



# CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY



"Launching the Learning Development Center has been one of the most rewarding things I've done in my life."

Mr. George Watts Hill

In 2017-18, we celebrated four decades of learning, growing, and building strong relationships with students, educators, and partners across North Carolina and beyond.

Now, as we launch into our next 40 years of transforming students with learning differences into confident, independent learners, we are thrilled to reintroduce you to:



www.hillcenter.org

# ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

#### Friends:

We are enormously proud of all we have accomplished together over the last 40 years. Thank you for being part of our journey.

As we build on our strong foundation and look to the future, we are continually evolving to better serve students, educators, and communities. We are excited to share our expanded vision, and new name and look, with you through the pages of this report. We are especially grateful to the Poses Family Foundation and Rivers Agency for their support in developing our vision and brand identity.

Our expanded vision (see p. 4-5) puts both learning and equity at the center as we officially adopt the name *Hill Learning Center* and double down on our commitment to ensuring ALL children with learning differences and attention challenges receive the instruction and support they need.

Our new logo and look better reflect who we are and what we do. The strong letters of our logo represent our solid foundation, while the bright yellow circle symbolizes the individuality of our students and our methodology. The blended colors of the "H" represent inclusion within our community and connectivity beyond Hill's physical walls.

In navigating change, we remain grounded in our mission and enduring values. In the pages of this report, we celebrate and thank our partners, students, educators, families, and donors for how they each contribute to our ability to live out our core values on behalf of the students and teachers we serve.

We know that we do our best work in partnership with others, and that we cannot achieve our vision alone. Thank you to everyone in our community who helps create better outcomes for students. We are grateful!

Warmly,

Beth Omle

Beth Anderson Executive Director

Kick Looaler

Rick Rosenberg Chair, Board of Directors



#### **OUR CORE VALUES**

### We Learn

### We Empower

### We Reach

### We Relate

We Care

# HILL'S EXPANDED VISION

All students with learning differences and attention challenges receive the instruction and support they need,

regardless of where they attend school or whether they have a formal diagnosis.

Hill Learning Center will be a learning hub for equitable and differentiated, research-based practices that meet the needs of students and educators.

> Our vision is our North Star it helps guide us, align us, and focus us on the change we want to see in the world, and the part we want to play in pursuing it.

Ve Relate

### **VISION IN ACTION**

Our expanded vision is student-centered, aspirational, clear in its commitment to equity, and looks beyond Hill's own methodology and programs.



### **STUDENTS**

We are reaffirming our commitment to serving the 1 in 5 students with learning differences and attention challenges.

We will strive to reach struggling learners beyond Hill School regardless of whether they have a formal diagnosis.



### **TEACHERS**

We aim to build a dynamic, collaborative community of educators learning and advancing research and practice together.

To do this, we will learn from other leaders, pilot new instructional approaches, and develop and distribute research-based, field-tested practices to our community.



### EQUITY

Equitable approaches increase inclusivity and expand access to high-quality learning.

Our commitment to equitable approaches means that we will work across all of our programs to reduce barriers to bringing differentiated, culturally responsive instruction and support to diverse learners.

### **RESEARCH-BASED**

Researchers in fields from education to neuroscience are constantly uncovering new information about how students learn.

Hill works to ensure all of our classrooms, trainings, and programs remain grounded in research and current with new developments from the field.





# HILL'S IMPACT

Hill's work **centers on the needs of students and educators,** and developing effective programs, practices, and partnerships to serve more learners.

### HILL LEARNING CENTER SUPPORTS STUDENT GROWTH

938

students served directly in 2017-18 through school year, summer, and tutoring programs

100

percent of Boys & Girls Club students receiving after-school tutoring at Hill say they feel more confident reading at school

93

percent of NC public school students using Hill's intensive reading intervention demonstrated growth on standardized, state assessments

# HILL LEARNING CENTER EMPOWERS EDUCATORS

1,188

34

22

educators trained with Hill, either in-person, online, or blended

teachers in NC became certified HillRAP Instructors, and 12 more became HillRAP Mentors

workshops or conferences Hill faculty and staff attended or presented at last year



*"Hill School changed our family's life.* Josiah truly embodies Hill's mission, as Hill helped transform him into a confident, independent learner."

Judy, Hill Parent



"I am always looking for opportunities to motivate students to reach higher goals in math. In today's workshop, I gained many new strategies to engage students that I can put into action tomorrow!"

