



REF

ONE CHILD AT A TIME

ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
2021 - 2022 Annual Report

There are thousands of schoolchildren in Rockford. They come from all backgrounds, have unique opportunities and challenges, and have different learning styles. Our educators must find creative solutions to challenge, support, and engage each one. A daunting task, but because of you and the Rockford Education Foundation (REF) they have options and find success!

One of the kids you helped this past school year is a middle school student. This kid never saw himself as a reader, especially after receiving the diagnosis of dyslexia, and struggled in Language Arts classes. When asked about books, he declared, "I don't read. I'm dyslexic." Educators then introduced him to new audiobooks purchased with a grant from REF. His reaction was: "Whoa! So this is like listening to a podcast...?!" Suddenly, books that his peers were enjoying and once seemed impossible for him, became accessible, interesting, and fun.

This is your donation in action. Because of you, our kids, regardless of their background, circumstances, or various abilities, can thrive.

As we head into the 2022-23 school year, we are more committed than ever to ensuring that our children have the resources, opportunities, and supports they need to achieve their personal best. Together with your help, we know we can go Above & Beyond so that all Rockford students are prepared to succeed today and lead tomorrow.

Thank you for caring about our kids. It is making all the difference—one child at a time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

\$1,480 AWARDED

Parkside Coffee Cart - Lisa Gernand & Kaitlin Vanwyk

The Coffee Cart program is an “out of the box” idea that is not only fun but teaches important life skills. It is specifically designed to develop social skills and promote positive behavior and leadership all through hands-on learning. While useful for all students, it is life-changing for any who may struggle with social interactions or emotional triggers. Each Friday, rotating students manage the cart, taking coffee orders from staff and then ensuring the free treats are delivered correctly and timely. Students collaborate with each another and practice positive, pro-active communication with peers and adults.



FINE ARTS

\$21,040 AWARDED

Rockford Instrument Fund - RPS Orchestra Teachers: Allison Holden, NRMS; Amy Tenney, ERMS; Erin DeYoung, RHS

With seed money from a Large Grant, the Rockford Instrument Fund was established so that every child who desires could play a musical instrument in orchestra or band regardless of their family’s financial circumstance. The cost to rent instruments is a barrier for many families. This fund provides dignity as families pay an amount affordable for them and anonymity for the student as the process for securing a rental is the same for everyone.



LITERACY

\$15,359 AWARDED

Audio Books for All - Emily Weinmann NRMS & Michelle Falk, NRMS & ERMS

Academic performance and literary interest often begin to wane as kids enter middle school. Our educators are fighting back with audiobooks and finding huge success and interest! This past year, over 500 students checked out hundreds of audiobooks. This option has been a huge benefit to all kids, especially those who struggle. Pairing an audiobook with a paper copy can make the most challenging required reading more accessible for all students.

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE TODAY!



8,000

STUDENTS SERVED



884

VOLUNTEER HOURS



STEAM

\$17,092 AWARDED

Changing Earth Research Project -Lauren Gleghorn, Crestwood Elementary

Part of the second grade science curriculum is learning about “Our Changing Earth” where students research landforms, bodies of water, weathering, and erosion. Through a REF grant, students transformed three classrooms by building life-sized landforms and bodies of water in them. They invited other classes to visit their creations and tell them about how our world is constantly changing. This interactive experience provided exciting hands-on learning for every child in the school.



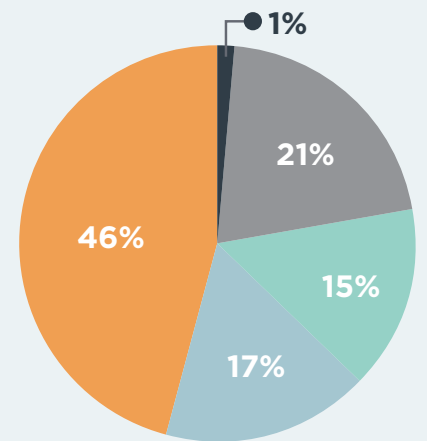
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

\$46,205 AWARDED

Counseling Dogs - Rockford High School & Meadow Ridge Elementary School

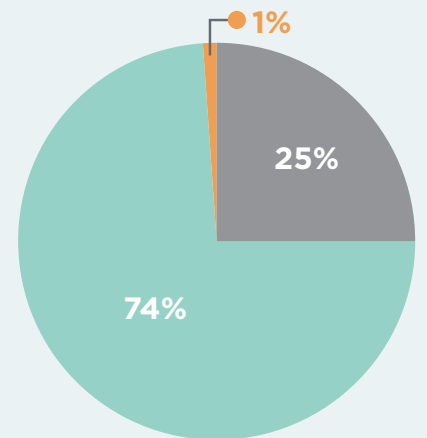
Two new counseling dogs were added to the RPS Pack this past year bringing our total up to three! Gunner serves in the high school counseling office and Hopper works at Meadow Ridge Elementary. With many so kids experiencing forms of anxiety and depression, the highly-trained counseling dogs help lift moods, provoke laughter, and offer friendship and a “furry” shoulder to lean on. One of the Meadow Ridge students exclaimed, “It’s really good to have a dog here because a lot of kids at school struggle with being stressed out. I jumped with joy when I met him!”

