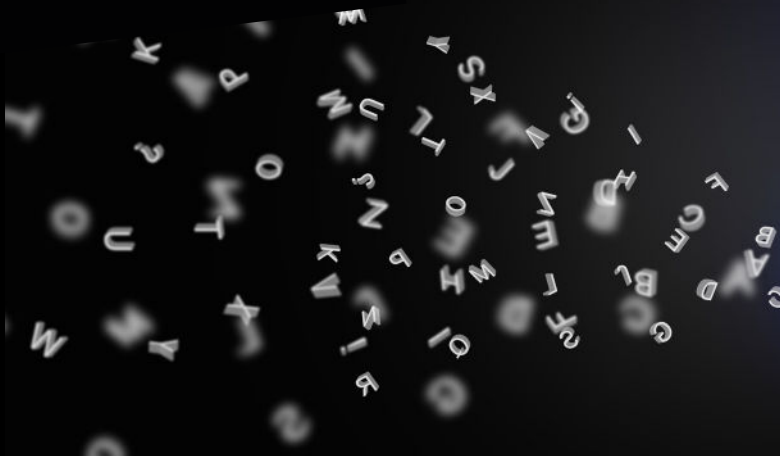


Neuhaus News

THIRD QUARTER | 2023

AI: Why Literacy Matters Now More Than Ever



Message from the President & CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden, Ed.D.

In May, I attended the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium in Anchorage. During the event, I listened attentively to Governor Mike Dunleavy's second annual address, aiming to align my keynote remarks with his speech.

Governor Dunleavy delivered a captivating speech, but to everyone's surprise, he revealed that the speech was created by artificial intelligence (AI). He emphasized the increasing importance of literacy in light of rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and their impact on the workforce.

One in three adults in Houston struggle with functional illiteracy...

This revelation heightened my sense of urgency to ensure *Literacy for All*. We regularly receive feedback from educators who are equipped by Neuhaus to prevent reading failure, whether they are delivering reading instruction the first time or providing dyslexia therapy.

Teachers and leaders gain the skills to implement evidence-based practices through our delivery system and expert coaching. However, what truly ignites my passion for change is the opportunity to provide reading instruction to our adult literacy students, who have been failed by the system but find success at Neuhaus Education Center under the care of Certified Academic Language Therapists.

Alarming, one in three adults in Houston struggle with functional illiteracy. Systems must be transformed. We have the potential to make a profound generational impact in our country. Ideally, our focus should be on preventing literacy failure in schools, rendering our adult literacy program unnecessary.

The rise of AI poses a fundamental question: **If we fail to instill literacy in today's children, how will they navigate the demands of digital, financial, and health literacy?** The ability to read, write, and effectively utilize AI as a tool will be crucial for opportunities in an information age.



Neuhaus President and CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden addresses over 1,500 educators at the 2023 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium

At Neuhaus, we need your support to navigate this new era of AI. We are facing a literacy crisis, and addressing it requires collective effort. Every government official should advocate for *Literacy for All*. Business owners, parents, grandparents, educators, and university leaders can serve as ambassadors of change.

In the city I call home, Houston, there is a well-known quote: "Houston, we have a problem." It's time to update that quote to "Houston, we have a solution." This solution motivates the Neuhaus team to persevere, believing that members of our community will invest their time, talent, and resources in our life-changing work. We seek your support so that, together, we can provide every child and adult with the superpower of literacy, illuminating the path towards a brighter future for all.

Literacy Supporters Gather at Annual *Literacy Lights the Way* Luncheon

Neuhaus Education Center’s 2023 Literacy Lights the Way Annual Benefit Luncheon took place Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at The Post Oak Hotel at Uptown Houston. Over \$475,000 was raised, thanks to the generosity of our donors and the 500 individuals and educators who attended the event.

Luncheon chairs **Ethel and Chap Hutcheson** and **Laura and Chris Hutcheson** highlighted the importance of literacy as a human right and its ability to combat poverty and transform communities. The event featured keynote speaker **Ameer Baraka**, an accomplished actor, author, and literacy advocate who shared his inspiring story of overcoming social and economic barriers due to his inability to read, and his subsequent championing of prison reform and dyslexia awareness. **Marjorie and Palmer Hutcheson** were also honored for their commitment and leadership to Neuhaus Education Center.

