

# Family Learning Institute Annual Report 2017 – 2018

January 1, 2017 – December 17, 2018



The Family Learning Institute (FLI) is a volunteer-based nonprofit agency dedicated to closing the achievement gap in Washtenaw County. FLI provides free reading tutoring for students in grades 2-5 who are from economically challenged families and are struggling in school.



## From the Chair of the Board of Directors

Greetings,

This 2017 Annual Report gives you a good idea of the wonderful activities taking place at the Family Learning Institute. It also lays out the reasons this work is essential and makes obvious why we ask for your help. As you peruse this report, I ask you to keep two additional things in mind:

1. The Family Learning Institute has been part of the Washtenaw County community for 19 years. We may not yet be the household name we are striving to become, but for everyone who knows us, we have a well-deserved reputation for professionalism, integrity, persistence and effectiveness. Over the course of FLI's existence, we have helped well over a thousand children overcome their reading, writing, and math struggles, thereby improving their classroom performances, their self-confidence, and their futures.

This remarkable feat is the result of the passion and hard work of your fellow Washtenaw County citizens: FLI's professional and volunteer staff, board members, school teachers and administrators, committed parents, generous donors, and a team of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti citizens who each year give two hours of their time every week to tutor an elementary school student. Did you know this was happening in our community? If not, I urge you to call or visit us. We'd love to show you around—and maybe encourage to you get involved.

2. I've made it clear that the Family Learning Institute needs you. But over the course of my six-year association with FLI, I've come to realize how much FLI has helped me. My story may sound familiar to you. When I retired, I knew that I wanted to be part of an organization about whose mission I feel passionate. I came to FLI first as a tutor, then as a Board member. These experiences have given me a new set of friends and colleagues; opportunities to move out of my comfort zone, learn new skills and confront important challenges; and the satisfaction of knowing that I'm doing my small part to make someone's life easier.

If the Family Learning Institute sounds like something you'd enjoy, give us a try. Do it for the kids, but do it for yourself, too.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Waltman".

Jean Waltman PhD  
FLI Board Chair

## About the Family Learning Institute (FLI)

The Family Learning Institute's core program provides free, one-to-one reading tutoring for 2nd to 5th grade students from economically challenged households in Washtenaw County. FLI provides one-to-one tutoring after school and in the summer. FLI was founded in 1999 to help eliminate the achievement gap in Washtenaw County.

## Accomplishments

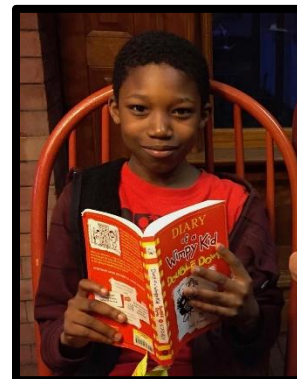
In addition to tutoring math and reading at our FLI site during the 2017-2018 school year, FLI offered several special programs, including an expanded summer enrichment program. FLI programs also went to outreach locations in the communities where our students live. During the 2017-2018 school year FLI partnered with Washtenaw County Parks and Rec and other agencies to provide morning academic tutoring at three Ypsilanti sites.

- 137 students enrolled at FLI's onsite 2017-2018 reading and math programs
  - 124 of these students improved one or more grade level
- 60 students are currently enrolled at FLI's 2018-2019 reading programs at Ann Arbor schools
  - Many of these students meet twice a week with a volunteer tutor
- 20 students are enrolled in FLI's 2018-2019 community outreach program at Parkridge Community Center
  - These students meet once a week for a two-hour academic session
- Three Ypsilanti community outreach programs during 2017-2018 made it easier for families
  - Bright Futures (2017-2018)
  - Christian Love Church (2017-2018)
  - Parkridge Community Center (2017-2019)
- Five summer (June – August) enrichment sites, with approximately 50 students enrolled at each site, four two-hour sessions a week
  - Christian Love Church (2018)
  - Family Learning Institute (2017)
  - Grace Fellowship (2017 & 2018)
  - Parkridge Community Center (2018)
  - West Willow (2018)



## FLI programs help students gain the skills and confidence needed

Students from economically challenged families often find it difficult to get the education and support needed to carry them through high school and on to higher education. Their families may not have the resources to hire private tutors. Parents may also be challenged to send their children to summer enrichment programs, where many young people gain confidence and skills. Summer enrichment program students also engage in activities to reduce the “summer slide.” These activities reinforce what they have learned in the previous school year and help maintain their grades during the summer.



