



MORRISSEY-COMPTON
EDUCATIONAL CENTER, INC.

2015 Annual Report



Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of Morrissey-Compton,

I'm happy to bring you our 2015 Annual Report—a bit later than planned, but I hope you will agree that it was worth the wait, as overall it presents a very positive outlook on both where we stand today and our plans for the future.

Last year was an important one for programs at Morrissey-Compton Educational Center. The grant money we received to start our **Outreach to Latino Families Program** was well spent—albeit, quickly—helping to address a tremendous need for both bilingual services and financial aid, particularly in coastal communities. Our **Executive Function (EF) Research Program** continued to further academic knowledge in this area by analyzing the data we've collected over the course of 33 years, while at the same time providing practical information to help parents and professionals better serve children with special needs due to EF difficulties. Through two innovative conferences we offered during the first half of 2015, we found new ways to disseminate this information to as many people as possible.

The year also brought us personal and professional highs and lows. In May, we felt the profound loss of Board Member **Rudie Tretten**, who was a wonderful advocate for our agency as well as a champion for education. But as Rudie would have wanted, we continued to do what we do best: serve individuals with learning differences. That we have made a difference in many lives throughout the years was confirmed in October, when many former clients showed up to help us celebrate our founders, **Pat Morrissey** and **Carolyn Compton**, who were honored as Outstanding Educators. That special evening event helped us end the year on a high note, as it earned more than **\$110,000** to go towards scholarships in 2016.

A quick word on our finances: Our expenses are up, but fortunately, so is our income, so we have been able to keep our losses to a minimum. It helps that contributions have remained steady, accounting for 13% of our total income. Program revenue is up in almost all areas, particularly for Educational Evaluations. Our Endowment Fund did take a bit of a hit from unrealized losses last year, but the balance is still healthy and we are working to build it back up again in 2016.

Finally, I'd like to call your attention to a special inclusion in this year's report: the recognition of our longtime donors. Starting on page 15, we list those who have given to the agency over a number of years. These long-term donors provide validation that there are those who consider our work to be important and worthwhile enough to keep us in their thoughts, and remember in their giving, year after year. That type of devotion is priceless, and we are very fortunate to have so many loyal supporters. Whether you are a new or long-term friend to the agency, we thank you for your support of Morrissey-Compton.

With Warm Regards,

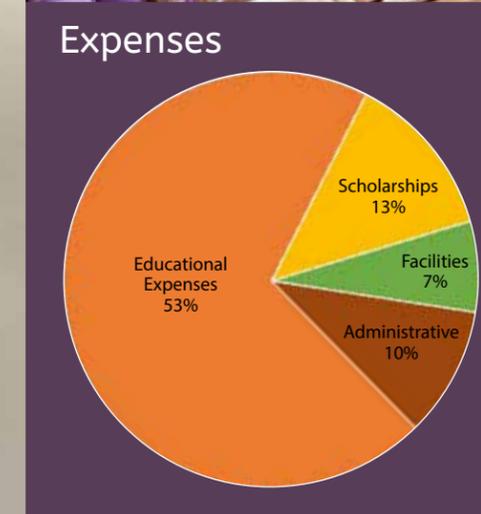
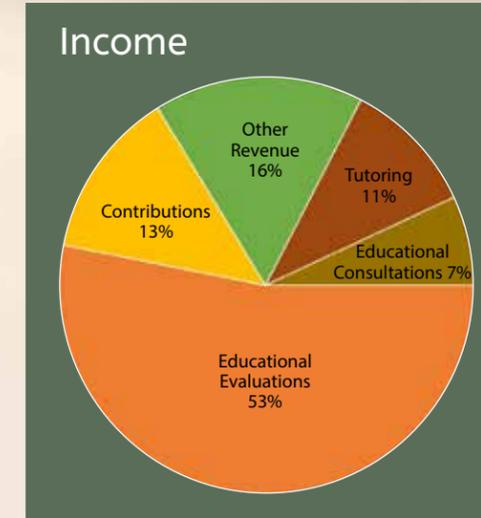
John T. Brentar, Ph.D.



John T. Brentar, Ph.D.

