Dear Friends of DPS Foundation,

What a year it has been! Throughout the uncertainties and changes that this past school year has brought us, one thing remains constant: with our loyal donors standing behind us, DPS Foundation harnesses the strength and support of the community to ensure we reach our shared vision, Every Child Succeeds. For the first time ever, thanks to the collective support of donations large and small, we awarded eight schools funds from our $1 Million Fund, a major milestone for the foundation. The funds will be used to work towards breaking historical patterns of inequity for students. There is great intentionalilty behind this fund: each school recipient is given control over where and how best to spend the award based on the needs of their individual school. Throughout this Annual Report, you'll learn more about the great impact of this work and how schools are using the funds to make a BIG impact for students. Thank you to each of you, who helped to make this possible!

Pandemic support was prominent this year as well:

Together with partnership support from DaVita, Denver Broncos and Gates Corporation, we kept students connected, providing internet access for more than 300 students who have limited access to Wi-Fi for remote learning.

Donor generosity also ensured more than 4,000 students at 11 schools had school supplies to start the year—including items such as headphones for virtual learning or individual white boards for social distance learning.

In addition, the foundation accelerated learning by funding high-intensity 1:1 math tutoring for 100 students.

Our annual initiatives remain critical to student success. With donor and partner support including an investment from The Wallace Foundation, we continue to support social emotional learning in DPS schools through grant support along with career and college development for high schoolers as well as afterschool programs for elementary aged students. With generous funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Network for School Improvement is in its second year of a five-year grant, and continues to work to create a community of DPS high schools to leverage continuous improvement and design thinking to ensure post-secondary success for Black, Latinx, and low-income students. With DPS Foundation's grant-making program A to Z Fund, we funded 107 grants during the 2020-21 school year. These grants have been made possible since 2006 thanks to donor support and bring dollars directly to the classroom, so that educators don’t have to pay out of pocket for resources, tools and experiences. Thank you! And, there’s more! Read within to see other ways that our great community is helping to ensure progress for students for years to come.

Together, we know BIG things are possible. Thank you for entrusting us with your donation to be nimble and responsive for our students’ highest needs this past year, we know that our students’ futures are bright.

On behalf of all DPS students, thank you!

Sara Hazel, Interim President & CEO and Vice President of Development
Jeanne Saunders, Board Chair
We believe our city is strengthened by every student who graduates ready to lead a successful life.

As the strategic fundraising partner for Denver Public Schools, we invest in accelerating progress; we connect the community to our classrooms; and we inspire confidence in the promise of public education for DPS’s more than 90,000 students and more than 200 schools.

**DPS FAST FACTS**

- **61.73%** Students eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch
- **8.47%** Gifted and Talented Students
- **12.1%** Students with Disabilities

**DPS FOUNDATION INITIATIVES**

- **Career & College Readiness Program**: equips students with high-demand skills and leads to opportunities for continued education and careers
- **A to Z Fund Classroom Grants for Teachers**: provides materials, resources and opportunities that fall outside classroom budgets and has a lasting impact on students
- **Afterschool Programs**: provides safe, enriching and academically supportive afterschool programs for 13,000 DPS students every year
- **FACE Centers**: a one-stop hub that connects students, families and our community with free services to increase their economic self-sufficiency and academic success
- **Trauma-informed Practices**: The Campbell Foundation’s $1 million grant will address trauma’s long-term effects on learning, behavior and health
- **$1 Million Fund**: fueled by the generosity of our donors, this large grant-making opportunity is possible and works to break historical patterns of inequities

**DPS CELEBRATES DIVERSITY**

- **37,500** Number of students that are English Language Learners
- **170+** Languages spoken in DPS schools
- **English Language Learners in DPS now outperform their peers statewide**
Making true impact for our students and schools: This year, for the first time ever we awarded funds to schools from our $1 Million Fund. This fund was created with great intentionality—to give our schools the flexibility to determine what is most needed to make an impact for its students and to work towards mitigating inequities that persist in our communities.

