

2024

YEAR BOOK



JANUARY
2024

Lincoln Northwest High School Theatre was just a couple of years old when it began building its foundation. As a new school, the theatre department was challenged to create high-quality productions without the decades of accumulated resources that established programs often enjoy. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, a Fund a Need campaign provided nearly \$3,500 to purchase essential materials for costumes, props, and scenery.

That initial support had a profound impact. Northwest's award-winning performance of Lafayette No. 1 earned them first place in the Class B district one-act competition and "Outstanding Technical Crew" recognition. It propelled them to an impressive fourth-place finish at the NSAA State Play Production Championships.

But the story doesn't end there. As Jenna Williamson, Lincoln Northwest Theatre Technician, shared at the time, "The support and generosity of the donors helped set up our one-act season for success, as well as the continuation of building our theatre department for years to come at Lincoln Northwest." That initial investment has continued to pay dividends, laying the groundwork for further growth and success. Contributions through their Fund a Need are now part of the program's history and are helping shape its future.

Looking ahead, Lincoln Northwest Theatre continues to build on this momentum. The continued support of donors has been instrumental in establishing a strong foundation for these young artists to reach even greater heights.

Donors help Lincoln Northwest Theatre Soar to New Heights



MARCH
2024



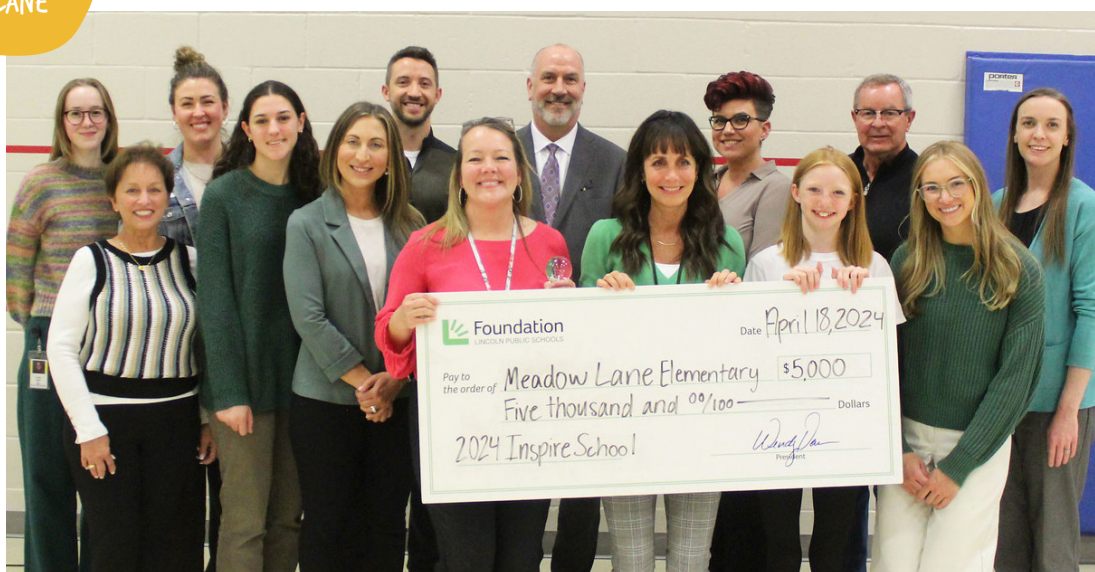
INSPIRE AWARDS
by the Foundation for LPS

MEADOW LANE ELEMENTARY FOSTERS COMMUNITY

Wins 2024 Inspire School of the Year



Daniele Schulzkump
PRINCIPAL AT MEADOW LANE



There is power in a strong school community's ability to transform learning. In 2024, the Foundation for LPS was inspired by the work happening at Meadow Lane Elementary, which won the Inspire School of the Year award. Meadow Lane's story was a testament to the impact of intentional efforts to foster connection, leadership, and consistent support for every student.