Financial Statement

For years beginning January 1 and ending December 31:



	2015	2014
Income		
Support		
Contributions	\$390,312	\$398,905
Contributions In-Kind	\$1,225	\$2,050
Total Support Income	\$391,537	\$400,955
Program Revenue		
Tutoring	\$310,766	\$199,215
Educational Evaluations	\$1,577,750	\$1,375,920
Educational Consultations	\$206,224	\$124,880
County Contracts	\$178,202	\$164,141
Challenge School	\$171,825	\$144,800
Therapy	\$139,717	\$160,231
Total Program Revenue	\$2,584,484	\$2,169,187
Investment/Interest Income	(\$5,184)	\$32,022
Total Income	\$2,970,837	\$2,602,164
Expenses		
Educational Expenses*	\$2,143,604	\$1,835,963
Scholarships	\$395,457	\$176,705
Facilities Expenses	\$217,168	\$198,270
Administrative Expenses	\$313,074	\$260,536
Total Expenses	\$3,069,303	\$2,471,474
Net Assets & Liabilities Beginning	\$1,045,544	\$962,269
Change in Net Assets & Liabilities	(\$18,813)	\$83,275
Net Assets & Liabilities Ending	\$1,026,731	\$1,045,544
Endowment Funds**		
Revenue	(\$5,184)	\$32,022
Expenses	\$2,953	\$2,874
Opening Balance	\$543,451	\$514,303
Closing Balance	\$535,314	\$543,451

*Includes Salaries, Payroll Taxes, Benefits, Outside Services, Supplies

**Includes Restricted

A detailed financial statement is available for viewing at www.morrissey-compton.org

• Leadership

• Balance

The Year in Review

Latino Students Get Academic Boost

Launched at the end of 2014, Morrissey-Compton's **Outreach to Latino Families Program** made a difference to dozens of students and parents who were grateful to get the help they needed to thrive in school and advocate for their children in 2015. The program was designed to help Spanish-speaking individuals with learning differences, particularly in Half Moon Bay and surrounding coastal areas. Many Latino families in the area are farm workers who speak little or no English, creating not only a barrier to accessing services, but a disadvantage for their children who attend English-speaking schools.

Two large grants from the **Edmund and Jeannik Littlefield Foundation** and the **Enlight Foundation** provided funding through 2015. Morrissey-Compton is committed to continuing to help those individuals who have started receiving tutoring, parent education, and other services through the program, but finding new means of ongoing support will be key to its continued success.

➔ *In 2015, Morrissey-Compton's Outreach to Latino Families Program provided tutoring, consultations, summer school, and educational and psychological evaluations to 67 Spanish-speaking students, plus free classes to approximately 90 parents.*



"My two younger brothers were falling behind in their schoolwork. Once they started getting help, after eight months I saw a tremendous improvement. I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication to this program."

—R.H.

Agency Brings Leading-Edge Conferences to Bay Area

Morrissey-Compton's **Executive Function (EF) Research Program** (see page 10) reached new heights in 2015, as it brought two events to the Bay Area that collectively helped more individuals with EF difficulties than ever before and gave the program great visibility in the professional and academic communities.

In February, at our first-ever **EF Conference for Parents**, close to 100 attendees heard experts present on various topics designed to help further their understanding of EF and provide practical tips to help them help their children succeed. The most inspiring part of the day



was when a panel of students diagnosed with EF challenges (left) candidly shared their experiences and how they have learned to cope. Then, in May, the program presented "Executive Function & Learning," the first

conference of its kind for professionals on the West Coast, at Santa Clara University. Over the course of two days, 225 forward-thinkers in the field of EF and learning differences came together to hear experts from across North America present the latest on current research and applied work.

Financial aid played an important role at both events: **One-sixth** of the parents, teachers, learning specialists, and tutors who attended our EF conferences were only able to do so because they received partial and full scholarships to cover their registration costs.

Tribute

In early October, Morrissey-Compton Educational Center honored our founders, **Patricia Morrissey, Ed.D.** and **Carolyn Compton, Ph.D.**, as Outstanding Educators during a special event that raised more than \$110,000 to provide scholarships to individuals who would not otherwise be able to afford our services.

The event was a fitting tribute to these two teachers, whose dedicated vision to provide tutoring, summer school, and diagnostic services for students with learning differences in 1982 resulted in an organization that has since helped thousands of individuals succeed, both academically and in life. Several former clients, now adults, were among those in attendance to celebrate Pat's and Carolyn's lives and to thank them personally for making a difference in their own.



An Educator's Legacy

Morrissey-Compton's dear friend **Rudolph ("Rudie") Tretten** passed away in May, 2015, but his legacy lives on in his service to students and the fond memories of all who met him. He joined Morrissey-Compton's Board of Directors in 2008 and was a strong advocate for our mission and, most importantly, for a fair and equal education for all students. His passion for education was rooted in a significant and multifaceted career as a teacher, counselor, college instructor, college program director,

supervisor, and consultant. He also served as a school board member for 17 years in Pacifica's Laguna Salada School District. A lifelong writer, he contributed to writing social science textbooks curriculum for educational leadership and research on project-based learning.