$1 Million Fund Awardees Announced

Throughout this year’s annual report, we will highlight the eight different schools that were awarded funds and how they’re utilizing these funds to make an impact for students. Follow the totals to see how we fund over $1 million!
The DPS Foundation awarded eight schools funds from its $1 Million Fund, a major milestone for the foundation which will work to break historical patterns of inequity for students, with a total award amount of $1,116,680. This allows schools the flexibility to determine where the dollars are best needed to move the needle for student success.

**OVERALL STUDENT IMPACT**

2,842 students expected to be served across all awarded schools

How did this opportunity become possible?
This fund has been an accumulation of unrestricted donations from donors who trust us to determine the best use of their donations. Fueled by the generosity of our donors, this funding opportunity is possible. This fund encompasses what the DPS Foundation stands for— together and with the support of our donors, our students and our city will thrive. Whether you give $10, $100, $1,000 and beyond, every single dollar is crucial in making this $1 Million Fund a reality for our schools. We must all work together to ensure every student graduates ready to lead a successful life. **THANK YOU to all donors for making this important work possible!**

**THE NEED**

We received **35 applications** totaling **more than $10 million** of requests. This is something we plan to continue to support in the years ahead.

**ACADEMY 360**

The $1 Million Fund support will be used to implement Phase 3 of Academy 360’s (A360) School-Based Whole-Family Supports model. This entails hiring a Whole Family Supports Coordinator who will develop and implement a data-driven strategy to connect A360 families with resources that meet their physical and mental health needs. This person will coordinate services across multiple providers and will track the impact of these supports on academic, social-emotional, and family-involvement outcomes.

“To address the health disparities and achievement gaps that disproportionately impact the population it serves, A360’s vision is to set a new precedent for how a school partners with community. Its school leaders know that children today–especially children negatively affected by historic and present day inequities–need much more than a quality academic program to succeed. A360 believes that for students to lead healthy and fulfilling lives, the physical and mental health needs of kids and their families must be met.”

–Educator, Academy 360

$147,243 TOTAL

210 STUDENTS SERVED

$147,243 AWARDED
The $1 Million Fund support will be used to fund the construction of a greenhouse that will serve as a lab space to provide hands-on learning experiences to 6-12th grade students at Bruce Randolph and complete the buildout of the brand new AgConnect Pathways (a Career & College Success program).

“We are thrilled to be receiving the $1 Million Fund award at Bruce Randolph School. This grant will be used to fund the construction of a greenhouse. Our goal is to address systemic inequalities in health food access, while providing workforce development opportunities in Sustainable Urban agriculture, food systems, and STEM related industries.”
—Melissa Boyd, Principal, Bruce Randolph School

Films for the Future, initially launched in 2018, is a DPS Foundation fundraising event that seeks to educate the community. It creates a space where we can shine light on relevant topics related to education while we strive to learn and grow together alongside topic experts so we can better understand and support today’s issues.

On November 17 and 18, DPS Foundation brought more than 150 community members together virtually to shine light on racism through its Films for the Future event. The event started with an at-home screening of the Point Made Learning documentary I’m Not Racist…Am I? which highlights a diverse group of teens through a year-long exploration to get at the heart of racism, with an intentional focus on equity and what it means to be anti-racist.

Catherine Wigginton Greene, DPS alum from George Washington High School Class of 1995 and filmmaker talked about her own experiences as a DPS student and what has—and also hasn’t—changed since she graduated more than 20 years ago. She said, “I was seeing things around the school, a framework, that no one ever gave us a chance to talk about. We parked our cars in different lots, everything from where we ate, who we spent time with…my world was still quite white. When I went back and showed the film for the first time in Denver at George Washington, the kids were talking about the same exact things that were going on when I was there. One thing I noticed is the kids are ready to talk about it now. It was a really passionate discussion and heartening that DPS was having these conversations.”
We heard from former student in the film and panelist, Abigail Jean-Baptiste, who is biracial, about how growing up she always felt uncomfortable talking about race. Abigail joined the event for a behind the scenes discussion to provide additional insight to the film and its impact. “These are conversations that every single human being has to have if we want to reach racial justice and equality in our lives. It's going to be hard but everyone's going to come out in a better place. Racial justice is so important and it's events like this that will start to get us there. These are the kind of conversations that are going to fight white supremacy.”