This event would not have been as successful without the hard work of luncheon host committee members Leslie Blanton; Laura and Seth Borland; Lucia and Louis Brandt; Kathleen Noel Camp; DeBra and George Edwards; Ruth and Dan Flournoy; Anne Frischkorn; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Goehringer; Joanie and Don Haley; Cecilia and Emerson Hankamer; Jennifer Jeffery; Ann Johnson; Patty and



** In Loving Memory*
Honoring the legacy of Marjorie Hutcheson, our esteemed lifetime trustee, who recently passed away and touched our lives with wisdom, dedication, and compassion in promoting *Literacy for All*.
Neuhaus Education Center was honored to celebrate her impact at this year’s annual luncheon and extends our sincere condolences to her family and friends during this difficult time.

Neil Kallmeyer; Katherine and Matthew Kardesch; Klinka and John Lollar; Anne and Jack Moriniere; Graham and Ed Neuhaus; Susan and Charlie Neuhaus; Jennifer and Will Neuhaus; Betsey and Bob Phillips; Lenox and John Reed; Eloise and David T. Searls Jr; Kristen Oesch Stubbs; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Taylor; Leslie and Eric Wade; Elizabeth and Peter Wareing; Janna and David Webber; and Gabrielle and Rallin Welch.

Thank you to our supporters and friends as we continue to promote *Literacy for All* in Texas and beyond.



New Dyslexia Law House Bill 3928

On June 10, 2023, House Bill 3928 by Representative Steve Toth and Senator Tan Parker was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott.

This law relates to dyslexia evaluations and services for Texas public school students, the provision of services for students with dyslexia and related disorders, and certain parental notice regarding the rights of parents of public school students with disabilities.

To implement this new law, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will be creating policies and procedures.

[Read House Bill 3928](#)



1: Honorees Palmer and Marjorie* Hutcheson and Co-Chair Chap Hutcheson; 2: Luncheon Chairs Ethel and Chap Hutcheson, Laura and Chris Hutcheson, and their son Cooper Hutcheson; 3: Keynote Speaker Ameer Baraka, Cooper Hutcheson, Neuhaus President and CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden, and Neuhaus Board of Trustees President Bob Palmquist; 4: Keynote Speaker, Ameer Baraka; 5: Susan Baker and Lenox M. Reed; 6: Dorian Cockrell and Nory Angel; 7: Bettie Cartwright, Dr. Gloria Hui and friends; 8: Mary North, Lenox Reed, and Kay Allen; 9: Will and Barb Noel and Sharon Noel Griffin [VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

Experience the Neuhaus difference

Our customer service and research-based resources are tailored to a school system’s needs for strengthening its inventory of learning tools, adding valuable knowledge for achieving literacy goals across each grade level.



Teaching. Reading. Reaching.

Neuhaus Education Center gives teachers the knowledge to identify why students are struggling and how best to reach them.

We offer courses that describe the foundational reading skills necessary for reading instruction and how they support better reading outcomes for all students.

[View Class Schedule](#)



Basic Language Skills (BLS) Introduction

September 26, 27, October 3, 4, 10, 17, 18, 24, 25, & 31
Live Virtual
9:00 - 3:00 p.m. (CST)

This course trains instructors to work with students with dyslexia and related disorders.

Preview session participation and acceptance are required before registration in the BLS Introduction class.

Register [here](#) to attend a preview session.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Accurate and Automatic Reading: First Instruction
[August 2 & 3, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: July 20, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build essential foundational word identification skills through explicit, systematic instruction of the structure of the English language with supporting reading practices and focus on how to teach decoding skills and strategies.

Reading Readiness
[August 4, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: July 21, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 -2:00 p.m. (CST)

[September 26, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Sept. 12, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 -2:00 p.m. (CST)

[October 26, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Oct. 12, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 -2:00 p.m. (CST)

[October 26, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Oct. 12, 2023
In-Person at Neuhaus
9:00 -2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build foundational decoding and comprehension skills.

Developing Metacognitive Strategies
[August 7 & 8, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: July 24, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build foundational and higher-level comprehension skills using lessons with a range of text.

Language and Literacy for Young Learners: Kit 1
[September 19 & 20, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Sept. 5, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach pre-school learners foundational literacy skills.

Language Enrichment Review
[September 21, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Sept. 7, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Structured literacy curriculum that enables teachers to teach successful decoding for students in grades 1-3.

Unexpected Underachievement
[October 3, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Sept. 19, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Explore the causes of dyslexia.

