

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Be on the lookout for special, fun ways we plan to celebrate!

THANK YOU!

Because of you, the Rockford Education Foundation was able to support our schools, teachers and students in amazing ways during a challenging year.

Together, we kept working hard for our Rockford kids. We adapted processes to meet the needs of our educators, encouraged positivity and creativity, took risks, and kept pushing forward.

We couldn't have done it without YOUR support. You have proven once again that Rockford is a generous community who cares deeply for the well-being of our kids and schools.

Join us in celebrating our birthday as REF embarks on our 30th year. Because of you, we have been able to infuse \$2 million into our kids' education. With you by our side, we are ready to support them for another 30 years.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020-21:

- Increased donations over the previous year by 41% and increased number of donors by 71%
- Funded a wide variety of innovative grants, including the Rockford Book Bus which loaned out over 13,000 books serving kids in every corner of the Rockford community
- Switched to virtual events, holding a successful Hall of Fame and The Taste with a Twist, which included a contribution of over \$25,000 to local Rockford restaurants

Here's to the next 30 years!



LOOK AT WHAT WE FUNDED TOGETHER

Literacy



\$38.612 AWARDED

FEATURED GRANT:

The Rockford Book Bus

Sharon Wells & Rachel DeKuiper Rockford Public Schools

The big, blue Rockford Book Bus traveled miles and miles to put books in the hands of children all summer long! The bus helped combat summer learning loss and offered an accessible way for children to get new books even if they couldn't get to the library.



ROCKFORD BOOK BUS

Recipient of The Founders' Grant Underwritten by Wolverine Worldwide Foundation



1 BUS



136 STOPS



4,408 VISITORS



13,059 BOOKS



LOOK AT WHAT WE FUNDED TOGETHER

College and Career Readiness



\$29,175 AWARDED

FEATURED GRANT:

Class Garden Income Project

Sheryl Mankel R1TS2 Program (18-26 year old Region 1 Transition Services)

The RITS2 students learned entrepreneurship skills through their Class Garden, including starting seeds, selling transplants, and growing food to cook for the class.

Social-Emotional Wellness and Healthy Living



\$4,731 AWARDED

FEATURED GRANT:

Outdoor Seating – If You Build It, They Will Come!

Caleb Westveer
Valley View Elementary

Fifth graders at Valley View used hand tools, including 1,700 screws, 30 drill bits, and plenty of laughs to build outdoor seating for 40 students. These handmade tables and benches helped Valley View Elementary continue a theme of outdoor learning throughout the year.

STEAM Education



\$17,880 AWARDED

FEATURED GRANT:

Graphing Calculators for the Freshman Center

Jamie Goering & Sarah Youngberg Rockford Freshman Center

Two teachers at the Freshman Center received twenty brand new graphing calculators to give students exposure to them before upper level math classes. These calculators are also a resource for students who can not normally afford them.

Fine Arts



\$4.236 AWARDED

FEATURED GRANT:

Jazz Band Combo Amp

Daniel Burns (student) Rockford High School

Daniel Burns received a grant to replace the Jazz Band's bass amp after their previous equipment broke right before a competition. With this new bass amp, the entire band and audience can now hear the bass for the first time!

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

\$243,445

2020-2021 INCOME Includes interest income. With interest, prior year income was \$174,630.

8,000 CHILDREN SERVED

700+
CURRENT DONORS

44

GRANTS AWARDED

26

LOCAL RESTAURANTS SUPPORTED BY THE TASTE WITH A TWIST







LIST OF 2020-2021 GRANTS

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Early College Program (through June 2021)

ASSUMPTION BVM

*Elementary Music Materials, Renee Vande Wege

BELMONT ELEMENTARY

Diverse Books, Rachel DeKuiper **Online Fitness Program**, Alyssa Slamp **Inclusive Classroom Library**, Alexandra Briggs

CANNONSBURG ELEMENTARY

Second Step Program, Chad Jackson Decodable Books and Phonics, Jill Gumbs Math and Literacy, Kristen Pitsch

CRESTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Diverse Classroom Books, Jaclyn Jacksonn

EAST AND NORTH ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOLS

3D Scanner, Michael Gariepy *Rockford Band Semi Trailer, Sonya Schmidt Kitchen Tools, Rachelle Lutz and Kelly Rusnell

LAKES ELEMENTARY

Owl Pellets, Jeffrey Post

MEADOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Virtual Zoo Program, Melissa Barton

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

*Elementary Music Materials, Renee Vande Wege

PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY

High Interest Books, Tori Fowler **Classroom Books**, Stacie Gregory

ROGUEWOOD ELEMENTARY (TRADITIONAL & SPANISH IMMERSION)

Classroom Books, Lesli Martinez and Megan Rewa

Whiteboard, Kaitlin Bird Whiteboard, Katelyn Barton

STEM/STEAM Toys, Amanda Weeks and Kelly Cleaver

Drums, Matthew Vermeer

BrainPop Online Resource, Eric Nephew **Classroom Headphones**, Danielle McCormick

ROCKFORD FRESHMAN CENTER & HIGH SCHOOL

Student Support, Michelle Corey

3D Printers, Chad Koch

Tutoring Support, Rachel Kreuze

Social Injustices Book Selections, Daniel Modderman **Graphing Calculators**, Jamie Goering and Sarah Youngberg

Button Maker, Amanda Urquhart

Jazz Band Amp, student

*Rockford Band Semi Trailer, Sonya Schmidt

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY

Outdoor Seating, Caleb Westveer Classroom Books. Cheri Dettwiler

School Wide Reading Project, Jason Hiscock Diverse Picture Books, Madison Doenges

Classroom Updates, Jessica Karsies

Author Study and Books, Kristin Hubner

Chemistry Set, Caleb Westveer **Classroom Books**, Jennifer Patzer

ROCKFORD COMMUNITY GRANTS

Video Equipment, North Kent Connect **Project SPIKE Lego Parts**, Paradise Teams FIRST Robotics

Classroom Garden, Sheryl Mankel

ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DISTRICT WIDE

Rockford Book Bus, Sharon Wells

ROCKFORD VIRTUAL

Book Club Library, Andrea Wandel

^{*}Grant serves multiple schools/programs



2020-2021 DONORS

\$50,000

Jens & Maureen Hansen Foundation

\$25,000

Wolverine Worldwide Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

GMB Architecture + Engineering Nancy Krupp Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Independent Bank Ryan and Andrea Montgomery Joel and Katy Scheffler Kevin and Mary Kay Shaver John and Amy Vancil

\$1,000 - \$2,499

American Gas & Oil **Applied Imaging** Thom and Sue Arends Matt and Kristy Becker William and Bobbi Jo Blanton Car Lovers LLC Jenn & Brad Davis Douglas and Jeri Derks Fair and Square Construction Charles and Sarah Ginebaugh Ron and Nancy Hager James & Shirley Balk Foundation Christopher and Nancy Jesko Randy and Colleen Laufersky David and Kimberly Lund Michele Lussky Mitch and Angela Lyons Eric and Catherine Mannor Meijer John and Jacquelyn Melin Carol Muth Joe and Leslie Poot Nick and Joan Reichenbach Aric Smith

\$500 to \$999

Lydia Vanderveen

Jeremy and Kelly Amshey
George Andrews
Troy and Lesa Bergsma
Rob and Laura Bondy
Timothy and Stacey Breadon
Barbara Bunbury
ChoiceOne Bank
Chad Conlin
David and Donita Coughlin
Crowe Foundation
CUNA Mutual Group Foundation

