



Literacy Liberates

Sun Tzu advises in The Art of War, “If you know the enemy, and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself, but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.” The battle lines have been drawn and are even clearer due to the impact of the pandemic. The war is against illiteracy and the collateral damage it leaves behind for so many. You are the stakeholders who give us the courage and resolve to continue valiantly fighting this war. Houston’s Adult Literacy Blueprint, created by The Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy, provides data indicating that “32% of Harris County adults are functionally illiterate,” a situation described as a “silent crisis” (p. 9, 2021). As goes Houston, so goes the nation. If we want different outcomes for our children as adults, we must invest in evidence-based practices that allow all scholars to become skilled readers as a human right.

On that battlefield, resounding victories are a growing and reoccurring theme for Neuhaus Education Center. Literacy liberates when an adult literacy student who has served as a classroom aid passes teacher certification exams for the first time after receiving dyslexia therapy in our adult literacy classes. In 2021, she is serving children as an elementary classroom instructor.

Literacy liberates when superintendents and their leadership team members learn how to scale the work of literacy to prevent reading failure. The battle is won in an even more spectacular way when systems are prepped to ensure how children are taught how to read is based upon evidence and is built to last. Neuhaus supports districts to develop literacy leaders who become diagnostic and prescriptive practitioners both locally and beyond. On the watch of these highly prepared educators, literacy liberates. Pivotal battles are won when Neuhaus provides guidance or scales the work in partnership with state departments of education. We reinvented a way

through a powerful virtual delivery system to ensure that literacy liberates across time zones in our first Hong Kong cohort of educators who were served in 2021.

When educators receive evidence-based professional learning, literacy liberates and opens their minds not to just working harder. The National Assessment of Education Progress indicated that 65% of students in our country are reading at a level that is below proficient (National Center for Education Statistics, 2019). That means nearly two-thirds of our students are not being well prepared to take their place at the table of opportunity in a knowledge economy. The reality is that on a national level we see educators fighting this battle to the point of exhaustion. Our charge is to ensure they are apprenticed to do the right work as they advance literacy practices that liberate every scholar, regardless of zip code. When Neuhaus coaches come alongside educators, they provide the “R & R,” rejuvenation, and respect for their craft that they deserve. Educators are the unsung heroes we fight for in one of the most challenging and important jobs in the world.

Without you, in the toughest terrain we have ever encountered, we would not be positioned to continue to fight victoriously against two invisible foes...illiteracy coupled with learning loss created by the pandemic. We will take no prisoners, we will press on with your support, and are so very grateful for your sacrificial investment of your time, talent, and treasure in service to a mission greater than any one of us individually. I have faith that our greatest victories are yet to come in our battle for reading success for all!



Tracy Weeden

Dr. Tracy Weeden
President & CEO
Neuhaus Education Center



The Literacy Crisis

Literacy is the currency of the 21st century—and literacy success is a non-negotiable human right we must focus on collectively, regardless of zip code. No student should leave any educational system without a strong foundation in literacy.

We're on a mission to change that.

Teachers must know the science behind the structure of the English language in order to push that currency into the hands of the children we are shaping today for tomorrow's future. When teachers are well-equipped and coached to achieve success, we believe that dynamic and measurable student growth follows and can end the literacy crisis.

Our Programmatic Strategy



Professional Development: Teachers, Schools & Districts

Teachers deserve to be apprenticed to advance literacy for all students, including those with dyslexia and related reading disorders. We coach and train educators so they can help students reach their full potential through literacy.



Influencing Systems Change

Only 25% of pre-service teachers report that their preparation programs included a strong overall focus on reading instruction.¹ Neuhaus influences scalable positive change and literacy transformation by partnering with higher education institutions to teach structured literacy to pre-service teachers. Additionally, Neuhaus believes that every school leader should understand the value of structured literacy instruction in the classroom.



