

Impact Grant Recipients 2026-2027

Creekside Middle School	Introducing Target Students to Vocational Skills	Natia Hong	\$200.00
Introducing Target Students to Vocational Skills will provide an opportunity for Creekside Target students to be introduced to soft employment skills- such as packing lunches and delivering to staff members. Students will learn how to follow step by step directions to complete vocational tasks, utilize various communication modalities, increase their social skills, and receive early exposure to soft employment skills.			
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Classroom Library	Brenda Saavedra Cummings	\$200.00
Our classroom is seeking funding to revitalize a library that serves as a vital gateway to literacy for our predominantly Hispanic student body. It is critical that our students see their own vibrant heritage and language reflected in the stories they read; however, our current collection lacks the bilingual resources and culturally relevant narratives necessary to foster true engagement.			
Woodstock High School	WHS Music Dept. Concert at Chicago Symphony Center	Lyndra Tingley, Brian Jozwiak	\$2,000.00
The Woodstock High School Music Department is proud to announce that our Band, Choir, and Orchestra students have been given the opportunity to perform at the prestigious Chicago Symphony Center. This is more than a field trip; it is a professional-level milestone. Performing and standing on the same stage as the world's greatest virtuosos is a transformative experience that validates years of practice and dedication.			
Woodstock High School	Guided Tour at Shedd Aquarium	Gina Moreno	\$700.00
The Blue Planet Club at WHS will attend a field trip to the Shedd Aquarium, featuring a 75-minute, guided "Must See Tour." This exclusive experience will allow students to go behind the scenes, observe animal care procedures, and participate in a unique opportunity to touch a live Moon Jellyfish.			
Woodstock / Woodstock North High School	Woodstock Artist and Illustrator Visit	David Bliss, Elon Shaffer, Bill Weber	\$150.00
The artist and illustrator Chris Arneson will come to WHS and meet with Art Club, Cartooning Club and WNHS's Cartooning Club.			
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Let's Play (More) with Core	Bree Kusz	\$83.00
The Diversity and Inclusion committee created a playground core board during the 24-25 school year to give minimally verbal and non-English speakers a way to communicate while on the playground at Verda Dierzen. This grant would be to fund a core board for the other playground, since the playground at Dierzen is divided into 2.			
Woodstock / Woodstock North High School	Math Team Grant	Sarah Pigman, Anna Spencer	\$1,750.00
The math team grant will help pay for competition fees for both Woodstock North and Woodstock High School math teams. It will also allow us to continue to have our own cross-town math team competition hosted in our district.			
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Building Budding Botanists	Alyssa Di Guido, Jeanette Letmanski	\$600.00
"Building Budding Botanists" creates an outdoor sensory garden for approximately 700 PreK and Kindergarten students and 150 staff members, featuring student-planted perennials around the school sign and native wild flowers throughout the school grounds. This project fosters early-childhood hands-on care, community engagement, and a relaxing outdoor green space for dedicated school staff.			

Dean Street, Greenwood, Mary Endres, Olson, Prairiewood & Westwood Elementary Schools, Creekside/Northwood Middle Schools, Woodstock/Woodstock North High Schools	D200 Orchestra Program brings out Nationally recognized composer Doug Spata	Jillian Forbes, Stacie Savittieri, Lyndra Tingley and Grace Valentine	\$1,000.00
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Doug will work directly with our 5th through 12th-grade orchestra students, guiding and working with them through his own compositions. To make this event even more special, his residency will coincide with our annual Festival Day, giving families a unique chance to watch him conduct our young musicians and hear his insights firsthand.

Mary Endres Elementary School	Indoor Recess	Esmeralda Camargo	\$150.00
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This project provides engaging, hands-on indoor recess board games and cooperative activities for 3rd graders. During inclement weather, students need meaningful, non-electronic alternatives that promote active social interaction, problem-solving, and emotional regulation. This initiative transforms unstructured indoor screen-free downtime into a high-engagement, collaborative learning experience.

