



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Prepared by :

**FOUNDATION
FOR SPS**

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#SUPPORTSPS

supportSPS.org

A Message from Leadership



Natalie Murdock

FSPS Executive Director

Full Steam Ahead!

Each year while we compile the annual report, I take an opportunity to reflect on the many great things that have happened over the last 12 months. I love that process!

I love to reflect, look ahead, make adjustments, and then move forward, full steam ahead. Today, I'm most excited about moving ahead. What does the future hold? How can we provide opportunities for the students of Springfield Public Schools? How can our community help?

I am exceptionally proud of the people that work alongside me at the Foundation. Our staff team, our board of directors, and the donors that make it all possible. I can't remember a time when I've been more excited about what the future holds.

- Through a partnership with Springfield Public Schools the SPS Ambassadors Program continues to grow community members who participate into community advocates who promote public education.
- Through the Alumni Connection program we are giving SPS alumni the opportunity to stay "in the know" about their alma mater and the ways they can support current students.
- In just a few months, we will launch a new fundraising campaign, all about how much we love our schools, stay tuned for that!

Everything we do at the Foundation is about moving us forward. Thinking long-term, about the future of our students, and the students that come after. You are helping us move forward. You are helping us move the needle. You are helping us keep students engaged. I am grateful to have the support of a community that still believes in our students!

I hope you will stay with us on this journey as we move full steam ahead! I can't wait to see what the future holds for our students!

Natalie Murdock
Executive Director

Our Best Team

Together, they work to help provide additional needs and resources for the 24,500 students in SPS.

Lori Finke

Program Director



Lillian Passeri

Administrative Coordinator

Focus Area: Raise

In 2023, the FSPS continued its mission of raising critical funds to provide additional needs and resources for Springfield Public Schools. Through the generous support of donors and community partners, we funded impactful projects across the district. These efforts are a testament to the generosity of the Springfield community.

\$1,817,925
Total Raised

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

\$442,773

Foundation

\$216,191

FSPS Programs

\$472,755

School Designated Programs

\$358,796

Permanent Fund

\$327,410

Temporary Fund

Focus Area: Raise



BACK TO SCHOOL GRANT CAMPAIGN

This program provides vital funding to help teachers and staff meet the needs of their classrooms and students at the start of the school year. Through this program, educators can apply for grants that support a wide variety of projects from classroom supplies to innovative learning experiences.

\$1,847,476
Total Dollars Raised

GALLONS FOR GROWTH

As part of our efforts to raise funds for the Back to School Grant Campaign, our friends at Kum & Go partnered with us for Gallons for Growth. This fundraising event was held on Thursday, July 27. Kum & Go donated 5 cents for every gallon of gas sold to the Back to School Grant Campaign. Plus, Pepsi Co donated 5 cents for every 20oz Pepsi product sold throughout the entire month of July! **This campaign raised \$10,504 to support educators.**



#GIVEBACK DAY

#GiveBACK Day is an annual day of giving that brings the community together to support educators in Springfield Public Schools. On this special day, individuals and businesses are encouraged to donate money throughout the day, with the potential to double their gift during power hours, to support classroom projects in SPS. #GiveSPS Day raised \$8,035 for the Back to School Grant Campaign.

Focus Area: Raise

EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN

Each year, Springfield Public Schools staff comes together to raise funds and awareness for both the Foundation for SPS and United Way of the Ozarks through the district's Pay It Forward employee campaign. This year, Team SPS raised over \$50,960 to support vital programs to benefit students, teachers, and families throughout the community - over \$35,063 of the raised total for the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools.



CELEBRATE SPS

The Celebrate SPS Banquet is an inspiring evening that brings together over 700 educators, community partners, and supporters of public education to recognize the outstanding work happening in SPS. This annual event serves as a major fundraiser to support the Foundation for SPS mission, highlighting the critical role public education plays in our community. This year, the event raised over \$80,000 with all proceeds benefiting public education in Springfield.



Teacher of the Year,
Betsy Cannella at Kickapoo High School



Corporate Partner of the Year
PENMAC Staffing Service



Advocate for Education
Janett Trotter



Linda Luke Librarian of the Year
Michelle Cheeney, Pipkin Middle School



Malori McGhee Rookie of the Year
Andrew Irwin, Mark Twain Elementary



Counselor of the Year
Holly Sykes, McGregor Elementary

FOCUS AREAS

Focus Area: Manage

We proudly manage a variety of endowed funds that provide long-term support for the district. These funds are carefully invested to ensure ongoing contributions towards scholarships, classroom resources, and essential programs. By managing these funds, we are able to create a lasting impact. This year two new funds were established, highlighted below.

\$8,203,975
TOTAL DOLLARS MANAGED

104	31	17
Scholarship Funds	Permanent Funds	Temporary Funds

ALTON & ELIZABETH MANNING ENDOWMENT

This endowment fund is established through a planned gift from the estate of Elizabeth M. Manning. The fund shall be named the Alton C. and Elizabeth M. Manning Endowment and funds from this endowment shall be used to benefit the students of Wilder Elementary and Reed Academy. Funds available will be split equally between each school.



