

Annual Report

2022-2023



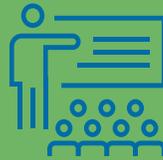
41,700+
Students Empowered



\$4,265,747
RAISED



1,957 Donors



132
Classroom Grants
Awarded Through
Fund a Need
Campaigns



74
Schools &
Programs
Served



Every \$1 donated
to the Inspiring
Dreams Fund
leveraged \$15 for
student & teacher
projects

382 Projects
Supported



\$155,400
distributed between
108 Scholarships to
81 LPS seniors





Good for kids, good for the community

In our 35+ years of service to Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), many community leaders and talented volunteers have supported projects that help our school district thrive – things tax dollars simply cannot provide.

With your help, we can keep our schools at their best. That's good for kids—and the community.

As an independent 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation serves LPS students and staff in a multitude of ways, and several are highlighted in this report.

spark™ Summer Camp 2023

Spark, a program of the Foundation for LPS, provided another successful year of summer camp dedicated to creating curiosity, enhancing exploration, and bringing creativity to kids across the community through STEAM-based learning.

287 campers in attendance (K–5)
10 weekly STEAM themes



\$65,000+ in scholarships awarded to
low-income campers



Student Emergency Assistance

The Student Emergency Fund provides quick, emergency relief to families and students who are struggling financially with basic needs such as groceries, rent, and gas. The fund helps ensure that students come to school ready to learn. We want to ensure students have the basic needs to excel in school.

\$98,331

Funds distributed to students and their families

695

Families supported in times of crisis

Real fulfilled requests submitted by LPS Social Workers



"A single mother has five children, three of whom have significant health issues, causing financial constraints. The family needs their electricity turned back on for the kids to continue doing their school work."



"This family's struggles intensified when the mom died. Dad has a week of work ahead of him and put his last eight dollars in his gas tank. I'm requesting a gas and grocery card to ensure dad can get kids to school and work."

LPS School Lunch Support Fund

A wave of online generosity inspired Lincolniters to fulfill a need within Lincoln Public Schools: school lunch debt. Though no child goes without lunch, families often cannot pay their child's lunch debt. Thankfully, our community responded, and in November 2022, the LPS School Lunch Fund was created.

"School meals ensure that students have the nutrition they need so they can learn and be successful throughout the school day," said Andrew Ashelford, Director of Nutrition Services at LPS. "Witnessing the outpouring of support for this fund is truly heartwarming."

Generous community members like you have made a tremendous difference. Thanks to your contributions, over \$21,000 of lunch debt was cleared, directly impacting the lives of students and their families in LPS schools. Every child deserves a chance to shine, and freedom from the weight of debt is one way the community can support our students.



\$21,938

Lunch debts paid

35

Schools

1,700+

Students impacted

Fielding Dreams

One Gift at a Time

Derrel Martin grew up in Southwest Nebraska, and though he didn't consider himself a star athlete, he played every sport his school offered—all three. "Playing football, basketball, and running track all instilled the concept of 'teamwork,' and winning and losing together became hugely important," says Derrel.

It shouldn't be surprising that most people who have participated in a team sport recognize its value. Derrel Martin and his late wife, JoAnn, understood the importance of athletic facilities for the students in Lincoln. Because of their help and a generous gift from U-Stop (Chris & Mark Whitehead) to the Fielding Dreams Campaign, Lincoln now has exceptional tennis courts at Lincoln Standing Bear High School - the JoAnn & Derrel Martin Courts at U-Stop Tennis Complex.

"This is all about enriching the experience all kids can have while they're in school."

"Providing a quality facility is truly important and not because it's nicer to play on a good court, but because it represents what Lincoln has to offer," said Derrel. "A big part of growing is having the chance to participate in a team event and utilizing the facilities around the city."

Derrel was driven to donate to the Fielding Dreams Campaign to provide opportunities for kids who wanted to be involved in extracurricular activities. "I'm excited for the chance for this to be a year-round facility and not just for schools, and I hope that it fosters involvement from others. This sponsorship worked for us."

One in three Lincoln Public Schools high schoolers will join one or more team sports each year, and thousands more will cheer them on. These activities go beyond trophies and cheers. They're the launchpad for success, where confidence, resilience, and teamwork are forged. But, Lincoln students need more space to participate in the activities they love.

The Fielding Dreams Campaign, a project for the whole city, is helping fund the improvements and expansions Lincoln facilities need to accommodate all kids and draw other Nebraska families to Lincoln.

Derrel recognizes that not all individuals have an athletic background or passion, but he doesn't think that should limit supporting this campaign. "A gift, no matter the size, is still impactful. This is all about enriching the experience all kids can have while they're in school. Kids need to have the opportunity to develop their unique talents and skills, and it's up to us to ensure they have the option to have a well-rounded education."