Faced with the challenge of creating a more positive and productive learning environment, the Meadow Lane team embarked on a transformational journey. They introduced the Mustang Mentors program, pairing students across grade levels to build self-esteem and a sense of belonging. Students also took on active roles within the school, from line walkers to reading buddies, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

However, the change wasn't just about programs but a shift in approach. Meadow Lane implemented consistent behavior management strategies, including renewed staff training, monthly "Kid Talk" problem-solving meetings, and dedicated "chill" spots in every classroom to support student regulation.

The results spoke for themselves. Out-of-school suspensions decreased dramatically, from ten in the first half of the 2023-24 school year to just three during the same period in 2024-25. This data reflected a deeper shift: a more positive school climate where students were supported, connected, and empowered.

The Foundation for LPS was proud to recognize Meadow Lane with a \$5,000 grant for their achievement and celebrated their dedication to creating a thriving learning environment for all.

APRIL
2024

Educator Awards

Pam Hale

PRINCIPAL AT NORWOOD PARK

Every great school has a heart, and often, that heart beats strongest in the principal's office. It's a truth that donor Glenn Friendt understood deeply. Reflecting on the profound impact his own principal had on countless lives, Glenn and his wife, Janice, established the Marie Bourke Leadership Award. "When I think of it," Glenn shared, "the impact that my principal had indirectly on so many lives...we do a lot to honor teachers, and rightly so, but there is someone in there that the students don't know about that makes school work, or makes it work really well. And that is a principal."

This award recognizes the often-unseen work of school leaders who cultivate positive environments for students and teachers to thrive. In 2024, that honor went to Pam Hale, Principal at Norwood Park. Pam's dedication to her school, the individuals she mentored, and the culture of leadership she fostered made her a clear choice for the award.

When Pam received the news, she was surprised and deeply honored. But more than personal recognition, she was overjoyed to share the celebration with her staff, recognizing that their collective efforts were what truly made a difference in the lives of their students.

The Marie Bourke Leadership Award is just one of the ways the Foundation for LPS honors inspiring educators and leaders. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the Foundation recognizes up to twenty educators each spring, celebrating teachers, counselors, school nurses, principals, and more. Nominations for the 2025 educator awards are open through the end of February 2025, giving the community a chance to shine a light on the dedicated individuals who make a difference daily.



MAY
2024



Lincoln's Masonic Family pays off \$19,000 in School Lunch Debt

This generous gift covered over half the accrued lunch debt for all elementary schools in Lincoln. Such a massive difference has been made in our community - **THANK YOU!**



3,200
FIFTH
GRADERS

Dogs at the 'Dogs'

A DISTRICT-WIDE 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

It takes a village to send 3,200 fifth graders to a baseball game, and on May 20, 2024, the Lincoln community proved they were up to the challenge. Every fifth grader in Lincoln Public Schools enjoyed a day at Haymarket Park watching the Lincoln Saltdogs, thanks to the collective efforts of many. Generous donations were made through the Foundation for LPS crowdfunding platform, Fund a Need, to provide \$5 coupons for each student, ensuring everyone could enjoy a ballpark snack. This annual tradition is a highlight for fifth graders as they prepare for middle school, and it wouldn't be possible without the dedication of countless teams. Fundraising for the 2025 field trip is already in full swing!



JUNE/JULY
2024



SPARK SUMMER CAMP IGNITES YOUNG MINDS WITH STEAM

From pollinators to moon landers, Spark Summer Camp launched young imaginations on a STEAM-powered adventure. The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools' program transformed nine weeks of summer into a hands-on learning experience for first through fifth graders.

One highlight included a trip to the Schramm Education Center in Gretna, where campers studied bird beaks and behaviors before designing and constructing their own species-specific bird feeders. This "If You Build It, They Will Come" week perfectly encapsulated Spark's mission: to bring STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) to life through engaging, hands-on activities.

Thanks to over \$120,000 in grants and donations, nearly half of the 400+ campers attended free of charge, making this enriching experience accessible to many. Spark isn't just a summer camp; it's an investment in the future, nurturing a love of learning and preparing the next generation of innovators.

Spark Summer 2025 Camp preparation is already well underway. The goal is to award \$150,000 in scholarships for this summer's nine-week camp. Be sure to follow @sparklincolnlearning on social media for all updates!