According to 2018 Fall M-STEP scores, children from economically challenged (EC) homes are far behind their non-economically challenged (NEC) counterparts in reading and math. The data below shares test scores for students in Washtenaw County:

% Proficient*	EC	Non-EC	32% of all Washtenaw County students are from Economically Challenged (EC) families
3rd Grade Reading	30	68	Only 30% of the county’s third grade students from EC families are proficient readers, compared to <u>68%</u> of students from Non-Economically Challenged families
4th Grade Reading	28	68	
5th Grade Reading	30	69	Only 33% of the county’s third grade students from EC families are proficient in math, compared to <u>73%</u> of students from Non-EC families
3rd Grade Math	33	73	
4th Grade Math	28	75	
5th Grade Math	25	68	<i>*MI School Data Fall 2018 student assessments</i>

Studies have shown that third grade is a critical year. Recently, Michigan introduced a Third Grade Reading law which requires students to master reading before they advance to the fourth grade. Students who are in third grade and not reading at the third-grade level may be retained.

Third grade is the point where reading is essential for understanding other subjects such as social studies and history. Perhaps most important of all, research has shown that students who are not performing at grade level by third grade are four times less likely to graduate on time.

We believe FLI tutoring programs can help reverse these trends.

### Free one-to-one tutoring

During the last half of the 2017-2018 school year FLI served 137 students (114 tutors/coaches). During the first half of the 2018-2019 school year we are serving 60 students, 39 of them meeting with their tutors twice a week (66 coaches). FLI’s professional education staff—including specialists in education and social work—train and support our volunteers. One-to-one coaching helps students gain the skills and confidence needed to catch up to their grade level. During 2017 our reading students also attended the Writing Table, where they worked in small groups to develop basic writing skills.

The three Ann Arbor elementary schools FLI partnered with during the 2018-2019 school year requested we focus efforts on improving the students’ reading abilities. Therefore, we are not currently tutoring math. Once the year is complete, we will consider adding math back into our curriculum.

### **Outreach programs meet students where they live**

FLI works to eliminate barriers to learning that often confront economically challenged students. To better meet the needs of FLI families, we have brought our outreach programs directly into Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti communities where our families live. By doing this, FLI hopes to increase attendance and the number of students we reach.

Staff and church members at Grace Fellowship Church and Parkridge Community Center recruited volunteers and encouraged parents and students to attend FLI programs. During the 2017-2018 school year we provided tutoring to 35 students at these locations.

### **Summer programs help students retain what they learned during the school year**

Students from economically challenged households are less likely to have access to summer enrichment programs that reinforce and build on core knowledge learned throughout the school year. As a result, students may backslide during the summer months, a phenomenon called "summer learning loss."

To counter that barrier, FLI partnered with Washtenaw County Parks and Rec and other local agencies to provide academic tutoring sessions during the morning hours. During the Summer of 2017, FLI offered this program at one offsite location and at our main site. During 2018 it was expanded to four locations. Each morning for six weeks, 165 students had small group reading and math tutoring. In the afternoons, students participated in Parks and Rec enrichment activities.

## **Community Partners and Alliances**

We are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with community partners. FLI combines resources with others who are also helping to address the achievement gap in Washtenaw County. CUT our community.

### **Schools**

Ann Arbor Public Schools  
Eastern Michigan University  
Washtenaw Intermediate School District  
Ypsilanti Community Schools  
University of Michigan

### **Coalitions**

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation  
Office of Community Development, Washtenaw County  
United Way of Washtenaw County  
Washtenaw Alliance for Children & Youth  
Washtenaw Coordinated Funders  
Ypsilanti Area Community Foundation