• Present

• Past

• Future

It's About Belonging: Challenge Summer School



It stands to reason that children with learning differences will do best in an environment that offers unique approaches to learning. Challenge Summer School, the only private summer school on the Peninsula that is not part of a year-round special education school, was founded with those children in mind. For 33 years, children in grades

K-6 who have experienced academic difficulty in their regular classes have benefited from the lively, positive, and fun learning adventure that is Challenge Summer School.

"Cristian loved Challenge. He learned to advocate for himself, feel confident, and enjoyed every day he attended. I am so grateful for how just one summer completely changed his world and made him feel so much better about himself. We would never have been able to send him there without financial assistance, and we can't thank Morrissey-Compton enough for this opportunity."

—Angela D.

➔ *Of the 67 students who had the time of their lives and got a boost academically, socially, and emotionally at Challenge Summer School in 2015, 21 were only able to do so because they received full and partial scholarships to attend.*

Getting to Know You: Diagnostic Services

To determine the best course of treatment for a person who learns differently, it is necessary to first identify what is going on. But effective testing is not a rote procedure, and creating a supportive atmosphere is essential to a meaningful outcome. All of Morrissey-Compton's assessment services, which include **Educational, Intellectual, Psychological, and Psychoeducational Evaluations**, are conducted by highly trained and experienced professionals who formalize their findings and meet with the family or client afterwards to present a comprehensive plan to help them realize their full potential.

➔ *In 2015, your gifts enabled 63 students to discover the nature of their learning differences—and access the tools they need to overcome them—thanks to financial aid they received for evaluations at Morrissey-Compton.*



"I went to Morrissey-Compton for an assessment of my seven-year-old son who was having academic and behavioral issues. When I was quoted the rates for an assessment, I felt my shoulders instantly drop; I'm a single mother, and there was no possibility of me being able to afford those prices without taking out a loan. Then the intake specialist mentioned that financial aid was available, and I breathed a sigh of relief. Ben's assessments concluded within three months after being approved for a very generous scholarship. Morrissey-Compton also did a school visit and spoke with me every step of the way. Ben was diagnosed with ADHD, Combined Presentation.

"Ben has made huge leaps in his academics. I now know how to confidently guide him to help himself become a better student. Getting help from Morrissey-Compton has helped me become a better parent. Raising a boy to become a self-reliant man one day is tough on two parents, and even harder for one. I have always leaned on my family and friends for support and refer to them often as my village. Morrissey Compton is a part of this ever growing village."

—Linda R.

Key Emotional Support: Individual & Family Therapy

Learning differences are frequently accompanied by emotional, behavioral, and social difficulties. Determining which method of psychotherapy will be most effective requires both clinical expertise and compassionate understanding of the unique needs of the individual. Morrissey-Compton's staff psychologists have both, and are trained in various therapeutic techniques including **psychodynamic therapy** to improve self-esteem; **play therapy for children** to address social/emotional concerns; and **cognitive and dialectical behavior therapies** for emotion regulation and behavior adjustment. And as is often the case, where the issues related to learning disabilities have affected multiple family members, **family therapy** is also available.



"I'm so grateful for Morrissey Compton. The support my son is receiving is amazing. He started off really shy, struggling with self-esteem, and way behind in school. Over the past year and a half he's worked with some amazing women. He's now much more confident, more willing to put himself in situations where he doesn't feel comfortable, and opening himself up to learning outside his comfort zone. I'm looking forward to watching both his school performance and self-esteem continue to improve. Thank you so much for your support in making this happen!"

—Jennifer M.

➔ *Your donor dollars enabled 37 students who were suffering from self-esteem issues, social/emotional problems, and ineffective behaviors to receive 263 hours of much-needed therapy at Morrissey-Compton in 2015.*

• Individualized

Guidance

What We Do

Special Learning Techniques for Special Needs Students:

Tutoring/Educational Therapy

Tutoring is an essential service for any educational center to offer. However, tutoring a student with learning differences



requires a unique set of skills including patience, adaptability, and creativity. Morrissey-Compton's tutors are educational

specialists highly trained in effective techniques specific to reading, writing, math, and study skills across all age groups and learning differences. They mentor their students, helping them understand their abilities and learn how to leverage strengths to compensate for areas of weaknesses.

"My son receives weekly tutoring at Morrissey-Compton and loves it! His tutor has given him confidence again. He enjoys each lesson learned and we have seen so much improvement in the classroom!"

—J. B.

"Morrissey-Compton gave my daughter valuable learning techniques, and gave our family the joy of seeing her succeed in school. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to receive their help."

—Gloria A.

➔ In 2015, **73** students with learning differences got closer to attaining their dreams of going to college by receiving financial aid for **1,233** hours of tutoring at Morrissey-Compton.