Mike and Kristine Cuneo Ruth Dekorne Kurt and Kimberly Dorer Dr. Heather Cadorette DDS Anna & Zac Ellerbroek Rick and Jill Ericksen Scott and Anessa Fehsenfeld Kurt and Sara Hazlewood Heinz Orthodontics Herremans Orthodontics Jay and Jessica Heydenburg Tom and Lauren Hosford Scott and Peggy Keane Brian and Dana Kraus Luan and Angela Le Jeff and Anna Leitch Michael and Joy Mehling Scott and Carol Murphy Bill and Ali Nash Christopher and Lynda O'Malley Plante Moran PLLC Chuck and Mary Polonowski **Duncan and Christina Purvis RE/MAX United** Dan and Nancy Richter Mark and Lisa Roach Debra Schremp Dr. Michael Shibler Chris and Colette Smilev Derek and Jennifer Steele Melissa Stewart Kenneth and Lydia Syrba Bob and Mary Jo Tidey Valleau, VanDeven & Massie Dentistry for Children Aaron and Sarah VanSoest Jeffrey and Magdalena VanWin-Bob and Kathye Vidal Hayes and Marci Wyngarden

\$250 to \$499

Steve and Laura Bargwell **David Barrons** Jim and Joan Bogart Pete and Amanda Brand Lisa Buffin Adam and Melissa Burkholder Lowell and Linda Bursch Byrne Tim & Cindy Caywood Garv Chamberlin Chris and Kim Cruickshank Beulah Davis Renee DeFrang Carl and Karen Dufendach Eric and Kelly Fischer Jennifer Folsom Bethany Fusee Marcus and Kelly Gardner Dan Giedeman

David Goetzka Jim and Patricia Haskins Floyd and Sharon Havemeier Mike and Kristen Herblet Michael and Jo Anne Holton Gloria Hosford Kristin and Adam Hubner Michael and Mary Hulsebus Karry Johnson Jerry and Connie Jolly Michael and Kimberly Jones Michael and Amy Kelley Amv Kruer Kurt and Hillary Kruse David and Heidi LaPlante Dan and Jodi Leia Jamie and Gerilyn May John and Julie Merchun Beth Meyer-Kraff and Dave Kraff Michael and Karen Micele Teresa Miller Richard and Roslyn Moe Annamaria Neihoff Paul and Anna Papes Kristi Pelc Jerry and Jan Peterson Steve and Marianne Polonowski Ian and Vivien Purvis Laura Radle Ruth Reickard Drew and Heidi Rozema Brian and Tracey Schamp Benjamin Schmittling Jeff and Meghan Shumate Neal and Jill Silverman Steel 21 LLC Carl and Kristy Stites Kris Stotz Jeff and Kelly Timmer Stacy and Danielle Vallad Jennifer and Chris Van Norwick Renee Vande Wege Kevin and Linda VanKoevering Todd and Tina Vriesenga Brandon Warner Brad and Lissa Weidenfeller Bob and Sharon Wells Korie Wilson-Crawford Susan Witte John Young Michael and Anna Zevalkink

up to \$249

Michelle Abro Jennifer Aldrich Walter and Mary Ann Andersen Elyse Anderson Holly Anderson Tricia Anderson Sonia and Bob Andrews Tom & Marie Anschuetz Lauren Arnett Dean and Christine Arnold Brandon Arrendondo Lee Ash Amy Ashbaugh Katherine Austin Melissa Bacon Tom and Judy Baer Michael Bair Carole Baker Jamie Bakita Richard and Sue Bakita Amy Balk Jason Ballou Chris and Kelly Bantle-Miller Jeff and Melissa Barton Matthew and Carlee Barton Bryan and Michelle Bartosik Jen Bascom Jeffrey and Michele Bates Kristen Beals Thad Beard Therese Beasley Jeffrey Beaton **Becky Beckett** Thomas and Michelle Belanger Jeff and Barbara Benda Eric Bennett Lane & Dawn Bennett George and Julie Bera Steve and Cathy Best Janine Bishop Wendy Bitely Andrew Blackmore Laura Blasius Charles Bloom Jeremy and Kimberly Boss Meghan Boss Dawn Brekke David Bright Richard and Sandra Brill Kimberly Bristol Meredith Bronk Tina Bronkema Jana Broughton Leslie Brouwers Julie Brown Robert Brunetz Patrick Burkholder James and Natasha Burns Russell Bushong Nancy Bussler Stephanie Calverley Annette Campbell Evie Campbell Stephanie Cardenas Katie Carmody George and Jill Carroll Brandon Cartwright Roger and Judy Carver

