

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



# A WORD FROM the president

As I step into the role of Board President, I would like to announce our new Foundation Board leadership team – Matthew Punnoose, Vice President, and Benjamin Bernal, Treasurer. We are honored to work alongside all of you, our dedicated supporters, partners, educators, and fellow board members. This annual report highlights our collective accomplishments for the 2024-2025 fiscal year that have made a meaningful difference in the lives of students to ensure their future success.

We are proud to have awarded more than \$142,000 in scholarships, teacher/staff grants, community grants, and district grants. We have a strong base, and are excited about opportunities to further grow our impact. We envision expanding our support of School District U-46's strategic goals and broadening

our reach, for pre-school children early in their educational journey, and beyond. We look forward to working collaboratively with district leadership and partners in our community to build momentum and provide students access to the opportunities they need to succeed.

As we look to the future, we invite you to stay engaged in ways that are meaningful to you – through partnership, service, or support of our shared commitment to student success. Your involvement plays a vital role in expanding opportunity and advancing learning across our district. Feel free to contact me with your suggestions and ideas. You can reach me at [denise.broz@gmail.com](mailto:denise.broz@gmail.com). ★

- Denise Broz

*U-46 Educational Foundation Board President*

## U-46 Educational Foundation Board 2024~2025



**Denise Broz**  
*President*



Michael  
Baggot



Marlene  
Daubert



Velma  
Sept



**John Devereux**  
*Past President*



Ellen  
Smith



Chandler  
Swan



Dr. Kimberly  
Wagner



**Matthew Punnoose**  
*Vice President*



Dr. Suzanne Johnson  
*U-46 Superintendent*



Veronica Noland  
*Ex officio*



Chanda Schwartz  
*Ex officio*



**Benjamin Bernal**  
*Treasurer*

# Inside our Annual Report:

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## Welcomes and Farewells

The board welcomed five new members in the fall of 2024 — Denise Broz, Ellen Smith, Dr. Kimberly Wagner, Dr. Jesse Tanner, and Kai Rush. Dr. Jesse Tanner and Kai Rush both resigned from the board in August 2025.

### Other Farewells of Note:

**Jaime Garcia left the board in the fall of 2025**, having served since 2007, including the post of board president from 2013-2015. During his time on the board, Jaime grew the Foundation from a small group of founders to a large group of visionaries, with a professional Board of Directors, a full-time employee, endowed scholarships and grants awarded annually, and planned events for raising funds and awareness.

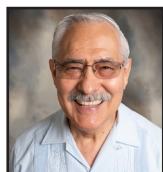
**Jerry Turnquist resigned his board position in June 2025.** A retired U-46 teacher, he served eight years on the Foundation board, and leaves behind an endowed scholarship begun in honor of his mother. The Frances Turnquist scholarship has been awarded to nearly 40 students since its endowment in the 1980s.

After four years of service, **Mike Lee said farewell in December 2024, when he moved out of state.** In addition to serving as board treasurer, Mike introduced the Affinity Card program, and arranged for a generous annual corporate donation from KCT Credit Union (where he was previously president) that will continue through 2029.

**John Devereux stepped down from the board in June 2025.** His service began in 2021 as an ex-officio member; he later served as Foundation board president from 2023-2025. John was instrumental in growing the board, building working committees, and initiating processes to strengthen financial management.

In October 2025, we mourned the death of **Sue Rakow, a founding member of the U-46 Educational Foundation, and the Foundation's President Emeritus.**

Recent past board members  
from 2024-25



Jaime Garcia



Mike Lee



Kai Rush



Rev. Dr. Jesse Tanner



Jerry Turnquist

## 5K El Trote race raised more than \$12K

This first annual *El Trote de las Calacas*, held in November 2024, was a huge success, as the registration numbers surpassed all expectations. Participants let us know they hoped we would repeat the *Skeleton Trot* in future years.

