

# D41 Kids Foundation Annual Report 2022

## Introduction

What a remarkable year it has been for the D41Kids Foundation!

Together with you, we have positively impacted the lives of over 700 families and children in our community. From providing free books through our Dolly Parton Imagination Library affiliate to empowering children to take the stage in our Summer Theater Program, your support has inspired our community's youth to dream big.

Established in January 2020, D41Kids initially aimed to provide opportunities and financial support for children in our district. However, as the pandemic unfolded, we quickly pivoted to address more immediate needs. We've helped families keep a roof over their heads, put food on the table, and remain dedicated to our original mission. All thanks to YOU!

As you read on, you'll discover that the strength of D41Kids Foundation lies in the passion and support of our donors and volunteers. We are immensely grateful for your contributions, and we look forward to expanding our reach and impact to better serve our children.

## Mission

To strengthen public education in D41 through advocacy for, and partnership and investment in initiatives that promote equity, excellence, enhance student outcomes, and foster lifelong learning.

## Impact (Since 2020)

- **450** children (ages 0-5) enrolled in our DPIL affiliate
- **93** children (grades K-8) participated in the Summer Theater production
- **61** 8th graders participated in our Future GBW Freshman Bundles fundraiser
- **Hundreds** of families received food subsidies (\$14,500)
- **25** families received rental assistance (\$20,000)
- Supported **2** sister nonprofits, Supplies for Success and Karen's Closet, with funding for school supplies and winter outerwear (\$2,000)
- Financially backed the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center summer program for at-risk children (\$1,000)

## Our Work

At our founding in 2020, D41Kids Foundation began operation under the umbrella of Partnership for Educational Progress (PEP) who expertly managed the administrative requirements so that the Foundation could focus on delivering services to our D41 families. The enormous impact of the work of the foundation during that time culminated in our ability to establish the D41 Kids Foundation as its own 501(c)3, effective as of July 1, 2022. As a result, much of the behind the scenes work of the Foundation in the latter half of 2022 was focused on creating a strong operational foundation on which to grow. Setting up financials, integrating donor management software, securing appropriate insurance and financial

- **DPIL** — To date, we have enrolled 450 children (ages 0-5) in our Dolly Parton Imagination Library affiliate. For just \$27 a year, each child receives a new, age-appropriate book every month, fostering a love of reading and building essential literacy skills.
- **Summer Theater Program** — Open to all district children in grades K-8, our no-cut program offers the chance to participate in a theatrical musical production. Children develop a strong sense of self, discover new talents, and learn essential collaboration skills— all while having fun!
- **Future GBW Freshman Bundles** — To celebrate our 8th-grade students' achievements and upcoming high school journey, we provide yard signs and high school t-shirts to participating families.
- **Community Outreach** — By maintaining close communication with school social workers and administrators, we identify and assist families in crisis.



## Stories of Impact:

At D41Kids Foundation, we believe every child deserves a supportive community that fosters their interests, passions, and dreams. Through your generous donations, dedicated volunteerism, and creative problem-solving, we have ignited the spark of possibility for countless children. Here, we share a few heartwarming stories of lives transformed by your support.

### **Tucker's Tribe, 3 Soap Parties, and A Very Generous Supporter**

Glen Ellyn resident Christine Pope Guare is the mother of three boys, one of whom has an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Because of the outstanding support her son has received from the staff and teachers of District 41, Christine and "Tucker's Tribe," an extended family of people who are dedicated to helping Tucker grow and thrive, wanted to find a way to give back to the district.

"Tucker is somehow thriving," Christine explains. "We take each moment in a dose, each day, each month. Sometimes you step forward, back and to the side ... but we move forward." Christine partnered with her friend Hilary Bergamini, owner of The Bar Above, and held several "soap parties," raising

\$2,182.80 and donating those proceeds to D41 Kids Foundation. She says, “It feels good to give back to our own community.”

Thank you to Christine, Hilary, and all our other generous supporters who demonstrate their caring commitment to our greatest resource — our children — by donating to D41 Kids Foundation!

