



# Annual Report

## 2023



We Shall Read  
510(c)(3) Literacy Non-Profit

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We  
shall  
read.



## From the Executive Director

Dear friend,

At a recent MentorMe! Saturday class, I told the trainees how impressed I was that month after month they showed up even though most weren't paid to attend.

Clearly, they cared deeply for the children in their lives. "I can hardly believe what my student was able to do! They've always been the child who can't/won't!" Or, "I started tapping charts, arm tapping, and playing games. Like magic, my student now can spell words sound by sound. They're so happy, and I'm so proud!"

One veteran Detroit teacher privately shared a video of such a child. She was elated to have a path forward for this child. To be able to help is often all we want.

Over and over my team of dedicated educators watch adults begin using our straightforward approach and in turn experience the joy that comes with changing the trajectory of children's lives.

*Kristin Dwyer*

Founder and Executive Director





# 2023 Numbers at a Glance

We train and mentor teachers, tutors, non-profit teams as well as parents in brain friendly instructional strategies that improve children's reading, spelling and writing regardless of their age, grade, ability or background.

Our vision: 95% or more of children reading on grade level.

**\$107,100** in scholarships given out to MentorMe! participants

- 85 MentorMe! Reading Training program participants
- 38 newly WSR-Certified BFR™ Reading Interventionists

**89%**

of our revenue was spent on program implementation and long-term support for our trainees through professional development and coaching.

**4,000+** students will benefit year over year from having trained teachers

**260+**

teachers trained to use BFR™ strategies in their classrooms and intervention groups

**7380+**

contact hours of professional development

## 2000+ Hours Mentoring

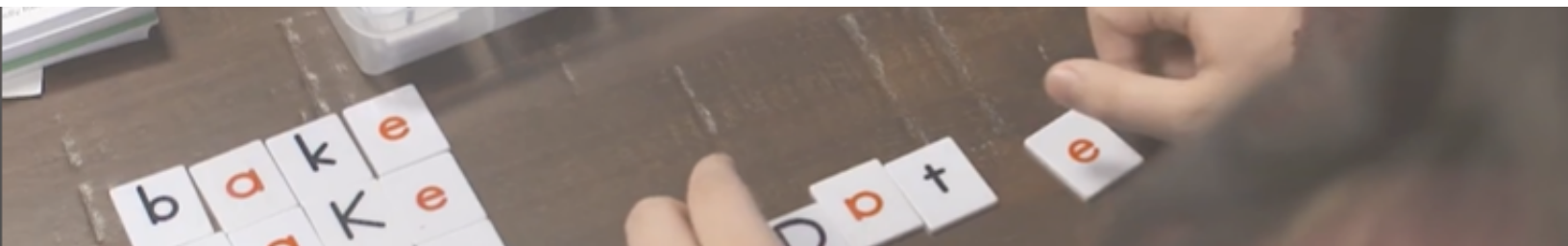
- 1:1 mentoring for teachers and tutors bridges the gap from theory to practice
- Weekly group coaching and personalized mentoring is open to the public and dozens regularly attend



# Profile of Our Programs



- MentorMe! Reading Training
  - 30-hour training in how to implement the Brain Friendly Reading™ program
  - Small business start-up for new tutors
  - Opportunity to become certified with a written and oral exam
  - Lifetime access to personal mentoring and group coaching
- Professional Development in Schools
  - Training administrators and teachers how to implement an evidence-based instructional approach with BFR™ strategies
- Non-Profit Collaborations
  - Customizing training programs for the members and volunteers of other non-profits to meet the needs of their clients
- Virtual Group Coaching - weekly Q&A and mentoring for MentorMe! Reading Training program graduates, current trainees, teachers, and parents
- Tools in 10! - Bite-size professional development for teachers and tutors
- Tips for Tutors - Business skills training course for new tutors to support them in establishing and growing their new business
- Parent Workshops - Supporting parents in growing their children's literacy skills
- Community Education and Outreach - Helping community members to understand the needs of struggling readers including dyslexic and dysgraphic students
- Summer Literacy Series - Intensive training in BFR™ strategies for a global audience



# New in 2023



## 1 Launch of in-person MentorMe! Training

2023 was an exciting year for We Shall Read with the launch of the in-person 30-hour MentorMe! Reading Training program! Four sessions were run this year.

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## Material Make-and-Take Workshops

Current and past trainees, educators and tutors were welcomed to two material making workshops led by WSR's experienced tutor, Toolsin10! host and retired educator, Erin.