> NC 1st Grade Teacher, 11-yr veteran

# HILL LEARNING CENTER

6

new strategic partners helping pursue our expanded vision





NC public school districts using HillRAP in 2017-18

US states where HillRAP is being implemented: North Carolina, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Tennessee.

## HILL LEARNING CENTER PRIORITIZES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

18

members of Hill's faculty and staff leading efforts to embed DEI principles and practices across the organization

5

advisors, philanthropists, and partners supporting us in our goals



116

Hill families, faculty, staff, board members, and friends set up Hill Mile Crowdrise pages and helped us raise \$84,000 for student financial aid



"Your assistance with implementing HillRAP is phenomenal. *Thanks for all* you do to help us achieve our goals!

HillRAP Teacher, Alamance-Burlington School System



"Hill Mile raises scholarships for kids just like me who need individualized teaching but the school isn't a financial option for their family.

This fundraiser holds a special place to me because I used to be frustrated with school but now it's easier for me to enjoy learning."

Nicholas, Hill Student

# WE LEARN

Each year we learn more about *what works for students and educators,* through our own practice and through our network of partners.

Thanks to the *Belk Foundation*, we worked with researchers and experts at The William & Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation as we: THE WILLIAM & IDA FRIDAY INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

#### significantly evolved HillRAP training



New trainings incorporate proven strategies for effective adult learning, including role-play practice and differentiated instruction based on prior knowledge and skills.

#### developed 19 literacy micro-credentials for teachers

Educators earn digital badges for demonstrating research-based instructional practice, empowering them to engage with lessons targeting areas of need or interest.

#### harvested lessons learned about implementing HillRAP in high-need schools

Read the report and watch the accompanying video "A Marked Difference: The Impact of Hill Learning Center's HillRAP Program" at www.hillcenter.org/ news.

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"My team has loved the rich conversations with Hill about how we can each leverage our expertise to create new and better learning experiences for educators.

Our partnership has evolved over the years as we continue to learn together about what works.

Our shared goal is to ensure that all educators have the foundational literacy knowledge they need to teach any student."

Mary Ann Wolf, Ph.D. Director of Digital Learning Programs

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HillRAP is Hill's proven reading intervention for struggling learners. The Hill Learning System is a virtual learning hub with courses and resources for educators, and hosts the HillRAP Digital intervention and reports.

Visit www.hillcenter.org/hillrap to see HillRAP and HLS in action!

### FACULTY LEAD AND LEARN

Philanthropic investment by the F.M. Kirby Foundation and others ensures our faculty remain leaders in the field.

\*Presenting at the LDA Conference offered the opportunity to share the research-based Executive Function strategies developed and implemented at Hill and engage with educators from across the country, all dedicated to helping students with learning differences and attention challenges discover their strengths and gain confidence."

> Kerrie Goray and Geraldine Pesacreta Hill Faculty



Students in the Middle School summer program work on organization strategies.

#### Learn more about Executive Function tutoring at Hill at www.hillcenter.org/tutoring.



"Attending the NC Technology in Education Society conference certainly inspired and empowered me to seek out new ways to use technology to differentiate and individualize support for my diverse learners. I've started integrating more online platforms into my classes, and I look forward to using hyper-docs and continuing my own learning about technology use in the classroom!"

> Sandy Silverman Hill Faculty

**NCAIS** "Last spring, Hill hosted the NCAIS Diversity & Inclusion Conference. *I learned that culturally responsive teaching practices are a form of differentiation. Hill prioritizes differentiated instruction for students, so this connection was especially helpful.* 

This year I am helping lead a culturally responsive teaching working group. As we research best practices, our group will implement what we learn in our classrooms and share our findings with our colleagues."



Darius Horton Hill Faculty

Hill is proud to have our programs accredited and recognized by:











# WE EMPOWER

*We aim to help students* take charge of their own learning and lives, and *teachers* use their knowledge, skills, and creativity to lead students to success.

Parents, tutors, administrators, and students share how Hill empowers them:



"Hill has forever changed our lives. *It gave my son the skills, confidence, and hope* to have a successful academic future."

Hill Parent

"One benefit of working with Hill has been building the foundational literacy skills of our teachers and interventionists. **The benefits have expanded beyond HillRAP groups** – coaches are applying those new skills when reviewing lesson plans and supporting other teachers."