Scientific Spelling
[October 5, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Sept. 21, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach reliable patterns for spelling.

Language Enrichment
[October 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Oct. 3, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach direct, systematic decoding instruction.

Language Enrichment for Older Students (LEOS)
[October 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, & 5, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Oct. 3, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. (CST)

Teach direct, systematic decoding instruction and provides teachers with lessons on how to build foundational and higher-level comprehension skills using lessons with a range of text.

Oral Language & Listening Comprehension (OLLC)
[October 19, 2023](#)
Registration Deadline: Oct. 5, 2023
Live Virtual / 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Build foundational and higher-order thinking skills at the oral level guided by structured lesson plans.



1: Neuhaus President and CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden; 2: Debra Samuels and Neuhaus staff Phyllis Myers 3: Seminar attendee Angie Maxey; 4: DSPP graduate Brooke Dies and Michael Dies; 5: Neuhaus Staff Holli Hinton and guest



Neuhaus supporters mingle in the courtyard at last year's Reading Circle event

SAVE THE DATE 2023 Reading Circle

Join us for entertainment, light bites, and drinks as we celebrate our generous donors.

This event is in appreciation for donors who have supported Neuhaus at \$500+ in the past year.

A formal invitation will be sent.

**Thursday, October 5, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

**Neuhaus Education Center
(4433 Bissonnet, Houston)**

Lenox M. Reed Seminar Inspires Education Community to Prioritize Language Acquisition and Reading Disabilities

Dr. Erin Baumgartner Emphasizes the Benefits of Focusing on Emerging Bilingual/English Language Students for Student Success and Community Development



1: Lenox M. Reed, Dr. Erin Baumgartner, and Neuhaus President and CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden; 2: Neuhaus President and CEO Dr. Tracy White Weeden speaks with seminar attendees; 3: Dr. Erin Baumgartner speaks to seminar attendees [VIEW MORE PHOTOS](#)

The **Lenox M. Reed Seminar** welcomed 125 educators, board members and supporters interested in language acquisition and reading disabilities at the Junior League of Houston, Inc. The event featured keynote speaker **Dr. Erin Baumgartner**, Director of the Houston Education Research Consortium at Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Baumgartner discussed the importance of centering the needs of emerging bilingual /English language students in planning, and consider how doing so will benefit students and our entire community. The Lenox M. Reed Seminar was generously underwritten by Ed and Graham Neuhaus.

Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program 2023 Graduates

Program Celebrates Dedication to Supporting Individuals with Dyslexia and Reading Challenges

We are delighted to acknowledge and honor the exceptional graduates of the Neuhaus Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program (DSPP).

As a highly regarded Tier III program, DSPP offers comprehensive coursework and supervised practica, equipping teachers and therapists with the necessary expertise to support individuals with dyslexia and other reading challenges.

Basic Language Skills (BLS) is a comprehensive and intensive Structured Literacy curriculum that is the core curriculum of DSPP.

These dedicated professionals have successfully completed the rigorous program, demonstrating their commitment to advancing the field of dyslexia intervention.

Neuhaus Education Center recognized 40 graduates at the Lenox M. Reed Seminar. Friends, family, and mentors of the graduates were in attendance, as well as Neuhaus staff and board members.

We proudly present the following accomplished individuals who have earned certification through the Neuhaus Dyslexia Specialist Preparation Program.

Reading Therapists

Misha Alexander - *Birmingham, AL*
Joanne Allsup - *Irving, TX*
Eunice Banda - *Stafford, TX*
Mary Brazelton - *Houston, TX*
Mary L. Brown - *Galveston, TX*
Kacie Callens - *Woodinville, WA*
Cyndi Figura - *Katy, TX*
Patricia Garza - *Houston, TX*
Angela Gillespie - *Birmingham, AL*
Iris Gutierrez - *Houston, TX*

Natalie Hobock - *Houston, TX*
Jenni Jennings - *Mont Belvieu, TX*
Anna Levy - *Birmingham, AL*
Rachel Magee - *Woodlands, TX*
Shauna Phillips - *Danbury, TX*
Whitney Plummer - *Cypress, TX*
Angela Shatto - *Houston, TX*
Susie Sanders - *Fort Worth, TX*
Allison Sprunger - *Wooster, OH*
Shawn Volkmann - *Grand Prairie, TX*
Susan Weber - *Houston, TX*

