



Strong schools build strong communities.

CELEBRATING 40

AMAZING

YEARS



**LAWRENCE
SCHOOLS**
FOUNDATION

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



For 40 years, Lawrence Schools Foundation has provided resources that inspire learning, enrich teaching, and enhance opportunities for students, educators, and staff in Lawrence Public Schools — because **STRONG SCHOOLS BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES.**

STAFF

Dena Johnston
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jamie Sinclair
GRANTS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS MANAGER

Michelle Jennings
BOOKKEEPER

*At top:
Scenes from Lawrence Schools
Foundation's 40th Anniversary
community celebration
in April 2025*

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To our friends, supporters, and community partners,



It is with deep gratitude and tremendous pride as this year's president of the Lawrence Schools Foundation board that I share a few thoughts on the role the Foundation has played in our community.

Each year, we are reminded of the profound impact our public schools have on the lives of students, families, and the broader Lawrence community. And each year,

thanks to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our educators, the Foundation is able to support programs and initiatives that enhance educational excellence and opportunities in the Lawrence Public Schools.

As board president, I have the privilege of working alongside a committed team of community leaders, educators, and volunteers who believe in the power of public education to change young lives. Together, we strive to provide opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach — whether it's through innovative classroom grants, early childhood initiatives, support for music and arts education, or direct assistance for students facing financial hardships.

This year, the Foundation proudly funded classroom and school-wide grants, awarded scholarships to graduating seniors, and supported district-wide programs that foster creativity, promote wellness, and recognize dedicated teachers and staff who make a lifelong impact on our kids. Every dollar raised is a direct investment in our students' potential and our community's future.

This vital work would not be possible without the exceptional leadership from Dena Johnston, executive director, and tireless efforts of the Foundation staff, Jamie Sinclair and Michelle Jennings. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and the positive spirit you bring to this work every day. To our donors and community LEAP partners, thank you for standing with us and believing in the potential of every student in Lawrence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annie Myers".

Annie Myers, President, Board of Directors



As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who make the work of Lawrence Schools Foundation possible. Your generosity, partnership, and unwavering belief in the power of public education have fueled our mission in meaningful ways.

This year marked a truly special milestone — our 40th anniversary. For four decades, Lawrence Schools Foundation has stood

alongside students, educators, and families in our community, working to expand opportunity, celebrate excellence, and ensure that every child has the tools to thrive. We are proud of this legacy, and we are even more inspired by the path ahead.

Throughout the past year, your support helped us provide innovative classroom grants, recognize outstanding educators, expand access to enrichment programs, and provide scholarships to support students who may face financial challenges and ensure they have access to higher education opportunities. You helped us provide back-to-school essentials such as shoes, clothing, and school supplies so that students are prepared and feel confident going to school. These efforts are more than initiative. They represent lives touched, confidence built, and dreams nurtured.

The Foundation's impact over the last 40 years has been possible only because of people like you — donors, volunteers, educators, alumni, and community leaders — who believe in the importance of strong public schools. Each gift, partnership, and act of service is a building block in the story of this Foundation.

As we look to the future, we are energized by our continued commitment to educational excellence in Lawrence. We know the needs of students and schools are constantly evolving, and the Foundation is evolving too — strengthening our support systems, investing in innovation, and listening closely to those we serve.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Whether you've been with us since the beginning or recently joined our community, your support matters. On behalf of Lawrence Schools Foundation and the many lives you help impact, please accept our deepest thanks.

With appreciation and hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Johnston".

Dena Johnston, Executive Director

IT'S BEEN AN

AMAZING

YEAR



More than 1,000 local students and families experienced the first annual Kids Expo in August 2024.

FIRST ANNUAL KIDS EXPO A HUGE SUCCESS

We are overwhelmed by and very grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our community for our students and families. This tremendous support was evident at the first annual Kids Expo in August 2024 that attracted well over 1,000 attendees and 50 vendors.

Lawrence Schools Foundation and Lawrence Public Schools provided students with 600 pairs of new shoes and socks, 300 backpacks and school supplies, 500 hygiene supply kits, 72 haircuts, and information about local organizations, services, and resources for children and families.