400 STUDENTS SERVED OVER
NINE WEEKS





BACK-TO-SCHOOL: DRESSED FOR SUCCESS THANKS TO THE CHAPIN FUND

This August, students in need across the LPS district received a boost of confidence thanks to a generous \$40,000 donation from the Jacqueline and Richard Chapin Fund. The gift, provided in gift cards, allowed students to shop for new back-to-school clothes, ensuring they started the year feeling their best.

Working in partnership with the Foundation for LPS, the Chapin family facilitated this significant contribution, giving students the empowering experience of choosing their own new outfits for the school year. Richard Chapin firmly believed that being "dressed to impress" is essential to feel your best and do your best. This gift embodies that belief, helping students start the year ready for success.

AUGUST
2024



SEPTEMBER
2024

Dr. John Neal joins the Foundation for LPS as Interim President



You wouldn't expect to find a newly retired educator leading a major foundation, but Dr. John Neal did just that.

Fresh off a distinguished 22-year career with LPS, culminating in his role as associate superintendent for civic engagement, Dr. Neal wasn't exactly looking for another full-time gig. But when the Foundation called, he answered. With 38 years in public education under his belt—including time as a principal, director of secondary education, adjunct professor at Doane University, and consultant with the Nebraska Association for School Boards—Dr. Neal brought a wealth of experience to the table. He was a familiar face, a trusted voice, and a pillar of the Lincoln community.

"We are grateful to Dr. Neal for stepping into this role," said James Walbridge, Foundation for LPS Board Chair. "Dr. Neal's relationship with LPS and our community will greatly benefit our board and staff."

But it wasn't just his impressive resume that made Dr. Neal the right fit. As Kass Mounce, Director of Development, explains, his leadership style has been a breath of fresh air.

"Since stepping into the role of interim president, John has exemplified leadership," Mounce shared. "He is an excellent listener, curious, and genuinely interested in understanding the team's needs and challenges. John's thoughtful leadership will leave a lasting impression on the Foundation."

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KASS MOUNCE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Dr. John Neal



A Winning Partnership for LPS Student-Athletes



Thanks to the unwavering support of the Lincoln community and Chesterman Coca-Cola's generous partnership, over \$8,000 was disbursed between the eight LPS high schools. These funds were sent to each high school athletic department to provide essential resources for student-athletes and enrich their extracurricular experiences.

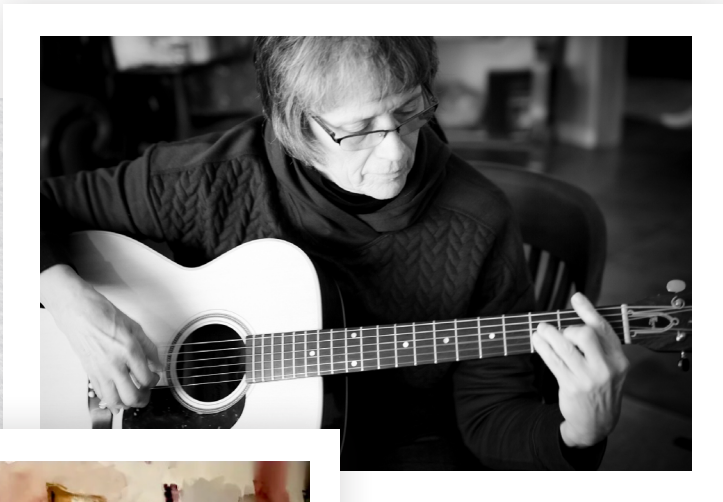
"We were grateful to team up with B&R stores to raise funds for the benefit of LPS athletic departments," said Brian Gilliland, Chesterman Coca-Cola, General Manager Greater Nebraska. "At Chesterman Co. Coca-Cola, we strongly believe in making the communities we serve better places to live. We're proud of our partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and the Foundation for LPS, and we will continue to find ways to show our support. Our recent Powerade Program with B&R Stores demonstrates our commitment to LPS, and we're excited for even more to come.