The U-46 Foundation partnered with the Gail Borden Public Library Foundation to host this 5K race/fundraiser and cultural event, which marked the Dia de Muertos holiday. ★



## Superintendent's Scholar Gratitude

After receiving a Superintendent's Scholarship award in 2025, EHS graduate Gael Flores wrote a thank-you note, via the U-46 Foundation, to the donors who made his college dreams a reality. One of the local donors was so moved by Gael's gesture and words, that he invited him to meet for coffee, and also surprised Gael by including the U-46 Superintendent, Dr. Suzanne Johnson.

An excerpt from Gael's note: *"There are no sufficient gestures or words to really show how much life you have allowed me, and I have been getting the most out of my experience every day. It still kind of brings me to tears thinking about winning the scholarship, but I want you all to know that you've made an incredible difference in the life of someone who never had much hope."* ★



## New Community Partner grantees

The Hemmens Cultural Center was awarded a Community Partner grant in 2024-25. The Hemmens used the funds for a student Q&A session with Courtney Reed, a Larkin High School alumnus and accomplished Broadway star, prior to her performance at the Hemmens in January 2025. Another new partner was Side Street Studios, which offered free art classes to U-46 students during summer break. ★

## Hispanic Heritage Night FUNdraiser at the Windy City Bulls game

The U-46 Foundation helped coordinate a jersey design contest in conjunction with its Windy City Bulls fundraiser event. Nearly three dozen students entered their original designs for a special uniform to be worn by the WCB players on Hispanic Heritage Night in March 2025. The contest winner was South Elgin High School senior, Bryanna Sánchez, whose prizes included her own custom jersey, VIP tickets to the game, recognition on the court for her and her family, and the honor of presenting the game ball. ★





"I want to thank the U-46 scholarship committee for considering me worthy of the Superintendent's Scholarship, and providing financial assistance to my family and me. I wish the U-46 community all the best for continuing to provide education and success to all students, and I also hope to be able to give back to the U-46 community in the future so more students can pursue college education without worrying so much about college finances."

*Your scholarship has put me one step closer to my dreams.*

This scholarship not only helped with tuition for my Engineering studies at UIC, but it also allowed me to discover new connections and how to network. I learned life lessons through the books we received, which were extremely interesting and helpful.

"My students are more excited to participate in the learning because of how "fun" the LCD screens are. A huge thanks from me!"

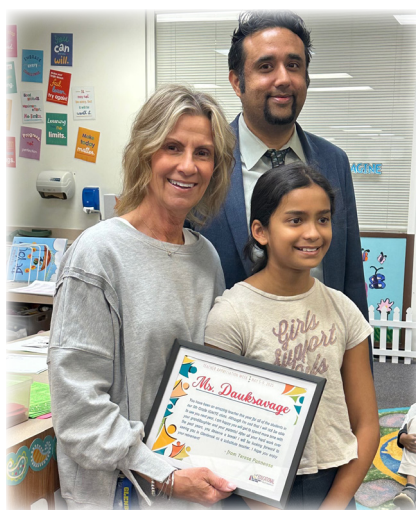
"Just a small donation back to the same school district, same foundation, same scholarship, same superintendent that believed in me. It's because of the great work not only of the foundation and the school district but also the people who fund this scholarship that has allowed me to get as far as I have. I can only hope my donation brings that same inspiration and drive to another first-generation student."

Thank you for honoring me with the Douglas Hoefft Scholarship. I appreciate the award. With my medical issues I have missed out on many opportunities over the last two years. This award helps me press on.

Throughout the school year, the U-46 Foundation devotes time to thanking donors, volunteers, and most notably teachers, as seen in the photos below from Teacher Appreciation Week in May. But the Foundation also receives its share of gratitude from those who benefit from grants and scholarships, as you see in the samples shared above!