Amazing weather also allowed students and families to meet local fire and medical teams and school resource officers, get signed up for library cards and services with Lawrence Public Library, and receive immunizations and screenings with Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health. Along with our friends from Truity Credit Union, we served more than 700 hot dogs, chips, and drinks — and then 800 Kona Ice snowcones with Envista Federal Credit Union. We enjoyed outdoor inflatables and yard games with Kansas Athletics.

Volunteers included high school students, district staff, administrators, and building principals. New interim superintendent Dr. Jeanice Swift joined us, too, to welcome students and families.



Middle school band instructors joined forces to apply for a grant to provide extra help for students impacted most by the pandemic.

GRANTS IN MOTION: BANDING TOGETHER

Lawrence Public Schools middle school band instructors received a Lawrence Schools Foundation MusicWorks! grant for a special project to enhance their students' individual and collective success.

Funding for the project provided small stipends to retired teachers, professional musicians, and KU students, and other community members for working with students who were impacted most through the pandemic. Students participated in workshops, small group instruction, and individual lessons.

The project hit all the right notes. According to Deborah Woodall Routledge, music educator at Southwest Middle School, "The students benefited greatly from small group instruction by experts on their instruments and were able to perform music at a higher level."



Help us continue to support the amazing students and programs in our Lawrence Public Schools! Scan this code to learn more about grants, scholarships, awards, and special funds.



Jaunelle White shared memories and wisdom at the 2024 Community Education Breakfast

COMMUNITY EDUCATION BREAKFAST

The Foundation's high-profile Community Education Breakfast was a sellout in 2024, raising a record \$100,000 through sponsorships and ticket sales. More than 500 community members and business partners attended the event that kicked off the 2024-2025 school year and featured guest speaker Jaunelle White of Lawrence High School's class of 1996. White is the first female athletic director and vice president of intercollegiate athletics for Point University in West Point, Georgia. Among Sports Illustrated's "100 Influential Black Women in Sports" and named Athletic Director of the Year by the Southern States Athletic Conference, White shared that she had good memories of her time in Lawrence Public Schools.

"I was blessed with the best teacher," said White of her fifth grade teacher at Sunset Hill Elementary, Juanita Anne Barbee. "She really cared and would do anything and everything to support us — but she was not one to be messed with," she said. White also recounted winning two state volleyball championships in high school and called her friends from LHS "the best gift."

"I would not have accomplished what I have so far without the education I received in Lawrence Public Schools," White said.



GRANTS IN MOTION: CHARACTER STRONG

Character Strong is the foundation of Lawrence Public Schools' social and emotional learning (SEL) work. Its comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum is designed to foster belonging, connection, and character development for students and staff. Tier 1 is implemented throughout all elementary, middle, and high schools to promote a safe and supportive school culture. Tier 2 deepens student engagement and provides targeted SEL interventions.

Thanks to support from Lawrence Schools Foundation and LEAP partners like Envista Credit Union, our public schools have been able to provide training for school staff and materials for each building.

76 scholarships awarded in 2024–2025 to graduating seniors (\$65,450 total)

Innovative Teacher Grants (\$7,877 total)

Katie Henry, West Middle School
 Samuel Vasquez & Lindsey Proctor, Southwest Middle School
 Marci Leuschen, Lisa Ball, Julie Battaglia, & Christina Podany, Lawrence High School
 Kristin O'Connor Barkus, Eve Loos, Kirsten Hemreck, Allison Gates, & Amy Goepfert, West Middle School
 Becky Armstrong & Kimberly Cottrell, Project Search

Excellence In Teaching/Bobs Award (\$10,000)

Brad Stoll, Lawrence High School

Dedication to Education Award/ Sons of Bobs Award (\$5,000)

Deborah Woodall Routledge, Southwest Middle School

Barbara Hodgson Dream to Achieve Award (\$100)

Ryan McAdoo

Carl Knox Teacher Grants (\$500)

Sara Abeita, Free State High School
 Trish Neuteboom, Southwest Middle School

MusicWorks Grants (\$7,305 total)

Stephanie Nesseth, Southwest Middle School
 Brandon Yoder-Mulkey, Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
 Deborah Woodall Routledge, Sam Parilla, Brayden Yoder-Mulkey, Melissa Smith, & Collin Watgen, middle school music educators
 Eric Bradshaw, Michael Solomon, Mike Jones, & Sam Parilla, high school music educators