Trisha and Joe Castiglione

Erin Cataldo



2020-2021 DONORS

up to \$249 continued

Valerie Chaffee Cornell and Lisa Chamberlain Krisanne and Scott Chapin Lisa Chaudoir Theodore Cherry Mateo and Rebekah Chino Kelly Chizmar Kate Cicchino Sandra Cilek Craig and Alison Clark Marlene Clark

Jason Clauser Allison Clements Jodi Coalter

Calvin and Carolynn Cole

Erin Cole Chad and Kristin Conlin Kimberly Connor Monica Conrad David and Sara Cook Jacqueline Cook

Jerry and Debra Coon Dan and Lisa Cooper

Jason Cooper Teva Cotter Jessica Craig Khumbo Croft Jessica Crosby

Greg and Kathy Crowe Matthew & Danielle Crowe Tom and Rebecca Cruttenden **Brent and Sarah Cummings** Cameron and Amanda Currie

Nicole Curtis

Patrick and Nanci Dalton

Tricia Daniels Paige Davis

Philip and Brenda Davis DBA Ward's Hair Place

Jason Decker Kathy Dehaan

Ryan and Rachel DeKuiper Daniel and Karen DeRyke Michael and Sherryl Despres Robert and Kathryn Devillez

Laura DeVos

Bill and Susan Devries Lisa DeWitt Aaron Deyonker Alex Devonker Christina Devonker Pete and Cheryl Dix Donna Dodd Linda Dodge

Jennifer Domagalski Jeffrey and Jennifer Donovan Frank and Lisa Dopkiss David and Cathleen Downer Amanda Dubanik

Beth Dubin

Becky Annette DuBridge

Kelly Duffy Laura Dulay

Don and Shannon Dunham Gerald and Stacy Durfee Matthew and Rianne Durham Timothy and Liz Durkin

Jeff Elenbaas Jason Elliott Nina Eltringham Andrea Eteo Carly Evans Trina Evans

Greg and Kimberly Evers Mayoric and Kirsten Farmer

Sharon Farguhar Jenny Fata

Michael and Erica Figard Zeke and Amanda Finch Kim Fink

David and Beverly Fischer Cecelia and Brian Floerchinger

Joel Flugstad Gary and Peggy Fowle

Amanda Fox Daniel and Carolyn Frank

Erik Fransen Kelley Freridge Rachel Galer

Brian and Jennifer Gard Maria Gardner

Jim and Pat Garlock Justin and Megan Gates Kristine and Pete Gault Craig and Ann Geers

James and Carol Gehrke Kristen George

Chris and Alison Gervat Robert and Nancy Gillette

Lauren Gleghorn Lauren Gliniecki Amanda Glover

Chris and Jennifer Gluth

Amy Goei Tracy Gogola Jocelyn Goheen Erica Golembiewski Sandy Gonzalez Rick and Chelle Good Chad Goodrow