Northwood Middle School	Chicago Wolves Game Field Trip	Megan Thomas, Katie Spaldon	\$250.00
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Students embark on an exciting grade-level field trip to a live hockey game, blending sports with learning! During the action-packed game, students engage with custom workbooks featuring fun math, literacy, and science activities—calculating player statistics, analyzing game momentum, and exploring physics in real time from the arena seats.

Mary Endres Elementary School	Where Friendships Begin: Buddy Benches	Courtney Deering, Minerva Urbina	\$400.00
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Where Friendships Begin: Buddy Benches for Every Student seeks funding to install three buddy benches on our elementary school playground. These benches will promote inclusion, reduce loneliness, encourage peer connections, and support students' social-emotional well-being. By creating welcoming spaces for friendship, every child will have the opportunity to feel seen, supported, and included during recess.

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School, Clay Academy	Project Extra Credit-1965 Pontiac Grand Prix	Noah Taylor, Spenser Svehla	\$2,400.00
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Project Extra Credit restores a 1965 Pontiac Grand Prix while teaching shop safety, current automotive industry standards, fabrication, diagnostics, teamwork, and problem-solving. Students gain real-world skills, build confidence, inspire peers to create their own projects, and explore rewarding automotive careers through authentic, hands-on learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom environment.

Dean Street Elementary School, Mary Endres Elementary School, Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School	STEM Games for High School Mentor Matches	Renee Walker, Amanda Zuidema	\$616.88
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Big Brothers and Big Sisters of McHenry County launched a new morning mentorship partnership between Woodstock North and Mary Endres Elementary students last school year. The program is being replicated this school year between Woodstock High and Dean Street students. Students play games and make crafts during their match time.

Mary Endres Elementary School	Recess Reimagined: Move, Play & Connect	Minerva Urbina	\$300.00
Every day is a brand-new day for our students. Their learning, experiences, interests, and needs change every day—but one thing that has remained largely unchanged is their recess experience. “Recess Reimagined” is designed to transform the traditional recess experience by providing students with a variety of engaging, age-appropriate, and inclusive activities.			
Creekside Middle School	Storm Science Interactive Presentation	Derek Lee, Kristi Wold	\$1,100.00
This is an interactive storm science and safety presentation delivered by meteorologists from the Illinois Storm Chasers group to engage and inform students about severe weather and cultivate a love of the science behind it.			
Mary Endres Elementary School	Indoor Recess Activities	Margaret Eaheart	\$150.00
When the weather is not good enough to go outside to play at recess, students stay in our classroom and need games to play and activities to do.			
Greenwood Elementary School	Indoor Recess Busy Carts	Katherine Cubert	\$300.00
Recess is vital for student engagement. Indoor recess often hinders learning readiness; however, Busy Carts mitigate overstimulation from devices through puzzles and creative play. By fostering problem-solving and social skills, these activities reduce behavioral issues, ensuring students remain focused and prepared for afternoon instruction.			
Northwood Middle School	Timber-lee Scholarship	Kelly Keppen, Sarah Braun	\$1,000.00
Every year the 6th graders at Northwood attend an educational outdoor experience at Timber-lee. This money would go towards helping those who may not be able to afford to attend this trip, be able to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity with their peers. This trip is a tradition that Northwood students remember forever.			
Olson Elementary School	Social Skill of the Week Curriculum: Suggested Literature (Storybook Bundle)	Jennifer Adams, Amy Zeh	\$475.00
Fill your library with Boys Town Press’s most beloved picture books. This comprehensive collection features more than 50 fan-favorite titles from celebrated authors, including Julia Cook, Bryan Smith, and Jennifer Law. Covering everything from friendship and big feelings to conflict resolution and communication, this bundle provides a story for every teachable moment. Aligned with the award-winning Social Skill of the Week Curriculum, each title reinforces a social skill through memorable characters and relatable situations.			
Woodstock High School	Upgrading wigs and wig equipment for Blue Streak Theatre	Christy Johanson	\$580.00
Blue Streak Theatre is an active and growing year-long co-curricular program at WHS. With production costs high and time often a factor, investing in quality materials for storage and styling of wigs helps reduce future costs, saves precious time, and gives students an experience closer to professional standards.			
Woodstock High School	Stage Combat Safety Class	Christy Johanson	\$350.00
Thespian Troupe 991 from Woodstock HS is excited to bring professionals from Counterfeit Combat in Chicago to teach about safety in stage combat.			
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Glow & Grow: Illuminating Learning in Kindergarten	Kelly Edge, Kristin Giacinto	\$305.00
Grow and Glow: Illuminating Learning in Kindergarten will transform our classrooms into engaging black-light learning environments where students practice foundational literacy and math concepts through hands-on, multisensory activities. By incorporating black lights, neon manipulatives, and fluorescent writing tools, students will experience familiar academic skills in an exciting and memorable way.			

