



520 NW First Avenue  
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## 2016 Annual Report

*Great Minds Learning Center is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization.*



### 2016 By the Numbers

Great Minds Learning Center had a great year!

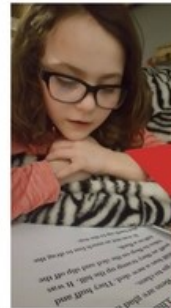


**69**

students  
received our  
services



of our students  
made significant  
progress toward  
their reading goals  
in our October  
2016 assessment.



**1,707**

Tutoring Hours

**5**

Years in  
Business

**9**

Communities  
served



\$9,080 in Grants  
& Donations for  
Books, Supplies,  
Equipment &  
Scholarships

1 Fresh Coat of  
Paint to our  
Reception Area



**7**

Dedicated  
Employees



Seven Helpful  
Volunteers



Total  
Scholarships  
Awarded

## *Words To Remember*

*“Sometimes those who have less give more — because they understand need.”*

*- Unknown*

## **Great Minds Board of Directors**

**Mary Shideler,**  
Chair

**Tammy Mattonen,**  
Treasurer

**Janna Salmela,**  
Secretary

**Cathy Schroeder**

The Great Minds Learning Center board of directors meets the third Wednesday in January, April, July and October at 6:30 p.m at Great Minds Learning Center.

## *A Message From Our Executive Director*

The year 2016 brought sizeable growth to Great Minds. By year-end, we grew to 7 employees and served nearly 70 students!



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our reception area received a much-needed fresh coat of paint. With a little re-organization we were able to fit in a fourth tutoring space to accommodate our growth. We are bursting at the seams and our after school hours are abuzz with excitement!

In response to increasing demand, we are in the process of expanding math services. We are thrilled to have the knowledgeable influence of Gretchen Bensen as a volunteer. Nobody can help a person understand math better than Gretchen! She has bestowed upon us tools and techniques that will guide the expansion of our math program.

We continue to provide financial assistance to low-income students with the help of generous donations from many dedicated supporters. It has been a great team effort and we appreciate you!

It is evident more than ever that early struggle in school has serious repercussions on our children's mental health. We will continue to work with organizations and individuals in the future to make educational interventions more readily available for people who need them. We need to be asking which came first: The struggle in school, or the challenging behavior? Early intervention is key to preventing a lifelong struggle with learning.

Your support is helping to build stronger people to guide tomorrow. We are forever grateful your help.

*Marianne Jylha*

# Many Thanks To Our Loyal Supporters in 2016!

It's because of your generous donations that we are able to change children's lives!

## Champions (Donations of \$500+)

Bessie Bain

Wayne and Verna Ford

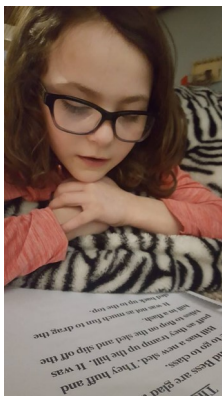
Chris and Jill Somero\*\*

Mary "The Kayak Lady"  
Shideler

Communications Workers of  
America, Local 7202

Dollar General

Lake Country Power



Keith & Karin Isaacs

Julianne & Robbie  
Johnson

Kalin & Liz Kauppila

Dale & Loretta Kemp

Lorraine Kemp

Luther & Stephanie  
Kemp

Michael & Susan Lahti

Jenny McClure



## Super Heroes (\$100 —\$499)

Mark & Judy Anderson

John & Josie Axelson

Judy Doughty\*\*

Melissa Fairchild

Katie Hopkins

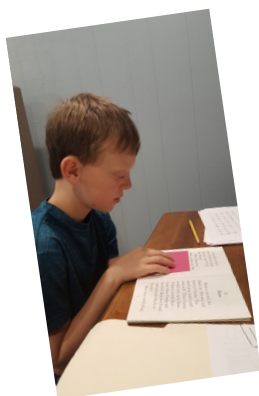
Phil & Julie John-

son Jim & Arlene Kaup-

son pila  
Mike & Nicky La-  
Valley

Dave & Meegan  
Schaeffer

Paul Bunyan Communications



son  
pila

Grant & Elizabeth Nettleton

Jason & Marsha Olson

Josh & Lisa Prusi

Jakob & Jessica Rikkola

Kari Ritter

Hillary Ropponen

Matt & Kathleen Ropponen

Chloe Rosten

Jerome & Kathleen Rosten

Loren & Alicia Wikstrom

Catherine Wikstrom

Anonymous

## Heroes (up to \$99)

Bruce & Linda Anderson/Grand Rapids Tire

Jean Beauduy

Becca & Paul Colby

Kindal & Susan Cook

Steven & Kim Wikstrom Heikkila

John & April Hepokoski

Sandra Hepokoski

## Friends (In-Kind Support)

Gretchen Bensen

Aaron & Christina Brown

Kasey McCarroll

Mathias & Andrea Salmela

Jennifer Skaar

Carmen Sovada

Trent Weston

Brenda Williams

*\*\* Indicates sustaining support. A regular, monthly donation helps us help more students!*

## Great Minds Learning Center

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www.gmlc.co  
E-mail: gmlc@paulbunyan.net

Great Minds Learning Center is a  
501(c)(3) Nonprofit #45-251309



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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## 2016 Volunteer of the Year- Trent Weston

Our 2016 Volunteer of the year award goes to Trent Weston. Trent dedicated dozens of hours to Great Minds in 2016.

He washed walls and gave our reception area a much-needed fresh coat of paint. When he heard we needed more teaching tools, he went to his union and got us two new iPad minis and an iTunes gift card.

He's been instrumental in helping us find additional sources of funding and is always willing to lend a hand.

Thank you, Trent, for all that you do to help Great Minds!

