



MAIZE
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Nothing could have prepared any of us for what to expect this past year. Parents, students, and educators all navigated incredibly difficult challenges. Even the most resilient were pushed to their limits as we struggled to keep students heading toward their educational goals.

It became very clear that among our most pressing priorities this past year was to do what we could to support our educators who worked tirelessly to fight for student success every day (and many nights and weekends). There wasn't much "normal" about the past school year, but one thing grew, and that is our profound gratitude for the dedicated staff of the Maize School District. From teachers and counselors to food service, transportation, and custodial staff, every single individual gives so much to make sure our school district provides the best possible opportunities for our students. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Brungardt".

Brandon Brungardt
MEF Board of Directors
President, 2020-21

2020-2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Maize Education Foundation Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2021

Assets

Checking Account	\$37,529
Money Market Accounts	\$129,513
Investments	\$24,450
Total Assets	\$191,492

Net Assets

Unrestricted Funds	\$154,966
Restricted Funds	\$12,076
Restricted Endowment	\$24,450
Total Net Assets	\$191,492

*unaudited





STUDENT ENRICHMENT GRANTS

FUNDING STUDENT GROWTH

The Maize Education Foundation strives to support opportunities that encourage Maize students to find their own versions of success and to become responsible, civically engaged young adults.

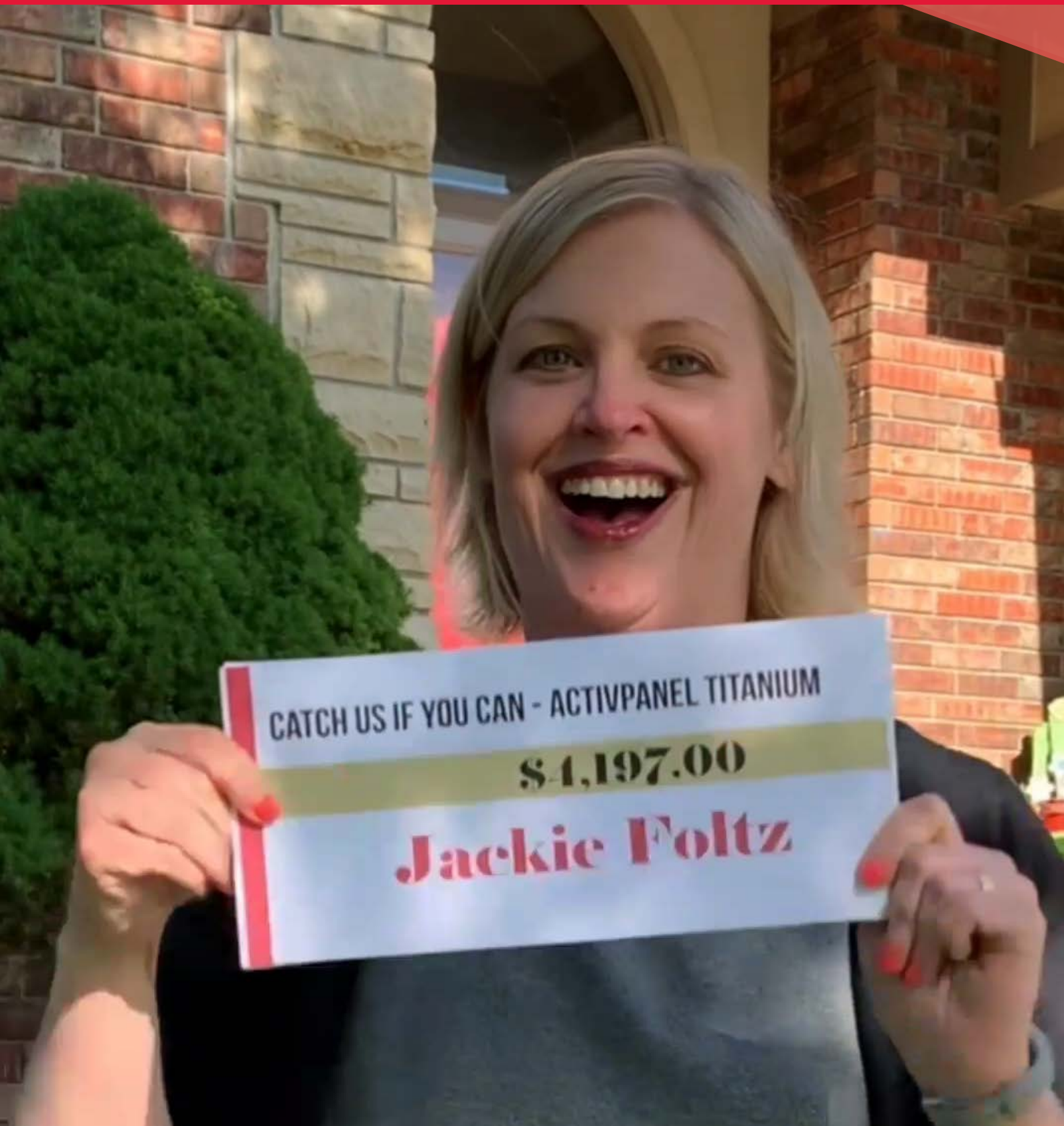
Students in grades 7-12 can apply for a grant of up to \$500 to help cover the costs associated with enrichment activities like leadership seminars, expeditions, educational camps, national competitions, and more.