Woodstock High School	National Museum of Mexican Art - Día de los Muertos Exhibit Experience	Shelby Vandersteeg	\$375.00
Students will explore the Pilsen neighborhood by taking a walking tour of the art and cultural sites including the Day of the Dead Exhibit at the National Museum of Mexican Art. This learning experience allows students to immerse themselves in Mexican culture and one of their most unique holidays.			
Dean Street Elementary School	Indoor Recess: Unplugged	Allison Doyle	\$300.00
The Indoor Recess: Unplugged Grant transforms inclement weather days into engaging, screen-free opportunities for Dean Street Elementary students. Funding provides hands-on board games, card games, and creative art supplies. Having these alternative options fosters peer social skills, creative problem-solving, and healthy cognitive breaks that help students return to afternoon learning refreshed and focused.			
Creekside Middle School	Pedal to Independence: Building Life Skills, Street Safety, and Lifelong Fitness	Jordyn Kuthe	\$890.93
"Pedal to Independence" equips middle school special education students with two adaptive bikes, safety gear, and replica street signs. Aligning with Illinois PE standards and the Bike Walk Education in Schools Act, this project teaches critical community navigation, motor regulation breaks, and fosters lifelong fitness and independence.			
Greenwood Elementary School	Calm Down Corner Refresh with SEL Boxes	Taylor Ceron, Jackie Paulsen	\$800.00
SEL calm down boxes provide elementary students with a safe, accessible space to identify and regulate big emotions. By utilizing sensory tools and coping strategies, children build emotional intelligence and self-reliance. This proactive approach reduces classroom disruptions, decreases punitive time-outs, and quickly returns students to a focused, ready-to-learn state.			
Greenwood Elementary School, Westwood Elementary School, Bright Beginnings	Regulation Heavy Work Stations	Gianna McGuire	\$315.00
The weighted backpack station provides students with proprioceptive (heavy work) input through carrying a backpack with individual amounts of weight during functional movement around the school environment.			
Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School	Dual Credit Spanish IV Cultural Field Trip	Regina Murray, Shelby Vandersteeg	\$350.00
The DC Spanish 4 class will be traveling to Chicago to attend the Hispania American and Spanish Heritage Shows presented by Hispanic Flamenco Ballet. This cultural presentation will expand the students' cultural perspective of the Spanish speaking world as well as prepare them for their cultural portfolio project.			
Creekside Middle School	CMS Best Buddies Events	Julie Stone, Natia Hong	\$470.00
Best Buddies is an international nonprofit that matches students with a disability with a student without a disability and they form a friendship. We would like to purchase supplies for a few of our events.			
Mary Endres Elementary School	Engaging books for young readers	Jennifer Rago	\$379.00
My project consists of a collection of 72 engaging decodable books from the Heggerty Library set. The set includes 6 copies of 12 first grade titles. The texts come with a phonics focus and comprehension questions.			
Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center	Sensory Friendly Space for Pre-K Learners	Jeanette Letmanski	\$333.88
This project funds essential sensory-friendly materials for our Early Childhood Pre-K classroom. These tools support students with diverse physical, emotional and cognitive needs, providing necessary multi-modal input for self-regulation. By creating an inclusive, accessible environment, we empower students to improve focus, communication, and foundational academic skills for long-term success.			