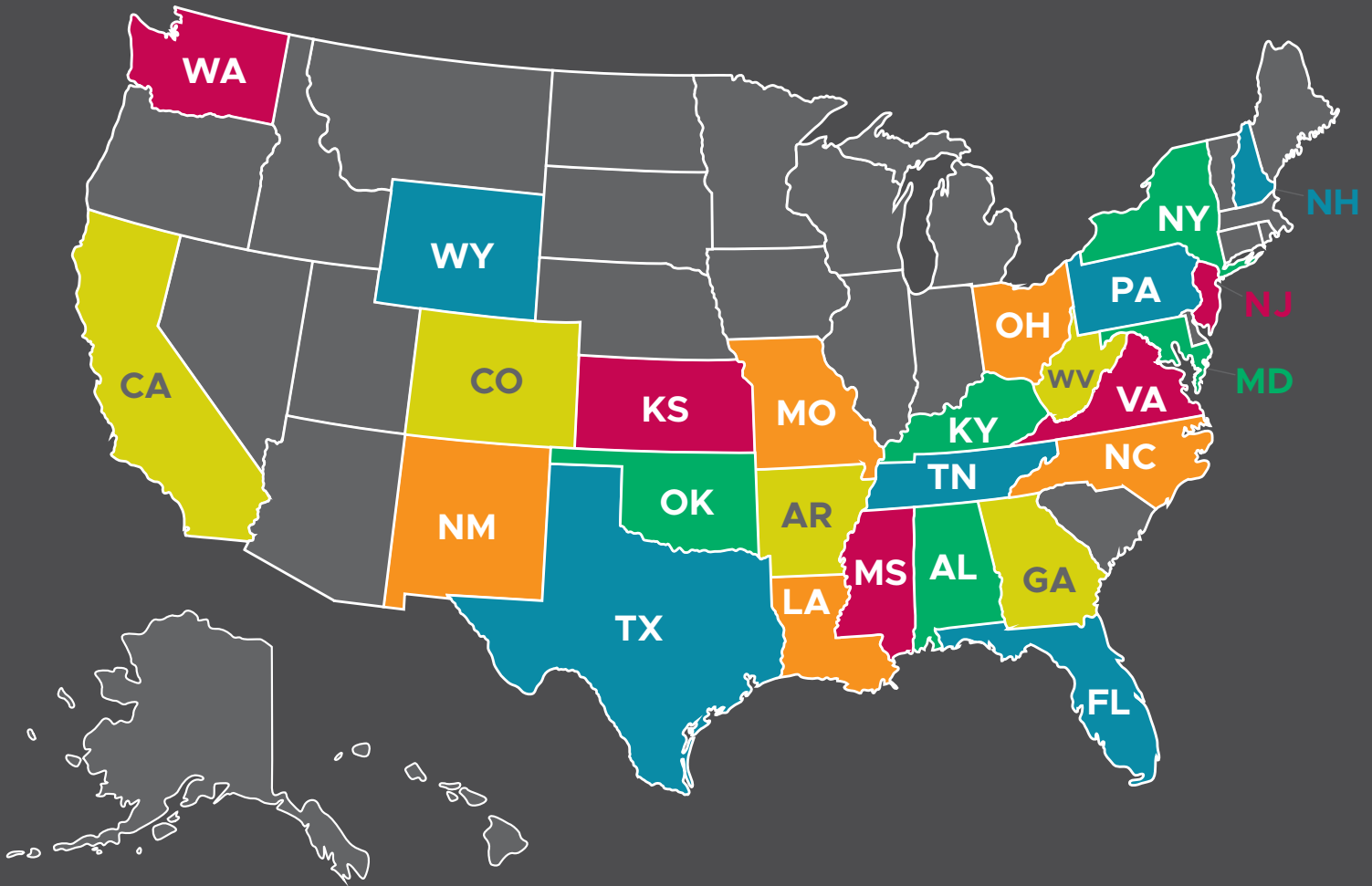
Family and Adult Programs

Together we can transform the family tree through literacy. We provide information and referrals to families of struggling readers so they may advocate for themselves within the school system. Our adult literacy program includes instructors who are licensed dyslexia therapists that use curricula targeting the needs of the dyslexic population. Our adult learners know literacy is the key to a better life for themselves and their families.



