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With help from  
**YOU...**

**YOUR** generous support allowed the Rockford Education Foundation (REF) to provide enrichment activities such as robotics and fine arts, special education, and mental health programming, as well as basic resources for classroom teachers and students of all ages. We couldn't have done that without **YOU!**

As a result of your support, despite a global pandemic, REF had a record-breaking year, welcomed an additional 100 donors, and deepened our support of Rockford schools, teachers, and kids.

But we must do more.

These are unique, unprecedented times. Covid-19 has reminded us just how important our schools and teachers are for the well-being of our entire community. We know that school is more than a place for students to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic. We have seen that schools and caring staff provide kids with basic needs like food, a safe place to be during the day, and programs that support their social-emotional wellness.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank **YOU**. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our kids and our schools continue to have what they need to be successful and resilient no matter what new challenges may lie ahead.



**SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 2020**

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- Beth Meyer-Kraff, *Executive Director*
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This year we will gather for a **VIRTUAL EVENT** on Tuesday, October 27. We will honor the achievements of outstanding community members and celebrate the determination and commitment of our current students and educators.

Visit our website to sponsor the event:  
[www.rockfordEDfoundation.org](http://www.rockfordEDfoundation.org)



# IMPACT

BY THE NUMBERS

**\$207,801**  
2019-2020 INCOME

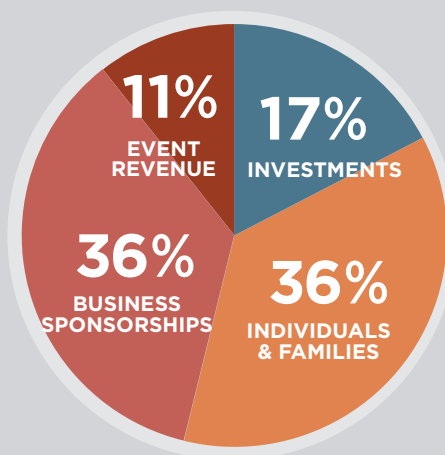
**8000+**  
STUDENTS SERVED

**400+**  
CURRENT DONORS

**55**  
GRANTS AWARDED

**10**  
STUDENT GRANTS AWARDED

## FUNDING SOURCES



The Rockford Education Foundation partners with our schools to provide funding for unmet classroom needs. When you give to REF, you are investing in the Rockford community and directly supporting Rockford kids!



## 2019-20 FEATURED GRANTS

### Literacy

Reading is the most crucial academic skill because it is the foundation for all learning. No measure of academic success correlates with college readiness, college graduation rates, and life success more than literacy.

**11 GRANTS ► \$6,424 AWARDED**

Over 1,000 Books purchased

#### Listen Up: Bringing Books to Life!!!

*Grant Recipient:* Ali McDuffee, North Rockford Middle School

In addition to providing funds to purchase thousands of traditional books over the years, this year REF provided funding for audio books. Audio books can help meet literacy goals by bridging the gap in literacy struggles and building on fluency and comprehension of all students. While required reading may create anxiety for some students, audio books have been found to bring books to life for readers at all levels.

### STEAM Education

By exposing students to STEAM concepts, they are more likely to develop a passion for and pursue careers in the sciences which are increasing in demand in our 21st century economy.

**23 GRANTS ► \$23,879 AWARDED**

30 Robots purchased

#### Finchbots Running Loose in the Creative Teaching and Learning Center

*Grant Recipient:* Rick Laven, Rockford High School

Finchbots are used by teachers around the world to bring creative design and robotics fun into the classroom. Finchbots provide a hands-on coding/programming experience in the Creative Teaching and Learning Center and will pique and sustain interest in the field of computer science.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

### \$25,000

Wolverine Worldwide Foundation

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

GMB Architecture + Engineering  
Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.  
Rockford Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

### \$2,400 - \$4,999

Matt and Kristy Becker  
William and Bobbi Jo Blanton  
Brad and Jennifer Davis  
Ferris State University  
Independent Bank  
Middleville Tool & Die  
Mill Steel Company  
Kevin and Mary Kay Shaver  
Derek and Jennifer Steele

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

American Gas & Oil  
Byrne  
Cannon Concrete Construction  
ChoiceOne Bank  
Communications By Design  
Douglas and Jeri Derks  
Charles and Sarah Ginebaugh  
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Kenneth and Lydia Syrba

Bob and Mary Jo Tidey  
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John and Amy Vancil  
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Steve Workman and Kim Schmidt

### \$500 - \$999

A&B Mechanical Contractors, Inc.  
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Title Boxing Club Grand Rapids  
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Jeffrey and Kirsten Weyerman  
Bernie and Julie Zahn

**FOR A FULL LIST OF 2019-20 DONORS, PLEASE VISIT:**

[rockfordEDfoundation.org](http://rockfordEDfoundation.org)

### Social-Emotional Wellness and Healthy Living

Academic success depends on the health and well-being of both the body and the mind.

**12 GRANTS ► \$34,685 AWARDED**

7 Sensory Spaces created - all grade levels

#### Take a Walk on the Calm Side

*Grant Recipient:* Rachel DeKuiper, Cannonsburg Elementary

A sensory space gives kids an opportunity to take a break from the classroom environment to process feelings and work through whatever is getting in the way of their learning. Stepping stones, balance boards, hopscotch rings and building block walls create sensory pathways that offer students a designated space to move through developmentally appropriate sensory activities. Students learn how to self-regulate and then confidently return to the classroom, focused and ready to learn.

### Fine Arts

Immersing children in music and other fine arts activities stimulates parts of the brain associated with academic achievement, reading, math, and emotional development.

**9 GRANTS ► \$8,350 AWARDED**

300 Choir students will benefit from sound system upgrade each year

#### Rockford Choirs Stand-Alone Sound System Upgrade

*Grant Recipient:* Jed Scott, RHS Music/Theatre

The RHS Music and Theatre program was awarded a Digital Mixer and microphones to complete the existing sound system at RHS. This state-of-the-art sound system will be used for rehearsals and performances of ensembles at every level.

### College and Career Readiness

Academic excellence means striving to ensure every student is college or career ready.

**2 GRANTS ► \$26,000 AWARDED**

30 Students will benefit each year from learning valuable hands-on skills

#### Life Skills that last a Lifetime

*Grant Recipient:* Caleb Westveer, Valley View Elementary

This grant was used to purchase a variety of hand tools and building equipment to teach students how to swing a hammer, cut through wood, use a screwdriver properly. In addition to teaching 5th grade students how to use their hands to fix things around them, it provided students with new life skills and the opportunity to explore paths to trades and skills-based occupations.

► For a full list of grants, visit [www.rockfordEDfoundation.org](http://www.rockfordEDfoundation.org)