Justin and Wendy Goushaw Beth Graalman

Matthew and Laura Greene Lauren Greenland

Robert and Donna Greenland John and Melissa Greko

Denise Grinnell Lindsey and Nick Grinwis Cody and Kathryn Gross

Curtis and Katie Gross Jill Gumbs

Julie Gunderson

Jody Haagsma Tom and Marcia Haas

Kelly Hagmeyer Kay Hahn

Carrie Hambelton Mary Harris

Elizabeth Harwood Randy Havens

Todd and Tracy Havataka Shawn and Kim Healy

Helmholdt & Company LLP April Hemlock

John and Colleen Henry

Karen Henshaw Mary Herra

Tony and Nanette Hersberger

Heather Hess Carrie Hill Jason Hiscock Anne Hoekstra

Craig and Kelly Hoffman

Dana Hoile

Michael and Wendy Hoisington

Whitney Holden

Brian and Stephanie Holly Brad and Tara Holwerda

Lisa Horness

Howard and Heather Horton

Jennie Howell Jim Hughes Jami Huizenga Mary Hunter Katie Hunt-Williams

Melinda Hutson John and Lori Hvink Jaclyn Jackson Andrea Jacobson

Marvin and Kimberly Jakubiak

Danielle Jalacki Andrew Jameson Steve and Susan Jazwiec

Kyle and Tammi Jenkins Colene Johnson

Kelli Jonas Diane Jones Kelly Kading Randy Kaja

Eric and April Karas Diane Karasiewicz Jeremy Karel

Aaron and Jessica Karsies Raymond and Jennifer Kasul

Alisha Kauppila Jodie Kellev Kirstin Kellner Jennifer Kempa Barb Kent

Paul and Lorrie Kerridge

Courtney Kerry Patrick and Kim Kinstle Tammy Klein

Zachary and Krista Klepchak

Allison Kolean Kevin Kooiker

David and Natalie Koster Tim and Brynn Koster

Jenni Kotarski

Michael and Lisa Kreager Michael and Diane Kroll

Anthony Kropf Nancy Krupp

Jennifer Krzyszkiewicz Robert and Kim Kuemin Candace Kulhanek Thaddeus and Jan Kuzma

William and Jill Kuzma

Caroline Lamb

Donald and Janice Lamos

Kristi Landis Angela Landon

Warren and Mary Lanphear

Amy Lapointe Holly Larson Bridget Lassig

Rick and Jennifer Laven

Ann Leasher Abbigail Leblanc Kerrie Leblanc Jodi Lee

Tam Lefurge-Mcleod

Anthony and Katherine Leighton Ralph and Betsy Leistner

Brian Leitch

Joseph and Holly Lewakowski Daniel and Rebecca Lewis

Lynn Lewis Rebecca Lewis Jackie Lillie Jacob Lindloff Stephanie Lisser-Carroll Shawn Marie Loney Shandy Longcore

Stephanie and Dave Lundberg

Jennifer Lutz Rheanna Maccallum Peter & Christine Macgregor Joe and Janis Magnan Steven and Kathy Main Tim and Savannah Maleski Andrew Martin

Clifford and Linda Martin

Jeff Martin

William and Cheryl Martin

Jennifer Mathews Melanie Mavs Samantha Mayse Barbara Mayward Mark McCann Rachel McCay

Todd and Shannon McCourtie

Mary Ann McDonald Mindy McGinn

Michael and Maria McGovern Dan and Krista McLean



2020-2021 DONORS

up to \$249 continued

Craig & Nancy McPhee Lynn Meier Jared and Nicole Meisling Tim and Michele Mergener

Sara Merritt Brooke Meyer Jenny Mikrut Andrea Mikulenas

Milestones Child Development Center

Tamra Miller Jon and Mindy Miner Kristina Mixer

Model Coverall Service Inc Emily Molesta

Kathleen Monroe Michael and Amy Morgan

Marian Morris Matthew and Danielle Morris

John and Dawn Mosey Angela Mullins

Ralph and Kathy Munger

Chris and Linda Murphy Erin Murphy Emily Napieralski

Elizabeth Nasser Jeff and Katie Nauta Cheryl Nawrot Sheryl Nelson Network for Good Kim Neveau

Anthony Nicolette Jessika Nink Michael Nitschke Heidi Nixon

Ray and Holly Normington

Becky Norris
Kacy Norton
Michael Oaks
Patricia O'Neill
Lindsey O'Rourke
Shannon Ouellette
Christina Ousouljoglou
Laurel Packard

Tiffany Palmieri Kris Pankratz Larissa Paras Matthew Parrott Nicole Parrott Lilian Patrick Jennifer Patten Devon Pearson Jessica Peck

