



ANNUAL REPORT

20 23



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on our 3rd year anniversary, I smile because, much like a 3-year-old toddler, we, as a Foundation, have found our footing. With that confidence, we embrace the many changes and challenges that District 41 faces and our capacity for tackling those challenges. It has been a year of building a strong foundation on which our work can launch and it is all because of the support of generous donors like you!



Much of the Foundation's work in 2023 was internal and revolved around transitioning from Partner's for Educational Progress, who graciously provided the D41 Kids Foundation our 501(c)3 status and fiscal support during our start-up, to our own independent 501(c)3. That work included securing governmental approvals, establishing financial accounts and setting up internal procedures to integrate and synchronize financial, donor, legal, and tax processes. In addition, 2023 saw our first board retreat during which we strengthened our vision, mission, and purpose, evaluated opportunities to invest in the District, and looked at ways to maximize strengths, mitigate weaknesses, and seize opportunities. It's not glamorous work, but it is necessary to ensure that we remain good stewards of the dollars entrusted to us.

You will learn, as you read through our 2023 Annual Report, that the Foundaton continues to support our families in a myriad of ways, whether that is through our Dolly Parton Imagination Library, our Supplies for Success and Winter Outerwear programs, our Summer Theater program, or our D41 Families Assistance Program. It is safe to say we have positively touched the lives of hundreds of families. In addition, the Foundation continues to be in close communications with District 41, seeking ways in which we can assist in strengthening the programs and resources that foster a sense of belonging and fully equips students for a dynamic world.

We are eternally grateful to all our donors for their support, trust, and commitment to the children in our community. We would not be able to make the impact that we have without you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Q. Bruno".

Dr. Lynn Q. Bruno
Chair
D41 Kids Foundation

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND PURPOSE

Mission: To strengthen public education in D41 through adaptive partnerships, strategic investments, and advocacy for initiatives that prioritize equity and prepare students to be global citizens.

Vision: The D41 Kids Foundation envisions a district guided by evidence that fosters inclusivity, diversity, and equity to fully equip students for a dynamic world, fortified by unwavering community support.

Purpose: With students' experiences at the center, we...

Support and enhance high-impact initiatives that align with our mission.

Foster active community engagement through collaboration, thereby delivering community investments that address immediate needs and aspirational educational opportunities.

Promote Equity and reduce disparities in educational outcomes by focusing on resources, opportunities, and support for underserved and marginalized student populations.

Cultivate Global Citizenship by exposing students to the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to be engaged, responsible, and adaptive global citizens.

Strive for Long-Term Sustainability by emphasizing the importance of securing long-term financial sustainability to ensure continuous support for educational programs and initiatives.



FROM OUR FAMILIES AND STAFF

Fostering a love for reading . . .



I wanted to express my gratitude for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. It's so exciting when Noah gets his books. Listening to stories fosters a love for reading and hopefully has made a significant impact towards his early development. His big sister was also signed up for the Imagination Library when she was his age, so we knew signing him when he was born would be a great choice. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to promoting literacy.

Warm regards, Beth
D41 Parent

Supporting our staff . . .

“The D41 Kids Foundation was instrumental in supporting two families whose children were my students. With funding from the Foundation, six individuals were assisted in securing one of life's most basic needs – safe shelter. Along with this tangible need, they gave the families the intangible, but so necessary gift of hope which in turn has enabled the families to achieve complete self-sufficiency and maintain their dignity. As a teacher, I know that a student cannot learn when basic needs are not met and I am so very grateful for the Foundation's role as a bridge for these families and their ability to get them over a rough spot.”

~ D41 teacher

A chance to spread your wings . . .

My daughters participated in the D41 theater program as elementary aged kids who love music and dancing. Despite their inexperience with theater, it was an opportunity for them to be on a real stage with kids of all ages. The program offers a place for all kids to belong and feel like part of a team while introducing them to the benefits of theater. My girls left with a new appreciation for how much work and dedication goes into a show!

~Ali Tannenbaum



Aiding our families . . .

We are a family made up of 5 adults and two girls. It is a great pleasure to thank D41 Kids Foundation for the great help they give us when we newly arrived in this country. We had a super difficult situation and needed decent housing, food and winter clothes for our children. Thanks to God and the D41 Foundation, today we have a decent and safe place for our children and us. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