### **Other FLI Allies**

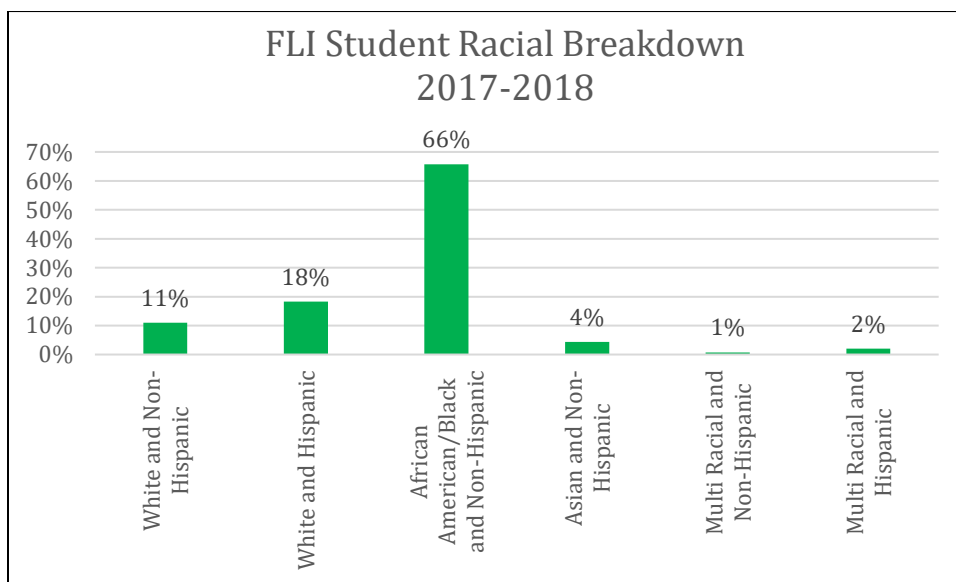
Ann Arbor District Library  
Food Gatherers  
Mentor2Youth  
SOS

## Who Are We?

The FLI model is designed to make the most of our valuable volunteer tutoring resource. A small, professional staff of specialists in education and social work share their expertise by training and counseling volunteer coaches. We also receive significant support from the community.

- 5 Professional teaching/social work staff positions (1 full time and 4 part time)
- 5 University of Michigan work study students
- 20 University of Michigan America Reads students
- 114 2017-2018 Volunteers
- 66 2018-2019 Volunteers
- 137 2017-2018 students participating in weekly tutoring
- 60 2018-2019 students participating in weekly tutoring (39 tutored twice a week)
- 9 Community board members
- 15 Community partners

## Who Are Our Students?



FLI serves a diverse community. In 2017 -18 the racial demographic of FLI students was over two-thirds African American/Black and Non-Hispanic, and just under one-fifth White and Hispanic. About 10 percent of FLI students are self-reported White and another 7 percent are Asian or Multi Racial.

## Financial Summary

Below is a summary of our 2017 audited financial report. Please bear in mind that we were awarded an \$80,000 grant which was accounted for during 2017. We receive this grant in \$20,000 increments on an annual basis during 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

**The Family Learning Institute**  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	<b>2017*</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Support</b>		
Contributions	68,449	30,776
Government grants	45,000	46,781
Foundation awards	99,418	33,630
Work study reimbursement	216	1,397
Fundraising events	35,813	23,865
Interest revenue	-	139
Gain on sale of fixed assets	1,475	-
Loss on investments	(206)	(812)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total support</b>	<b>250,165</b>	<b>135,776</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program	138,923	124,544
Management and General	24,175	22,491
Fundraising	<b>24,097</b>	<b>36,689</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>187,195</b>	<b>183,724</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>62,970</b>	<b>(47,948)</b>
Beginning net assets	71,692	119,640
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Ending net assets</b>	<b>134,662</b>	<b>71,692</b>

\* Draft audited financials

## Friends and Supporters

We are grateful to our supporters whose generosity is helping us eliminate the achievement gap in Washtenaw County.