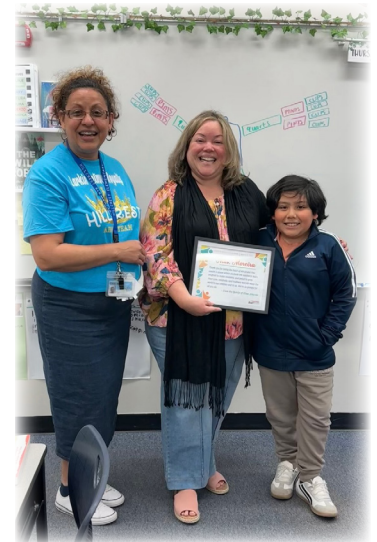


▲ Ms. Katie Pappas - 4th grade - Timber Trails Elementary



▲ Ms. Dauksavage - 5th grade  
Glenbrook Elementary

▼ Ms. Moreira - 4th grade  
Hillcrest Elementary

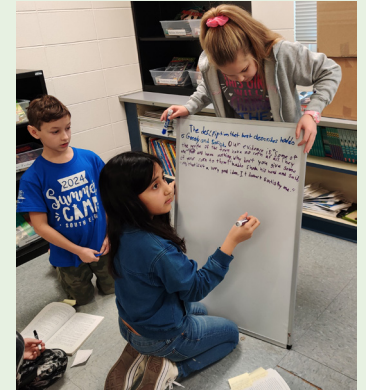
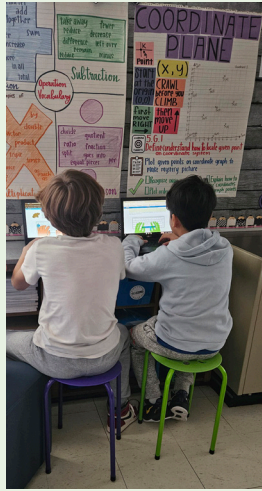


◀ Mr. Vidrine  
- South Elgin  
High School

Mrs. Wruck ▶  
Fox Meadow  
Elementary School



# Teacher/Staff grants



## Small Grants, Big Reach

**23 teachers impacted thousands of students through U-46 Foundation grants.**

An estimated 7,000 U-46 students were impacted by the grants awarded to teachers and staff in the 2024-25 school year. The following chart shows a general description of how the funds were used at 15 different schools where grant-funded items, programs, and projects were implemented.

Teachers are required to follow up with the U-46 Educational Foundation by submitting photos, testimonials, and other data to back up their estimate of impact.

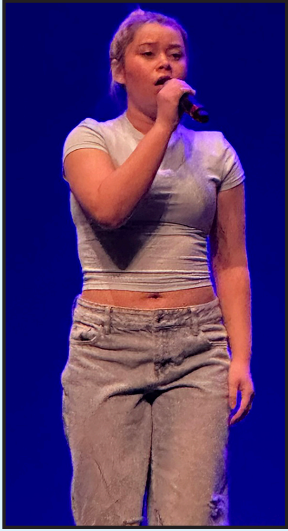
### 2024-25 Teacher/Staff Grants awarded

School	Item/Program/Equipment provided thru Foundation grant funds
Illinois Park Center for EL*	Sensory items + Indoor/Outdoor equipment
Sycamore Trails EL	Pre-school Art Supplies
Channing Elementary*	Books for End-of-Year countdown + self-regulating/calming supplies
Clinton Elementary	Customized whiteboards
Hilltop Elementary	Identity Through Art classes and art supplies
Horizon Elementary	Social-Emotional learning supplies
Parkwood Elementary	Drama Llama club t-shirts
Prairieview Elementary	Flexible seating options
Sunnydale Elementary*	Caudill Award books + display equipment for books + Calm Corner supplies
Willard Elementary*	Flex seating + Prize Box supplies + dry erase boards + calming equipment
Eastview Middle School*	Science Olympiad supplies and prizes
Kimball Middle School	Cheer squad competition transportation fees
Tefft Middle School	Collaborative team t-shirts
South Elgin High School	Equipment for Essentials Exchange mobile
Dream Academy	Flexible furniture for tiny office space

\* Multiple teachers awarded grants at this school

## Community Partner grants

There are many community organizations that work actively to help students in District U-46. Sometimes these organizations need a little boost, so for anything from coordinating a talent show to subsidizing instrument rentals, the U-46 Foundation offers help through its Community Partner grant program.



## District grants



For programs that have more of a district-wide reach, the U-46 Foundation makes grants available. This has worked well for Streamwood High School's LEAD Academy, which receives grant money each year related to the INCubator and EXCElerator programs. At the end of their junior year, students pitch unique business ideas and compete for prize money, which is provided by the U-46 Foundation's District grant. This money supports business development work in their senior year – from prototypes, to creating inventory, to forming LLCs.



