Accomplishments January – May 2024

• Producing our annual Parent Conference, featuring keynote speaker Attorney Robert Tudisco, and delivering information by leading experts on what parents need to know to help their children with LD and ADHD succeed, including our 1st-ever Ask the Experts panel session. “Exceptional and inspiring.” “Life-changing.” “You have given me access to an amazing group of experts, hope and the support I so desperately needed.”

• Serving disadvantaged families in Bridgeport and Norwalk with the Countdown to Kindergarten (C2K) program, a research-based school readiness program empowering parents to prepare their children for success in school. The new C2K website is currently being translated into Spanish, promoting preschool children’s early literacy and social-emotional skills via fun, engaging games and activities, while demonstrating the tremendous impact parents can have in preparing their children for school.

• Producing the free, monthly Smart Kids newsletter, sent to 10,500+ opt-in subscribers, the weekly Smart Bytes blog, #4 among the top 100 blogs for special needs parenting in the US, and welcoming over 300,000 new visitors to the comprehensive SKLD website to date, to learn everything parents need to know about learning and attention disorders -- including diagnosis and treatment, a child’s legal rights, handling social and emotional as well as academic and behavioral issues – and the vital importance of supporting a child’s strengths.

• Celebrating four outstanding Fred J. Epstein 2024 Youth Achievement Award honorees at the annual Minds In Bloom Gala. The winner, Devon Kiessling from Piscataway, NJ who will attend Indiana Wesleyan next year told guests: “Nothing drives me more than the challenge of overcoming obstacles to achieve success, and proving all the doubters wrong. Bring it on!”

• Former Youth Achievement Award winner, Mory Gould described to guests at the gala the lifelong impact of the Award, giving him the confidence to achieve his goals: Graduating from Indiana and competing in the Olympic Trials for the men’s diving team -- and to trust in himself, as he works in cancer research and applies to medical school.

• Hosting 65 people at the Darien Library to hear Dr. Ben Powers, Executive Director of The Southport School, speak on “Alphabet Soup: Dyslexia, ADHD and Executive Functions” – describing current research findings and its practical implications, including his own experience as an adult and father in dealing with these issues.

• Welcoming over 150 people to the Westport Library on May 7th to hear Jake Sussman, founder of Superpower Mentors, speak on “A Mind Like Mine: Inside the World of Kids with LD and ADHD.” As the Library’s Executive Director noted, “Jake is truly a powerhouse speaker. His passion for his work shines through . . . He was incredible.”