



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2024



HELPING STUDENTS
LEARN TODAY
SO THEY CAN
LEAD TOMORROW





A Message From the Downingtown Community Education Foundation

DCEF is building connections for student success. Healthy, cooperative connections and relationships are the most effective and efficient resources to develop students' innate talents and abilities. Relationships engage students in the

human community in ways that help them define who they are, what they become, and how and why they are important to other people.

Together we can build connections for student success. Connections are more than just a nice perk of living in the Downingtown Area School District community. They can help students, and their families, feel the sense of belonging that leads to greater success in all areas of life - academic, social, emotional and in many cases, financial. Having people you can turn to with questions, to ease transitions and create bonds gives students a sense of purpose and a feeling of inclusion that empower them with the resources and support to overcome challenges preparing them for success in school and well beyond.

Together we can prepare students to take on the world!

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INSPIRE

DCEF inspires students to learn today so they can lead tomorrow.

Downingtown High School Student Autumn Crawford, under the guidance of Downingtown High School East Art Teacher Anne Russell and with support from DEI Director Justin Brown and Lionville Elementary School Principal Shelda Perry, created a mural with the unique perspective of young children as the focus. Autumn wanted a visual representation of the values of

tolerance and acceptance helping to reinforce the environment at Lionville Elementary where uniqueness is celebrated and everyone feels welcome. We are pleased to be able to be a small part in bringing Autumn's vision to fruition.

DCEF is building connections for student success.

DCEF's After School & Summer Enrichment programs, along with Kdg JumpStart, and the Mobile Book Club help students and teachers build connections outside the classroom with hands-on learning and opportunities to explore, create and innovate. Students can meet an author, be an inventor, find out how bugs can walk on water, learn the science of baking, publish a book, program a robot and so much more while building a foundation for success in school and beyond.

Readiness in Kindergarten is important to long-term success in school. Relationships and connections between teachers, students and their families have a positive impact on students' wellbeing and academic success. Thanks to the support and partnerships with CCRES, Austill's Educational Therapy Services, the CCIU and DASD teachers and parent volunteers, last summer 257 "new to school" incoming kindergarteners participated in Kdg JumpStart and 62 families participated in our summer home visit program giving these students and their families a chance to build connections that will have a lasting impact not only with students' academic, behavioral, and emotional success but also strengthen the school communities.



"My little guy was so nervous to start kindergarten and now he feels ready and excited for school to start. Thank you!"



ENGAGE

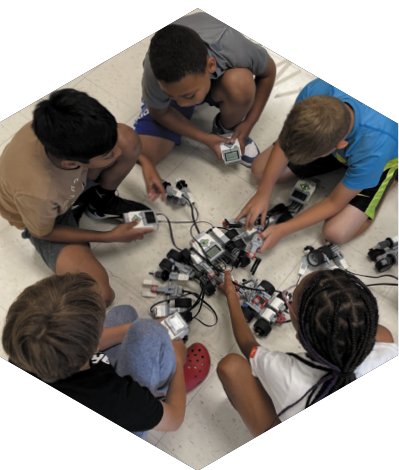
DCEF partners with the school district, community businesses and organizations to promote student engagement. These connections empower students with the resources and support to overcome challenges and prepare them for success in school and beyond. DASD students are set to benefit from three-year grant totaling \$150,000 from West Pharmaceutical Services and facilitated by DCEF. The grant will fund the Building Relationships in DASD to Grow Education (BRIDGE) program and provide students with additional academic support and opportunities for connections outside of the normal school day.

BRIDGE is being piloted this Spring at Bradford Heights partnering teachers and high school students with elementary students. BRIDGE is expected to help students improve their academic performance, develop social skills and build relationships with their peers. Bradford Heights Principal Dr. Ilana Shipe reports seeing students excited to stay after school to learn.

In addition to the school-year's BRIDGE program, the grant will support Camp Narwhal at the Marsh Creek Sixth Grade Center this summer. Camp Narwhal will bring together a cohort of 50 students from all 10 DASD elementary schools for a two-week camp, reinforcing academic skills while easing the transition both between fifth and sixth grade. Marsh Creek Principal Matt Barr notes that physical and team-building activities are included to ensure that the students connect socially and have fun while learning.

We are so proud to be able to partner with local businesses like West Pharmaceutical Services to provide additional resources and assistance to help students thrive.

Based on results from the BRIDGE and Camp Narwhal pilot programs, DCEF hopes to continue and expand support to all K-8 DASD schools. To learn how to become a community partner to support DASD students, please contact Jackie Fenn at JFenn@dcdf.org.