School Assistance Grants (\$4,940 total)

Maren Santelli, Lawrence High School
 Catherine Meihaus, elementary art
 Joe Waldron, Free State High School
 Kacey Wiltz, Free State High School

Fall 2022–Spring 2023 A.C.E Awards (\$500 each)

Dionne Chavez, Quail Run Elementary
 John McCrary, Southwest Middle School
 Jennifer DeWitt, Billy Mills Middle School
 Tracee Sowers, Cordley Elementary

We celebrate strong partnerships

A strong educational system is the foundation of a prosperous community. Recognizing this, the Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce collaborated to form the Lawrence Business/Education Partnership in 1993.

The Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) program matches schools with businesses and community organizations and magic happens.

Approximately 115 local businesses and organizations partner with our Lawrence Public Schools. Many focus on scholastic enrichment — such as reading to kids in class, mentoring, tutoring or training, or donating classroom supplies. Others volunteer to help at school events or make monetary or in-kind donations to support them. Many sponsor Lawrence Schools Foundation signature events.

Our LEAP partners enjoy being involved with the schools and learning from the students and teachers. They are the lifeline between the Foundation and our community.



Lawrence Education
Achievement Partners



To sign up for LEAP or learn more, scan this code with your phone, call 785-330-1854 or email jsinclair@usd497.org.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Cordley Elementary
Capitol Federal Savings
Cottin's Hardware & Rental
Dairy Queen—Mass. St.
Dillons Stores—Mass. St.
Lawrence Noon Rotary Club

Deerfield Elementary
Dillons Stores—Lawrence Ave.
HyVee
Kristi R. Keefer Insurance Agency

Hillcrest Elementary
Commerce Bank—Iowa St.
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Kristi R. Keefer Insurance Agency
multistudio
The Merc Co-op

Langston Hughes Elementary
Dillons Stores—Wakarusa Dr.
Hy-Vee
J&S Coffee
Kristi R. Keefer Insurance Agency
Truity Credit Union

New York Elementary
Connect Church
Cottin's Hardware & Rental
Emprise Bank
Kiwanis Club
Lawrence Breakfast Optimist Club
Stevens & Brand, L.L.P.
Western Star #1
Masonic Lodge

Prairie Park Elementary
Bank Midwest
Capitol Federal Savings
Hershey Salty Snacks
Hy-Vee
Mar Lan Construction
Taco John's
Truity Credit Union

Quail Run Elementary
Hy-Vee
Jefferson's—West
Legends Dental Center
Pioneer Ridge
Rock Hill Church
Story Hill Church

Schwegler Elementary
Dairy Queen—Iowa St.
Raising Cane's
Runza

Sunflower Elementary
Central National Bank
Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers
Great American Bank
Hy-Vee
Taco John's

Sunset Hill Elementary
Altrusa International of Lawrence
Meritrust Credit Union
The Merc Co-op

Woodlawn Elementary
Bowersock Mills & Power Company
First State Bank & Trust
ICL Performance Products
Juniper Hill Farms
Seeds of Hope
Uplift Coffee

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Billy Mills Middle School
Berry Global, Inc.
Hy-Vee
McDonald's of Lawrence
Main Street Credit Union
Printing Solutions
Raising Cane's

Liberty Memorial Central Middle School
Berry Global, Inc.
Cottin's Hardware & Rental
First City Church
First State Bank & Trust
KU Natural History Museum
Lawrence Arts Center
Rodrock Chiropractic & Acupuncture

Southwest Middle School
Berry Global, Inc.
Hy-Vee
Jefferson's—West
Kristi R. Keefer Insurance Agency
McDonald's of Lawrence
t.Loft

West Middle School
Berry Global, Inc.
Card My Yard
Commerce Bank—Iowa St.
Kristi R. Keefer Insurance Agency
Sonic—6th St.
t.Loft
The Merc Co-op

HIGH SCHOOLS

Lawrence Free State High School
Berry Global, Inc.
Capitol Federal Savings
Central Bank of the Midwest
Commerce Bank—Wakarusa St.
Eileen's Colossal Cookies
Hy-Vee
Juniper Hill Farms
McDonald's of Lawrence
Raising Cane's
t.Loft
Theatre Lawrence
Therapy Works
Truity Credit Union