# 2024-25 by the Numbers



51  
Students received scholarships via the U-46 Educational Foundation



45

Volunteers on Scholarship Selection Committee



63

Total scholarships awarded



7,000+

Students impacted by Teacher Grants



15

Schools received Teacher Grants



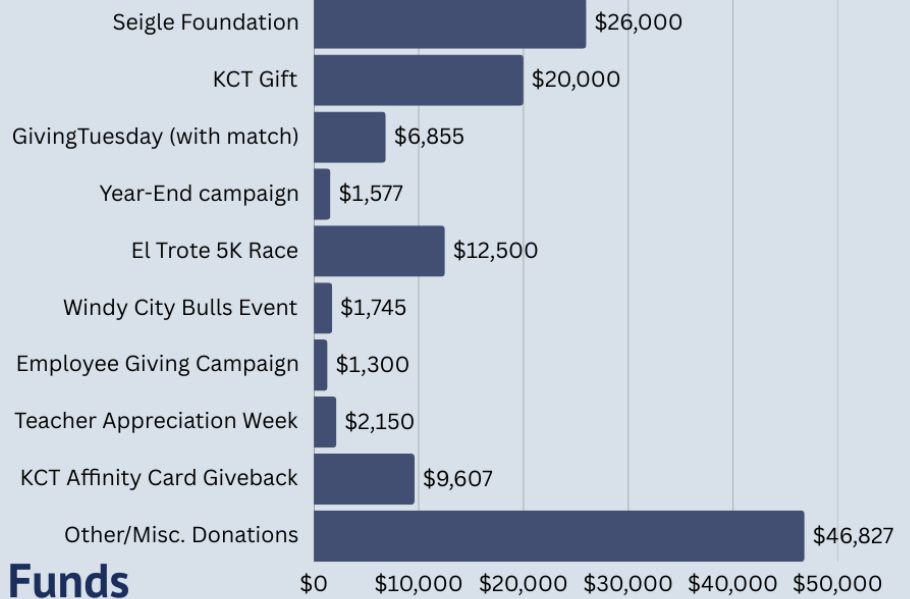
160

Teacher Appreciation Week Participants/donors



756

Participants in 1st Annual El Trote 5K

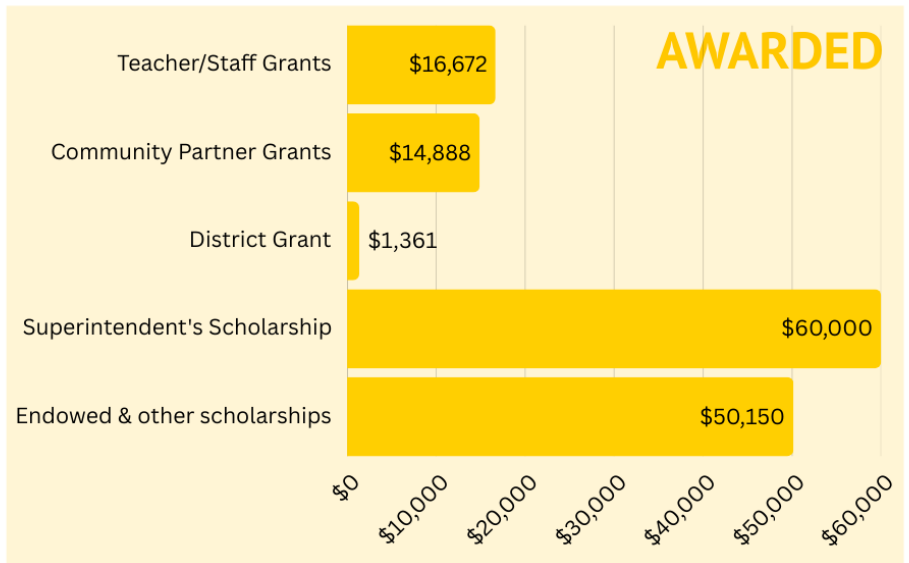


## Funds RAISED

## RAISED

## Funds AWARDED

## AWARDED



Money on hand

as of June 30, 2025

Endowment Fund

\$805,331

Operating Funds

\$170,363

Money Market

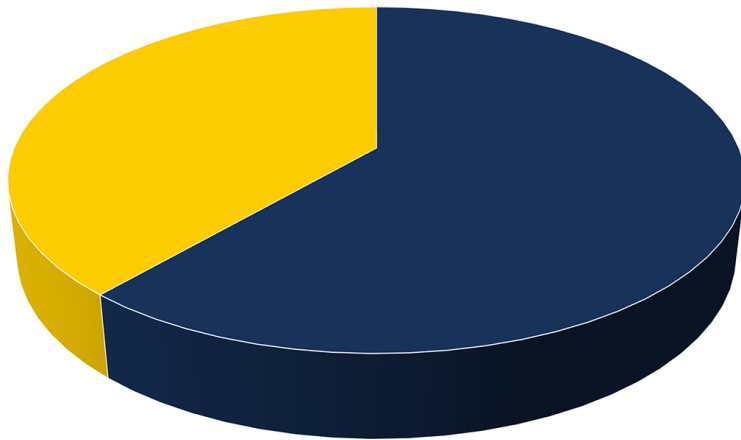
\$22,415

Other

\$8,864

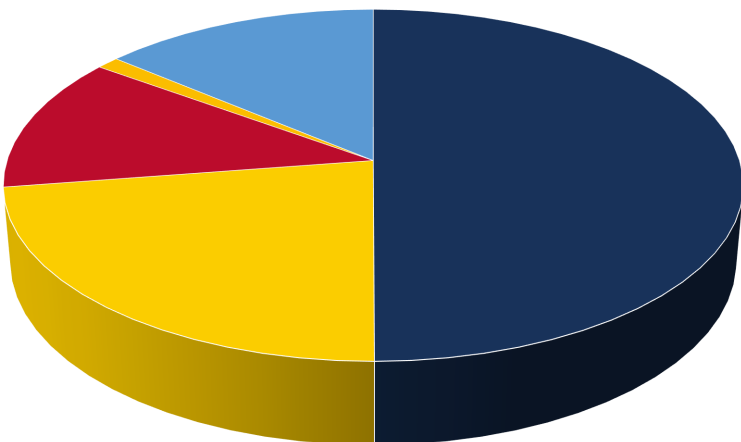
# Financials FY 2025

## REVENUE



- Restricted funds  
\$78,910
- Unrestricted funds  
\$49,651

## EXPENSES



- Superintendent's Scholarship  
\$60,000
- Operations  
\$27,185
- Community Partner Grants  
\$14,888
- District Grants  
