

2023  
**Annual  
Impact  
Report**

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# The year in review



**"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity." – Amelia Earhart**

During one of the most challenging times in recent history, Julie Rice Blyman and I made the decision to found a nonprofit that would impact the literacy rate in our community. This was the hard part. Since that time we have faced many challenges, but none have been as frightening as that first decision.

2023 was an eventful year for Open Doors requiring us to dig deep and rely on the kindness and generosity of our community.

A fire in the space adjacent to our office saw us starting from scratch in November. The damage done to the structure necessitated a move for our organization. We went from sharing space with another company at no cost, to paying rent and utilities. Fumes from the fire also damaged the majority of our materials and resources. A loss of over \$40,000.

January 2024 saw us settled in to our new location in the Lynchburg Building. We now have over 1,500 square feet of space to fill with literacy activities. We are excited for the future and hope that you will continue to offer your support and encouragement.

*Executive Director*

## Highlight #1

In January, we were named the 2023 Organization of the Year by the Kent County Chamber of Commerce.

## Highlight #2

This Summer, we employed additional tutors in order to clear the wait list and provide summer tutoring for all students who contacted us.

## Highlight #3

In October, Julie and Ashley attended the International Dyslexia Conference in Columbus, Ohio in order to learn more about serving students with learning differences.



## Highlight #4

In November, we received the Chestertown Rotary Club's Titsworth Service Award on behalf of the organization.

## Highlight #5

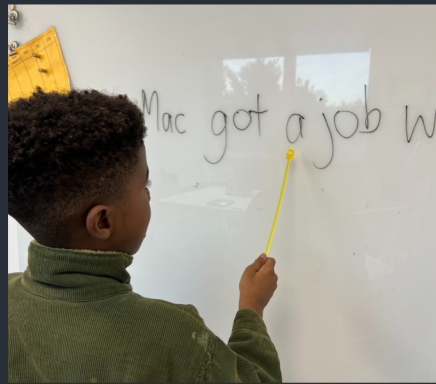
On December 1, we held an Open House and Ribbon Cutting at our new location!



# What happens at Open Doors?



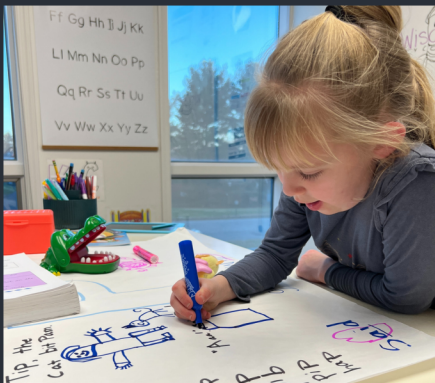
Phonological Awareness



Decoding



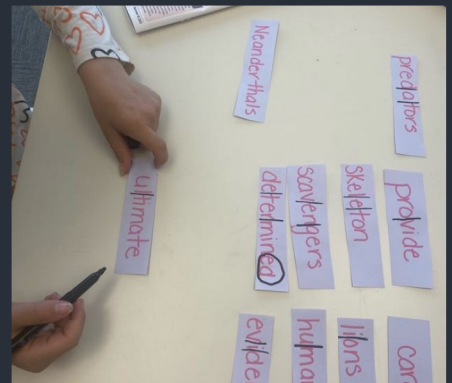
Spelling



Comprehension



Fluency



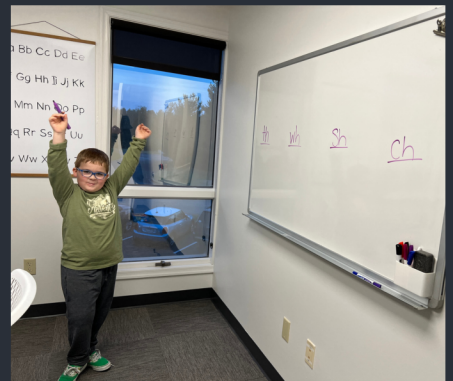
Morphology



Handwriting



Alphabetic Knowledge



and lots of fun!

I felt so lost before finding Open Doors. I saw that my son needed help, but I didn't know how to help him, and unfortunately sometimes when you don't know what to do, you do nothing at all. That's where I was... Open Doors has been such a gift! Both my son and I will never forget that [they] taught him how to read! I recommend Open Doors every chance I get. My only regret is that I didn't find them sooner!