On February 18, our community gathered after watching, Without A Net: The Digital Divide In America, and to watch the premiere of Connecting in a Digital World, the DPS Foundation’s first ever short documentary. We then heard from a panel of experts about digital connection in DPS and across the U.S. that shone the light on the importance of equitable technology education in America's public schools. We heard from DPS students and educators about what remote learning has been like for them, along with the importance of technology and access in DPS schools.

“We have witnessed a paradigm shift in education. It was a trajectory that we were already on, moving to technology in classroom and at home but it was accelerated when we went home in March of 2020 when we were all expected to learn how to use tech at home.”
—Lara Hussain, Director of MyTech, DPS

On May 25, we gathered virtually for Films for the Future: Raising the Curtain on Mental Health. The short documentary, Kids in Crisis: You’re Not Alone tugged on our heartstrings while showing us how resilient youth can be when they seek help and identify healthy coping mechanisms. We learned so much from our mental health panelists including suicide warning signs, triggers and how to talk to your child about suicide and self-harm.

A big thank you to educators and student Juanita Hurtado, a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School who guided us through a thoughtful conversation. Juanita shared, “I think we’re on our way to eliminate the stigma around mental health. The first step is what we are doing right now: acknowledging it, talking about it and teaching kids how to handle it. One of biggest issues is we know mental health exists, but we don’t know how to cope with it and how to react. If you are talking about it, you are doing a great job. And the next big step is to learn and how else can you help.”

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“Parents might be working multiple jobs, and need siblings to help younger students with remote learning.”
—Tiffany Williams, Assistant Principal, Rocky Mountain Prep, Creekside
Culturally Responsive Education: At this event we heard from educators and students about how the district is working to become more culturally responsive and what can be done to ensure students of color feel supported. In Culturally Responsive Classrooms in DPS, educators cultivate meaningful relationships with students and families. Educators who are culturally responsive consistently communicate high expectations and empower students to drive their learning, and facilitate rigorous instruction that validates and authentically incorporates students’ lived and historical experiences. This helps to ensure that all students succeed and become socially conscious contributing individuals. Kaliah, sophomore at DMLK Jr. Early College shared the work she and her peers are doing with Know Justice, Know Peace a podcast that was created following the killing of George Floyd as a way to express their thoughts and feelings.

KALIAH SHARED,
“Our goal is to bridge the gap between the generations and educate people who are willing to listen to our perspectives as Black female student activists. We hope to encourage other people and students to be agents of change and be the change their community may need.”

A to Z Fund at Cowell Elementary: At this event we gathered for a virtual tour of the classroom featuring an example of what is made possible for our students, thanks to support of A to Z Fund Classroom Grants for Teachers. While COVID-19 has changed so many things about where and how students are learning, it has not changed the dedication of our teachers or the need for funding to support their innovative ideas for expanding learning. This past year, the educators who received A to Z Fund Classroom Grants have shown us ideas for creative learning and a dedication to inclusion and equity like never before. Educators at Cowell Elementary were particularly creative and showed an intentional focus on equity, using their A to Z Fund dollars to virtually bring in a Black male mentor to provide a role model and positive racial identity to their Black students. During our time together, we heard from Cowell Elementary’s Senior Team Lead & Reading Interventionist Angela Govig about the impact of this support and the school’s intentional focus on equity:

Angela shared, “Over the summer, my school was working on a Black Excellence Plan. Since my school does not have any Black classroom teachers, I wanted to provide our students with a Black mentor. Research shows having a positive racial identity really motivates students academically, and I really wanted to do something to support equity to help narrow the gap for our students of color. I reached out to Kellindo and asked if he would be willing to be a monthly mentor to the classrooms with Black students along with conducting a monthly small group for the third through fifth grade Black students. This mentorship has brought so much joy to our school. Our students constantly ask why he chose them and feel so special that he is coming to our school. We started with just the classrooms that have Black students, but the teachers and students were so excited about the meetings that word spread and we’ve included other classrooms each month.”