~Newcomer Family

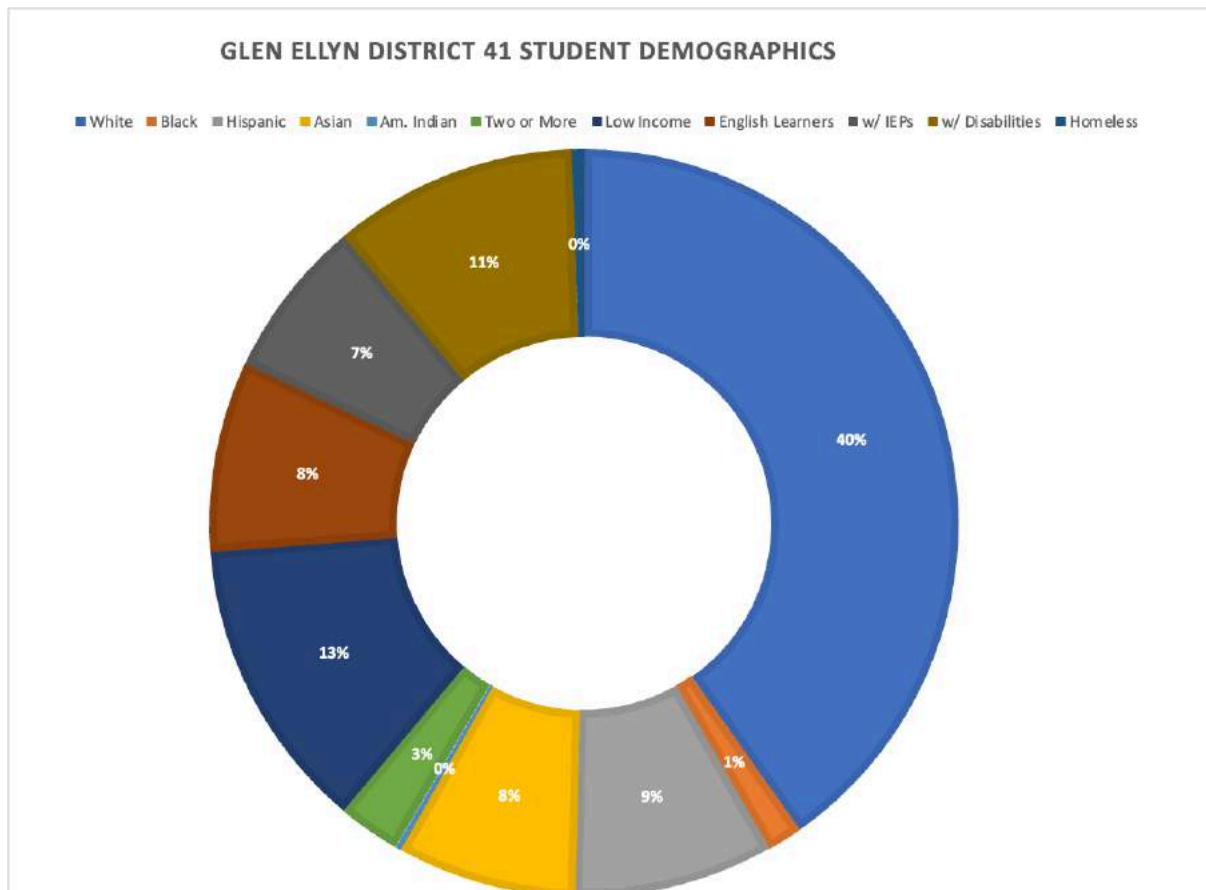
SNAPSHOT OF THE STUDENTS SERVED

SERVING ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO RESIDE WITHIN GLEN ELLYN DISTRICT 41 SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Glen Ellyn District 41 serves approximately 3,500 students from pre-school through 8th grade, serving portions of 5 different communities.

With a mission to “educate the whole child by developing intellect and curiosity, engaging creativity, and fostering responsibility and citizenship while building positive and collaborative relationships,” the district is known for its innovation, cutting edge programs, and commitment to providing the best education to all the children they serve.

While median household income in Glen Ellyn is well above the national average, 23% of students attending District 41 schools live under the poverty line (approximately 880 children). This year enrollment trends has seen a 38% increase in new comers to our district over the last 3 years, bringing to our community 14 languages from 22 different countries.





2023 MILESTONES

140
CHILDREN

Provided 140 children the opportunity to participate in theater with our production of Moana through our annual Summer Theater Fundraiser.

110
STUDENTS

Celebrated 110 eighth grade students as they moved from District 41 to high school through our Freshmen Bundle fundraiser.

497 KIDS
got **3,914**
BOOKS

Mailed 3,914 books to 497 children through our Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program. Since its inception in June of 2021 we have provided 10,752 books to 656 children.

279
CHILDREN

Brought the Winter Outerwear program under our umbrella and provided coats, hats, mittens and snow pant to 279 children.

4
FAMILIES

Provided 4 families with assistance during challenging times through our D41 Families Assistance Program.



PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

“You can never get enough books into the hands of enough children.”

~ Dolly Parton

D41 Kids agrees!!! The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is our affiliate program that puts books into the hands and hearts of children under the age of 5 who reside within the boundaries of Glen Ellyn School District 41. Specially-selected, age-appropriate, high-quality books are delivered to registered children each month. By surrounding children with books at an early age, the research shows that children develop a positive attitude about reading, expand emerging literacy skills, and are more equipped with literacy readiness when they enter kindergarten.

- In 2023 mailed 3,914 books to 497 children
- Since our inception in April of 2021, the Foundation has mailed 10,752 books to 656 children
- Illinois joined a handful of states that sponsor a statewide DPIL, cutting expenses in half allowing us to support double the number of children moving forward.



Summer Theater Program

Providing all children an opportunity to spread their wings!