- An Open Doors Parent

1,919

Hours of Tutoring Provided in 2023

68

Students Served

40

Hours of Tutoring Per Week



*Programs*

*Details*

*Outcome*

**In Office Tutoring**

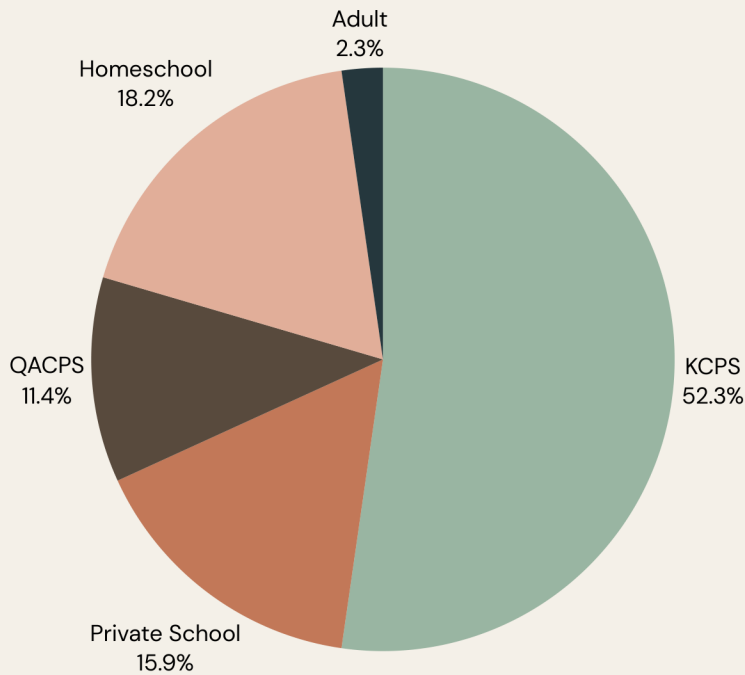
Tutors provided Orton Gillingham tutoring between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM Monday - Friday.

- Students Pre-K through Adult were enrolled in this program.
- The majority of students improved at an above average rate as measured by benchmark testing using Acadience Reading.

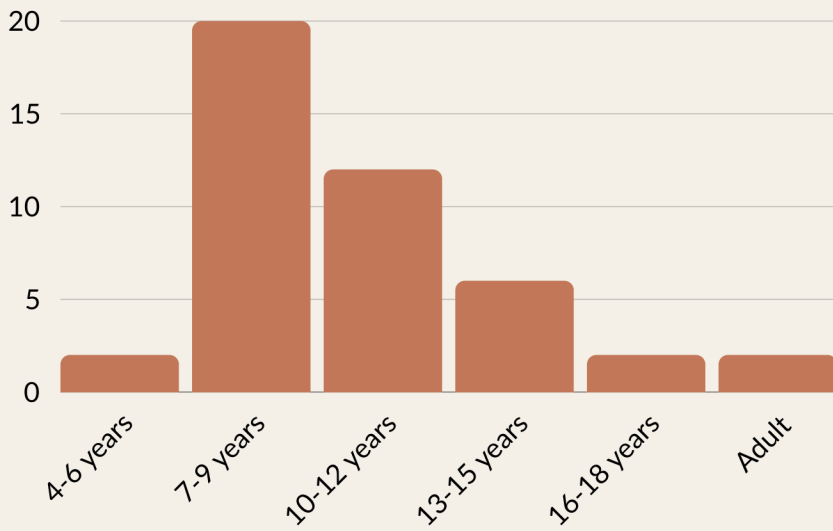
**Tutoring at Horizons**

Tutors provided 1:1 and 2:1 Orton Gillingham tutoring to students at Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's at the Kent School Site.

- Students in 1st - 5th were enrolled in this program.
- Students were tested at the beginning and end of the program using the CORE Phonics Survey and all showed measurable gains in phonics skill level.



Schools  
Students Attended  
in 2023



Student Ages in 2023



# Donation Summary

**\$73,070**

Individual  
Contributions

**\$50,921**

Grants and Corporate  
Giving

# Everyone deserves to learn to *read*

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At Open Doors Partners in Education our mission is to increase the literacy rate of struggling readers by providing tutoring, offering educational enrichment opportunities, and increasing community awareness of learning differences in Kent County and its surrounding communities.

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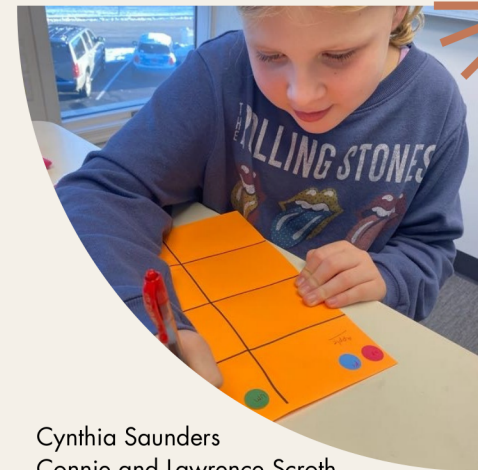
After the fumes from the fire forced us to destroy our collection of decodable books we were overwhelmed by the cost to replace these important materials. At the International Dyslexia Conference we had the opportunity to meet staff members from Phonic Books, Ltd, a subsidiary of DK Publishing. A few weeks later we received an email from their headquarters offering to donate 500 of their books to help us rebuild our library. Our students are enjoying these beautiful books immensely. Pictured above is a middle school student with his Lego creation inspired by the Titan's Gauntlet series!

# We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support

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# We couldn't do it without you!

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SCAN  
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