This effort is keeping students excited and engaged: “I have four Black students in my class and representation is so important. Thank you for showcasing Black joy and success. I know it is something they will remember for the rest of their lives!”
**Career and College Readiness:** At this event, we provided an insider perspective on how the district is supporting equity by focusing on improving outcomes for low-income children and students of color, made possible by philanthropic support.

In October 2019, DPS Foundation was awarded a five-year, $10 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of its Networks for School Improvement portfolio. The College Ready On Track Network for School Improvement is a community of DPS high schools and central office teams leveraging continuous improvement and design thinking to ensure post-secondary success for Black, Latinx, and low-income students. During our time together we heard from Alan Coverstone, Program Officer at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation about the vision for this portfolio, and learnings so far at a national level. We then heard from educators about how the work in their Cohorts is going so far, thanks to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation support:

“We developed change ideas based on our findings from student and family focus groups. We first expanded course studies in social studies by adding a financial literacy class and a Black Lives Matter course. We also worked to increase community engagement and are continuing to provide ways to engage with our school community. This has been a journey of 1,000 miles and we have much more work to do. We also know we are not on this journey alone. We collaborate with other cohort schools and celebrate successes as they come. We are at the beginning of a journey that will have an everchanging destination because students need change. We'll continue to be adaptive and responsive to our students and respond to needs as they come. We don't have all the answers but are committed to keeping our students proud so we are a more inclusive and safe school.”

—Rhianna Burroughs, Assistant Principal, West Early College

The $1 Million Fund support will be used to turn the Fairview Community Garden into a dynamic outdoor space for experiential learning, student wellbeing, and vital source for food. Professional development and curriculum building will help Fairview use the food garden for enhanced learning in STEM and development of language skills with the intent of sharing best practices across the district. We will invest in seating, shade, lighting, and provide food and material supplies for sensory learning.

“The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies, it is the same about learning. The Denver Urban Garden project has instilled and will continue to instill a lifelong passion for our students here at Fairview.”

—Ana M. Garcia, Restorative Practice Coordinator, Family Liaison, Fairview Elementary

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**$447,243 TOTAL**

**550 STUDENTS SERVED**

**$150,000 AWARDED**
The $1 Million Fund support will be used to build and develop an anti-racist teaching block where students and teachers choose different science and social studies topics to learn and teach aligned to interest and passion. These modules would be designed to build real world skills and open students’ minds to different perspectives.

“The $1 Million Fund has been critical to implementing a social justice block at Johnson Elementary. This is a time where teachers weave in opportunities for students to inquire about the world, take multiple perspectives, and tie what they are learning in core content areas to their lives. Our third graders are connecting their literacy unit on access to books to exploring how the median income in Denver neighborhoods correlates to the number of little free libraries in that same neighborhood. Our second graders are promoting a school wide anti-bullying day. An additional aspect of the funding goes towards differentiated professional development focused on social justice standards, anti-racist work in our school and community, and developing culturally responsive partnerships with families, so that our teachers have the knowledge and skills to guide this work.”

—Rae West, Dean of Culture, Johnson Elementary

$1 Million Fund will support Johnson Elementary School to build and develop an anti-racist teaching block.

$100,000 awarded to 300 students served.

$547,243 total support.

COVID Emerging Needs Fund

Wi-Fi Access

With donor support, the DPS Foundation kept students connected, providing internet access for more than 300 students who had limited access to Wi-Fi for remote learning.

Support also ensured more than 4,000 students at 11 schools had school supplies to start the year—including items such as headphones for virtual learning or individual white boards for social distance learning.

In addition, the foundation accelerated learning by funding high-intensity 1:1 math tutoring for 100 students.
The United travel fund strives to reduce the inequity in resources among DPS students so all students have equal opportunity to achieve a well-rounded educational experience and to encompass a broad spectrum of experiences, insights and challenges through traveling. These funds from United allowed the foundation to send DPS graduating seniors to their out of state college destination following the aftermath of the pandemic. This truly was a graduation present for several students, allowing them to embark on their postsecondary journeys without the burden of flight costs.