\$1,361
- Teacher/Staff Grants  
\$16,672

# Our FY2024-2025 Donors - WE TH

## Class President (\$10,000+)

Seigle Family Foundation  
KCT Consumers Credit Union

## Valedictorian (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

### Individual Gifts

Laura Brady  
Leticia and Julia Brown  
Denise Broz  
Christopher Bibzak  
John & Niki Devereux  
Elizabeth Hoelt  
Karla Jimenez  
Laurene Johnson  
Suzanne P. Johnson  
Sandy Kaptain  
Susan Kerr  
Matthew Punnoose  
Athi Toufexis  
Keith Trimmer  
Jerry Turnquist  
Chandler & Pamela Swan  
William & Mary Van Slyck

### Corporate Gifts

AESA  
C'boe  
Chicago Bulls  
Elgin High School PTO  
FEVO Enterprise, Inc.  
Franczek PC  
K12 Insight LLC  
John B. SanFilippo & Son Inc.  
Studio GC

## Salutatorian (\$500 - \$999)

### Individual Gifts

Michael Baggot  
Jean Bednar  
Evelyn Bevins  
Nancy Coleman  
Ann Elizabeth Cook  
Peggy Cooney  
Shamim Hashmi  
Dr. Suzanne Johnson  
Ron Lange  
Tammie MacMullen