Principal, Durham





"Making mistakes is not humiliating. Even failing doesn't need to be humiliating. But to work as sincerely and diligently and as hard as I worked and to ALWAYS fail in school...it took a toll.

When I became a teacher, I realized I could understand the kids who struggled. I finally had the insight to see that, all this time, I was dyslexic - not stupid.

When I could name my demon, it wasn't ME anymore. I am grateful for the years of struggle that help me connect authentically with children. To reach hard for them. To communicate that they have the power and ability to succeed."

Dawn McClendon, Hill Tutor, Executive Function Coach, and Summer Faculty

Watch Dawn tell her courageous story at hillcenter.org/DawnStory.



"Change is a word that can inspire a variety of feelings, and it can be a very difficult thing to comprehend. Change can be exhilarating or it can be exhausting - but however you view it, it is part of life.

Four years ago my family moved to North Carolina - and I started my freshman year of high school at Hill. When I received the news we were moving across the country, I felt scared and intimidated.

# When I came to Hill for the first time to meet my teachers and classmates, I could sense it was an unusual place. I felt immediately like I was part of something special.

If you asked me four years ago, I would have told anyone I hated the move, and going to two schools at once. But if you asked me now I would say it's the best thing I've ever done.

The teachers made me fall in love with Hill, and the hard work and effort the teachers put in made me not want to leave. Freshman year was a year of huge change for me - where I lived, where I learned, and how I felt about myself.

I learned a secret about change: it can be difficult at first, but it gets better over time. Amazing things can come from change. While we may try to run from it, or not acknowledge it, it is always there.

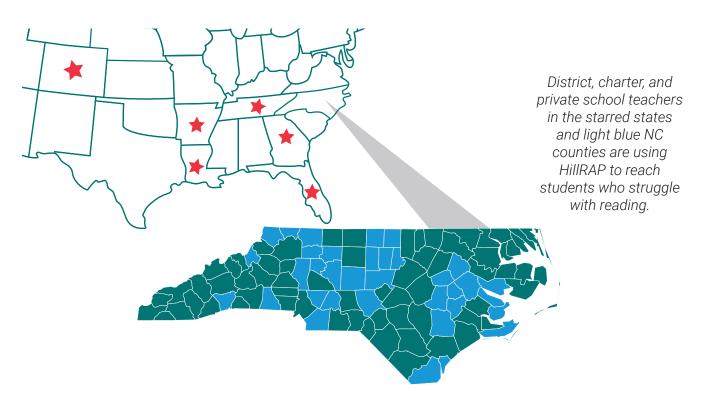
# I am so thankful for the ways I've confronted and embraced the changes in my life, with the help of my teachers and classmates at Hill."

Annie Medlock, Hill Class of 2018

Pictured with parents Kathy and Bill Medlock at Senior Ceremony, May 2018

# WE REACH

We serve a **broad and diverse group of students and educators** at Hill and beyond our walls.



Hill is proud to collaborate with the NC Department of Public Instruction to train 400 Master Literacy Trainers, representing every district in the state.



Thank you to the *Mebane Foundation* for supplementing funding from the Read to Achieve program to make these trainings available statewide.

"We all know how important it is for students to be reading at their grade levels," said State Superintendent Mark Johnson. "This is just the start in the effort to give every teacher in North Carolina the additional tools they need to help their students be successful when it comes to literacy."

At left: State Superintendent Mark Johnson visits a HillRAP class at Cook Literacy Model School in Winston-Salem, NC.

Extending reach requires strong people, programs, and partnerships, and generous philanthropic support from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Thank you to all our partners working to help support the 1 in 5 students struggling with learning and attention challenges.









educyte



MEBANE FOUNDATION Catalyst for Innovation & Excellence in Education

















Leadership Institute





Z. Smith Reynolds

Thank you also to: the BelleJAR Foundation; the Durham Merchants Association Charitable Foundation; the Fox Family Foundation; the Goodnight Educational Foundation; and the many individual supporters who make our work possible. Please see our Honor Roll on pages 20-23 to celebrate all our generous donors.









F. M. Kirby Foundation





# WE RELATE

We **build authentic relationships** with students, families, educators, and communities to support their needs.

Hill, Stanly County Schools, and community leaders are working together to improve literacy.