“Receiving the plane ticket from United Airlines during my senior year of high school meant the world to me. It meant, as a first generation student, I had one less thing to worry about, one less thing to organize before I picked up my entire world and moved across the country. Receiving the ticket meant I knew for certain I had a way to get to school, but more importantly, it meant I knew I had a way to go back home.”

–Jose Avalos, George Washington High School graduate, current student at Harvard University

“I made it to Denver for break and back to Berkeley for the spring semester, both safe and incredibly grateful for everything you have done to make these trips possible for me. I’ve never been away from home so long, and the ability to come back, see my family again, and recover from the rigor of last semester was truly a gift. There was no financial burden associated with the simple privilege of being able to interact face to face with my mom, dad, and sister, which made it significantly easier to enjoy my time off from school. I am beyond proud that DPS offers students like me such an invaluable experience.”

–Sonoma Carlos, DPS 2020 graduate, current student of Molecular and Cell Biology at University of California at Berkeley

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–Tallulah Cluff, 2021 DPS graduate, North High School

“Next year I am planning on attending Mount Holyoke in Boston to study international relations and Spanish on a scholarship. Like many people, money is one of the biggest obstacles I have faced and the grant voucher would remove so much stress for my family. I am passionate about seeing the world, then returning to my community to pay it back. An opportunity like this would be so incredibly helpful and relieve me of one of my biggest struggles.”

–Tallulah Cluff, 2021 DPS graduate, North High School

**UNITED TRAVEL VOUCHERS**

The United travel fund strives to reduce the inequity in resources among DPS students so all students have equal opportunity to achieve a well-rounded educational experience and to encompass a broad spectrum of experiences, insights and challenges through traveling.
This year, with partner and donor support, we were able to see our donor dollars go even further, thanks to generous match campaigns.

Delta Dental supported educators this year with a 2:1 match up to $15,000, by providing funds for a classroom innovation project, dental supplies for a school and more! Thanks to donor dollars, we fundraised more than $28,000 for this campaign. Thank you to Delta Dental for their partnership!

This year, we partnered with the Denver Broncos and Delta Dental of Colorado on their Touchdown for Teachers program, which recognizes the Most Valuable Teachers for outstanding service to their schools and communities. So many amazing educators were nominated through this program.

McGlone Academy 5th Grade Teacher Nina Flores was nominated by a colleague who said, "Nina is an advocate and a force! This past year she has connected with so many community partners to support our students. She really does it all—grant writing to purchase new technology for students, bringing in amazing community speakers like Ron Finley to speak to her students, and truly connects with all of her families so they feel heard, a part of their student’s educational journey and empowered! She brings energy and light into the classroom. She’s already crushed her first year of teaching and her second year of teaching during a pandemic, balancing virtual and in-person learning with a huge smile on her face! Nina always makes sure to put community leaders who look like her students in front of her kiddos. She connects with students and their families on a personal level so families really trust her. She attends students’ soccer games on the weekends and follows up with families when they are struggling with COVID, financially or just need a listening ear.”

Thank you, Nina, for all you do!
FOR OUR END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN, we focused on Colorado Gives Day and Giving Tuesday, two days where philanthropy is promoted across nonprofits in Colorado as a way to give back to the community during the season of giving and celebration. Thanks to the support of our many donors and with a generous match from DPS Foundation Board Member Jeanne Saunders and her husband Dick Saunders, this campaign raised more than $128,000!

MCGLONE ACADEMY

The $1 Million Fund support will be used to build a robust artist-in-residency program that exists within the school experience and leverages the power of media to support Montbello youth with discovering their creative potential. This will help students develop into powerful decision-makers who become directors of their own lives and use their voices to positively transform their schools, their communities, and the world around them.

$697,243 TOTAL

500 STUDENTS SERVED

$150,000 AWARDED

"These funds will help the Confluence Media Center realize its potential in developing young artists and amplifying community voices."

