

# YEAR END NEWS

Updates | Inspiration | Celebration

## Giving Tree

Our Center has a new addition - a Giving Tree! You can commemorate moments big and small by purchasing leaves to add to our tree. Large orange leaves are \$20 each and small green leaves can be purchased for \$10. See Peg for details.



## Looking Ahead

Save the date - April 25 - for our 2020 Dash for Dyslexia at Island Dog Brewing. Next year's race will feature a 5K on a flat course in South Portland and a Kid's Zone, followed by tasty beverages! Register before December 31 for a discount. We're actively seeking sponsors - let us know if you would like to be a part of this fun, family event. Contact Emily at [emily@dyslexiacenterportland.org](mailto:emily@dyslexiacenterportland.org)

## Year in Review

This past year, the Portland Children's Dyslexia Center was tasked with becoming a self-supporting member of the Children's Dyslexia Centers. The mandate has required a big cultural and operational shift, and it has resulted in both encouraging results and a hum of exciting energy. We are so grateful for everyone's participation in our new endeavors. In particular, we'd like to highlight:

- ✦ The traditional 15K Dash for Dyslexia added a 5K and a post-race pancake breakfast. Attendance improved from about 20 to about 150, and we raised nearly \$8,000.00
- ✦ Restaurant Nights with partners such as Panera Bread, Elsmere BBQ, and Texas Roadhouse gave families an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with one another while supporting the Center
- ✦ Our Teacher Training Pilot Program with RSU 5 concluded with excellent results - students made gains across **all** assessments, including **double digit** gains in 80% of said tests
- ✦ We refreshed our logo and launched a new website - [www.dyslexiacenterportland.org](http://www.dyslexiacenterportland.org)
- ✦ Our first Annual Appeal raised nearly \$14,000.00, which outperformed our original goal by about 140%
- ✦ Fellowship and Fundraising once again combined for our Inaugural Silent Auction at the Portland Masonic. The atmosphere was inspiring, the food was excellent, the entertainment was superb, and the incredible auction items helped us raise over \$12,000.00. See more on page 2

Thank you! We're looking forward to an equally impressive 2020!



## Student Showcase

Our students are at the heart of everything we do. Since we opened our doors eighteen years ago, we've provided over 34,000 hours of tutoring to help hundreds of dyslexic students learn to read. We always LOVE to hear how former students are doing. Recently, we've received several updates that make us proud! We'll feature them here and in future issues.



Master of Ceremonies Andy Nightingale

## Silent Auction Recap

Guests marveled at the grandeur of The Portland Masonic while nibbling on lobster and sipping cocktails. Renowned pianist Jesse Feinberg filled the opulent space with music that was at once intimate yet worldly. Ninety-seven auction items created a flurry of active bidding amongst guests - with items ranging from sports tickets and memorabilia to luxury hotel accommodations to entertainment experiences to dining opportunities. The evening concluded with a toe-tapping a cappella set by the Colby After Eight. Thank you to all our attendees and volunteers!



The Colby After Eight performing "Mustang Sally"

## Ryan



Ryan began attending the Portland Children's Dyslexia Center when he was in 4th grade. By seventh grade, he met and maintained grade level reading expectations. Today, Ryan is a sophomore in high school. His essay writing has improved, and he is able to take advantage of school supports for check in / organization and extra time for test taking.

Currently, Ryan plays both football and baseball for his high school. He is on a travel baseball team as well.

This summer, Ryan was a member of the Babe Ruth Maine 15U State Championship team!

Ryan's mom, Robyn, says "We can not thank the center enough for the foundation of learning Ryan received."



Congratulations to current student Sarah...she was chosen out of several hundred applicants to serve on the Maine Department of Education Student Cabinet. Sarah - we appreciate your willingness to represent dyslexic learners!