100% of the 68 students who received HillRAP showed measurable improvement in their reading ability



By 2022, HillRAP teachers in every Stanly County elementary school will be helping 250 struggling readers experience success each year

#### What does HillRAP mean for a student in Stanly County Schools? Meet David.

In second grade, David was reading at a kindergarten level. He was recommended for HillRAP because of those significant gaps in his reading skills. He was frustrated and falling further behind. David and his mom were both excited when they found out he would receive additional support in a HillRAP small group.

His HillRAP teacher and his classroom teacher saw quick improvement in reading, spelling, and comprehension. While he still struggles reading aloud sometimes, he is more confident when he does so. He takes his time sounding out words and puts more thought into answering questions. He feels confident enough that he wants to help his classmates.

David benefited from HillRAP's explicit, individualized instruction. *He knew each time he mastered a new skill. Both his confidence and his reading abilities have risen dramatically.* His teachers, and his family, are proud of his growth – and so is he!



#### **BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF READERS AND LEADERS**

In 2016, we launched HillRAP in Stanly County thanks to the visionary leadership and financial support from Sandy and Art Rogers and their family. Today, our success with students remains strong as teachers, administrators, community leaders, corporations, and foundations have stepped up to support the HillRAP initiative for at least the next five years.

Thank you to Stanly County Schools and community supporters for helping students like David learn to read!

#### "My HillRAP students are loving the program.

They get the individualized attention they need to feel successful, and their confidence soars. Success leads to success!"

Lindy Taylor, HillRAP Teacher, East Albemarle Elementary



"We could not be prouder of the way Stanly County Schools administrators and teachers are implementing the program.

Through HillRAP, kids with learning differences are learning to read and their lives are being changed for the better! This story is very compelling to our friends and neighbors in Stanly County and beyond who have generously provided funds, ensuring that HillRAP can remain in the Stanly County Schools for many years to come."

Sandy and Art Rogers



"HillRAP has been a good

The schools have really seen

Center, and as a Director it's

been easy for me to support

the benefit. We feel very supported by Hill Learning

experience for our teachers and our

students; we've

the program."

Susan Brooks.

Education

Director of Elementary

seen the growth!

"We have empirical data that shows classrooms in Stanly County Schools where HillRAP has been deployed have consistently outperformed classes not using the program. Thank you to our community leaders and Hill for investing time and resources to make this successful partnership happen!"

Dr. Jeff James, Stanly County Schools Superintendent

# WE CARE

# We know that learning and growing starts with *building a caring community*, within Hill's walls and beyond.

From our 40th Anniversary Founders' Day reception to a visit from local artist Thomas Sayre, a special luncheon for mothers who advocate for their children, and the Hill Monti, we are grateful for all who came together in support of students with learning differences and attention challenges.



"As a parent of a student with learning differences, I found that I had to depend on my own knowledge of my child, my own processing of information gathered from many sources, and frankly, my intuition.

So we enrolled Tim at Hill, and it changed my family's life."

Lou Ann Brower

Pictured above: Lou Ann and David Brower at Hill's Founders Day. Their son Tim was one of Hill's first students in 1977.

In loving memory of Tim Brower (1964-2017) and Lou Ann Brower (1937-2018)

"It's not always easy, but don't give up on the things that interest you. There will be people along the way who can help. Build a community of those helpers as you find your passion, and follow it."

Thomas Sayre

Local artist Thomas Sayre visited Hill to talk with students and see the 2018 Student Art Show (pictured top right).

Alum Julian Phelps ('09) visited Hill Lower School students to lead a painting session, and Hill students showed off their own creative talents at the Grandfriends Day Play and Talent Show (pictured bottom, left to right).







Jean Healy Neville receives the 2018 Charles S. Atwater Star Volunteer Award for her tireless - and successful - efforts reconnecting with Hill alumni and families and continuously expanding Hill's caring community.

Pictured left with Beth Anderson, Executive Director.

### **CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LEARNING**



An evening of storytelling, hosted in partnership with The Monti, explored the theme of *Courage* through the experiences of Hill alumni, parents, teachers, and local education leaders.

Thank you to the generous donors who supported this event. Visit www.hillcenter.org/videogallery to



hear more stories about courage from our Hill community!

Pictured above left: Executive Director Beth Anderson, Allison Haltom McClay, Dave McClay, and Kathy McKee. Pictured above right: Hill's faculty and staff came together to create a welcoming experience at the Hill Monti.

### **CELEBRATING HILL ALUMNI AND FAMILIES**





To celebrate Hill's 40th Anniversary, current students created a Goal Wall with their visions of what their lives will be like in another 40 years, and Hill alumni from across the decades reunited at Founders' Day.