—Paul Clifton, Tech Teacher, McGlone Academy
TIAA and Bruce Randolph High School have long worked to create and grow a mutually beneficial partnership that benefits the students, educators and Bruce Randolph community as well as the employees and culture of TIAA. Over the last decade, the two have worked together to celebrate educators, provide meals to the community, and award scholarships to students, and were awarded School Partner of the Year for 2019-2020. In recent years, this partnership has grown even closer with TIAA and Bruce Randolph leadership identifying new ways to support students that are responsive to changing challenges. During the 2020-2021 school year, TIAA brought internet to 30 Bruce Randolph families, provided financial support to enable the completion of Bruce Randolph’s raised garden beds as part of their new AgConnect pathway, and committed to fund a Futures Center at the school, all while continuing many of their traditional supports including school supplies and scholarships.

“The entire Bruce Randolph Community greatly appreciates the ongoing partnerships with TIAA, and the many ways that their commitment to our school, mission, and values play out. Whether through acts of service in the spirit of Daddy Bruce, during school beautification events, or in the generous donation to our developing AgConnect Pathway through our Big Green Garden, TIAA goes above and beyond. We are further grateful to TIAA’s annual donation to our Daddy Bruce Scholarship awarded to two seniors yearly at graduation. The team at TIAA are valued partners in our work at Bruce Randolph School.”

—Melissa Boyd, Principal, Bruce Randolph School

“During TIAA’s campus beautification project at Bruce Randolph, we were lucky enough to witness the harvest of the learning garden that TIAA helped fund earlier this year. It brought our community support efforts full circle as we watched neighbors stop by to pick up bags of the newly harvested produce that included tomatoes, carrots, peppers and all types of leafy greens.”

—Charla Candy-Kadlubar, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, TIAA
DPS Foundation school partner, Amp the Cause, has taken on addressing food insecurity in a major way. Recognizing that hunger and access to food is a key challenge facing many of our DPS students and families, Amp the Cause began looking into how they could impact this issue in a way that is meaningful for families. Working with school leadership to identify families that could benefit from support in the form of grocery cards, and what stores were easiest for the families to access, Amp the Cause delivered over $189,000 in grocery gift cards to 758 families all across the district. By utilizing gift cards, families were able to select the items that they needed and wanted. For many this meant they were able to use money otherwise spent on groceries to keep the lights on at home, pay rent, and provide basic needs to their children.

“As a young child I would often hear my parents discuss whether to buy groceries or pay rent. My young mind often struggled to understand the magnitude of the conversations my parents had, but I didn’t really worry about not eating because we would go to my Nanita’s house for dinner almost every night, thus alleviating some of my parents’ struggle. As I grew up I vowed to help students who were impoverished or food insecure because while I didn’t worry about eating, I saw how stressed out my parents were over money. Fast forward and here I am working at a Title 1 school. I can’t help but see myself in my students and understand what they are going through. The last year and a half of the pandemic has been brutally stressful on our parents. I had my Nanita, and my students have Amp the Cause. Amp has helped many of my parents who were struggling financially: a mother who lost her job because restaurants closed; a single dad supporting 5 children while his construction hours were cut; another single dad whose wife died during childbirth; a mother going through immigration proceedings. Every time my parents needed food, they knew all they had to do was call me and I would then call Amp, who ALWAYS came with grocery cards. I will never be able to say ‘thank you,’ enough.”

—Rachel Sandoval, educator at Godsman Elementary

The $1 Million Fund support will be used to grow a Spanish-English dual language track for grades 1 through 3, bridging the achievement gap for LatinX students in Far Northeast Denver.

“This fund allows us to provide bilingual education to more students by adding a new classroom with a highly qualified, bilingual teacher to our elementary dual language program. The classroom makes learning more relevant and purposeful, providing the best possible approach for dual language education for English Language Learners and English speakers!”

