

Investors Foundation and Roma Foundation Support School for Learning Disabilities

Lawrenceville, N.J. — According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, more than 75,720 children in New Jersey were identified with a specific learning disability. Nationwide students with learning disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended, and three times more likely to drop out of school. Lawrenceville, New Jersey's The Bridge Academy was founded 15 years ago to help students with language-based learning disabilities overcome statistics such as these and reach their fullest potential.

The Investors Foundation and Roma Foundation have awarded a combined \$100,000 grant payable over four years to The Bridge Academy, a 501c3 nonprofit school for children with language-based learning disabilities, including dyslexia, auditory processing, ADHD, and dysgraphia. The grant will be used for the expansion of the school allowing more students to benefit from their educational program.

The Bridge Academy was formed in September 2003 by concerned parents, educators, and community members responding to the lack of effective programs to teach students with learning disabilities in central and southern New Jersey. Since opening, the school has helped hundreds of children learn to read, increase their math skills, and develop strong self-advocacy and self-esteem skills. At this time, 87 percent of students graduating from The Bridge Academy have pursued post-secondary education – a significantly higher rate than the national average of 25 percent for the same student demographic.

"It is our individualized approach to teaching students with learning disabilities, combined with the nurturing, emotionally-supportive atmosphere at The Bridge Academy that makes our school a uniquely effective learning environment," said Susan K. Morris, Principal and Director of Education at The Bridge Academy. "Our vision has always been to have an expanded home for our school that will accommodate more students and preserve our legacy to make a meaningful difference in not only our students' lives, but in their families' lives as well. This donation will help bring us closer to that goal." The school is at full capacity with a growing wait list. The Bridge Academy owns property in Lawrenceville, New Jersey with plans for expansion.

The school further distinguishes itself by being the only Orton-Gillingham accredited program in New Jersey. "Orton-Gillingham is a multi-sensory approach to instruction in language arts using visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic approaches to teaching," explained Morris. The Bridge Academy is one of 15 schools in the United States accredited by the Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, and the only school in New Jersey or Pennsylvania.

"The Investors Foundation is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations that enrich the communities served by Investors Bank," said Kevin Cummings, President and CEO of Investors Bank and a member of the Foundation's board. "We applaud the efforts of The Bridge Academy's dedicated faculty and staff, whose hard work helps students with unique learning needs thrive and succeed. The academic performance of their students is a testament to the school's outstanding educational methods."

"We are tremendously grateful for the friendship and support of the Investors Foundation," said Morris.

The Bridge Academy is a New Jersey approved, non-profit school for students, ages 8-18, with language-based learning disabilities, including dyslexia, auditory processing disorder, and ADHD. They are the only Orton-Gillingham accredited program in New Jersey and only one of 15 in the United States. For more information, contact The Bridge Academy at <https://bridgeacademynj.org/> or 609-844-0770.

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