#### Alumna Madison Kadis ('12) honors her mother at the Waynell Morris Fund's Luncheon for Mothers who Advocate for their Children.

Madison enrolled at the Savannah College of Art and Design this fall, earning early admission after her junior year of high school so she could pursue her passion for design and entrepreneurship.





*Alum Steve Snider ('88) received the Road Less Traveled Award.* The academic and advocacy skills Steve learned at Hill helped cultivate his interest in culture and history, and support his success as a community leader in Oakland, CA.

Pictured left with Jan Lamb, retired Hill faculty.

# Board of Directors 2017-18

#### Officers

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"On behalf of a student that is getting to experience all that Hill has to offer, *please know that you are truly changing the trajectory of his life* and helping him have the chance to be the first in his birth family to attend college."

Hill Parent

# Hill Endowment Funds

Thank you to the many families and supporters who are ensuring Hill's long-term sustainability!

#### Student Financial Aid

The Buck Family Scholarship Fund GlaxoSmithKline Financial Aid Endowment Frances Moschler Heard Financial Aid Endowment Heim Financial Aid Endowment F.M. Kirby Financial Aid Endowment Peyton Brooks Strickland Memorial Scholarship Fund Timothy N. Whiting Student Scholarship Fund

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in honor of mothers who advocate for their children

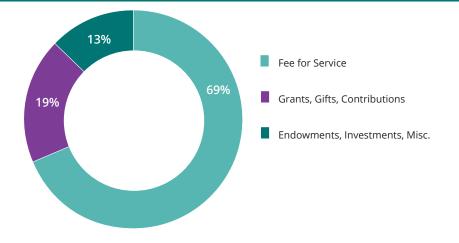
Please contact Hill's Development Office at 919-489-7464 for information about establishing an endowed fund.

# Financial Report 2017-18

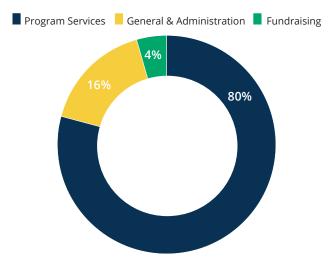
#### Total Revenues: \$6.64M

69% of revenues were generated from tuition, fees, and services for students and educators.

This is a 13 percentage point increase over last year, and reflects our ongoing commitment to diversifying our sources of funding.



#### Total Expenses: \$6.49M



# 80% of expenses were associated with direct program delivery.

Consistent with prior years, this allocation ensures we are focused on providing services to students and teachers, while making critical investments in staff and supporting other operating priorities.

#### **Fundraising Highlights**

- Hill benefitted from \$219,000 in in-kind services, including from the Poses Family Foundation to develop our expanded vision, and the Bell Leadership Institute for faculty and staff professional development.
- Our **Hill Mile event raised \$84,000** to support student financial aid at Hill. Over half of the total came from peer-to-peer fundraising via Crowdrise.
- \$330,000 of gifts to Hill were unrestricted, providing Hill with the flexibility to make investments in high-priority areas.

# Honor Roll of Donors 2017-18

#### **Hill Champions**

(\$100,000 and above)

The Fields Family\* Goodnight Educational Foundation\* F. M. Kirby Foundation, Inc. NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation\* Oak Foundation - Learning Differences Programme\*

### The George Watts Hill Society

(\$10,000-\$99,999)

- American Endowment Foundation Barnhill Family Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Barnhill Jr. Mr. and Mrs. ° David J. Brower Duke Energy Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund Fox Family Foundation, Inc.\* High Country Charitable Foundation George and Alice Horton Fund of Triangle Community Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Jordan\* Jerry and Evon Jordon Foundation\* Mebane Charitable Foundation, Inc. Morgan Creek Foundation North Carolina Community Foundation
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### The William C. Friday Society

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

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° deceased

\* indicates an installment of a multi-year commitment.



#### Thank you to our generous community of supporters!

This annual report recognizes all donations made to Hill Learning Center between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, with the exception of Hill Mile gifts. Please visit www.hillcenter.org/hillmile to celebrate our Hill Mile supporters.

Every attempt was made to ensure accuracy in this publication; however, errors do occur and we apologize for any inconvenience they may cause. Please contact Jeanne Tilley at 919-719-7558 for any corrections.

### The Tower Society

(\$2,500-\$4,999)

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(\$750-\$1,499)

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