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<p>Mr. and Mrs. James Abelson Mr. Perry Ahn Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ahronheim Mr. and Mrs. Rob Aldrich Ms. Gwen Alexander Ms. Robin Merek Ms. Jillian Anderson Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Andrews Mr. Mike Anglin and Ms. Kathy Clark Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Ann Arbor State Bank Ms. Carolyn Anthony Ms. Donna Anuskiewicz Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bailey Dr. and Mrs. James Baker Bank of Ann Arbor Ms. Patricia Bard Barnes &amp; Noble Mr. David Barnett Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baron Mr. Allen Batteau and Ms. Susan Miller Mr. Peter Bauland Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bellinson The Benevity Community Impact Fund Mr. James Bennet and Mr. John Bailey Ms. Stephanie Benz Mr. John Beranek and Ms. Karen Park Ms. Joy Berent Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Cecilia Berg Mr. Christopher Bergen Ms. Katherine Berling</p>	<p>Mr. Jack Bernard and Ms. Katrina Klaphake Mr. Philip Berry and Ms. Anne Beaubien Mr. and Mrs. James Beuche Ms. Jayshree Bhakta Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Blackstone Mr. George Blichar and Ms. Mery Carrasco Diaz Ms. Nancy Blow Mr. Balarama Boppana Mr. Ward Bouwsma Mr. Anthony Bowen and Ms. Julie Nadel Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bowman Mr. John Boyd and Dr. Kathleen Maynard Ms. Kara Boyer Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bridges Ms. Nadine Brown Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Browne Mr. and Mrs. Bill Browning Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bruder Ms. Bridget Buehrle Mr. and Mrs. James Buhr Ms. Sandy Burdi Mr. and Mrs. Larry Burgess Ms. Susan Burke Ms. Amanda Bynum Mr. Robert Campe Ms. Barbara Carr Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carter Mr. and Mrs. Brian Carvill Mr. and Mrs. Tony Catros Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Chapell Mr. and Mrs. Barry Checkoway Mr. and Mrs. Mark Chesler Mr. and Mrs. Richard Christiansen</p>	<p>Mr. Jack Cichon Mr. Robert Coffey Ms. Jill Cohen Colonial Lanes Ms. Kimberly Cole Mr. and Mrs. Rick Collman Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Colquitt Ms. Elizabeth Colvin Mr. and Mrs. Dan Conlin Mr. Joseph Conway and Ms. Nancy Richter Mr. Charlie Cook and Weston Adamson Ms. Mary Crawford Ms. Kayla De Marco Ms. Donna DeButts Ms. Sandra Defebaugh Ms. Linda DeMarco Young Mr. Renato DeMedeiros Mr. and Mrs. Michael Deren Mr. H. Scott Diels and Mary Davis Mr. and Mrs. Carmen DiFranco Ms. Mary Dobson Mr. and Mrs. Steve Dobson Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Dolan Mr. Paul Dolan Mr. Donae Domain Mr. Mark Donielson Mr. and Mrs. Michael Doyle Mr. and Mrs. Michael Drew Ms. Rebecca Dunkle Mr. Sean Duval and Ms. Alena Verdiyan Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Ehrlich Mr. Douglas Elser Ms. Sylvia Ertman Mr. Fred Fahrner</p>
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2017-2018 Donors

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2017-2018 Donors

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## FLI Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who provide enthusiastic and individual coaching, helping to advance FLI goals toward the elimination of the achievement gap in Washtenaw County.

### 2017-2018 Volunteers

Ellen Abramson	Matt Haugen	Judy Ravin
Judy Ahronheim	Melissa Heatlie	Joyce Reese
Nazneen Aibara	Mark Helvie	Karen Rhea
Gwen Alexander	Lori Hiemstra	Annie Rickert
Valerie Alford	Ben Hubbard	Tom Riis
Diane Amerman	Rich Jackson	Marty Rippee
Nick Andresen	Susan Johnson	Robin Roston
Karen Athan	Elise Jones	Emily Samra
Becky Bahlibi	Sarah Katchorek	Carl Scarbro
Dennis Ball	Pat Kelly	Alice Schuman
Cathy Behrendt	Jaclyn Kinsey	Kauser Shahpurwala
Tom Bellinson	Christopher Klimowicz	Adam Siddiqui
John Beranek	Shirley Knudsvig	Rebecca Singer
Anson Berzkalns	Larry Krueger	Atti Solomon
Dody Blackstone	Jackie Link	Deanne Sovereign
George Blichar	Melissa Mason	Daniel Stepek
Nadine Brown	Gary Maynard	Susan Stepek
Diana Burnett	Mary Maynard	Rebecca Stucki
Jenn Carr	Pat McCune	Barbara Sugerman
Brian Carvill	Bruce McGlone	Hope Swantko
Jack Cichon	Sarah McKellar	Patricia Teixeira
Betty Clark	Renato Medeiros	Neha Telreja
Judy Compton	Jennifer Melchi	Lynn Tindall
Laura Conlin	Betty Merritt	Mike Tschantz
Mary Davis	Kate Miller	Carol Tucker
Orock Ebbot	Deeba Minhas	Bhavya Tummala
Alice Elliot	Michael Misson	Maddie Vanderlaan
Sunny Fawcett	Vivek Nelanuthala	Jean Waltman
Betsy Foss	Betsy Nisbet	Carol Webb
Jeff Gaynor	Emily Olsen	Jennifer Weisbrod
Christine Gilman	David Olson	Jean Westhead
Scott Gorland	Elizabeth Owen	Rachel Wexler
Judith Grossi	Jack Owens	John Whelan
Graham Grubb	Rolina Painter	Guerin Wilkinson
Cliff Grupke	Tony Papa	Glynda Wilks
Jamie Guise	Karen Park	Dotty Williams
Neena Gupta	Debbie Poinier	Stephen Williams
Mr. Steve Hartwell	Lou Prentis	Suzan Williams
	Suzanne Prichard	Ayumi Yamamoto