¹ Institute of Educational Sciences, 2010

Where We Work



Promoting Literacy Success For All

Since 1980, the primary location for networking and training teachers on the science of reading has been Houston, TX. Our mission to provide evidence-based professional development to educators continues to spread across the state and country as schools and districts seek the expertise of Neuhaus.

To help schools and districts reach their literacy goals, Neuhaus:

- Equips teachers and district leaders with the latest evidence-based strategies and materials to teach reading, writing, and spelling to all students, including those with dyslexia.
- Provides professional development classes for dyslexia professionals.
- Provides coaching to educators.
- Provides consultations for principals and superintendents.

Our Impact

Teacher Professional Learning



3,327

Teachers learned to teach reading using structured literacy instruction



661

Coaching and implementation visits with classroom teachers and school leaders



5

University Partnerships

- Houston Baptist University
- Midwestern State University
- Texas Wesleyan University
- Walsh University
- William Carey University



283

School districts and private schools served



24

Professionals graduated from our Dyslexia Professional Education programs

Family Support Program



3,410

Parents of struggling readers accessed free information and support



429

Parents attended informative seminars on reading



1,707

Calls and emails from parents were answered

Adult Literacy Program



47 total students per year



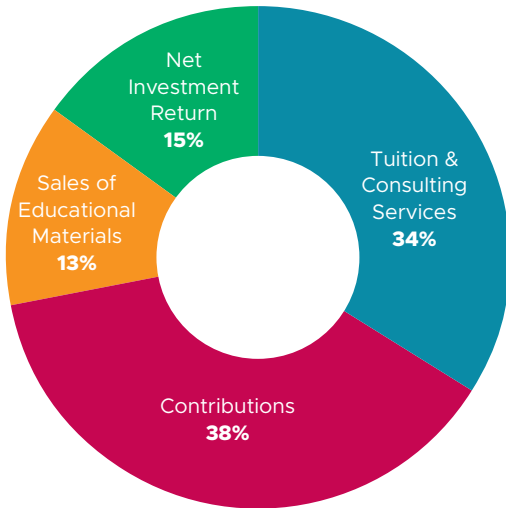
358 hours of instruction



2/3 students entered the program reading below a 4th grade level

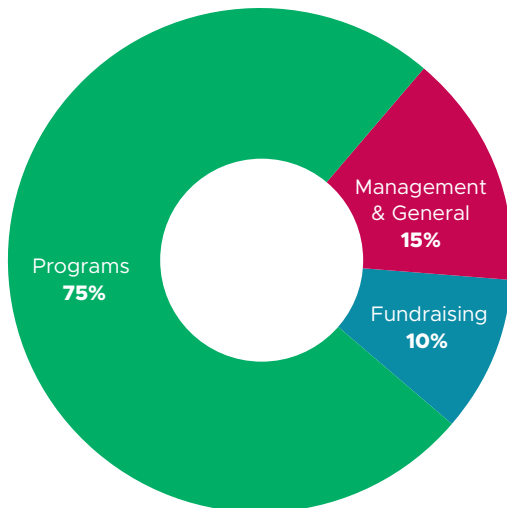
Financial Report

Revenue, Gains, and Support



Tuition & Consulting Services	\$2,492,841
Contributions	\$2,792,556
Sales of Educational Materials	\$960,274
Net Investment Return	\$1,169,174
Total	\$ 7,414,845

Expenses



Programs	\$4,209,744
Management & General	\$832,169
Fundraising	\$576,526
Total	\$5,618,439

“ I don’t know how to read or write yet, but that is my goal. And, I’m going to get there someday...”