IMPACT AREAS



- College & Career Readiness
- Fine Arts
- Literacy
- STEAM
- Social & Emotional Wellness

TOTAL REVENUE



Business Contributions	75,010
Individual/Family Donations	223,921
Other	3,872
Total	\$302,711



\$302,711

\$ RAISED IN 2020-2021

includes interest income



76

GRANTS AWARDED

2021-2022 LIST OF GRANTS

Assumption BVM

Books, Katie Leeder

Belmont Elementary

Classroom Books, Michelle Bates

Slumberkins Program, Alyssa Slamp

STEAM Art Materials, Krysta Woycehoski

Crestwood Elementary

STEAM Materials, Amy Gardner

Interactive Changing Earth Project, Lauren Gleghorn

Art Center Materials, Katie Jaglowski

Science and Math Extensions, Tam LeFurge-McLeod

Classroom Books, Stacey VanDenHout

East & North Rockford Middle Schools

***After School League**, Derek Dillon

March is Reading Books, Michelle Falk

VEX Robots, Michael Gariepy

Music Vouchers, Allison Holden

Writing Tablet, Rachell Lutz

Math Manipulatives, Amanda Makarewicz

Baking Materials, Elizabeth Nasser

Audio Books, Emily Weinmann

Lakes Elementary

Learning Garden, Mary MacKenzie

Meadow Ridge Elementary

Fraction Sticks, Katrina Burger

Diversity Materials,Carolynn Cole

Fine Motor & Social Skill Manipulatives, Kerri Forrester

WriteReader Website, Sarah Nuechterlein

Counseling Dog - Hopper, Counseling Team

Our Lady of Consolation

Sensory Room Items, Emily Krajewski

World Map, Wendy Rigley

Barred Music Instruments, Lori VerMerris

Parkside Elementary

Coffee Cart Program, Lisa Gernand

Decodable Books, Karla Plank

Bird and Flower Unit Materials, Nicole Westveer

Roguewood Elementary

(Traditional & Spanish Immersion)

Bass Bars, Erika Rito

3D Printer, Mark Schlaudt

Calming Kits, Laurissa Stawicki

Calming Tools, Amanda Weeks

Rockford Freshman Center & High School

Harmony Directors, Evan Bahm

Classroom Books, Jackie Decker

***After School League**, Derek Dillon

Classroom Books, Kelly Gardner

Classroom Materials, Brad Keeler

Classroom Books, Daniel Modderman

Leaf Blowers, Jeffery Schram

Classroom Books, Nolan Smith

Books and Mics for Podcasts, Stephen Story

Math Enhancements, Kelly Van Houte

Counseling Dog - Gunner, Counseling Team

Rockford Christian

Outdoor Garden, Ben Buursma

Makerspace Materials, Jaclyn DenOuden

Valley View Elementary

Book Club Books, Jen Bascom

Dry Erase Boards and Headphones, Cheri Dettwiler

Science and Math Manipulatives, Jessica Karsies

Social/Emotional Books, Terry Loughman-Auzins

Glockenspiels, Jamie Saincome

Geology Tools, Caleb Westveer

Rockford Community Grants

Plainsong Farm Community Garden, Nurya Parish

Rockford Community Services - Speakers,

Kimberly Evers

Rockford Public Schools - District Wide

Developing Healthy Kids Books, Lisa Jacobs

**Grant serves multiple schools/programs*

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

Represents donations made from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

\$25,000+

Wolverine Worldwide
Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Hudsonville Creamery &
Ice Cream Company, LLC

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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REF | ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Our mission is to provide funding for educational opportunities, both basic and innovative, in the Rockford community.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR REF'S EVENTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR!

ROCKFORD HOMECOMING WEEK ACTIVITIES

- Dunk for Dough School Competition - Week of October 10, 2022
- Rockford Hall of Fame Induction - Thursday, October 13, 2022
- Hall of Fame Day of Learning - Friday, October 14, 2022

THE TASTE

- The Taste at Home Gift Card Sales - March 1 - March 17, 2023
- The Taste In Person - Thursday, March 2, 2023

DONOR WALL

- Deadline to purchase plaque at Creative Teaching & Learning Center - May 15, 2023

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