With so many group activities cancelled or on hold during the 2020-21 school year, students were very uncertain about applying for grants. But we learned that amidst that uncertainty, some students got more inventive with their requests.

We are proud to have awarded 17 grants totaling \$7,480 in the 2020-21 school year, which helped students learn animation software, complete community service projects, launch a video series, and provide mental health resources for classmates, among other enrichment experiences.

We are proud to support our resilient OneMa1ze students!

CHALLENGE GRANTS



Even amid some very tough times, we've been able to watch the district's OneMaize Media team produce wonderful segments in a studio space funded by one of last year's grants entitled ***Giving a Voice to Our District and Community***.

Though many ideas and initiatives were delayed or even derailed, educators implemented new projects and programs with the support of MEF funding for ***Structured Learning for At-Risk Learners*** along with new portable technology in the Maize Central Elementary media center that helped reduce the need for students to move from room to room.

With the many challenges of this past year, coupled with the anticipated opening of two new intermediate schools, the Foundation received some incredible grant proposals.

One of this year's grants provides funds for the Maize High School science department to purchase a new telescope so students can continue ***Looking to the Stars***. Maize Intermediate School and Maize South Intermediate School were co-recipients of the largest grant awarded in MEF history receiving **\$21,276** for the purchase of ***Project Lead the Way*** curriculum and resources.

MEF awarded 4 Challenge Grants totaling \$33,765 for programs we will see launched in the 2021-22 school year. To see a full list of our Challenge Grant recipients, please visit www.maizeeducationfoundation.org/challenge-grants.

RECOGNIZING DEDICATED STAFF

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS



Due to COVID precautions, we were not able to celebrate staff in person this year, but this is one of our favorite photos from past surprises.

Each year, district and building leaders honor individuals throughout the district for the amazing work they do for the district and its mission of **connecting, learning, and leading**.

These individuals are nominated by their peers, and the Maize Education Foundation is proud to join the district in recognizing these individuals by presenting each winner with a \$25 award as a way to thank them for their dedication to helping Maize students succeed.

MEF awarded \$300 in 2020-21 to honor the 12 recipients of the Celebrating Excellence in Education Awards recognizing Licensed Staff throughout the Maize School District. We will again honor Support Staff when the district resumes those awards in the 2021-22 school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Maize Education Foundation continues the support of graduating Maize USD 266 students by offering a number of scholarships each year.

During the 2020-21 school year, the Foundation maintained two memorial scholarship funds and awarded a total of \$4,000 in scholarships.

The **Shelley Woodard Poynter Memorial Scholarships** are offered to Maize USD 266 seniors in memory of Shelley Woodard Poynter, a graduate of Maize High School and Maize teacher and coach, who lost a hard-fought battle with cancer after 13 years. One Maize High School and one Maize South High School senior received a \$500 scholarship each spring.

The **Kyle Thornburg Memorial Soccer and Art & Design Scholarships** are offered to Maize USD 266 seniors in memory of Maize High School graduate, Kyle Thornburg, whose life was taken by a drunk driver. Each year, \$1,000 is awarded to one graduating senior who participated in soccer. \$1,000 is also awarded to a graduating senior with plans to pursue a career in Art, Architecture, or other visual arts and design fields.

FOUNDATION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

The Maize Education Foundation Legacy Scholarship was created in 2019 and is awarded to graduating seniors who demonstrate the core values of the Foundation and have shown innovation and creativity in defining their version of success and a tenacious drive to achieve that success in spite of obstacles that may appear in their path.

Each year, the Foundation awards one \$500 scholarship to a graduating Maize High School student and one \$500 scholarship to a graduating Maize South High School student.

Scholarships are available to students who plan to pursue additional training and/or education in pursuit of their goals. Those plans may include college/university, technical/trade school and a variety of other training and certificate programs.