JENNIFER BRYANT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Long time (20 years) Science teacher of Hillcrest High School, Jennifer Bryant, was tragically killed in a car accident during the 23-24 school year. Mrs. Bryant was a passionate Science teacher who inspired students daily, and many pursued careers in Science or Science education because of her influence. This scholarship will continue her legacy for the next generation of Hillcrest High School students by rewarding a graduating senior interested in pursuing a science or science education career.

Focus Area: Manage

TURNER READING AWARDS

Established by the Turner Family in 2002, the Turner Reading Awards recognizes five outstanding reading teachers in Springfield Public Schools each year. Recipients receive \$2,000, with \$1,000 awarded to the teacher and \$1,000 to their school. Nominations are accepted annually from co-workers, parents, and community members with finalists selected by a committee of Foundation board members and community volunteers.



2024 TURNER READING AWARD HONOREES



Abby Overton
Jarrett Middle



Bethany Foell
McGregor Elementary



Diane Noblett-Trujillo
Pipkin Middle



Sadie Bowman
Sunshine Elementary



Pamela Roberston
Truman Elementary



LINDA LUKE LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

Established in 1997 by Dr. Robert H. Luke in memory of his wife, Linda Luke, a dedicated librarian and teacher, this permanently restricted fund supports the Linda Luke Librarian of the Year Award. Each year, the award honors a librarian who demonstrates exceptional care, commitment, and innovation in their work.

This years recipient is Michelle Cheeney from Pipkin Middle School. Her innovative projects, including global read-aloud sessions and interactive lessons, have transformed Pipkin's library into a dynamic hub of exploration and learning. Her commitment to supporting both students and educators has fostered a thriving environment where curiosity and learning go hand in hand.

Focus Area: Connecting

Through our diverse programs and initiatives, the FSPS serves as a bridge between the community and our schools, fostering meaningful engagement. By connecting donors, alumni, and local partners with opportunities to support SPS and get a behind-the-scenes look at how donor dollars impact classrooms.

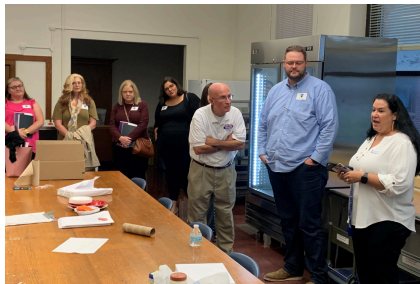
SPS AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors have the opportunity to learn more about the school district, meet with key leaders and participate in tours of schools and programs. The program is intended to deepen understanding of SPS, its employees and students. This program is a collaborative effort to engage with people who believe in public education and who want to support Springfield Public Schools.

Class 3 SPS Ambassadors: Natalie Allen, Alan Beauchamp, Jessica Bower, Phil Bridges, Alexis Brown, Wes Buchholz, Matt Campbell, Raymond Crespo, Hannah Childs, Alexis Childs, Laurie Edmondson, Deanna Diamond, Laurie Goslee, Addie Ferber, Ivy Fitzgerald, Brandy Harris, Stephanie Lewis, Shelli Luke, Bethany Marcol, Beth Mitchell, Hank Monlinengo, Katie Phillips, Taryn Raidel, Melissa Rea, Susan Smith, Anna Williams, and Alice Wingo.



Ambassadors Class 3 during their first visit. Intro to SPS.



Ambassadors touring Study Alternative School and the PTA Clothing Bank.



Visiting Academy of Exploration, Class 3 also learned more about Choice.



Active Classrooms have been funded by the FSPS. Ambassadors were able to see the impact first-hand.



Ambassadors were able to see the impact the Bond Projects are having on SPS.



Educators took Ambassadors into the classroom to showcase the impact donor dollars have.

Focus Area: Connecting

LUNCH & LEARN

This series provides an opportunity for community members and supporters to engage directly with Springfield Public Schools leaders, educators, and Foundation staff. These sessions focus on key initiatives, programs, and partnerships that impact student success.

This series is sponsored by Edward Jones, Financial Advisor: Peter Lai.



ALUMNI CONNECTION

Last year, we launched our Alumni Connection, aimed at connecting and engaging with SPS graduates from all of our high schools. This summer, we held alumni tours at each high school giving our alumni a chance to see first-hand how our buildings have changed and learn from current students about activities happening today.

If you are a graduate of SPS, stay connected by visiting our alumni page!



Central High School Alumni Tour



Glendale Alumni Tour



Hillcrest Alumni Tour



Kickapoo Alumni Tour



Parkview Alumni Tour

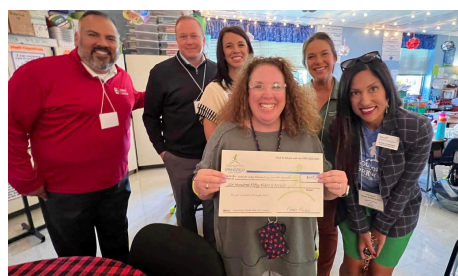
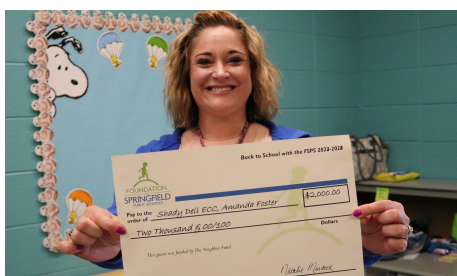
Focus Area: Award

We are proud to directly support students and educators by awarding funds through our programs, scholarships, and more! These financial contributions assist educators in the classroom, provide students with essential resources, and create opportunities for learning and growth. Every dollar awarded helps to enrich the educational experience.



