



REF

2024-2025 Rockford Education Foundation Annual Report

THANK YOU, ROCKFORD

With your generous support, the Rockford Education Foundation funded powerful programs that enriched student lives across our schools this year.

WHY REF?

We Serve the Whole Child

From academics to well-being, REF supports every student.

We Impact All Kids

Every Rockford student benefits from REF programs.

We Support Educators

Turning teacher ideas into reality.



Connect with REF

2024-2025

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY IMPACT



SUPPORTING WELLNESS & SAFETY

Through donations raised during The Taste paddle raise, REF invested \$75,000 in programs that keep students safe, supported, and ready to learn.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Trusted role models building relationships and keeping schools safe.



COUNSELING DOGS

Hitch and the Ram Pack bring comfort, confidence, and smiles to students every day.



BEHAVIOR SUPPORT EXPANSION

Helping students manage emotions and make good choices with new coaching and guidance.



SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Partnering with Pine Rest to connect students, families, and staff with expert counseling and mental health support, REF was proud to support the School Assistance Program.

CLASSROOM IMPACT



CLASSROOM GRANTS

Helping educators bring ideas to life. From STEAM to storybooks, every classroom benefits.



STEAM INNOVATION

STEAM grants spark creativity, collaboration, and hands-on learning for every K-5 student.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Funding programs that build connection, inclusion, and student growth.



STUDENT GRANTS

From robotics to CPR training, students turned their big ideas into action.

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

Every student deserves to focus on their education. Through programs like the RHS Care Closet and River Valley Academy's Holiday Fundraiser, we work with RPS staff district-wide to identify students in need and provide the essentials to help them succeed.



2024-2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Laura Bargwell*
Margaret Becker
Lori Boss
Tim Breadon, *Chairperson*
Trish Castiglione
Jason Dykstra
Jared Gauss
John Greko, *Treasurer*
Heidi Hall-LaPlante
Matt Hoffman

Anna Leitch
Kristin Long
Cathy Mannor
Leslie Poot*
Elizabeth Rose
Katy Scheffler, *Secretary*
Erin Shupe
Jessica Visser
Bob Wells, *Vice Chairperson*

Ex-Officio Representative

Mike Ramm
RPS Assistant Superintendent

Jarrod Folsom
RPS Board of Education Representative

REF Staff

Beth Meyer-Kraff, *Executive Director*
Jill Silverman, *Development Director*
Keri Pimental, *Communications Specialist*

*Retired June 2025

REF

THIS YEAR'S IMPACT



\$466,000
TOTAL REVENUE



462
TOTAL DONORS



45
GRANTS AWARDED

Because of you,
Rockford kids
are thriving.

Join us. **Donate.**
Volunteer. Inspire.



FUELING EXCELLENCE



\$318,000

Individual / Family Donations



\$64,500

Business Sponsorships



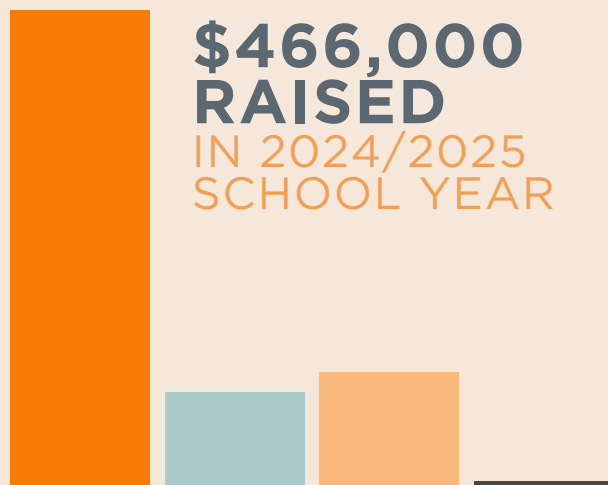
\$78,000

Interest Income



\$5,500

Other Income



\$466,000
RAISED
IN 2024/2025
SCHOOL YEAR

SUPPORTING FUTURES

14 Graduating Seniors
received scholarships
through REF's six
scholarship funds.



MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!
DONATE TO REF