—Noel Magee, Business and HR Director, Monarch Montessori of Denver
## Financials

### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

**Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021**

### Revenue, Gains, and Other Support

**Contributions:**
- Family and grant-making foundations & organizations: $3,886,000
- Corporate & corporate foundations: $852,000
- Individuals: $474,000
- Local government & agencies: $287,000
- In-kind: $4,000
- Special events, net: $223,000
- Investment income: $543,000

**Total revenue, gains, and other support:** $6,269,000

### Expenses

- Program services & grants: $5,025,000
- Management & general: $560,000
- Fundraising: $519,000

**Total expenses:** $6,104,000

- Change in net assets: $165,000
- Net assets, beginning of year: $12,592,000

**Net assets, end of year:** $12,757,000

### Charts

- **Total Revenues:**
  - Family and grant-making foundations & organizations: 62%
  - Corporate & corporate foundations: 14%
  - Individuals: 7%
  - Local government & agencies: 5%
  - In-kind: <1%
  - Special events, net: 3%
  - Investment income: 9%

- **Total Expenses:**
  - Program services & grants: 82%
  - Management & general: 9%
  - Fundraising: 9%
The $1 Million Fund support will be used to support the B.L.A.S.T. OFF program which will break down the barriers that often deter children of color, lower income students, and girls from gaining a better understanding of science, technology, arts, and mathematics.

B.L.A.S.T. OFF will be a hands-on STEAM makerspace program and this comprehensive program will include projects relating to social emotional learning, robotics, architecture, science, engineering, and art.

“"In accordance with our school’s mission, Palmer’s B.L.A.S.T OFF program is designed to elevate the skills and knowledge of every student. Our hope is to ready our students for a lifetime of accomplishments and success. This is another opportunity to reach students who are often left behind by traditional educational practices.”

—Patricia McConaghy-White, STEM Lab Coordinator, Palmer Elementary School
Thank you to our hardworking team for remaining nimble so we could best meet our students’ and educators’ needs this past year. And, a big thank you to Verónica Figoli! After five years with DPS Foundation and more than a decade with the district, DPS Foundation President & CEO Verónica Figoli moved on to new adventures. Thank you for your commitment to DPS students, Verónica!

The $1 Million Fund dollars will be used to significantly improve the support Respect Academy gives to its most vulnerable students, students who have to work full time to support themselves and their families while also completing their high school education.

“Respect Academy is thrilled to be a recipient of the DPS Foundation’s $1 Million Fund. The students we serve are 17-21 and many of them work long hours to support themselves and their families in addition to attending high school. This funding will allow us to refine and enhance our programming for these working students so that they don’t have to choose between a paycheck and a diploma.”

—Ann Cobb, Principal, Respect Academy
Our DPS Foundation Board of Directors

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated Board members for their support and putting students first!

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Emanuel “Manny” Hilario
President & CEO, The ONE Group

Suzanne Kelley
Regional Vice President of Human Resources, HealthOne

Patsy Landaveri
Community Impact Leader

Dr. Alex Marrero (non-voting)
Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

Matt Miller
Vice President, United Airlines Denver Hub

Jonathan Narlock
Senior Vice President, PNC Public Finance Group

Dr. Carrie Olson
President, DPS Board of Education

Ruth Rohs
Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications/Executive Director IMA Foundation, IMA Financial Group

David Salazar
Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Comcast

Adam Sands
Market President, First Bank of Cherry Creek

Gloria Schoch
Executive Director, The VF Foundation and Global Impact, VF Corporation

Kwame Spearman
CEO & Co-Owner, Tattered Cover Bookstores

Nancy Walsh
Vice President of Experiences & Partnerships, Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Alyssa Whitehead-Bust
Partner, Attuned Education Partners

Team listed is current as of September 30, 2021.
GET INVOLVED

Turning the Page on Reading: DPS Book Fund

DPS school libraries experienced a rate of lost books this year that is more than double previous years due to the pandemic. The purchase of replacement books, which are carefully selected based on cultural responsiveness and the needs of individual schools, is expected to cost $500,000 over the next year. DPS Foundation plans to raise $250,000 to support this important effort!

For more information, and how to support visit here: DPSFoundation.org/book-fund

Opportunity Centers

These centers will deliver mental health counseling, mentoring, outreach, gang intervention services, post-secondary counseling, housing, food and clothing support, connection to work opportunities and GED programming. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, DPS will open the first Opportunity Center in the central region.

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Check out our website for the full list of donors who make this work possible.
Thank you to our generous donors

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