BACK TO SCHOOL GRANTS

Each year, the FSPS provides support to educators as they prepare for the new school year. These grants fund a wide range of projects and classroom needs, ensuring that educators have the resources to create engaging learning environments for students. In 2023, we awarded \$192,543 105 grants, to educators across Springfield Public Schools.



Focus Area: Award



DESIGNATED GRANTS

Designated grants are funded by direct donor support of specific schools, projects and programs.

\$157,792 Awarded in 2023-2024

PICK-A-PROJECT

Pick-a-Project is a crowdfunding platform that provides an opportunity for SPS staff to campaign for classroom, club, program and other school needs. This platform allows the community to see a variety of needs that they can help support!

\$12,510 Awarded in 2023-2024



SCHOLARSHIPS

Through our scholarship program, graduating seniors apply for support for continuing education. The generosity of our donors have made it possible for the Foundation to award nearly 100 scholarships each.

\$101,800 Awarded in 2023-2024



ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

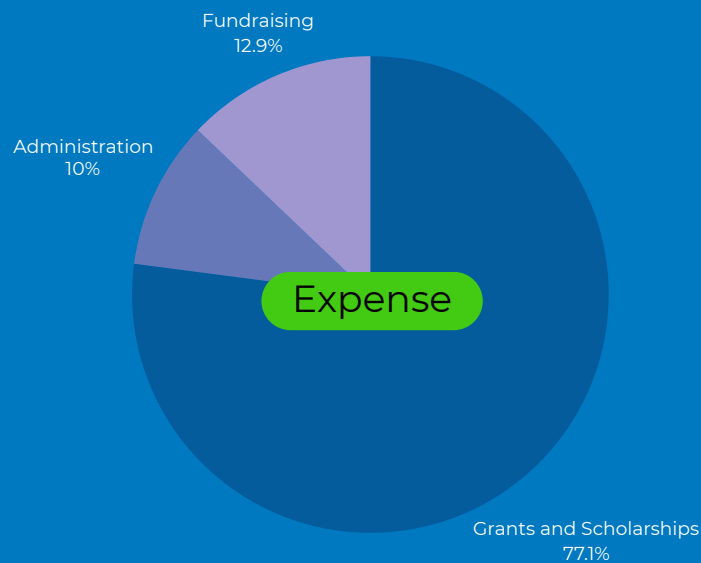
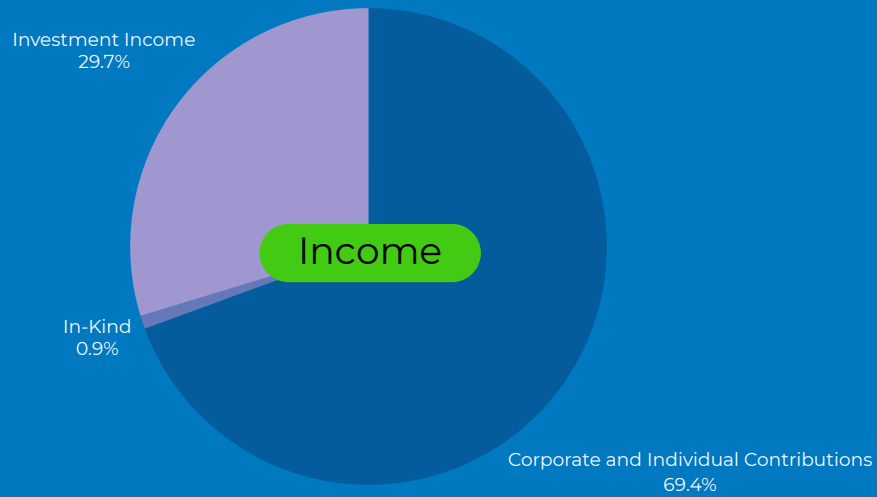
Through the many permanent and temporary funds managed by the Foundation, support for various programs, like IB and Farm to School and student needs like Pay to Ride and new coats are provided each year.

\$405,084 Awarded in 2023-2024



The Review In Year

2023-2024 Financial Statements



THANK YOU

On behalf of the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support this past year. Because of you, we've been able to provide critical resources and meet additional needs of students and educators throughout Springfield Public Schools.

Your contributions make a direct and lasting impact on the lives of our students, ensuring they have the tools and opportunities necessary to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Whether it's through grants for innovative learning projects, scholarships, or essential classroom supplies, your commitment to public education allows us to continue fulfilling our mission.

Thank you for standing with us and for investing in the future of our students. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of thousands of children, and we are deeply appreciative of your ongoing support.