Providing Tools for Life: Skill-Building Groups for Kids

In addition to academic challenges, children with learning differences often have difficulties with emotion regulation, impulse control, and understanding how to effectively relate to and work with others. Morrissey-Compton's Social Skills Groups help children increase their confidence and abilities and improve their skills in social situations at school, at home, and in the community. Each group includes three to five children or adolescents who are close in age and have similar challenges and goals, and content is individualized based on the specific needs of the participants.



"Morrissey-Compton's specialist helped me understand the challenges I was facing with my child. She introduced us to both group and individual support sessions, which my son enjoyed. The program helped him develop emotional awareness within himself and others, as well as how to respond more thoughtfully and less impulsively. I was impressed by the specialist's ability to help me develop solutions that worked for my family. With her guidance and Morrissey-Compton's support, not only did I see direct changes in my son's behavior, but my family has learned skills that took some of the struggle out of our day-to-day life."

"Morrissey-Compton was there at the right time to support my family and our son. We are fortunate to have such an organization in our community that also extends itself to provide scholarships. Without this additional benefit, we would not have been able to participate in this excellent program."

—Patricia D.

Fighting for Student Rights:

Advocacy, Consultations, & Parent Coaching

Morrissey-Compton Educational Center was founded in 1982 in response to government funding cutbacks that were impacting school-based programs, particularly special education—and leaving few, if any, individualized resources and services for students with learning disabilities.

To this day, Morrissey-Compton does what we can to ensure that these children receive access to resources that will help them do as well as they possibly can in school. We provide consultations and advocacy for students with learning disabilities, and coaching for parents, to ensure that, as legally required, their school program includes appropriate special education services and accommodations, such as Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans.

Since 1999, Morrissey-Compton has also provided educational consultation through contracts with the Santa Clara County Departments of Juvenile Probation and Child and Family Services. Through this collaborative effort (now called the **Educational Rights Program**), our consultants work with attorneys, social workers, probation officers, and teachers to ensure that foster children and youths in the juvenile justice system are enrolled in and attending school and receiving an appropriate education plan.

➔ In addition to the more than **400** foster or adjudicated youth Morrissey-Compton helps through the Educational Rights Program each year, in 2015, Morrissey-Compton awarded **34** scholarships for consultations, advocacy, and parent coaching.



• Comprehensive Resources

What We Do



Knowledge is Power: Free Parent Education

Parents play a key role in the comprehensive treatment plan that is required to help a child overcome learning difficulties. Throughout the year, Morrissey-Compton offers free workshops in both our Half Moon Bay and Redwood City offices, as well as at schools and to parent groups, that address various topics related to successfully guiding ones child towards success.

➔ *Your unrestricted gifts allowed 610 parents to attend free classes at Morrissey-Compton in 2015.*

Keeping Ahead of the Curve: Executive Function Research

Executive function (EF) is an “umbrella term” for the multiple processes in the brain that are responsible for regulating our thoughts, emotions, and behavior, including working memory, cognitive flexibility, prioritizing, organization, planning, and self-monitoring. The EF Research Program at Morrissey-Compton is designed to address the growing needs of students with challenges in EF and general learning differences. The program has four primary goals: To investigate EF in students; create cutting-edge information for the professional community; provide help for families and education for parents; and build teacher-training programs in the schools.

Several of Morrissey-Compton’s psychologists are proficient in treating individuals who are facing EF difficulties. On page 5, you can read about two conferences we held in 2015 to further our goals of providing cutting-edge information to professionals, help for families, and education for parents. In addition, our research assistants are helping us build a database to enable us to better understand who struggles with EF challenges, what factors affect students with EF challenges, and identify patterns to create effective interventions. The program also goes into schools to train teachers and administrators on how to build an EF learning culture.



• Expertise

2015 Donors

Opening Doors

What does it mean to have a “learning disability?” As academia’s—and society’s—views continue to evolve on this matter, we at Morrissey-Compton are limited to focusing on what we know for certain: That some individuals learn differently, and that those individuals can benefit greatly when they are allowed access to specialized services and techniques. Thanks to your gifts, we never have to turn away anyone who walks through our doors and asks for help, regardless of ability to pay. And that means the world to all of us. On behalf of those who have had the opportunity to thrive because of your generosity, thank you for caring.

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continued on next page



• Thank you

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**deceased*

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Cultivating Successful Futures

Competing for donor dollars is never easy, and we understand that the Bay Area offers many worthy nonprofits to choose from. We are so very grateful to those who have chosen to champion our cause, that of empowering individuals with learning differences, and who have made it a point to give to Morrissey-Compton consistently over a number of years. Our list of loyal supporters is gratifyingly long, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedicated assistance.



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[†]Reflects number of years that gifts were made.

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