### **A Thespian is Born**

Emilie was apprehensive about auditioning for the musical, having never sung for anyone before. She was quite shy and felt overwhelmed in unfamiliar situations, leading her to come up with various excuses to avoid the audition. Despite her hesitation, her mother encouraged her to give it a try. Standing nervously among her peers, Emilie sang her heart out for the director. To her astonishment, she was cast in a lead role! Through weeks of practice with the director, vocal instructor, and choreographer, Emilie's confidence blossomed, and she discovered a love for performing.

On the day of the show, the once timid and anxious 10-year-old had transformed into a passionate thespian. With each performance, Emilie shone in the spotlight, fully embracing her role and relishing every moment on stage. This newfound confidence not only changed her life on stage but also positively impacted her everyday life. Embracing new experiences with enthusiasm, Emilie recently completed her second musical production.



### **Dolly and her Biggest Fans!**

#### **Bradley**



“Bradley is THRILLED every month, when the mailman delivers a brand-new book just for him!”

Bradley's parents are consistently amazed by the diverse selection of books he receives, encompassing various genres such as Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, Fantasy, and Folktales. He eagerly adds each new book to his growing collection on his bedroom bookshelf every month. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is truly an exceptional program! Shortly after registering a child, they receive their Welcome book — *The Little Engine That Could*. From then on, a new book is mailed directly to the child every month until their fifth birthday. The final book, marking this milestone, is *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come*.

“As educators ourselves,” Bradley’s parents note, “we understand the importance of exposing children to an abundance of books at an early age. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is an amazing

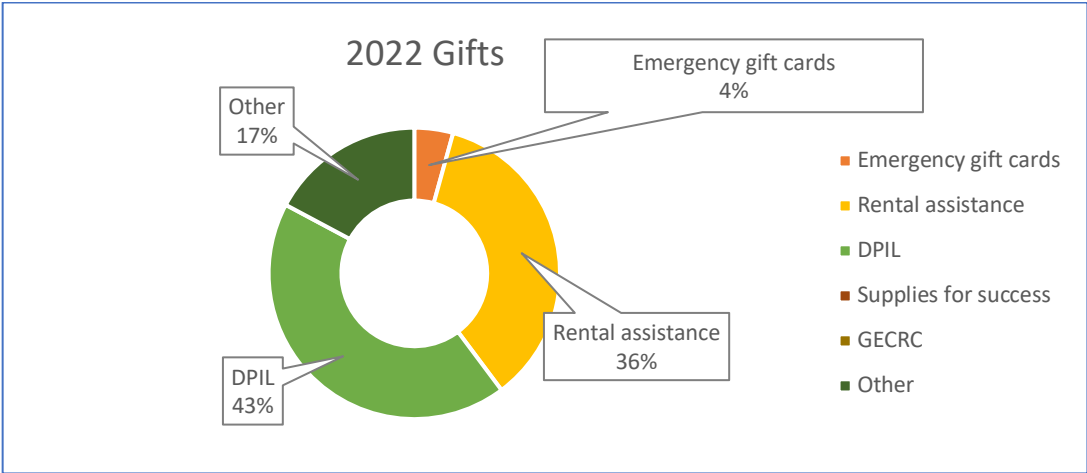
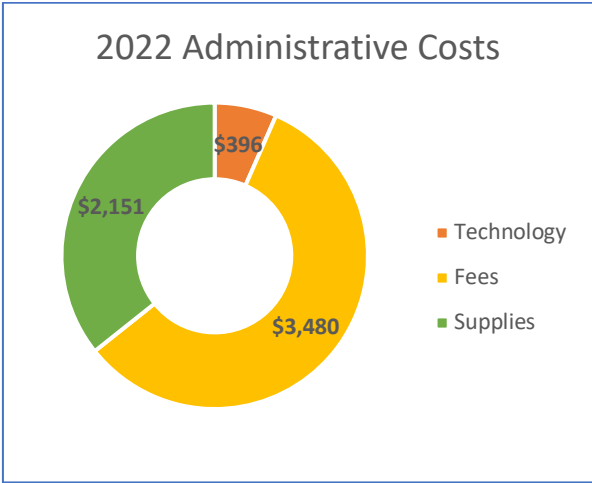
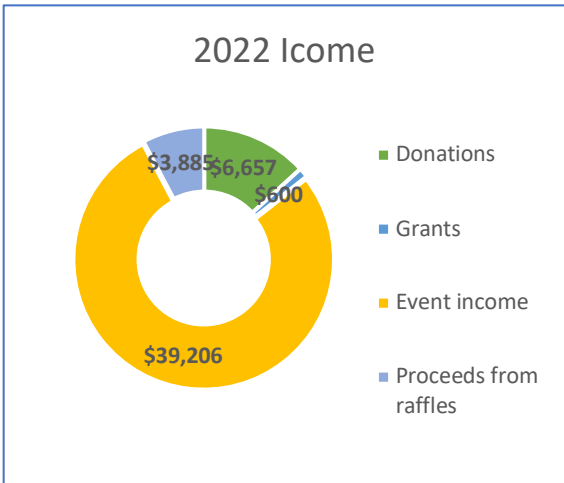
opportunity to get books into the hands of young children in a fun and exciting way. We are so grateful to the D41 Kids Foundation for partnering with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and getting books into the hands of the young kids in our community!"