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## Dyslexia Workshop for Tutors

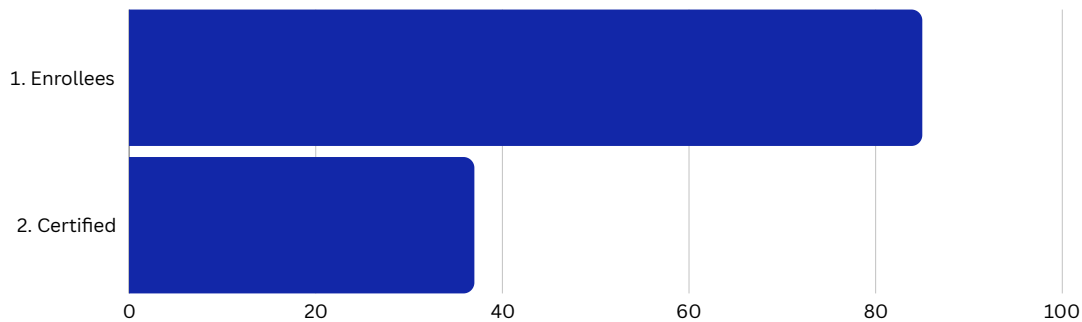
WSR team members led an informative session for tutors about the impacts of dyslexia on readers. The small-group format allowed for engaging discussions.

"I want to express deep gratitude for the Dyslexia session Serena & Brittany provided. It made a world of difference when I applied the strategies with one of my students!" - Trudy

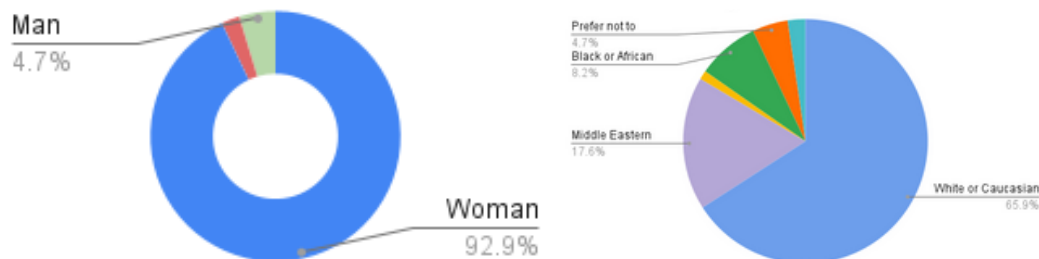


# MentorMe! Numbers

WSR tracks dollars spent and results achieved.



1. WSR hosted four in-person 30-hour MentorMe! programs with a total of 85 participants. To support our equity goals, we carefully examined how to extend our reach.



2. 37 trainees became certified, professional BFR™ Reading Interventionists through the MentorMe! Program. We are thrilled to provide mentoring and support as they begin serving families in their communities.

“I appreciated the opportunity to take the MentorMe! course so I could learn new skills and start a new career!”

-Susan, Reading tutor and ‘23 MentorMe! participant



“I hope this program grows like wildfire. It’s amazing. I’ve learned how to help my own dyslexic daughter so much.”

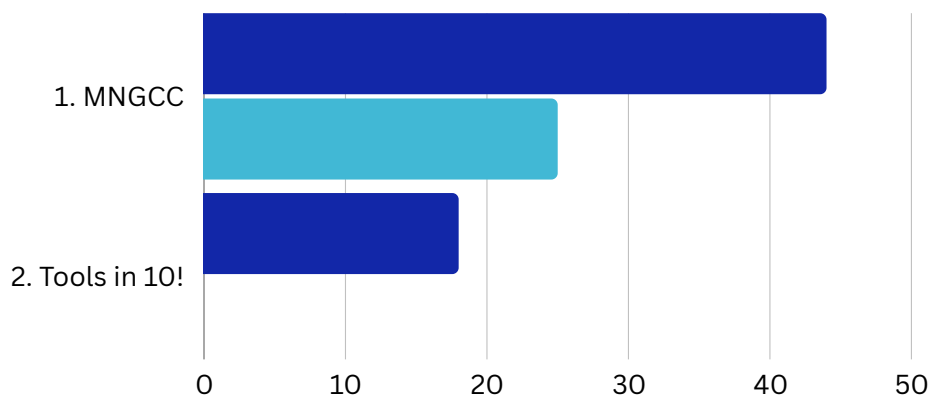
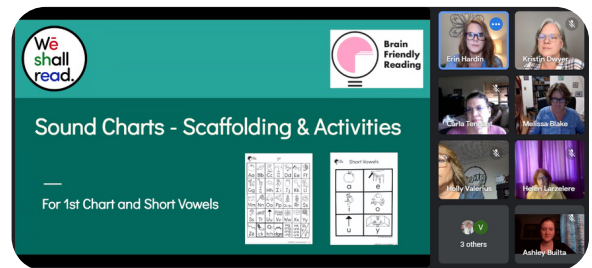
-Aubrey, mom



# A lifetime of support

Have you ever taken a class but never implemented it? Our goal is to create highly-skilled educators. On-going live coaching and access to support materials works best!

