

We empower students with learning differences to become confident, independent learners.

The HillSprings Learning Center is a unique, non-profit half day school for students with learning differences. It is modeled after the highly successful, research based program at The Hill Center (hillcenter.org) in Durham, NC. The academic year program is designed to provide individualized instruction to K-8 students in a group of 4 students to 1 teacher. Multisensory instruction in a structured environment gives students the opportunity to receive accelerated skill acquisition in reading, writing, math, study skills and success attributes such as self-awareness, goal setting and perseverance. HillSprings is also committed to developing the understanding of learning differences by providing information, consultation and workshops to educators and families in the Pikes Peak region. ♿

Visit our website
www.hillsprings.org

The HillSprings Learning Center admits students of any race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and other school-administered programs.



2776 Janitell Road
 Colorado Springs, CO 80906

HillSprings Board of Directors

Nila Beum	Mo Morrow
Carol Bilbrey	Kris Olson
Karen Brownell	Melodee Pikaart
Janis Hannifin	James Simmons
Niki Moore	

Board President – Karen Brownell
Vice President – Carol Bilbrey
Secretary – Kris Olson
Treasurer – James Simmons
Director – Charlie Tye

Advisory Board

Harry Anderson, M.D.
Pediatrician and Developmental, Behavioral and LD

Sarah Bender, M.A.
Educational Therapist

Marcia Braden, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Denise Ensslin, M.A.
Educational Therapist, Trainer

Ralph Everett, M.D.
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

John Genrich, M.D.
Pediatrician

Brian Grabert, M.D.
Developmental Pediatrician, Pediatric Neurologist

Sandy Johannsen, R.N., M.Ed., LMFT
*Family and Child Therapist
 Coordinator, Disabilities Services, PPCC*

Marge Riddle, Ph.D.
Director, Developmental Neuropsychology Clinic, University of Denver

Rhonda Sunde, M.A, L.P.C.
Clinical Director, The Neuroconnection, Inc.

Peggy Taylor
Parent of 3 successful young adults with LD

Gary M. Unruh, MSW, LCSW
Director, Child and Adolescent Clinic

PRESORTED
 Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Colo Spgs, CO
 Permit No. 319



Fall 2010 Newsletter

The HillSprings Learning Center



Empower

National Teacher of the Year

Kate Jefferson, a special education teacher at Pioneer Elementary School in Academy D 20, is one of three teachers in the U.S. to receive national recognition as Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Council for Learning Disabilities. Kate has taught students with learning disabilities for 27 years and prides herself as a lifelong learner who realizes that learning new ways to reach students is endless. Kate reflected, *“Birds of a feather flock together” is how I account for the trainings I have received during the past 20 years. I found like minded colleagues joining me at workshops that had a strong multisensory foundation. These inspiring colleagues and trainings ultimately led me to The HillSprings Learning Center four years ago, where I received training which significantly impacted and revolutionized my instruction. My newly found skills have contributed to closing the achievement gap of the struggling students with whom I have worked. This improvement is evident based on regularly collected data, as the students actually witness their own progress. My students and I now approach each educational day with a can-do sense of confidence and accomplishment. I have had students say things such as “Look at all the words I can read!” “I enjoy reading now,” “My writing has really improved,” and “I can finally add money.” I think that the children finally can trust the learning process. They’ve witnessed their own results first hand.*

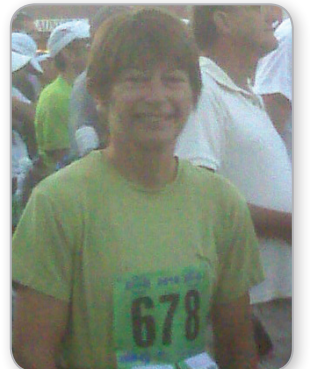


Kate Jefferson

I believe this is unequivocally the direct result of The HillSprings Learning Center’s positive influence over all of us. ♿

PP Marathon Inspiration

Carol Bilbrey, Cheyenne Mountain school counselor and board vice-president, found inspiration at HillSprings. *“I have been a witness to the success celebrated by teachers and students and it is contagious!”* This past summer she participated in the Pikes Peak Marathon, a grueling 26.4 mile race. She sought sponsors through YourCause.com and compared her challenge to the unique challenge of overcoming a learning disability. She asked sponsors to donate a dollar a mile and stated, *“You can empower each youngster to achieve victory in learning!”* It was a sweet victory for Carol as she finished the race and raised over \$200 for HillSprings. ♿



Carol Bilbrey

Professional Development Workshops

HillSprings is pleased that our “best practices” research based methodology is making an impact on students throughout the Pikes Peak region. We have provided training for groups of teachers supported by Harrison D 2, Colorado Springs D 11, Academy D 20, Cheyenne Mountain D 12 and Lewis Palmer D 38. This school year we are increasing services to Academy and Cheyenne Mountain teachers, and will train 60 Title I teachers in D 11. 🌱



Trainer Lori McCauley with workshop participants

Mark your calendar!

Holiday Craft Fair at HillSprings -

Wed. Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m. & Thurs. Dec. 9th, 8-10 a.m.

Gift Wrapping Extravaganza!

