

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



Fall 2011 Newsletter

The HillSprings Learning Center



Empower

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Partner with us!

HillSprings is partnering with Community First Foundation to participate in Giving First.org – a resource for Colorado nonprofits. Thanks to thousands of Coloradans, Community First distributed \$8.7 million dollars to Colorado nonprofits on Colorado Gives! Day 2010.

Colorado has over 30,000 nonprofits! This year, through a rigorous application process, HillSprings has joined over 500 elite Colorado nonprofits to participate in Colorado Gives! Day. On December 6 we invite you to partner with us by coming to HillSprings for an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for refreshments and prizes. For 24 hours on Colorado Gives! Day you can access our Giving First profile from your home or office by logging on to our website www.hillsprings.org. – 100 percent of your gift comes directly to HillSprings. Double your gift through Brian’s Challenge – see enclosed insert. 🌱



HillSprings in Colorado Springs needs you!



“Give where you live”
Colorado Gives! Day

** Open House **

December 6, 2011
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join us for refreshments and prizes.

Global Partner

Our greatest accomplishment this year was to receive accreditation with the North Central Association, Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Colorado NCA CASI schools are part of a global system of 23,000 public and private schools in 30 states and 65 countries. The Quality Assurance Review Team visited in May and interviewed parents, staff and board members, examining HillSprings' systems in relation to 7 standards that focus on our methods of attaining high student performance and organizational effectiveness. They commended our diagnostic teaching process, the dedication of our highly qualified staff and the communication that we have with each student's home-based school. 🌱

UCCS Partnership



Back: Phoebe Dawson, Sue Morley, Amy Middendorf
Front: Rachael Fredrickson, Dawn Sticht, Sarah Ortiz

This past summer we collaborated with the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs to work with graduate students in Special Education to train and supervise these teachers during a 5 week summer academy for students in a Title I school in District 11. We are currently following these teachers in their respective schools for the entire school year by formally observing them to ensure fidelity of the Hill methodology – and to help them earn IMSLEC certification. 🌱

Partnering with District 11

HillSprings, in the past year, has trained over 60 District 11 special education teachers in one or more aspects of the Hill Methodology. The Hill Center's research based program has been proven to greatly benefit students with reading, writing and math disabilities. District 11, the Pikes Peak region's largest school district, believes the Hill methodology is the first step in changing its current delivery model to Tier III SLD students. D11 also feels that it is imperative to equip trained teachers with on-going support that will increase the teachers' level of knowledge, confidence and know-how. With this in mind, HillSprings has entered into a five-year partnership with D 11 to build capacity by instructing, supervising and mentoring 10 highly qualified teachers to become IMSLEC certified (International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council). Once certified, those teachers will go on to support other teachers, who will in turn make a difference in the lives of struggling learners. 🌱

Partnering with District 2

In partnership with principal Mike Roth and his staff at Turman Elementary School, we began a 3 year project called "Great Beginnings" in an effort to improve student performance in the primary grades. During the past year we focused on kindergarten; and at the end of the 2010-11 school year, 96% of the children met or exceeded the end of year benchmarks in literacy! We began working with the first and second grade this fall and will soon expand our efforts to include the third grade. 🌱



2nd grade teacher Julie Morris

Community Partners

"A Sense of Community" was a one day parent driven seminar designed to provide support and information for those who deal with children with ADHD. Local experts, Dr. Richard Shapiro (neuropsychologist), Dr. Harry Anderson (pediatrician), and Gary Unruh LCSW (Child and Adolescent Clinic) shared their knowledge. College student Nick Delano described his life as "3 second Nick" and Lori McCauley, HillSprings Program Director, provided classroom hints for teachers.



Gary Unruh (left) and Dr. Richard Shapiro answer questions

In partnership with The International Dyslexia Association, Rocky Mountain Branch, HillSprings hosted a one day practical strategies "Executive Function Skills" seminar for parents and teachers. Sarah Ward, a popular speaker from Boston, shared innovative and effective approaches to help students manage their time, tasks and materials.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Colorado benefitted from a workshop presented by HillSprings trainer, Lori McCauley. Participants learned ways to improve their youngsters' academic skills while having high quality fun together. 🌱



Lori McCauley with Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Donors

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

Foundations

John G. Duncan Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
El Pomar Foundation's Anna Keesling Ackerman Fund
Olson Family Foundation
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Price Family Foundation
Charles Schwab Foundation

Donations

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