



People in Need Grants Support Services for Students with Dyslexia

Camp Spring Creek, located outside Bakersville in Mitchell County, is a haven for kids struggling with dyslexia. Started in 2003, the camp provides the opportunity and the tools for dyslexic children to become better readers, spellers and writers, discover their creative talents and gain confidence and independence. Director Susie Van Der Vorst spends time in the off season training teachers and tutors in the Orton-Gillingham instruction technique, a multisensory approach based on scientific evidence about how people learn to read and write.

Camp Spring Creek Outreach brings the training to teachers who work in rural public schools in Mitchell, Yancey and Avery counties. A \$20,000 People in Need grant is supporting this effort and has the potential to reach more than 600 students. The Outreach Center offers professional training in a structured, multisensory approach that helps educators, parents and community members become more effective in helping children with dyslexia. The Fund for Mitchell County and The Yancey Fund have also supported the teacher training outreach.

A second People in Need grant to Open Doors of Asheville provide reading intervention services to students living in poverty in Buncombe County and reading below grade level, with the goal of raising students' reading ability before they reach high school and are at highest risk of dropping out. The grant is expanding the pool of tutors and public elementary classroom educators trained in Multisensory Teaching (MST) approach; funding tutoring sessions for students; and providing MST intervention during the summer through the Asheville City School's Summer Plus program, Camp Spring Creek and continued tutoring sessions.

Dyslexia affects one out of five people, and North Carolina teachers are being asked to do more with less. MST Educator training gives classroom educators an approach to use when faced with nontraditional learners who need direct, explicit instructions on how to decode and spell words. MST has also been shown to be a great tool for students who have little exposure to literature prior to entering Kindergarten, when brain pathways are being developed.