Commonwheel Artists, Manitou Springs – Dec. 11

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

Poor Richards Books and Toys, downtown – Dec. 18 - 19

UCCS Collaboration

Lori McCauley, director of program and professional development, is currently teaching a graduate level reading class at UCCS under the supervision of Special Education professor Elaine Cheesman. We will be training a cadre of graduate students and providing them with supervised practice of the Hill program during a 2011 summer reading clinic for local children. 🌱

Dyslexia Spells Success

October was national Dyslexia Awareness month and HillSprings recognized adults and children who are successful, despite their learning differences. Several students presented a program “Dyslexia 101” with personal accounts of their strengths while adults Chase Taylor and Paxton Helling had empowering words of encouragement. Anthony True, a ninth grader, presented a fantastic power point that he developed to help his teachers in high school understand his needs. With the help of former HillSprings student, Adam Ross, our middle schoolers will produce their own “story” soon. 🌱



Anthony True

Hard Work, Courage and Determination



Barron Collier

Barron Collier, a student at HillSprings from 2004-2006, and an accomplished equestrian and lacrosse player is now a freshman at Denver University. This is his powerful college essay:

When I was in the third grade my principal told me I would be lucky to make it to eighth grade. I had been diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia and ADHD and she said that kids with learning disabilities tended to “drop out”. I have really struggled with reading and writing, but I like challenges and have, nonetheless, accomplished many exciting things by challenging myself both by choice of activities and in school.

The HillSprings Learning Center



Hard Work, Courage and Determination continued...

This past summer I took my first helicopter lesson. The act of simultaneously concentrating on all of the elements necessary to maintain a hover is so mentally and physically draining that it leaves the body fatigued. It reminded me of the way that I felt when I was nine years old trying to read a children’s menu in a restaurant, struggling over the words and embarrassed by my limitations. When I buckled my seat belt at the start of my second flying lesson, I questioned why I was there, but as we started out and began to hover-taxi, I told myself there was no reason to question why I was doing this. The reason was simple: I was flying not as a passenger, but as a pilot in training. I held the hover unassisted by my instructor; I was in control. I realized that I could go anywhere I wanted. I had a goal; I had started down the path, and it seemed impossible to resign myself to anything but success. As I flew, I could only think that principal had been dead wrong: If I was, as she said, incapable of learning, how could I be flying that helicopter? As I am alive today, it is obvious that I am more than just capable, I am a successful learner.

Because of my learning differences, the world did not seem to make sense to me when I was young. Over time, however, and with hours and hours of hard work, things have become much clearer. The encouragement of my teachers has helped me to succeed and I have learned to take pleasure in doing something hard. I have chosen my coursework carefully and traveled to be immersed in history. I am not afraid to pick up a book to read or a pencil to write. I have logged more than 20 hours of flight time and taken 3 AP level classes. I am not afraid of starting down paths that strain my self-perceived limitations because I know that the secret to my success is hard work, courage and determination. 🌱

Donors

Thank you for providing the *gift of learning* to students and teachers in the Pikes Peak region.

Donations

Steven and Cynthia Benecke	Devin and Cynthia Ringling
Carolyn Betts	Mark and Danna Rounsley
Carol Bilbrey	Dr. Brian and Lisa Shaw
John and Leva Blackis	Dr. Anthony and Iris Shaw
Ann Blackmun	James Simmons
Brooke Bower	Raymond and Kathleen Spain
Marcia Braden	Philip and Gayle Staton
Tom and Karen Brownell	Rhonda Sunde
Rick and Sue Callahan	David and Brenda Sypolt
Theresa Collier	Chase and Paisley Taylor
Joseph and Mary Conlin	Chris and Patty Tremaroli
In Memory of Helen Conologue	Mark and Dee Vonarx
Brant and Heather Cook	David and Nancy Wear
Jon Thomas and Jan Erickson	Jim and Pam Wear
Colleen Evans	Chris and Colleen Wear
Laurie Fahey	John Wear and Jeanne Sharpe
Jim and Pam Freeman	Elizabeth Wear
John Fuller	Barb White
Richard Gernot	Michael and Heather Wick
Warren and Bobbie Goldstein	Ted and Mara Woods
Marcia Hafemeister	
Janis Hannifin	America and the World, Inc.
Vasant V. and Sulabha Hardikar	Culver’s of Lake Plaza
Shree Hardikar	The Buettner Family Fund
Lawrence and Carolyn Hill	Pikes Peak
Sandra Johannsen	Community Foundation
In Memory of Laxmibai Joshi	Creel-Harrison Foundation
John and Del King	The John G. Duncan
Robert and Beverly Lee	Charitable Trust
John Leferve	Price Family Foundation
Brad Nyberg and Anne Loo	Daniels Fund
Lori Mc Cauley	The Holly Leaf
Jon and Becky Medved	Olson Family Foundation
Dave Nicholson and Ivan Mews	The Neuroconnection, Inc.
John and Bonnie Mitchell	
Rusty and Charo Mitchell	In Kind Contributors
David and Linda Mitchell	Dr. Steve and Cindy Benecke
Martha Mitchell	Carolyn Betts
Polly Mitchell	Richard and Kathleen Brenner
In Memory of Joan Mitchell	Craig Carnick
Niki Moore	Craig Engelage
Dennis, Cynthia and Alex Moreau	Alan E. Manley
Justin and Judy Morrill	Lori McCauley
Maureen Morrow	Darren and Michelle Morris
Allan and Marilyn Neustadt	Allan and Marilyn Neustadt
Carolyn Nicholson	Melanie Tutt
Curtis and Kristin Olson	Gary and Charlotte Tye
Robert and Donna Orton	Karen West
George and Julie Ott	Mitchell and Windsor Yellen
Tom and Susan Pattee	Sunflower Bakery Café
Dirk and Melodee Pikaart	Rich Designs
Vince and Carolyn Radkins	Design Intervention