Lawrence High School
Berry Global, Inc.
Commerce Bank—23rd St.
Hallmark Cards
Hy-Vee
McDonald's of Lawrence
multistudio
Raising Cane's
The Valley Church
Truity Credit Union

DISTRICT-WIDE

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
Chick-Fil-A
Chili's
Climb Lawrence, LLC
Collier's International|Lawrence
Creative Planning
D-BAT Lawrence
Dole Institute of Politics
Douglas County Fire & Medical

Eileen's Colossal Cookies
Envista Credit Union
Feldmeyer Financial
First Student
First United Methodist Church
Goodcents
Hot Box Cookies
Inkspiration
Jason's Deli
Jefferson's
Kansas Athletics, Inc.
Kona Ice Lawrence
Topeka, LLC
KU Jayhawk Performance
KU Theatre
Kurt Goesser—State Farm
Lawrence Arts Center
Lawrence Gymnastics Academy
Lawrence Habitat for Humanity

Lawrence Police Department
Lawrence Public Library
Lied Center of Kansas
McAlister's Deli
Merchant's Pub & Plate
Min/Max Photography
Minuteman Press
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Papa Keno's Pizzeria
Pelathe District, Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America
Pet World
Picklemans
Premier Martial Arts
RCB Bank
Royal Crest Lanes
Salvation Army of Douglas County
Silver Lake Bank
Solomon and Associates—Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc
Sonic
Spencer Museum of Art
Sylvan Learning Center
Texas Roadhouse
The Basil Leaf Café
Theatre Lawrence
Toppers Pizza
Truity Credit Union
23rd St. Brewery
Wal-Mart
Watkins Museum of History

Community Connections @ Pinckney
Cottin's Hardware & Rental
Taco John's

Kennedy Early Childhood Center
Dr. Sharon Michel Green, O.D.
Dr. James Otten, D.D.S.
Jayhawk Breakfast Rotary Club
River City Church
Sunflower Bank
United Way of Douglas County

Project Search
Joblink, a Division of Cottonwood
KU Dept. of Human Resources
LMH Health
United Way of Douglas County

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:
ENVISTA CREDIT UNION**

Thanks to the generous support of Envista Credit Union, Lawrence Schools Foundation provided more than 600 pairs of new shoes to students at the First Annual Kids Expo in August 2024.

Their team was proud to sponsor new shoes and help kiddos pick out the perfect pair in an area set up just like a real store. They made sure students found the right style, size, and fit to start the school year off on the right foot.



A sponsorship from Envista Credit Union helped provide new shoes for students who needed them.



Truity representatives presented a \$40,000 donation to the Lawrence Schools Foundation Board of Trustees and the Foundation's executive director during the annual Community Education Breakfast event in September 2024.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: TRUITY CREDIT UNION

Lawrence Schools Foundation received a \$40,000 donation from Truity Credit Union, a LEAP Master Partner. The Truity Education Foundation Fund supports various districtwide needs, including professional development for educators. To qualify for membership at Truity Credit Union, individuals can make a one-time donation to the Truity Education Foundation, which is then donated to support local educational needs.

"Truity's generous donation allows us to continue to provide the necessary support for our educators and students and fill some of the gaps where needs remain due to school budget limitations," said Dena Johnston, executive director of Lawrence Schools Foundation.

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

In partnership with the United Way of Kaw Valley, The Salvation Army of Douglas County, Corps Community Center ECKAN, Eudora Schools Foundation, and Walmart, the Foundation invited the community's participation in the 2024 Douglas County Back2School supply drive.

In previous years, this collaborative effort provided backpacks filled with school supplies for approximately 1,800 students. In 2024, the goal was to reach every Douglas County student in need. Our efforts in 2024 were impactful and significant — ensuring that hundreds of students started the school year with the tools they need to succeed.



Special thanks to our LEAP partners with First United Methodist Church for their generosity and work in providing school supplies and pre-packed backpacks.

Thank you, donors!

MASTERS

(\$10,000+)

Davidson III, John and
Schaeffer, Shirley
Durham (Debby) Family
Foundation
Elmore Family Fund
Envista Credit Union
Haque Family Foundation
McClendon, Brian and
Beth Ellyn
Skyline Foundation
Truity Education
Foundation, Inc.