1. The Monday Night Group Coaching Calls are designed for trainees and graduates to ask questions while also being open to the public. In 2023, WSR hosted 44 calls averaging 25 people per call.



2. Tools in 10! provides bite-size professional development for adults from all walks of life. 18 new videos were created in 2023 and shared during Monday Night Coaching calls and then posted on We Shall Read's YouTube Channel for world-wide access.

"Erin has a calm confident way about her that inspires me. I find the Monday night coaching calls to be a safe place to network with other BFR™ trained interventionists and problem-solve difficulties I have come across"

- Karen B., Kindergarden teacher







# From our '23 MentorMe! Grads



Fatima ALTahira (left) and Carla Tennant (right) pose with Kristin, We Shall Read's Founder and Executive Director (center), after completing their final day of training during the Winter 2023 MentorMe! Reading Training program. Both have successfully gone on to use what they've learned to help children in Dearborn Schools and communities in Michigan.

"I've always seen differences with phonics, but using Brain Friendly Reading™ I am seeing results. Over the last month, [one of the 5th graders I work with is] not acting up. He's seeing that he can do it, that he's worth something. I can see him brightening up. He is feeling so good, and he is seeing a difference!"



Carla Tennant - Special Education Teacher, Dearborn Schools



Fatima ALTahira - Long-Term Substitute, Dearborn Schools

"I am a biochemist from Lebanon and new to America. For three years I've worked in Dearborn, and I'm so happy I had Carla show me BFR™ when I started. Now I share it with everyone. This year I had a teacher ask to watch me! She said she enjoyed every bit and saw how the kids came eager to work and engaged the whole time. I was so happy to see them applying the rules for spelling and reading. I love this work!"

# Collaborators



We Shall Read is proud to work with communities and schools throughout Michigan and beyond.



WSR is thankful for the in-kind donation of space for running the first in-person MentorMe! Reading Training program.



## School Partnership Highlight - Dearborn Public Schools

- 145 English learner teachers and instructional coaches completed a 30-hour PD
- 60+ 1st-5th grade classroom teachers completed 3+hours
- 30+ Kindergarten teachers completed 6+hours



## Four new community events were held in 2023

- Farmington Community Library - 30 people learned about dyslexia
- Dearborn Rotary - 15 club members learned how to support their community
- Dearborn Schools EL Workshop - 25 parents of English learners left with practical tools to use with their children
- Huntington Woods Women's League - 20 people learned about reading crisis



# Stories from the Field



## Beyond the Classroom

“I am also hosting a reading class for parents associated with our church, including at-risk young mothers from the community, homeschool parents, and church families. I am very excited to see more lives changed!” Lynn Dee is taking her training beyond the classroom and out into her community.

## High-impact tutoring where it's needed most

“I can't tell you how much I appreciate you. You changed my life and my family's.”  
-Mandy, mother and long-term substitute teacher







# Budget Breakdown 2023

89%

of our revenue was spent on program implementation and long-term support for our trainees through professional development and coaching.



Donations  
**\$481,000**



Earned Income  
**\$87,000**



Net Expenses  
**\$410,000**

## Pathways Foundation of Michigan Supports WSR

“WSR uses an innovative, straightforward approach that is accessible for educators and students from all walks of life. Pathways is encouraged to see not only classroom teachers learn new skills, but also for non-profits to adopt these strategies. All the while, WSR continues to train new tutors and equip parents. It will take all of us to solve the national reading crisis and provide children with the education they deserve.”





# Looking Forward



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**We can. We shall. We must.  
Support We Shall Read  
text "WESHALLREAD"  
to 53-555**

01. Collaborations with The Konnection and Cornerstone
02. Customized trainings for schools and non-profits
03. Community outreach and parent education
04. Growing our capacity by training more trainers and mentors to conduct more MentorMe! Training programs