

## Meet Former Student, Nick Hill



Nick Hill was two years behind his class in math and reading when his fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Ravore, referred him to FLI. In the classroom, Nick stumbled over words and

dreaded reading out loud because other students made fun of him.

Nick's parent's enrolled him in FLI's tutoring program two nights a week, where he worked with his reading coach, Doris Sperling, who just happened to be the founder of the Family Learning Institute. Among the concepts Mrs. Sperling wished to instill in the tutoring program: Students should have a safe learning environment away from school—and their fellow students—to practice reading skills. In this setting, Nick progressed quickly, working on vocabulary and reading, and by 7th grade, he was back on track.

Nick continued to excel. He graduated early from Chelsea High School and went on to Michigan State University, where he played football and graduated with a B.A. in psychology. Today Nick is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley in Cleveland.

## Board Of Directors

### Paul Dimond

Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C.

### Bill Godfrey

Three Oaks Communities

### Jennifer Melchi

Jennifer Melchi Design

### Bob Palmerton

Principal, FocusCFO

### Jennifer Queen

President, A2AC

### Wade Smith

Ann Arbor Housing Commission

### Rick Sperling

Detroit Excellence in Youth Arts

### Jean Waltman

The University of Michigan (Retired)

### Rob Wilson

Sensors, Inc

### Kathy Wyatt

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

## Staff

**Sharine Buddin**, Executive Director

**Ann Endres**, Program Manager

## Administrative Volunteers

**Susan Johnson**, Data Administrator

**Larry Krueger**, Technology Manager

**Mary Maynard**, Finance Assistant

**Jennifer Melchi**, Graphic Designer



1954-D South Industrial Highway  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104  
[www.familylearninginstitute.org](http://www.familylearninginstitute.org)  
(734) 995-6816



## Family Learning Institute's Unique Tutoring Process

### What is Family Learning Institute?

In 1999, the Family Learning Institute was founded as a volunteer-based nonprofit agency dedicated to closing the achievement gap in Washtenaw County.

FLI has a staff of professional educators and over 150 volunteers who work with elementary school children from economically disadvantaged households.

There continues to be a need to close the achievement gap in Washtenaw County. Close to 50 percent of our community's 3rd graders who are from economically challenged households are reading below grade level -- we focus on 2nd through 5th graders--which research has shown to be the critical period for academic intervention before failure becomes ingrained

At FLI we match students with a professionally trained reading coach who meets with them one hour a week at our community outreach programs, in-person at our main site or virtually online.

On average, eighty-five percent of our students improve at least one grade level. The students who come to FLI also gain confidence and self-esteem, two benefits that lead to continued success in life.

#### ENROLL

We enroll approximately 140 2nd - 5th graders every year. They are referred from teachers or parents.

#### TEST

One of our teaching specialists test every child to identify specific areas where improvement is needed.

#### ASSIGN TUTOR

An individual program is created for each student based on how they learn and where they need to improve.

#### TUTOR

Tutoring continues with the student's assigned tutor.

#### MONITOR

Each student's progress is monitored and adjustment are made as needed.

#### TUTOR

Individual tutoring continues with their assigned tutor.

#### TEST

Each student is tested at the end of the year to see their growth. **On average 85% of students improve at least one grade level!**

### How Can You Help?

FLI is solely reliant on grants and individual donations from our generous supporters.

- \$7,500 SPONSOR LEVEL**  
This will assure all 15 children in one of our 4 outreach programs will have free after-school tutoring, for one year.
- \$5,000 SPONSOR LEVEL**  
This will assure all children at our South Industrial location will have free after-school tutoring, every Tuesday for one school year.
- \$1,200 SPONSOR LEVEL**  
This will assure an individual student will have free after-school tutoring program for one school year.
- \$600 SPONSOR LEVEL**  
This will assure an individual student will have free after-school tutoring for half of a school year.
- MAKING A DONATION**  
All donations go directly to supporting our students.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL TO:

1954 S. Industrial Dr., Suite D  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AND CHECKS

**Or go to our website at:**  
<http://familylearninginstitute.org>