ENRICH

DCEF's goal is to help bridge the gap between DASD's basic educational needs and the district's innovative educational initiatives that meet the district's strategic objective of engaging students through relevant, high quality learning experiences that prepare them to be active 21st century citizens in a global society. We are thrilled that the Narwhal Learning Center is now a reality, ready to enrich the learning experiences of thousands of students now and in the future.

Thanks to the vision and dedication of DASD educators and administrators coupled with the generosity of local businesses, individuals and community leaders, we are able to create this \$615,000 educational asset for the Downingtown Area School District and our community.

Presenting Sponsor: West Pharmaceutical Services

Learning Trail Sponsor: Hamilton Family

Narwhal Nation Champions: Senator Katie Muth, First Resource Bank, KCBA Architects, MacLean Contributionship, Meridian Bank, Mid Penn Bank, S&T Bank, Univest Bank & Trust, Whitford Charitable Trust

Learning Station Sponsors: Chester County Community Foundation, In Memory of Michael Getz, International Paper, Hankin Group, J&M Brickwork, Lion's Club, Wegman's Market Foundation, Stierly Excavating

Bench Benefactors: Audrey & Barry Blust, Downingtown Alumni Association, Jackie & Bill Fenn, Dr. Emilie Lonardi, Jacquelyn McCalla, Ashton & Paige Simmons, Brian Stocker & Family, Josh Winter & Family





Healthy, cooperative connections and relationships are the most effective and efficient way to develop students’ innate talents and abilities. DCEF seeks to engage students’ creativity, passion and unique intelligence by helping to build as many connections as possible. And we are so fortunate that others in our community share this same desire.

Bonnie Hill and Amtul Sufi recently joined Brett Gerry, Basil Anderson, Richard and Lily Siegel and the Singleton family establishing scholarships to ensure DASD graduating seniors an opportunity to pursue a secondary education, making a profound impact on student lives that will continue for decades.

New Legacy Donors 2024: Senator Katie Muth (Gold), First Resource Bank (Gold) DSM (Bronze), and Josh Winter, CFP® - Horace Mann (Bronze)

CULTURE FEST

DCEF was pleased to partner with DASD’s efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion by holding the second annual Culture Fest at Marsh Creek 6th Grade Center. Over 1,200 students and families enjoyed food from around the world, were entertained by talented students and celebrated our community.

HARLEM WIZARDS

The DASD Dunkers took on the Harlem Wizards again this year and were led to an almost victory by Superintendent Bob O’Donnell. More than 800 kids, parents, grandparents, teachers and administrators enjoyed an evening of great family fun while raising over \$25,000.



JOB FAIR

DCEF partners with DASD to connect local companies with bright, energetic DASD Juniors and Seniors who are looking for summer employment and possible future career opportunities.

STADIUM SPONSORS

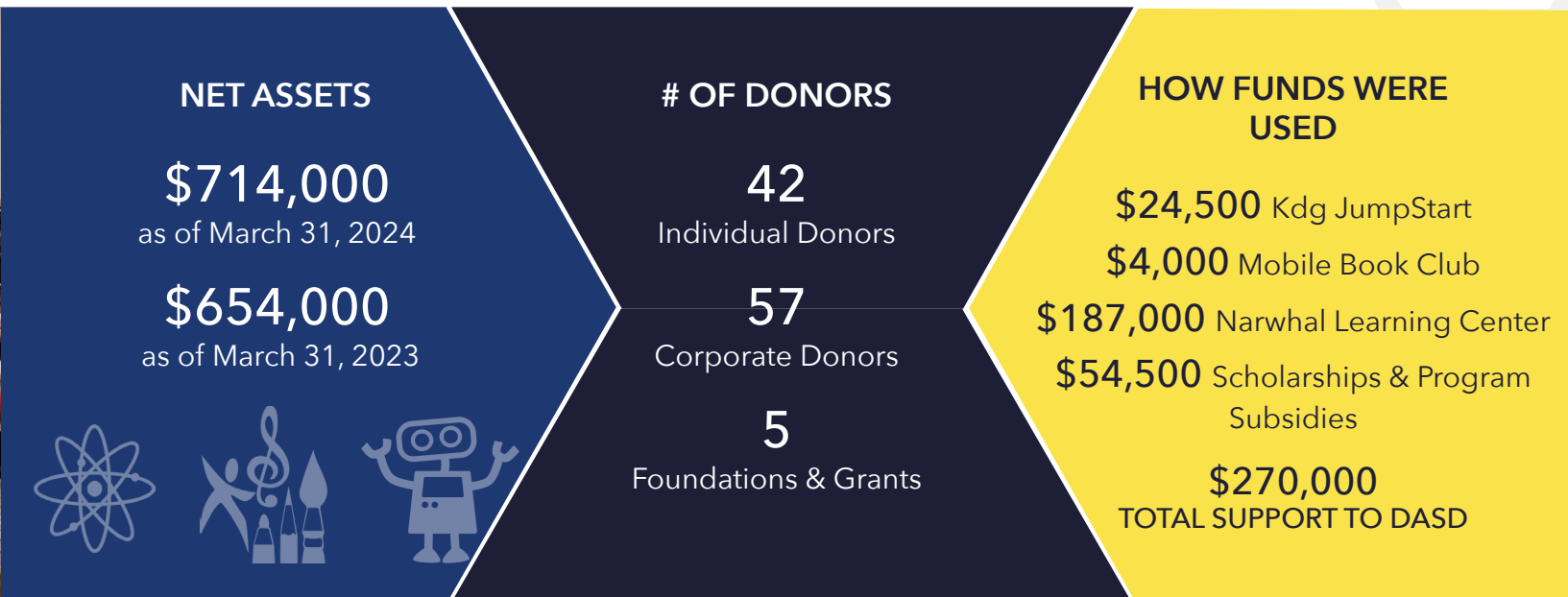
Connect with DASD, show your community support and get the word out about your business by sponsoring a sign or banner in the Kottmeyer stadium. 40% of the funds support DASD athletics and 60% support the work of DASD.