Lisa Medendorp  
Veronica Noland  
Mario Pestaña  
Kevin Sweeney  
Lala Zhang

### Corporate Gifts

Wenzak QSC, Inc.  
St. Hugh of Lincoln Church RELICS  
The Frank Cooney Company, Inc.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

## Dean's List

(\$100 - \$499)

### Individual Gifts

Samia Afzal  
Roger Anna  
Veronica Aristeo  
Elizabeth Armistead  
Mary Ellen Barbezat  
David Brown  
Patricia Burke  
Charles Burnidge  
Sharon Caddigan  
Charles & Penny Cassell  
Jennifer Collins  
Marlene & Dave Daubert  
Cheryl DeRoo  
Paul & Stephanie Doran  
James Feuerborn  
Dan & Karen Fox  
Lea Anne Frost  
Jaime Garcia  
Diane Geary  
Sarmila Ghosh  
Marilyn House  
Steven Johnson  
Ruta Karastoyanov  
Tammie MacMullen  
Michael & Kelly McKay  
Chaitali Modi  
Kimberly Molitas  
Modesto Muniz  
Carol J. Olson  
Lars Odegaard  
Pooja Patel  
Reeple Patel  
Jim & Sandy Pease  
Hanna Pereviazko  
Amber Peters  
Ria Sedberry  
Velma Sept  
Danise Smith  
Kevin Sweeney  
Kimberly Wagner  
Lisa White  
Lois Wilhelm

### Corporate Gifts

All State Enterprise, Inc.  
Bear Larkin Inc.  
Elgin Community College  
Elgin Sandwich Shop, Inc.  
Envestnet  
Kona Ice of McHenry County  
The Malnati Organization LLC

## Honor Roll

(up to \$100)

### Individual Gifts

Angella Abrigo-Lomongo  
Liz & Mike Alberti  
Mittul G. Amin  
Sharleen "Shari" Arvayo  
Garrick & Angela Balk  
Erin Bryant  
Branka "Brandy" Carbery  
Erik Carbery  
Amanda Castro  
Kathleen Chwee  
Svetlana Davcheva  
Simonetta Deneufbourg  
Maria Dongo  
Meghan Dorka  
Kristine Dougherty  
Julia & D.D. Edmundson  
Haleigh Eller  
Corinne Fraud  
Yuki Galisanao  
Laurie Garcia  
Trinette Gardner  
Jill Gollwitzer  
Iris Gomez  
Zindya Guerrero  
Lisa Hanley  
Sharon Hansen  
Jessica Harrison  
Faaiz Hashmi  
Gary Hillquist  
Jerilyn Hofmann  
Lauren Irby  
Lisa Baran Janco  
Savannah Kleppe  
Katlynn Klinetobe  
Maggie Koch  
Kimberly Kowall  
Greta Kulczyk  
Susan & William Laue  
Melinda Leman  
Adelina Lopez  
Laura Luisi  
Addie & Andy Lynn  
Patricia Makishima  
Hima Mallipeddi  
Venunath Mallipeddi  
Katlyn McBride  
Jeanne Meyer  
Nicole Morgante  
Arleen Muniz  
Edward Nelson  
Sheryl Nemece  
Diane O'Malley  
Mauro Pastori  
Angela Pepich  
Danyse Peterson  
Laura Reith  
Megan Roulette  
Emily Sanchez  
Leatrice Satterwhite  
Douglas Schabert  
Carolyn Severson  
William Shanahan  
Luke Sherer  
Elise Sikma  
Nicole Skrzypchak  
Kimberly Stitt  
Michelle Sweeney  
Richard Sweeney  
Rinku Thaker  
Bethany Tremmel  
Alejandra Vazquez  
Jennifer Walker  
Stephanie Walsh  
John & Shirley Whitmer  
Peggy Youngren

### Corporate Gifts

PKC, LLC  
Chipotle  
Panera LLC

# Celebrating Day of the Dead



U-46 Educational Foundation co-hosted the *El Trote de las Calacas* 5K race.

Follow us on  
social media



If you want to make a donation ...



We invite you to make a  
tax-deductible donation to the  
U-46 Educational Foundation!

Your gifts help provide scholarships  
and grants for deserving  
U-46 staff and students.