Mary Endres Elementary School	Beautify Our School Walkway	Cristin Shade, Katie Wagner	\$363.94
We would love to create outside signs showcasing our current and past school themes to hang on the fence to help beautify the walkway to the outside playground.			
Olson Elementary School	Nuevas Páginas, Nuevos Sueños: Revitalizing Our Spanish Collection for Elementary Readers	Bridget Harvey, Amber Pugh	\$500.00
To support elementary literacy, the school library will update its Spanish collection by adding high-demand, popular titles and replacing worn, heavily-used books. This project expands access to engaging, culturally relevant literature, encouraging independent reading and fostering bilingual literacy across all grade levels.			
Creekside Middle School	Etiquette for Excellence: Empowering Today's Middle Schooler	Shanon Laidig	\$199.92
This grant will fund large flip books for 6th grade teachers to use during their skills lab/study hall classtime. The large flip book contains 52 mini lessons on manners needed in today's world. The books will be propped up in each 6th grade teacher's classroom for the teacher to continually refer to during the school day.			
Prairiewood Elementary School	Prairiewood Murals Project	Julie Joslyn	\$750.00
Help us bring a lasting dream to life! Grant funds will provide the art supplies and the artist needed to complete our elementary gym's 15-year-old mural project. Finishing this artwork will energize our physical education space, instill lasting school pride, and surround every child with an uplifting atmosphere of community and color at Prairiewood Elementary.			
Dean Street / Greenwood Elementary School	PE and Music Co-Teaching with Tinikling	Matt Hopkinson, Luke Moyta	\$2,057.13
We want to acquire equipment to teach lessons in Tinikling, which can provide students with a challenging folk dance based activity that correlates to standards addressed in both music and physical education classes. We are looking to provide students with a unique opportunity to develop their rhythm, body awareness, and teamwork skills!			
Dean Street Elementary School	Update the Rock Wall at Dean Street	Matt Hopkinson	\$1,669.00
Dean Street is the only elementary school at this time with a rock wall. It has not had an update on record in over 8 years. It uses an old mat locking system that is tedious to use and it's positioning changes can vary from each instance of use that over time continues to negatively affect the mats integrity. There is a new mat locking system that uses magnets that will make use of the rock wall more accessible and more importantly maintain the health of the mats more efficiently.			
Greenwood Elementary School	Uke Can Do It!	Luke Moyta	\$1,214.99
Greenwood Elementary School is looking to purchase ukuleles to support the music program. This grant funds the purchase of 30 ukuleles, 30 carrying cases, 4 tuners, 4 extra sets of strings, and a method book. Funding this grant provides Greenwood musicians the same high-quality musical instruments available at other schools.			
Woodstock North High School	Integrated Wellness Pilot Program	Cindy Ridley & Kristy Hinz, Morgan Hedgepath, Roxanne Monti, Kirk Cagle & Margo Jacob	\$375.00
The Integrated Wellness Pilot Program supports students needing additional support beyond traditional P.E. through mindfulness, movement, adventure, and community experiences. Through Mindful Mondays, Fun Fridays, field trips, guest instructors, and interdisciplinary support, students will build emotional regulation, executive functioning, physical wellness, social skills, and lifelong healthy habits.			

Northwood Middle School	8th Grade to the Illinois Holocaust Museum	Kelly Healless, Ryan Schmidt	\$1,520.00
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This grant funds an 8th-grade trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum, utilizing interactive technology and artifacts to deepen history lessons, foster empathy, and empower students to counter prejudice and bullying in their daily lives.