— Robert Trevino
Adult Literacy student

“ The staff within the Family Support Office are so helpful and responsive! After trying to get my son evaluated at his school for over a year, I finally received a call informing me that they decided to provide a comprehensive psych-evaluation for my son which included evaluation for dyslexia and dysgraphia. Neuhaus Education Center gave me the terminology I needed to advocate for my child, and I can’t thank Neuhaus enough for the free family services. ”

— Parent, Houston, TX

The Impact of Developing Early Literacy Through Professional Development

The pandemic has changed the traditional classroom with its greatest impact on the youngest learners, those in the formative years of learning to read. The challenges of creating a language-rich environment have impacted districts to adapt and implement hybrid models of teaching. As a result, those challenges of hybrid teaching have highlighted the evolving shift in education and the importance of engaging teachers and leaders in professional development so they can adapt their daily instruction.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Neuhaus Education Center partnered with 7 Houston ISD elementary campuses with generous support from **The Brown Foundation, Inc.**, the **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo**, and **The Powell Foundation**. Principals and more than 100 teachers from pre-k through third grade received professional development in the science of reading and follow-up coaching. Neuhaus coaches tailored their approach to meet teachers' needs — from how to engage early readers virtually to effectively demonstrating letter sounds through a mask.

In May 2021, 94% of surveyed teachers reported coaching sessions were helpful in their work with students. "Having both the training and coaching has helped me dramatically with my Neuhaus instruction," said Charlie Cruz, a first grade teacher. "I feel like I am better at



communicating concepts, goals, and assisting students. This was possible because I had a supportive administration at my school and a supportive coach." Neuhaus staff continues to collaborate and think deeply about how to increase positive student outcomes through literacy. Survey results show all partner campuses want to achieve the goal of sustainability, where each campus has on-staff literacy leaders to support teachers' daily use of Neuhaus curriculum.

“**Neuhaus has been instrumental to student learning at Braeburn Elementary in promoting literacy but also supporting oral language development, which is crucial to the community we serve – English learners. With Neuhaus at the forefront of our literacy practices, we have cultivated a community of learners and future leaders.**”

— Michelle Cuevas, Assistant Principal

Neuhaus Education Center is incredibly proud of the commitment and progress achieved by the hardworking educators charged with building literacy skills under these unforeseen circumstances. As these campuses move into the 2021-2022 school year, teachers in grades 4 and 5 will also receive professional development and coaching to close literacy learning gaps exacerbated by the pandemic.

Building Teacher Knowledge in the Science of Reading

The Alabama Department of Education partnered with Neuhaus Education Center and other literacy organizations for a comprehensive professional development plan for teachers in kindergarten through third grade to ensure there were effective reading teachers in classrooms. The goal was simple — improve literacy achievement of students in general education and special education classrooms focusing on data-driven and evidence-based literacy instruction with a sustainable multi-tiered system of support.

Educators across the state engaged in professional development targeted to their grade level and level of instruction using the science of reading. Ongoing implementation coaching and instructional support using a Neuhaus framework was provided. Virtual observations and debriefing sessions were aimed at refining practice and improving student outcomes in the classroom. Support from state regional and local literacy coaches played a key role in planning for sustainability and consistency state-wide.

Neuhaus evaluated teachers' knowledge of literacy instruction before and after engaging in professional development classes and saw average scores grow from 66% to 83%.

A teacher from the Madison County School District was astounded with the progress of her students. "I have seen more understanding and growth with my students than ever before in my

career using the Neuhaus Language Enrichment format. After completing end-of-year benchmark assessments, I am happy to report that 86% of my Reading Intervention students who tested "Intensive" in the fall met benchmark in the spring! I cannot even express how rewarding that has been — the validity in knowing that my daily instruction efforts and consistency have proven effectiveness and growth to engage students successfully in their own learning."

The first year of Neuhaus training and implementation was so successful that the state has continued training in Reading Readiness and Language Enrichment at all eleven In-Service Centers for K-3 teachers. They also expanded the initiative to include training grades 4-8 teachers in Language Enrichment for Older Students and a Neuhaus Literacy Leadership Institute.

The Alabama Department of Education has welcomed Neuhaus Education Center as part of its culture in building teacher capacity through professional development and coaching support. Neuhaus is proud of our role in this partnership that gives teachers the tools to learn how to scale the work of literacy to prevent reading failure.