While classrooms offer an enriching educational environment, Derrel emphasizes that growth



JoAnn & Derrel Martin Courts at U-Stop Tennis Complex

extends beyond the school walls. “Young people can face challenges when it comes to making good decisions. The more opportunities the community can provide, the better.” Derrel is excited about the future of this campaign and recognizes the benefits it will have on the Lincoln community. “Not everyone can make a large gift, but many people can afford to make a small donation, and when many do that, it can create a huge difference.”

The 2020 LPS bond provided a crucial \$15.4 million investment toward phase one of construction for two new athletic facilities located on the Lincoln Northwest and Lincoln Standing Bear campuses. The Fielding Dreams Campaign has a goal to take these facilities to championship-level, by adding new fields, training centers, grandstands, lights, and more to the existing facilities. The next phase will be raising money to build the buildings. To learn more about the Fielding Dreams Campaign, please visit fieldingdreamsforlps.org.



97%

of student-athletes graduate on time

1 in 3

LPS high school students will join at least one team sport every year



Scan the QR code to learn more.

Outstanding Educator Awards

Lincoln Public Schools is full of teachers and leaders who inspire and motivate. Annually, several outstanding LPS educators are nominated by colleagues and parents to receive Educator Awards. Awards are granted to various staff members, such as teachers, counselors, school nurses, principals, and more.

50 Nominations	2023 Winners	Angela Carlow Teal Hollmann Nikki Janssen Bre Jones Brittany Lanik Dave Leader	Dr. Dawn Mazzie Dallas Mettler Amanda Petersen Michelle Reinke Mike Robb Sara Stoner	
14 Recipients	Kelly Apel Adam Brady			

Inspire Awards

In the 2022-2023 school year, we honored **134** students and educators who inspire their school and the community and awarded **Donald D. Sherrill Education Center** Inspire School of the Year.

Drivers Education Fund

Feeling the need for speed in Lincoln? Every time that bright orange "STOP" slip lands in your hand, remember: a portion of your class fee takes an unexpected detour to a good cause. The LPS Student Drivers Education Fund uses this money to help low-income students cover drivers education courses, class materials, and permits.

So, while you spend an afternoon reacquainting yourself with the rules of the road, you can pat yourself on the back for helping a deserving student hit the road safely and responsibly.

In the 2022-2023 school-year
\$74,279
 in scholarships were provided to
182 recipients through

- Nebraska Safety Council (32)
- Road Ready (56)
- Southeast Community College (94)



College & Career

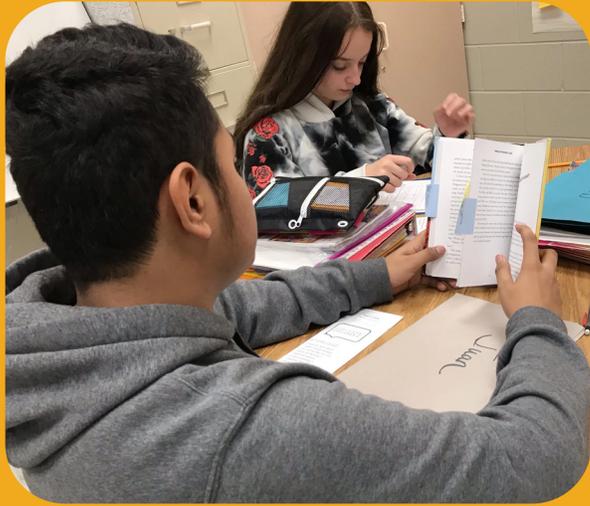
The Foundation funds numerous scholarships for all career fields and work closely with The Career Academy (TCA) to provide hands-on dual credit classes accessible to all students.

21
 Dual credit students supported

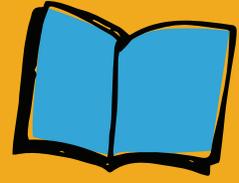
\$9,868
 Provided for tuition assistance

\$155,400
 Awarded in post-secondary scholarships

81
 Students awarded post-secondary scholarships



Irving's One Book One Family Club a Fund a Need story



Fund a Need

The Foundation's crowdfunding platform for educators to share particular classroom needs and gain visibility to fund it.

.....

132 classrooms empowered
108 needs fully or partially met
41 schools served

.....

\$98,500+
raised for

- Equipment like ukuleles, drum sets, head sets, books, teacher/student incentives, competitions, and teacher classroom supplies
- Field trips like the Lincoln Children's Zoo, Duncan Aviation, and the National Willa Cather Center

One Book One Family sparks the joy of reading for students and their families. This unique program utilized the Foundation's crowdfunding platform, Fund a Need, to engage students in grades 6-8 and their adult family members and bring the magic of shared literary experiences to Irving Middle School.

Each participant receives a captivating book handpicked just for the club. Then, the group gets together monthly to discuss the book, share a love for literature, and develop critical thinking. One Book One Family isn't just about reading; it's about venturing into uncharted territories of different genres and perspectives, sparking thought-provoking conversations that challenge and inspire.