Robert and Kristen Pekrul Amanda Pelak

Dale and Rhoda Pell

Maria Pena

Jim and Mary Penrod Melissa Perea

Bernadette and Mike Petersen

Gordon and Sandra Peterson

Nicole Peterson Heather Phillips

John and Christine Phillips

Mona Phillips

Gordon and Sharon Pickerd

Jennifer Pierce
Jaime Pitsch
Victor Pitsch
Matt Pitzer
Heather Plain
Kristen Pluger
Brittany Ponce
Amira Ponne
Jennifer Porcari
Toren Prawdzik
Hilary Ragsdale
Marci Rambo

Chad and Sue Randall
Deborah Reath-Wiest
Bruce and Tamara Reaume
Derek and Rebecca Reed
Matthew and Jennifer Reinsma

Fred and Mary Reusch Mark and Janelle Reyers Carolyn Reynaud

Ashley Riley Matt and Jamie Riley Joseph and Sara Robach Rockford Cheese Shop Rockford Construction Co., Inc.

Lauren Rodewald Christine Rodriguez Kathleen Rodts Bryce Roebke Jamie Romoslawski Kay Romoslawski Elizabeth Roque

Nicole Rodammer

Jason Rosa Troy and Kelli Rose

Ken and Patricia Rosenstangel

Kari Rothenthaler Amy Roy Jaime Rueffer Brooke Russell Jacquelynn Russell Michelle Sahr Mary Sakall Allison Sanders Audrey Sarantos Kasey Sauder

Nicole Scales Brian and Michelle Scheidmantel

Sarah Scherlinck Breanna Schertzing Melissa Schmidt

Adriane and Bret Schrauben Rob and Lisa Schroeder Jennifer Schubert

Andrew and Hollie Schueller

Nancy Schultz

Philip and Laura Schultz Joseph and Terri Schwallier Michael and Rachael Segard

Jennifer Semeyn Lindsay Seppala Amy Sharp

Samuel and Kristi Sheffer Shanna Shillington-Bylsma

Lisa Sikkema
Jenna Skripka
Paula Slabbekoorn
Breanna Smith
Casey Smith
Jessica Smith

Mark and Holly Smith

Nolan Smith

Betsy Smith-Wollney William and Pamela Smyth Chris and Jilaine Snoeyink

Sara Soehnel Kerri Southwick Heidi Spencer Sara Sper

James and Stamatia Spero Paul and Sue Spindler Michael and Patti Staley

Sam Starkey

Aaron and Jessica Steele Scott and Sheila Stewart

Sheila Stewart Audrey Strieter

Dan and Tiffany Stuart Lisa Sturm

Amy Sullivan Kristy Sullivan Vivian Sun

Steven and Lynn Surdock Paul and Vonnie Sydloski

Don Syverson Harmony Szymanski Bradley and Janet Tetlow William and Norma Tetro Brian and Maggie Thelen Beverly and Randy Thiel Tena Timmermans Bob and Andrea Toole

Susan & Shane Trotter Steven and Karen Trudell Jerry Tucker

Davorin Tukaric Kristin Turner Richard and Deb Umlor

Rick and Pam VandeKerkhoff Amanda Vandekopple

Steve Vandenbrink Astra Vanderberg

George and Linda Vanderhyde Beth Vanderwal

Joseph and Jennifer VanDyke Renee Vankoevering Douglas Verburg Scott and Shelley Volkert Mitch Waite Kathrine Wakeley Jennifer Walk Kelli Walker Lisa Walsh Heather Ward

John and Virginia Weaver

Liz Webb Kim Weber Jane Webster Amanda Weeks Emily Weinmann

Buffy and Perk Weisenburger

Shelley Weisman Autumn Wernette Ty and Kathy Wessell Caleb Westveer

Allison and Mark Wheeler Tanner and Kelly Whitcomb

Linda Wiersema Scott Wilber Lonnie Wilda

Gregg and Kristen Wildes

Tonya Wilholt Christine Willea

Thomas and Sarah Williams Melisa Willner

George Wilson Rich Wilson Sarah Winston Bush Robb Wollney Kris Wolpert

Jennifer Wood Amanda Woodworth Monica Wright

Jason and Jenny Wypych Sarah Youngberg Dan and Sara Zang Jaclyn Zemens

Brian and Cindy Zimmerman