.



[hillcenter.org](https://hillcenter.org)

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