But the true magic lies in the connections forged. Family bonds deepen as parents and children embark on this shared journey, creating lasting memories and strengthening ties through engaging discussions. The warmth extends beyond the book as families gather for a dinner after each session, nurturing friendships and building a supportive community that transcends generations.

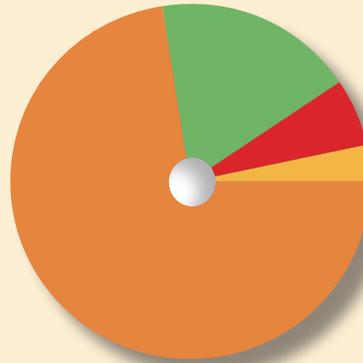
One Book One Family is not just a book club; it's a testament to the transformative power of reading. It bridges the gap between home and school, fostering a unique connection that enriches learning and opens new horizons.

2023-2024 Board Officers

- Natalia Wiita, Chair**
- Patrick Beans, Past Chair**
- James Walbridge, Chair Elect**
- Karli Mackley, Treasurer**
- Kris Baack, Ph.D, Secretary**
- Wendy Van, President**

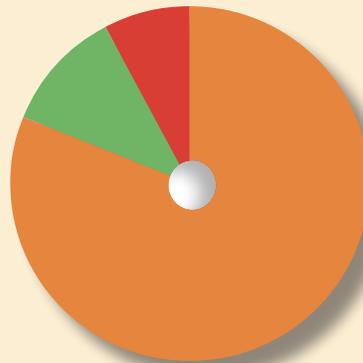
Board Members

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Barbara Baier | Britta Muhleisen |
| Patrick Beans | Deb Rasmussen |
| Dr. Nancy Biggs | Max Rodenburg |
| Dr. James Blake | Jeff Salem |
| Mo Boyd | Steve Schmidt |
| Alex Cassidy, J.D. | Ed Schulenberg |
| Ginna Claussen | Mike Tavlin, J.D., LL.M |
| Brent Comstock | Dr. J.J. Toczek |
| Dr. Paul Gausman | Dr. Guy Trainin |
| Nancy Hove-Graul | Russ Uhing |
| Kaye Jesske | Sarah Wischhof |
| John Laflin | |



INCOME

- Contributions:** \$3,775,414
- Invested Income:** \$940,419
- Grants:** \$329,840
- Programs/Other:** \$160,493
- TOTAL RECEIVED: \$5,206,166**



EXPENSES

- Programs, Scholarships, Grants and Awards:** \$4,356,901
- General Admin:** \$591,707
- Fundraising:** \$412,848
- TOTAL DISBURSED: \$5,361,456**

Thank you to our organizational partners!

The Foundation for LPS thanks these partners who are opening doors for our kids—today and tomorrow.

See the individuals who gave \$250+ in 2022-2023 at:



- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Abel Foundation | Koch Companies | Onyx Piercing Studio |
| Acklie Charitable Foundation | Labenz & Associates LLC | Pinnacle Bank |
| Advanced Chiropractic Solutions | Lancaster County Community Corrections | Ponca Tribe of Nebraska |
| AmazonSmile Foundation | Lancaster County Human Services | Rebels Auto Club |
| Ameritas | Lee and Debbie Stuart Family Foundation | Red Door Realty |
| Anderson Auto | Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel | Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation |
| BNI Tuesday at the Top | Lincoln Community Foundation | Robert D. Carstens Charitable Trust |
| Butterfly Bakery | Lincoln Downtown Athletic Club | Rogers Foundation |
| Cattle Bank & Trust | Lincoln Electric System | Rotary Club #14 Foundation |
| Children's Hospital & Medical Center Omaha | Lincoln Industries | Runza |
| Craftsmen Lodge #314 AF & AM | Lincoln Journal Star | Scheels All Sports |
| Duncan Aviation | Lincoln Youth Symphony | Schmieding Foundation Inc. |
| DuTeau Chevrolet Subaru | M.A. Mortenson Company | Science Focus Program Parent Group |
| Firespring | Mark T. & Margaret L. Seacrest Family Charitable Foundation | Scrap Central |
| Frontier Bank | MidwayUSA Foundation Inc. | Sherwin Williams |
| GENYOUth | Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs | Shive-Hattery |
| Haleon | Nebraska Community Foundation | St. Mark's United Methodist |
| Harbor of Dreams Foundation | Nebraska Corvette Association | St. Matthew's Episcopal Church |
| Hoegemeyer Family Foundation | Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services | The Chief Standing Bear Project, Inc. |
| Hy-Vee | Nelnet | The Hampton Family Foundation |
| i3 Bank | Olsson | U-Stop |
| J.C. Seacrest Trust | | Union Bank & Trust Company |
| James Huntington Foundation | | Velma Snook Trust |
| James Stuart III Family Foundation | | Walmart Stores |
| Kiwanis Club Foundation of Lincoln | | Wild Orange Vendor Events, LLC |