SCHOLARS

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Brian E Gill Scholarship
Foundation
Dobski, Tom and Marilyn
Edmonds Duncan
Registered Inve
Feldmeyer Financial
First Student
Gorman, Terese
Jepsen, Patricia
Killough, Bo
McCown Gordon
Construction
Moore, Martin and
Durand Reiber
Shanmugam, Kannon K.
and Victoria K.
Srinivasan, Srinija
Truity Credit Union

HONOR SOCIETY

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Allworth Financial
Ameriprise Financial
Services-Kempf
Bailey, Linda
Berquist, Craig and
Jennifer
Billings, Beverly Smith
Blaser, Chip and Karen
Bob Sight Auto Group
Bradley, William
Brooks, Michael
Brooks, Nancy and Keith
Buhler, Mark and Marsha
Capitol Federal
Foundation
CEK Insurance
Central Bank of the
Midwest
Chen, Andrea
City of Lawrence, KS
Clark, James and Shelly
Commerce Bancshares
Foundation
Cork and Barrel
Crown Automotive
Dance Gallery
Dannevik, Robert
Davis, Robert M
Deiser, Jay

Dinsdale, Robert
and Katherine
Drahozal, Christopher
and Kaye
Elmore, John and Rosy
Emprise Bank
Englebrick, Larry Allen
Fry, Lawrence and Penny
Gautt, Sandra
Gillespie, Rob and Rhonda
Great American Bank
Hallmark Corporate
Foundation
Hershey Salty Snacks
Company
Imber, Jane and Michael
Jacobs, Sheryl and Robert
Johnson, Bob and Pauline
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and Jana
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Kindred CPA
Laird Noller Automotive
Landmark National Bank
Lawrence Dental
Solutions LLC
Lheureux, Marie Alice
Lisher, Robert and Diana
Logicalis
Marsh and McLennan
Agency
McDonalds of Lawrence
Meritrust Credit Union
Meyer Family
Charitable Fund
Naughton, Patrick
Nonken, Crissa
PI Group, Inc
Pope, Steve and Maria
Pur-O-Zone, Inc.
RD Johnson Excavating
Roth, Janet
Security Benefit
Self, Bill and Cindy
Senecal, Robert and
Evelyn
Silver & Blue
Future Cities, Inc
Smith, Marsha
Stalcup, W.M., Jr. and Jan
Stephens Real Estate
Stephens, Mary Kay
Sullivan, Melonie
and Warren
Sunflower Bank
Thompson, David
and Maria
University of Kansas
US Bank
Walden, James and
Rebecca
Warren, Steve and
Eva Horn
Warren-McElwain

LEADERS

(\$500-\$999)

Alderdice, Jennifer
Alpha Roofing, LLC
Bert Nash Community
Mental Health Center
Central National Bank
Clark | Huesemann
Colliers International
Commerce Bank
Davis, Heiddi
DCCF
Dehart, Wilma and Frank
Dever, Lee Beth
and Michael
Dole Institute
Donovan, Justin
Dunlap Family
Foundation
First State Bank & Trust
Flynn, Richard and Janie
Gallagher, Elizabeth
Godwin, Cecilia
and Andrew
Golden, Joan and Webster
Golf Course
Superintendents
Association
Gould Evans Associates
ICL Performance
Products LP
Intrust Bank
Keller, Judy and Tim
KU School of Education
Kurt Goesser Insurance
Agency, Inc.
Lawrence Chamber
of Commerce
Lawrence Gymnastics
Academy
Leitel, Ann
Lied Center KU
LMH Health
Lopes, Steve and Lois
Mainstreet Credit Union
McCoy, Michael
McGrew Real Estate Inc
Midwest Concrete
Materials
Miller, Cameron
Silver Lake Bank
Sloop, Charles and Christa
Spiess, Tracy
Srinivasan, Saroja
Stevens & Brand, LLP
SumnerOne
Vick, Gail and Kevan
Wertzberger, Ken
and Annette
Ziegler, Philip

BENEFACTORS

(\$100-\$499)