Dean Street, Greenwood, Mary Endres, Olson, Prairiewood & Westwood Elementary Schools, Creekside/Northwood Middle Schools, Woodstock/Woodstock North High Schools	Northside Brass Quintet Performance and Masterclass	William Kraemer- Simpson, Kevin Fredrick	\$750.00
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The Northside Brass Quintet is a Chicago based performance ensemble whose mission is to inspire and educate the next generation of listeners and musicians. Through educational outreach, they aim to introduce students to the art of chamber music and professional musicianship.

Woodstock High School, Woodstock North High School	Alliance Française Visit	Loran Beamish	\$532.00
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Students will visit the Alliance Française in Chicago for an immersive cultural experience featuring a French-language cooking lesson and French film viewing. This field trip will strengthen language skills, deepen cultural understanding, and connect classroom learning to authentic Francophone experiences through engaging, hands-on activities.

Bright Beginnings	Bright Beginnings: Equipping Social Work with Essential SEL & Regulation Learning Tools	Kelsey Norton- Nunez	\$275.00
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This grant fund will provide engaging, hands-on social-emotional learning materials for students in the Bright Beginnings Autism Program. Through games, visuals, sensory tools, and interactive activities, students will build skills in identifying and expressing emotions, self-regulation, empathy, communication, and positive social interactions!

Woodstock North High School	Community Connections: Building Independence Through Real World Experiences	Cory Knopik, Julianne DeLuna	\$1,340.00
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The Community Connections: Building Independence Through Real-World Experiences project will benefit a diverse group of transition students ages 18–22 with a wide range of disabilities, abilities, interests, communication styles, and support needs. Every experience has been intentionally selected to provide meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities that support individualized transition goals while engaging students in activities that reflect their interests and the broader community.

Woodstock North High School	Everyday Living Skills for Young Adults	Julianne De Luna, Cory Knopik	\$300.00
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This project provides both WNHS special education and Life Connections transition students with the opportunity to learn essential daily living skills through hands-on practice. With grant funding, students will practice sorting laundry, folding and hanging clothing, choosing outfits for given occasions and/or weather, vacuuming, and table setting. Through hands-on practice, students with disabilities gain critical life skills, fostering self-reliance, confidence, and a smooth, successful transition to independent adulthood.

Prairiewood Elementary School	The Fresh in Fifth Project	Sunita Andrysiak, Jamie Glasby	\$413.00
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The Fresh in Fifth Project empowers students with essential personal care tools to navigate body changes with confidence and dignity. Following our Human Growth and Development talk, each fifth grader receives a travel-sized hygiene kit—fostering self-esteem, healthy habits, and equity across our classrooms so every student feels fresh, supported, and ready to learn.

Creekside Middle School, Northwood Middle School	¡Mariachi Woodstock! (part 2)	Luke Moyta, Jillian Forbes-Rycroft & Caitlin Forbes	\$900.00
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The D200 Music Department started mariachi clubs at both Creekside and Northwood Middle Schools last year, with assistance from a D200 Education Foundation grant. A second grant will help purchase a second guitarrón and vihuela, allowing both schools to each have their own instruments, and equity between the schools.

Dean Street Elementary School, Mary Endres Elementary School	Time for Chess	Christina Lauff & Luke Moyta, Michelle Swiderek & Anna Rivera	\$973.00
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Dean Street and Mary Endres Elementary Schools are growing their chess club programs! This grant will fund the purchase of 30 chess clocks for students to practice with during weekly meetings, and for use at school-wide tournaments and future Cross-Town Challenges with the other elementary chess clubs.

Greenwood Elementary School,	Hands-on Learning	Megan Johnson	\$700.00
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The grant will fund the durable materials (heavy-duty plastics, laminated tasks, specialized manipulative pieces) necessary to begin to build a comprehensive task library.