**Grace**

It is emails like this that confirm the wisdom of our decision to open our Dolly Parton Imagination Library affiliate. "I wanted to drop you a quick note to say thank you for telling me about the Imagination Library and having me sign up for Grace. She absolutely LOVES getting the books and wants to read the month's book almost every night. She's gotten pretty good at memorizing them and will "read" the stories to me every once in a while too. Thank you again!"



**Financials**



## What's Next: Expanding Our Impact

In line with our mission to invest in initiatives that promote equity, excellence, enhance student outcomes, and foster lifelong learning, the D41 Kids Foundation is excited to announce that two long-standing programs that have supported our community's children will be joining D41Kids Foundation in 2023:

- **Supplies for Success:** This program raises funds to provide essential school supplies for children in need within our community. With 20.5% of District 41's 3,500 students qualifying as low-income, Supplies for Success aims to level the playing field. By offering a Supplies 4 Success Kit, complete with an assembled school supply kit and backpack, we ensure that every child starts the school year on the right foot, paving the way for educational success and a brighter future for the Glen Ellyn area.
- **Karen's Closet:** Karen's Closet is dedicated to providing winter outerwear for children whose families may struggle to afford proper cold-weather gear. Every year, we witness numerous families in our community unable to purchase coats, snow pants, boots, gloves, and hats for their children. Karen's Closet aims to keep hundreds of students healthy, safe, and warm throughout the challenging Midwestern winters by distributing essential winter attire.
- **Community Outreach:** This program responds to the immediate needs of our District 41 families. Through close communication with representatives in each school, D41 Kids Foundation is ready to provide financial support to families in crisis. In addition, this program coordinates Holiday Sharing, a program that helps to ensure our more vulnerable families receives toys, books, and groceries for the holidays.

## How You Can Help

**Volunteer** — Your time and talents are invaluable to us. Join our dedicated team of volunteers and help us create transformative experiences for the children we serve. Share your passion for theater, literacy, or family support by contributing your unique skills. To embark on this rewarding journey, please email us at: [volunteer@d41kids.org](mailto:volunteer@d41kids.org)

**Sponsor** — Your financial or in-kind contributions have a profound effect on our programs' sustainability and growth. By donating, you directly empower our initiatives and enable us to reach more children and families. To support our cause, you can make a secure donation through our website or send a check to:  
D41Kids Foundation, 793 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

**Spread the Word** — Be an ambassador for our organization by sharing our story with your network. By talking about the impact our programs have had on the lives of children and families, you can help us reach more people who share our vision. Invite your friends and neighbors to visit our website at [D41Kids.org](http://D41Kids.org) and encourage them to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. Every share, like, and conversation brings us closer to touching more lives.