And "more to come" is exactly what they meant. This initial success story is the beginning of an ongoing partnership powered by community support. Chesterman has again joined forces with B&R Stores and the Foundation for LPS to raise even more money for LPS athletics. Until the end of February 2025, every eight-pack of 12-ounce Body Armor or Powerade purchased at Super Savers or Russ' Markets in town translates to two dollars directly supporting LPS student-athletes in need. This expanded effort promises to make an even greater impact on the lives of young athletes in Lincoln.



Spark Receives \$100,000 Grant from Google

"The generous donation from Google will allow Spark to invest in our current programming to ensure students are engaged and excited about STEAM learning." Lindsay Rogers, Director of Programming and Spark at the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools.



Lynne Faulkner Art Experiences Memorial Fund

A field trip to a museum, a gallery, or a live performance can be a pivotal moment in a young person's life, sparking a lifelong love of the arts. Lynne Faulkner understood this deeply. A dedicated teacher and artist, Lynne, a 1971 graduate of St. Patrick's High School in North Platte and a 1988 MFA graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, shared her passion for art through her teaching and her own vibrant creations. Her caring nature and dedication to her students inspired them to develop their artistic talents. In her honor, her six brothers established a fund to provide students with these very opportunities.

Lynne's Fund covers the cost of field trips that bring art to life, offering students hands-on experiences that enhance their understanding and appreciation of various art forms. These trips, whether to a museum, gallery, artist workshop, or performance, provide invaluable exposure to the art world.

Just as Lynne's teaching inspired countless students, this fund, created in her memory, will continue to inspire future generations. Donations to Lynne's Fund directly support these enriching field trips, ensuring that students have access to experiences that can shape their lives and foster a lifelong love of the arts.



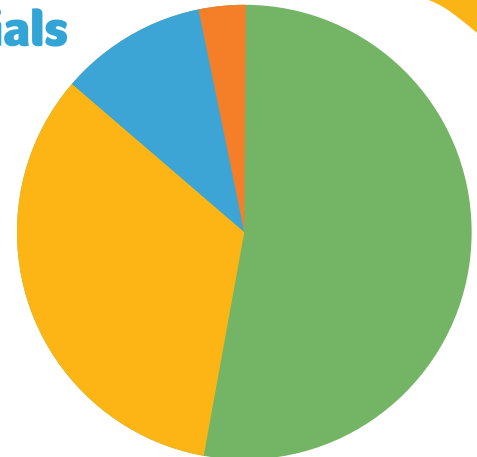
We are deeply grateful to the following individuals who chose to honor their memory by including the Foundation for LPS as a beneficiary of their memorial gifts. Their commitment to education will continue to inspire and empower LPS students:



In Memory Of	Fund
Ann Nickerson	Inspiring Dreams Student Emergency Fund
Christine Irvin	Prescott Christine Irvin Special Education Fund
Deb Clinton Sesow	Bill and Deb Sesow Memorial Scholarship Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel (LARSP) Scholarship
Gary Reber	LPS Gary Reber Memorial Student Assistance Fund
Jan Weyhrauch	Dr. William Weyhrauch Scholarship Fund
Judge Donald R. Grant	Irving Middle School Fund for Excellence LHS Donald R. Grant Memorial Theatre Fund LHS Donald R. Grant Speech & Debate Fund
Kathleen "Kay" Green	Inspiring Dreams
Lauren "Bud" Holcombe	Inspiring Dreams
Lynne Faulkner	Lynne Faulkner Art Experience Memorial Fund
Coach Mark Watt	LSW Coach Mark Watt Scholarship
Matthew Leach	LNS Matthew Leach Unified Scholarship
Nancy Winseman	Inspiring Dreams
Paul Forch	LEH Paul and Anne Forch Science Scholarship
Phyllis Royer	Kahoa Elementary Fund for Excellence
Robert "Bob" Els	Funds Pending Designation
Robert "Bob" Rokeby	Inspiring Dreams Student Drivers Education Fund
Shirley Larson	Shirley Larson Fine Arts Scholarship Lincoln Area Retired School Personnel (LARSP) Scholarship
Zane Maltas	LSW Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