Alexander, Helen
Ambler, David
and Mary Kate
Amon, Angela M

Anderson, Curtis
Anderson, Susan
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and Jean
Arendt, Richard
and Katherine
Au Yeong, Hannah
Bailey, Anne and Richard
Bakerink, Larry
Barah, Kelly L
Barker, Thomas William
Basham, Laura Ann
Beardmore, Richard
Becker, Tammy
Beltch, James L
Benevity
Bennett, Steven
and Tamara
Benton, Andrew
and Deborah
Bernhardt, Mark
and Renee
Billigmeier, John
Black, Jean Thomson
Bowen, Mary
Boyle, Julie M
Brockman, Bruce
and Laurie
Brown, Amy Frances
Bruner, Kathy and Steve
Bubna, Caitlin C
Burton, Linda
Busby, Anna F
Cates, Emily A
Chapman, Mary and
Ed Hawkins
Chladny, Bill and Dorothy
Clark, Valerie M
Costello, Anne
Courtney, Cynthia
Cummings, William
Damler, Meghan, Aaron,
and Jameson
Dawson, John and Molly
Deboard, Lysette A
Delta Zeta Alumnae
Dennis Brown
Painting, Inc
Dettmann, Bill and Shelia
Dozier, Joseph L
Eastman, James
Eldridge, Kristin
Ellett, Ryan S
Elliott, William
Erickson, Rodger and
Ginther, Donna
Esch, Elizabeth
Etsel, Kevin Andrew
Feldmeyer, S.T. and G.T.
Fike, Ryan
Freese, Sarah and Ross
Frick, Cynde L
Fulbright, Mary
Gage, Martha
Gausman, Roger
and Karen
Gilsinn, Jacquelyn

Glidewell, Catherine
Gorman, Andrea
and Richard
Grant, Michelle
Graunke, Bob
and Barbara
Guenther, Corwin
Hall, Marilyn and Curtis
Harmon, Marcel
Harrell, Kevin L
Harrison, Jonathan N
Hatfield, Mary
Heeb, Jon and Barbara
Heeb, Karen L
Heffernan, Steve
Heider, Mark and Valecia
Heinritz, Anna R
Hickman, M Scott
Highland Construction
Hilliard, Catherine
Hoey, Aline C
Howell, Mark and Lori
Huber, Julia and Michael
Huerter, Eric
Hultman, Bruce
and Nancy
Hymer, Mike
Jackson, Claudia
Jackson, Paul
Jalali, Parvanch and
Manovchehr Farshadfar
Jennings, Michelle Ann
Johnson, Cynthia
Johnson, David and
Margarita Vargas
Johnson, Denise L
Johnson, Gerilyn
Johnson, Matthew
and Denise L
Johnson, Paul and Sandra
Johnson, Peggy
Johnson, Ronald
and Donna
Johnson, Thomas H.
Johnston, Dena Rae
Jones, Brian
Jones, Lisa Marie
Jones, Shannon Dawn
Juneau, Theodore S
Keller, Erica L
Kimball, Shannon
and Jason
Kish, Francis and Judith
Kissam, Brenda
Kreicker, Kim and
Jones, Arla
Kress, Lisa
Kroger
Lake, Stephanie
Lane, Margaret L.
Law, Brian C
Leatherman, Lois
Lepage, Suzette Dawn
Lewis, Anthony S
Lewis, Herschel
Lewis, Rebecca

Livingood, Margaret
and David
Long, Larissa
Lotton Barker, Danielle
Luckett, Kiley
Lungstrum, John
and Linda
Martin, Ellen
Matchett, Gayle
Mcadoo, Ryan S
Mcanarney, Amy
McDonald, Kent
and Annette
McGee, Craig
McGrew, John M.
McGrew, Patricia Ann
Mckinney, William
and Laura
Mcneer, Amanda Michelle
Mcpheerson Jr,
Thomas Lee
Miles, Steven W
and Crystal
Miller, Richard and Julie
Modig, Jim and Sue
Mohd Shahir, Rohaizan
Moorhead, William
and Martha
Morgan, Scott
and Kathleen
Morse, Caleb
Mulinazzi Kempf, Teresa
Muther, Kelly
Mynsted, Anthony
and Karen
Nearby, Jane
Neises, Kimberly M
Nitz, Barbara A
Outside for a Better Inside
Patterson, Rachelle
Rasing
Phalen, Chris and Amy
Potter, Sarah
Powell, Lisa K
Preut, Mark R
Ramos, April Mae
Reardon, Sean
Redeemer Lutheran
Church
Renfro, Rick, Nancy,
Spencer and Taylor
Reynolds, Jodie
Riggins, William
and Stacy
Roberson, Jayci R
Robinson, Linda and Scott
Roblee, Kathryn
Romito, Joanna
Roper, John and Valerie
Rose, Jordan S
Rose, Norma
Rossillon, Sarah E
Schmitz, WM L
and C Dianne
Schreiner, Brenda
Schrock, Lois and John
Scotten, Joshua Michael