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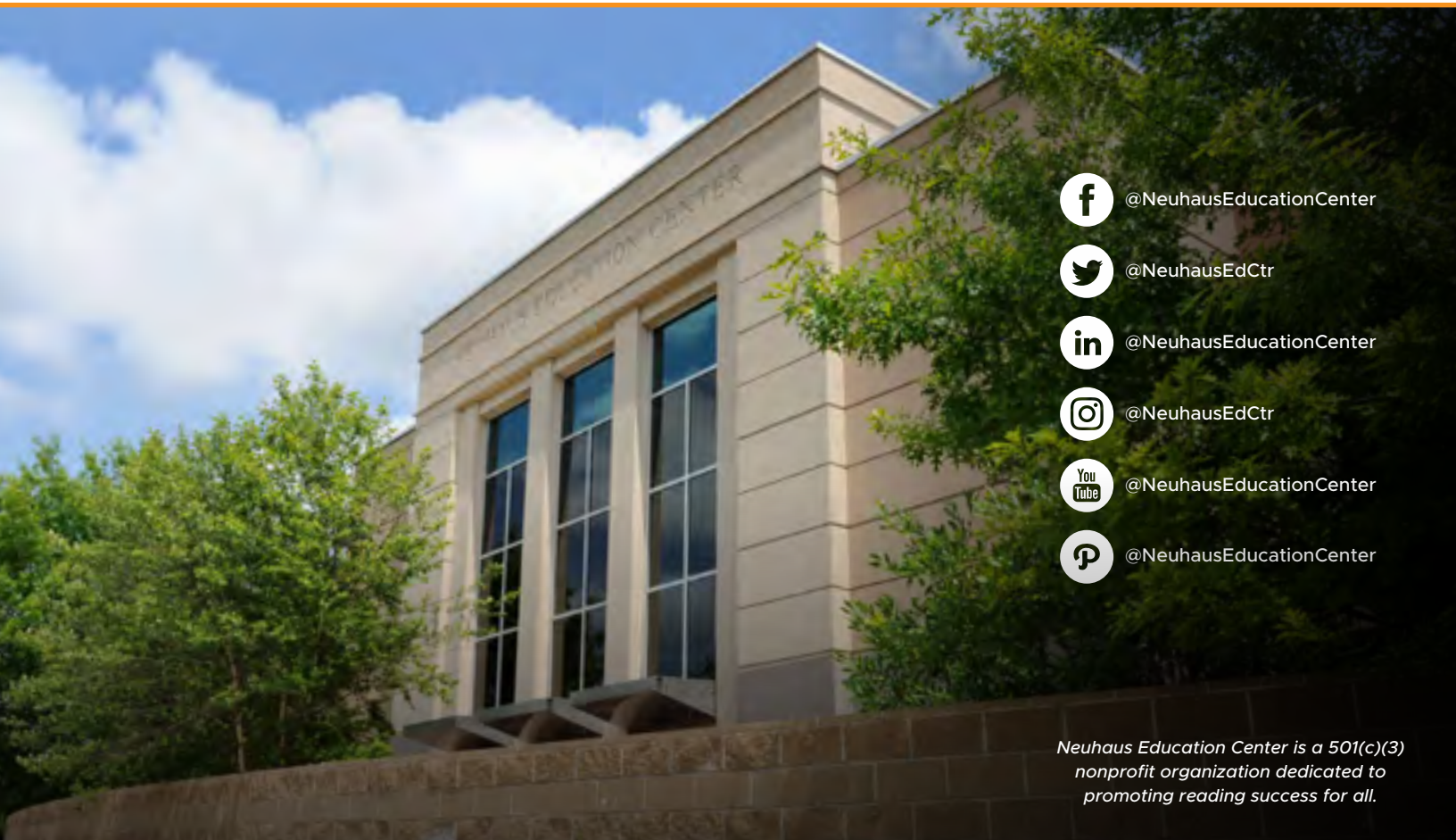
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