GOLF OUTING

Thanks to sponsors and golfers for making 2023 the best golf outing yet raising over \$30,000!

EITC - EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT AT WORK IN DASD

\$49,000 in donations received
Thanks to the generosity of First Resource Bank, IMC Construction, Meridian Bank, Mid Penn Bank, S&T Bank and Univest Bank & Trust.



LEGACY DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge those who have given over \$10,000 since 2010

PLATINUM \$250,000+

West Pharmaceutical Services

CENTURY \$100,000+

Bentley Systems
S&T Bank

GOLD \$40,000+

First Resource Bank
Harper Family Foundation
Anne & Brett Gerry
Meridian Bank
CCRES
Krapf Bus
Senator Katie Muth

SILVER \$20,000+

Basil Anderson
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Kensey Nash
Lockheed Martin
MidPenn Bank
Pfizer
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Verizon

BRONZE \$10,000+

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Dr. Richard & Mrs. Lily Siegel
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ANNUAL DONORS

Grants, gifts and sponsorship of \$250 or more from April 1, 2023 to March 30, 2024

\$20,000+

West Pharmaceutical Services, Senator Katie Muth-Commonwealth of PA, Richard & Lily Siegel, S&T Bank

\$5,000-\$15,000

Basil Anderson, Meridian Bank/Cassie Wolesschok*, Univest Bank & Trust, CCRES, Bonnie Hill, DSM, First Resource Bank

\$2,000-\$4,000

Stierly Excavating, Austill's Educational Therapy Services, Mid Penn Bank, Krapf Bus/Dan Jauch*, CM3 Building Solutions, Garnet Auto, Horace Mann/Josh Winter*, Canna Milne Financial, DAEA, DASD Alumni Association, DL Howell, Nolan Painting, Eagle Wolfington Leasing, Jackie & Bill Fenn*, IMC Construction, KCBA Architects, STS Inc., Bentley Systems, James Wagner, Automotive Training Center, County of Chester Commissioners, Long & Foster/Vince Gillen*, Stand Strong Inc., The Hankin Group/Neal Fisher*

\$1,000+

Avanceon, Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union/Marc Ernest*, Jacquelyn McCalla*, Terre, Vanguard Realty, Hillyard, Pennoni, Johnson Controls, A Child's Place, Exton Dental/Joseph Rava

\$500+

Tim Jefferis, Bowling Palace, Jason Ritter, Santander, C. Hampshire, Chester County Industrial Development Authority, Brian Stocker*, IBEW Local Union 98, JC Pools & Spa, Northeast Executive Abstract, Salesforce, API, Janet Spaventa*, Bill Waterbury

\$250+

Gilbert Architects, Inc, Hankin Foundation, On the Go Kids, Provident Energy, Kevin Morganti, Allison Macchi, Dr. Lou Chance*, Nick Indeglio, Kathy Collier*, Joseph DiRocco*, Earthcare, Inc., Brian Fenn, Flynn O'Hara Uniforms, Goddard Schools, BBD, Joyce Houghton, Ingersol Rand, Iron & Steel Museum, Philadelphia Metal Trades Council, Ravi Ramados, Michael Wise, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Suzanne Simonelli*, Tel Hai Retirement Community, UPS, World Travel, YMCA of Greater Brandywine, Dr. Robert O'Donnell*



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