Shankel, Delbert
and Carol
Sheldon, Jan and
Jim Sherman
Shockley, Amanda
Simon, Heidi
Slade, Sherry and Norman
Smith, Rebecca
Stancilffe, Jaime
Steeple, Tammy and Don
Stella, Elise
Stephens, Douglas
and Ladonna
Stone, Tammy Christine
Summers, Diane
Swarts, Margene
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Delta
Terry, Regina
Tham Yuen San, Sarah
Thomas, Lynisha S
Thomas, S Dianne
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Yoder, Kim and Denis
Ziegler, Jann
Ziegler, Kenneth

FRIENDS (up to \$99)

Abeita, Sara
Adams, John and Janet
Aguirre, Rosina I
Ahlvers, Staci Noel
Akkerman, Susan Ann
Albertson Sears, Jolynn
Alpha Delta Kappa
Andersen, Michelle E
Anderson, Belinda May
Anderson, Charlotte Ann
Anderson, Jill A
Anderson, Kristen
Elizabeth
Anderson, Phyllis
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Bateman, Jane
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Bennett, Michael
Black, Rhonda
Bland, Megan M
Bolick, Zak and Jo Marie
Bonilla, Jennifer L
Bonnewell, Tiffany Maria
Booker, Breanna Nicole
Boone Salazar, Daniel
Boston, Buddy and Nancy
Boydston, Ben and Kay
Boyle, Julie
Britton, Jeffrey
Broers, Janet and Harley
Budde, Chip and Sueanna
Byers, Lori K
Caffey, Christine
Carlson, Christina
Carson, Kady
Carter, Morgan L
Casteel, Carol L
Chapman, Marci R
Chavez, Dionne J
Cigler, Allan and Beth
Clarkson, Jennifer K
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Smith, Dorcas L
Smith, Manda Louise

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Stoltenberg, Katherine
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*Thank you, too, to all
of our anonymous
community and
school district donors.*

*All efforts have been
made to make this report
as accurate as possible.
If you find an error
or omission, please
accept our apology
and notify us at
785-330-1941.*

Financials

	2024	Last Five Years
DONATED		
Via campaigns and events	\$ 242,781	\$ 1,028,683
For specific district betterment programs	\$ 400,650	\$ 2,831,686
FUNDS		
For grants, programs, and awards	\$ 284,926	\$ 2,642,466
For scholarships	\$ 56,161	\$ 409,582

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2024 is available on request.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PAM BUSHOUSE, 2001 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING/BOBS AWARD RECIPIENT

After receiving the Bobs Award, I continued to teach at Lawrence Free State High School until the spring of 2006. At that time, I felt that I wanted to leave before most of my students wanted me to leave. I felt the need to learn something completely different. That need led to my becoming a realtor. It was indeed a different world.

As a realtor, I was introduced to the world of business, working with adults who were going through change. I hope that I was able to help my clients through what can be a very stressful situation, with grace and wisdom. I continued my involvement in music by conducting the Choristers, a preparatory choir for the Lawrence Children’s Choir, for several more years. I also maintained a private voice studio until COVID-19 hit in 2020. After that, I decided that my music days were complete. (I do miss them.)

In retirement, David and I have the freedom to visit our daughters. Katie and her husband, Michael, who live in Shaker Heights, Ohio, have given us three grandchildren: Henry, Lucy, and Maggie. They bring us so much joy! Kristen and her husband, Joe, who live in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, have given us granddog Millie, and grandcats Mable and Roy. They, too, bring joy! I live in Tallgrass Creek, a retirement village in Overland Park. David and I moved here last December. It is quite different from living in a single-family home in Lawrence, but we are blessed to be in an apartment with many amenities and many new friends. Life is good.