MEF CORE VALUES

The Maize Education Foundation's core values include dedication, perseverance, innovation, civic responsibility, passion, integrity, tenacity, and compassion.

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Brandon Brungardt, President - Hutton

Elina Spiegel, VP - Equity Bank

Tyler Harrison, Treasurer - Heartland Credit Union

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Board Members:

Marci Barragan - Credit Union of America

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Mike Strelow - CM3 Mechanical

Members at Large:

Sean Jones - Wichita Public Library

Stacy Woodard - Maize Community Member

Ex-Officio Members:

Chad Higgins, Superintendent of Maize Schools

Staff:

Travis Bloom, Executive Director

It is our belief that supporting students in defining and pursuing their individual versions of success is one of the greatest legacies we can leave for our community and one of the most important things we can do to build a better future.

In support of that belief, the Maize Education Foundation supports programs and opportunities that enhance the education and post-secondary preparation of students within the Maize School District, especially those opportunities that instill and inspire our core values in Maize students, who one day will become the stewards of our community. These core values include **dedication, perseverance, innovation, civic responsibility, passion, integrity, tenacity, and compassion.**

Our mission is to work with school and community leaders to pilot educational and enrichment programs, develop new curricula, and champion innovative and advanced experiential and project-based learning opportunities for all students.

It is our vision that Maize students will be the most prepared, the most competitive, and the most successful future students, employees, citizens, and leaders in the region upon graduating from the Maize School District.



12TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Presenting Sponsors



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- McClelland Sound
- Northridge Vet Clinic & Rehab
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- PEC Field Services
- Perfection Masonry
- RLC at Reflection Ridge
- Shelter Insurance
- Vet Emergency & Specialty Hospital



Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers who helped us raise more than \$42,500!

2021 SPRING BREAKFAST

As with many events in 2020-21, our Spring Breakfast became a virtual event. The history of this fundraiser now includes 1 live event, 1 cancelled event, and 1 virtual event - what does next year have in store?

This year's event turned out to be a great opportunity to exercise and celebrate the ingenuity of our educators and students. Instead of catering breakfast, our culinary students created delicious pastry boxes and delivered them to all of our sponsors. The virtual event featured live segments with culinary students, recent student grant recipients, and special guests Deb and Craig Elliott - this year's Legacy honorees.

We are grateful to our sponsors and volunteers for helping us raise more than \$17,500 this year.



Photo Credit: Aleq Pham | MHS Class of 2020 | Facebook: @phamfoto.official

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Wilson Building Maintenance

COMMUNITY OF GIVING



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is a day of giving all over the globe. And last year, we dedicated our Giving Tuesday to appreciate district staff.

We were able to celebrate nearly 1,300 employees by giving them each a free Charlie's car wash, free Andy's Frozen Custard, free Chick fil-A sandwiches, and more.

We couldn't have done it without in-kind support of the area businesses as well as more than \$2,000 in cash support from the district's many parent organizations. The effort totaled more than \$20,000 in gifts and promotions.

STAFF GIVING

We would argue that the staff in the Maize School District are the best in the state. But more than how simply a-Maize-ing they are, they are some of our biggest supporters - and that is in a "normal" school year.

All district staff have an opportunity to pledge a recurring gift that is deducted each pay period from their payroll checks. .

Staff contributed more than \$12,500 in the 2020-21 school year, and many even volunteered their time to help with our programs and fundraisers throughout the school year.

We could not be more grateful and proud for that kind of support from our own educators!

DONATE

Your donations help provide the Foundation with the funds it needs to maintain its operations while providing grants and supporting programs throughout the Maize School District.

Currently, Challenge Grants, Student Enrichment Grants, Legacy Scholarships, Student Workshops, and First Year Teacher Grants along with administrative costs constitute our areas of greatest need.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer support is critical to our mission. Not only do we need help putting on fundraising events, we need volunteers of every kind in the office, in the schools, and out in the community. If you'd like to support the Foundation, but are not able to contribute financially, please let us know. You'd be surprised how you might be able to help.

SPONSOR

Consider sponsoring our Spring Breakfast Fundraiser and join the Wichita area business-education community for an energizing morning event. If you prefer the outdoors, sponsor our annual Charity Golf Tournament at Reflection Ridge. Various levels of sponsor opportunities are available for both events.

CORPORATE MATCHING

Employee matching programs are corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. It's an easy way to double your contribution to us.

Contact your employer's HR or community giving department to find out if your donation is eligible for a company match.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

For more information, contact Travis Bloom at 316-350-2029 or at tbloom@usd266.com.

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