2018 Volunteers

Ellen Abramson	Susan Johnson	Jessica Riley
Gwen Alexander	Kori Johnson-Lane	Cheryl Rosaen
Diane Amerman	Karen Jones	Alice Schuman
Nick Andresen	Alicia Kalsi	Briana Sealey
Becky Bahlibi	Anne Karabakal	Jordan Sengenberger
Nick Batarilo	Sarah Katchorek	Kauser Shahpurwala
Cathy Behrendt	Jenni Kim	Fatimah Shuhait
Jayshree Bhakta	Richard King	Angeline Smith
Nadine Brown	Shirley Knudsvig	Collyer Smith
Kathleen Buchmann	Larry Krueger	Cassandra Sollitto
Janet Chen	Jack Mahon	Deanne Sovereen
Laura Conlin	Mark Main	Ila Sruti
Tobias Cox	Melissa Mason	Daniel Stepek
Rich Dana	Gary Maynard	Susan Stepek
Mary Davis	Mary Maynard	Nuzhat Tabassum
Jordan De Padova	Pat McCune	Lynn Tindall
Michael Donnelly	Bruce McGlone	Madeline Topor
Deborah Eadie	Diane McGlone	Mike Tschantz
Gretchen Farah	Jennifer Melchi	Bhavya Tummala
Will Fitzell	Ajee Moore	Mikaela Uddfolk
Valerie Flapan	Maribel Okiye	Lana Valentine
Betsy Foote	David Olson	Sarah Van Dyke
Aletha Fortune	Ariana Orvell	Michelle van Voorhies
Ann Furtwangler	Tahani Othman	Sarah VanDyke
Terri Ginsburg	Barbara Peitsch	Jean Waltman
Cliff Grupke	Debbie Poinier	Randy Whitcomb
Neena Gupta	Suzanne Prichard	Rita Whitcomb
Taylor Heard	Nuzhat Prova	Suzan Williams
Melissa Heatlie	Claire Pruss	Erin Williamson
Susan Heren	Martin Reineman	Tory Williamson
Marion Holt	Natalie Rice	Debbie Zivan
Ben Hubbard	Annie Rickert	Yifan Zuo

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Jennifer Melchi, Member at Large  
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Doris Sperling  
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## FLI Staff

Sharine Buddin, Executive Director  
Debbie Baker, Program Manager  
Jeannine Julien, Development Director  
Amy Lesemann, Academic Director  
Atticus Solomon, Program Assistant

## How can you help FLI students succeed in school?

We are proud of our successes, but there is always more to do. Here are some ways to support FLI:

- Volunteer to be a tutor
- Participate in or attend FLI's annual fundraiser Spelling Bee **March 8, 2019**
- Make a donation enabling FLI to serve more students

Contact us to find out how you can become involved with Family Learning Institute.

FLI Office: (734) 995-6816

EMAIL: [info@familylearninginstitute.org](mailto:info@familylearninginstitute.org)

FLI Administrative offices:

1777 Highland Drive, Suite E

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

[www.familylearninginstitute.org](http://www.familylearninginstitute.org)



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