FY 23-24 Financials

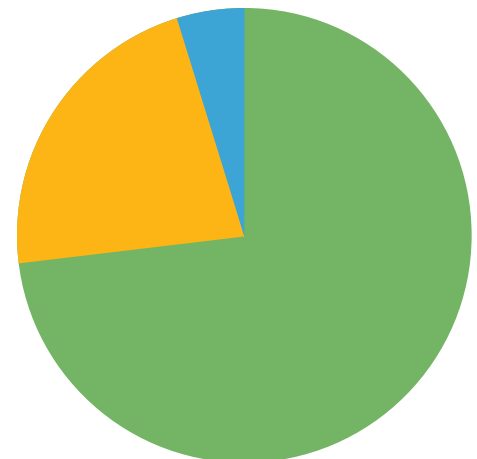
INCOME



- Contributions: \$3,444,696
- Invested Income: \$2,175,023
- Grants: \$696,570
- Programs/Other: \$199,904

Total Received: \$6,516,193

EXPENSES



- Programs, Scholarships, Grants & Awards: \$2,236,819
- General Admin: \$679,943
- Fundraising: \$135,741

Total Disbursed: \$3,052,503

CURRENT BOARD OFFICERS

James Walbridge // Chair
Kris Baack, Ph.D. // Chair-Elect
Alex Cassidy // Secretary
Karli Mackley // Treasurer

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Sarah Wischhof



Natalia Wiita Named New President

We're excited to announce Natalia Wiita, the new President of the Foundation for LPS, effective February 18th. Natalia brings 25 years of experience to Lincoln, including leadership roles in media, marketing, and business development, most notably as the former president and publisher of the Lincoln Journal Star. A dedicated community advocate, she's served on the Foundation's board for the past five years and is passionate about supporting Lincoln Public Schools students and educators.

"I am deeply honored and excited to have been selected, and as I step into this role, I am inspired by the Foundation's mission and its critical impact on Lincoln Public Schools' students, staff, and families," shared Natalia.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NATALIA TO THE TEAM

Thank you to our organizational partners!

The Foundation for LPS thanks these partners who are opening doors for our kids—today and tomorrow.

See the individuals who gave \$250+ in 2023-2024 at:



Acklie Charitable Foundation
Allo Communications
Ameritas
April's Kids
Art F/X Screenprinting
Ash Hollow Advisory Group
Assurity
Bettenhausen Family Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska
Cattle Bank & Trust
Chesterman Co.
CL Werner Foundation
Cotner Lodge No. 297, A.F. & A.M.
Craftsmen Lodge #314 AF & AM
D F Dillon Foundation
Dolezal Family Foundation
Duncan Family Trust
ERDI Partners Inc
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Harbor of Dreams Foundation
Heritage League Lincoln
Hugo A. and Thelma Aspegren Trust
Hy-Vee
inMOTION Auto Care

James Huntington Foundation
James Stuart III Family Foundation
Kiwanis Club Foundation of Lincoln
Labcorp Charitable Foundation
Lancaster County Community Corrections
Lancaster County Human Services
Lancaster Lodge No. 54 AF&AM
Lee and Debbie Stuart Family Foundation
Lincoln Babe Ruth Baseball Association
Lincoln Chapter #6 Royal Arch Masons
Lincoln Community Foundation
Lincoln East Student Council
Lincoln Industries
Lincoln North Star Student Council
Lincoln Scottish Rite
M.A. Mortenson Company
Mark T. & Margaret L. Seacrest Family Charitable Foundation
MidwayUSA Foundation Inc.
Miriam Moeller Charitable Trust
Morley Elementary School PTO
MT Moriah Commandery 4 K T
NAI FMA Realty, Inc.

Nebraska Community Foundation
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Nelnex Foundation
NGC Group, Inc.
Olsson
Olsson Family Foundation
Optimist Club of Lincoln
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Pace Woods Foundation
Pinnacle Bank
Raybould Family Foundation
Robert D. Carstens Charitable Trust
Roper Elementary
Sampson Construction Co. Inc.
Schmieding Foundation Inc.
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