The Bobs Award continues to be a source of validation for my teaching career. It came at a time when I was questioning my next step. Teaching can be beyond stressful. When one is as detail-oriented as I am, the need for perfection can be exhausting. My students gave me so much energy, and I loved them to the moon, but I always questioned myself about whether I was giving them enough. The Bobs Award said that I was. The money was lovely, but the award itself — and the clock, which I look at every single day — were the most important things.

I hope the Bobs Award never goes away. It truly changes lives! Thank you, Bobs (past, present, and future), forever and ever!

Pam Bushouse formed four choirs at Free State High School when it opened in 1997

Ways to be involved

TAKE THE LEAP!

Does your business or community organization want to partner with a local school? Join the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) program! Your business or organization will get to know your neighborhood or area school, learning about their unique challenges and cheering them on. You may choose to donate classroom supplies, volunteer to tutor or mentor kids, help out at school events or make monetary or in-kind donations. Many LEAP partners also sponsor Lawrence Schools Foundation signature events.



To sign up for LEAP or learn more, scan this code with your phone, call 785-330-1854 or email jsinclai@usd497.org.

ENDOWMENT

An endowment is one of the most powerful ways you can support Lawrence Public Schools. Annual income generated by an endowment provides a continuous, reliable resource stream for the future. Endowed funds guarantee that Lawrence Schools Foundation will be able to provide core support for its mission, particularly as federal and state support for higher education falls.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

You may donate in memory of a loved one. At your request, your gift can benefit the general fund of the Foundation or be designated for a special purpose, program, or fund. Please contact us to discuss memorial gift options.

SCHOLARSHIP/ DONOR-INSPIRED FUNDS

Lawrence Schools Foundation administers more than 60 scholarship funds and 30 designated funds. You may contribute to one that is already established, or choose to establish a new fund. Please contact the foundation for guidelines on how to establish a new fund or to receive information about current funds.

PLANNED GIVING

The joy of philanthropy can be yours, no matter how wealthy, healthy, young, or old you are. If you are passionate about education and see the far-reaching impact your planned gift can have, your gift of any size will help ensure your good works outlive you and enrich the education of young lives in Lawrence Public Schools. Please take the time to plan your estate — you may be surprised to learn how many ways you can give and benefit financially today.

- Bequests through wills
 - Memorial & endowments
 - Charitable Gift Annuities
 - Life insurance
 - Real estate
 - Appreciated stock
 - Charitable Trusts
 - Retirement accounts & pension plans
- We recommend that you talk with your attorney and/or financial advisor for additional details on how to get started!

FUND A NEED

Lawrence Schools Foundation has provided **more than \$550,000** in funding to our district students and families in need since 2018 through the Classroom Angel Network, or I C.A.N. program. Some children in our community are without running water or a mattress on which to sleep. Others are without shoes, socks, underwear or maybe even toothpaste. Our goal is to make sure our school social workers, counselors, nurses and psychologists have funds available to meet immediate and emergency needs such as these so students can come to school clean, confident and ready to learn.



To donate to the I C.A.N. Fund or another Lawrence Schools Foundation program, scan this code with your phone or visit LawrenceSchoolsFoundation.org and click Donate Now. You may donate any amount to the area of greatest need or to the project of your choice.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Please check to see if your employer has a matching gifts program. All or a portion of your donation may be matched.

Employees of USD 497 can support our schools and students directly through payroll deduction. Your contribution helps create meaningful opportunities for students across the district. Every dollar makes a difference — and your involvement matters.

ARE YOU A BOB?

More than 25 years ago a group of civic leaders who share the same first name, "Bob," created the Excellence in Teaching award through Lawrence Schools Foundation. The benefactors choose to remain anonymous to focus attention on the recipients. Presented annually, the award honors a teacher who exemplifies extraordinary instruction skills, reflects commitment to quality education and dedication to teaching, focuses on individual student achievement, and administers to the whole child. It comes with a check for \$10,000 as a gift for the educator to use as they wish. Nominations for this award can be made by parents, students, colleagues, alumni, and community members. Since 1997, the Bobs have donated nearly \$400,000 for this effort.

For more information

Call the Foundation office at 785-330-1941, or visit LawrenceSchoolsFoundation.org.

Or write to us at:
Lawrence Schools Foundation
110 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044

Lawrence Schools Foundation
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We say thank you.

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