Dyslexia Therapists

Nina Berch - *Houston, TX*
Keri Coleman - *Saraland, AL*
Sherry Drake - *Tuscaloosa, AL*
Brooke Dies - *Houston, TX*
Cherrie Emmons - *Sarita, TX*
Robin Ferrata - *Houston, TX*
Sarah Finley - *Missouri City, TX*
Lindsay Lefas - *Houston, TX*
Rebecca Macedo - *Brazil*
Jennifer Money - *Houston, TX*
Lola Renee Penny - *Houston, TX*
Leslie Pesis - *Houston, TX*
Sarah Rozelle - *Pearland, TX*
Gladys Schaefer - *Birmingham, AL*
Betsy Serrano - *Sugar Land, TX*
Jennifer Veres - *Montgomery, AL*
Stephanie Villafuerte - *Houston, TX*
Kristin Walker - *Houston, TX*
Shelley Willson - *Moscow, TX*

To learn more about this program, visit neuhaus.org/our-services/educators/specialist-preparation/.

Save the Date! Family Bingo Night

*Get Ready for a Night of Fun and Excitement at our
Inaugural Family Bingo Night*

Mark your calendars and be part of the start of a fantastic tradition!

You're invited to join us this fall for a late afternoon with games, food, and prizes at Family Bingo Night.

**Sunday, November 5, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
SPJST Lodge 88 in the Houston Heights
1435 Bell Street, Houston, TX 77008**

All are welcome to attend (including kids).
Tickets and more information will be sent later this summer.


Contact Elizabeth Crockett, Associate Director of Advancement, at ecrockett@neuhaus.org for questions.



Family Support Office & Adult Literacy

Neuhaus believes that reading success has the power to overcome poverty, elevate the affluence of a community, and transform the future of families for generations to come.

You Can Help Your Child Guide



Use this helpful guide to learn more about Neuhaus Education Center, resources available to families, and how families can help their child with dyslexia.

[English Version](#)
[Versión en español](#)


Frequently Asked Questions



Find the answers to the most frequently asked questions the Family Support Office has received for families with struggling readers including those with dyslexia.

[Learn More](#)

Texas Dyslexia Handbook



The Texas Dyslexia Handbook is developed and adopted into administrative rule by the Texas State Board of Education, and contains guidelines for school districts to follow as they identify and provide services for students with dyslexia.

[English Version](#)
[Versión en español](#)

Home is where literacy takes root, and when a child struggles with reading, the search for answers and specialists trained in detecting learning differences can be difficult and intimidating.

The Neuhaus Family Support Office and Adult Literacy resources and referral services provide families with a welcome first step in unlocking a path to reading success.

Adult Literacy Classes
Reading opens doors to better-paying jobs, a hopeful future, and the skills needed in today's digital world.

The Fall Semester of Adult Literacy classes will begin on Thursday, August 17. Currently, adult literacy screeners are being held in order to finalize class placements. At Neuhaus, you can learn how to read using methods that work.

For more information about our adult literacy classes, please email NeuhausFSO@neuhaus.org.

One Houston, One Book
This summer, Neuhaus adult literacy students are joining the Houston Citywide Reading Initiative: [One Houston, One Book](#).

Specifically, our adult students are participating in a weekly book club led by Linda McKnight and reading [Reaching for the Stars](#) by José M. Hernandez about his journey to become a NASA astronaut. It will culminate in [an event at the Houston Library on Thursday, August 31](#) to discuss with adults from across Houston.

If you are interested in participating, contact Lara Speights, Vice President of Family Support and Adult Literacy at lspeights@neuhaus.org.

Monthly Virtual Information Session
The information sessions offered at no cost that Neuhaus hosts monthly are where answers are discovered, and connections formed in a common bond of *Literacy for All*.

Join us at an upcoming monthly virtual information session held live on ZOOM from 10:00 a.m. to noon (CST). Parents, educators, and other professionals can benefit from this presentation.

- UPCOMING SESSIONS**
- Wednesday, July 19**
[REGISTER NOW](#)
- Wednesday, August 16**
[REGISTER NOW](#)
- Wednesday, September 6**
[REGISTER NOW](#)
- Saturday, September 9**
[REGISTER NOW](#)

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Neuhaus Education Center is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting *Literacy for All*.

We provide evidence-based training and support to teachers, supplies information and resources to families, and offers direct literacy services to adult learners.