



AGC Newsletter

Winter 2023

Vol. 1 No. 1

Alabama Game Changers

Introduction

Welcome to AGC's first newsletter. We hope you'll take a moment to review our postings and learn more about what we do. Most people take for granted their ability to read; it just "sorta happened" as we were growing up. But for some, it didn't happen at all. Trying harder or reading more books or working with a reading coach didn't really help. Falling further and further behind in school, not being able to compete with classmates, can cause behavior issues, self-esteem issues, and family stress.

AGC is a medical clinic that specializes in learning disorders and takes a neurological approach to treatment. AGC therapists train one brain at a time; the changes last a lifetime, like riding a bicycle. Read about "Mary" below.



Mary's Story

Mary's mom wrote this note to AGC: "A year ago I wouldn't have dreamed my daughter would be able to pick up and read instructions on her schoolwork, street signs, chapter books, or have options with which school she could attend. Today she can and she does. For the last 7 months we have walked through AGC's doors Mon. through Fri. Not once did Mary complain about going to tutoring or school here. We joke that this is the way her brain always wanted to be taught to read. It made sense to her and what she learned actually stuck. The safe, encouraging, and warm environment you as staff fostered enabled Mary to thrive while pushing her in ways, we didn't imagine were possible. A year ago I couldn't see our child's intelligence underneath her dyslexia. (continued on page 2)

**Exciting News!!!
Mark Your Calendar!!**

**May 19, 2023
Friday, 7:00 PM**

Fundraising Concert for AGC
At Samford University's Wright Center
Birmingham, Alabama

**TAYLOR
HICKS**

American Idol Winner 2006
Hoover native

check back soon
for tickets

THE MISSION OF ALABAMA GAME CHANGERS IS
TO PROMOTE LITERACY, PREVENT ACADEMIC
FAILURE, AND ELIMINATE THE SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES FOR STUDENTS WITH
SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Phone: 205.364.2347
Email: intakecoordinator@alabamagamechangers.org
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Hoover, AL 35224

Learning to read is for any and every age. It is never too late to learn! For yourself, your child, or your grandchild, check out:

alabamagamechangers.org

5 Qs and 5 As

Q1: What makes AGC different? Are you not just another reading program?

A1: A reading program assumes there is no obstacle in the brain which prevents learning. AGC tests each child to diagnose the specific obstacles to learning, then develops an individualized plan to overcome those obstacles. AGC trains one brain at a time because a one-size-fits-all approach actually fits no one.

Q2: Why is a medical clinic seeking financial contributions?

A2: Very little of what AGC does is covered by insurance. Patient care is delivered by professionals and is reimbursed to a small degree. Many need reading intervention that is not covered by insurance and cannot afford it. AGC relies on generous donations to help those children in need.

Q3: I'm 52 and have struggled with dyslexia all my life. Is there any help for me?

A3: Yes! Visit our website, click on testimonials, and read the entry by the IT executive.

Q4: If I bring my child to AGC, what can I expect?

A4: First, a warm welcome, as the medical staff checks vital signs, reviews medical history and medications, and determines whether vision, hearing, or an ADHD assessment is needed. AGC's pediatrician will meet with you and your child to discuss your concerns and review your completed paperwork. Based on your child's needs, diagnostic testing will be discussed and scheduled. At your follow-up visit, test results and a personalized plan of action will be explained; *we help educate you about the diagnoses and treatments.* Additional therapies or psychological services, as needed, will be discussed. Parents are the cornerstone of success and are a vital partner in the therapy.

Q5: How do I make an appointment?

Call or email our *Intake Coordinator* to receive AGC's pre-visit paperwork (includes intake, financial/insurance, NICHQ forms). Approximately, 2-4 weeks **after returning the completed** pre-visit forms, we will call you to set up an appointment. All clients can be set up for therapy or enrichment intervention after visiting our pediatrician.

Making a Difference...



Do you want to make a difference? Consider this: a gift of water lasts a day, a gift of food lasts a week, but **the gift of reading lasts a lifetime.** This permanent change boosts self-esteem, removes learning barriers, and opens doors of opportunity for children: they can thrive and compete in class, continue their education, obtain a good job, support a future family, and change their community.

- Alabama Game Changers needs generous individuals, organizations, and businesses to support and sustain its mission. Thank you in advance for your support. AGC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization; your contributions may be tax-deductible. Some people give monthly, some yearly for special projects, or some give specifically to sponsor a child for 3-5 months whose parents/grandparents have asked for financial assistance. Some sponsor a child via *National Christian Foundation* using interest earned from their investments. Call and ask for our Accountant or email AGCaccounting@alabamagamechangers.org



Even if you can't help financially, you can help spread the word about AGC. Pass along the enclosed flyer to someone you know who may be struggling in school.

MARY's STORY continued... AGC has revealed both to Mary and to us how intelligent she has always been. Her confidence and options available to her now are not something we take for granted. But what makes me tear up is how well you have seen and loved our precious girl. To Mary, it is normal to have dyslexia and to be in a place where every tutor, teacher, OT, and staff member call her by name, engage her and give their very best to show her she has dignity and is worth it and has what it takes. She will never know what school and life could have been like had she never walked through your doors. We are deeply thankful to God for each of you ... and tearful this sweet season is coming to an end. There is nothing quite like watching your child who struggled tremendously in an area overcome. For us, there is nothing quite like watching Mary read. It is such a treasured gift. Would you all continue to pour yourselves out, investing in children. They say it takes a village. Well, we consider it a privilege we have known more than a village but a community and family for our Mary here at AGC."

Nothing done for children is ever wasted. – Garrison Keillor