Our Summer Theatre Program is open to all District 41 children in grades K thru 8th grades regardless of experience. As our largest fundraiser of each year, this no-cut theater program teaches acting, singing, dancing, and teamwork. But most of all, it provides our kids with the opportunity to tryout their chops and explore the world of theater in a non-judgemental and fun-filled way. In 2023 our 3 cast performances of Moana engaged 140 children and raised \$40,700, monies later used to support our other programs and invest in our schools.

501(C)3

Established ourselves as an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit.

100%

funded through private donations and grants.

PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS



Supplies for Success

Setting up all children for a successful year.

The D41 Kids Foundation's program, Supplies 4 Success, provides school supply kits and backpacks to students attending Glen Ellyn School District 41 whose families may struggle with affording the cost of school supplies. Every donation provides qualified children with a school supply kit and backpack. This year it is estimated that 600 children will need the Foundation's help.

- For under the price of a tank of gas, we positively fuel a child's academic journey for one year.

Winter Outerwear

Keeping students healthy, safe and warm through chilly winter!

Winter Outerwear 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. Winter Outerwear aims to keep hundreds of students healthy, safe, and warm throughout the challenging Midwestern winters by distributing essential winter attire.

- During the 2023 - 2024 winters season, D41 Kids provided winter outerwear to 279 students.

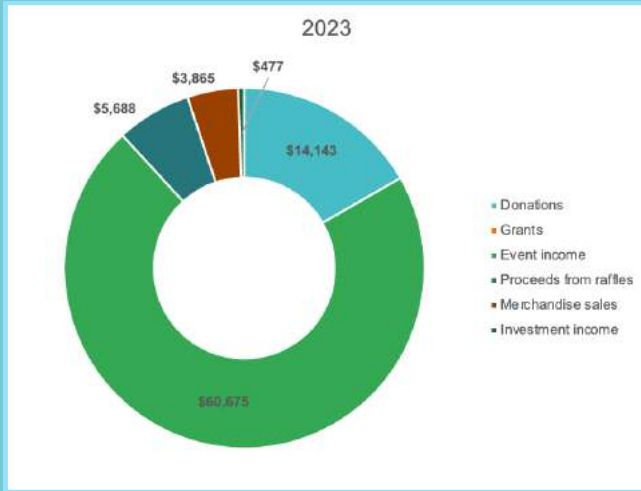


District 41 Families Assistance Program

Responding to the immediate needs of our families

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. Whether that takes the form of rental assistance, food resources, bridges from homelessness to safe, secure housing, or other financial challenges, D41 Kids Foundation is ready to assist so that all children can arrive to school unburdened and ready to learn.

FINANCIAL REPORT



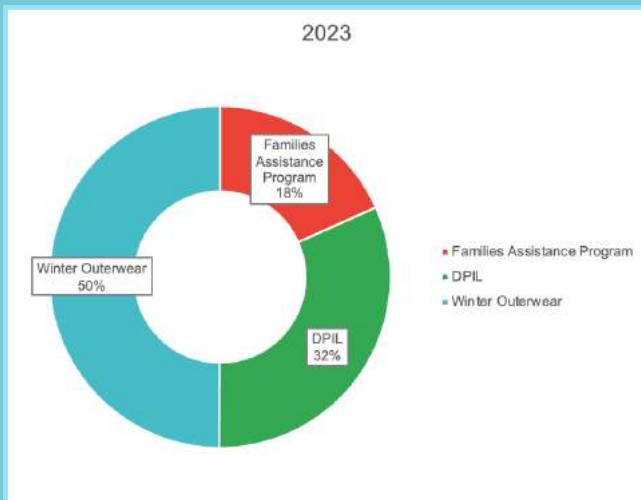
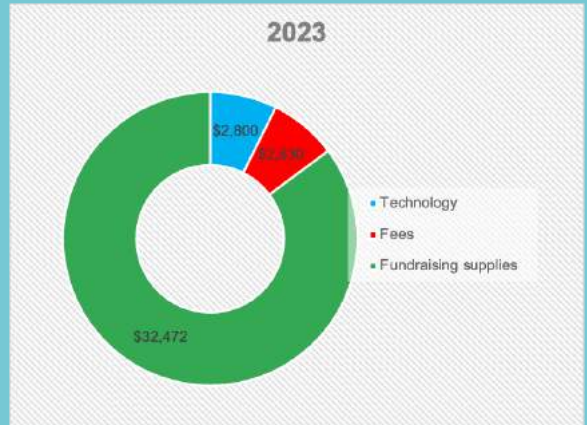
INCOME

In 2023, D41 Kids Foundation received \$84,848 in income through donations, grants, sales, investments and fundraising.



EXPENSES

D41 Kids Foundation is run by a completely voluntary board and has no staff or overhead costs. Expenses for 2023 fell into two categories; technology purchases and fees, including legal, financial and processing fees.



GIFTS

In 2023, the Foundation gifted \$15,745 to district families through 3 programs: the Families Assistance Program (18%), the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (32%) and the Winter Outerwear Program (50%).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN 2023

- Secured all governmental approvals
- Updated By-Laws
- Signed MOU with district: *(Tremendous benefits are gained from a mutually supportive partnership between the Foundation and the District. This written agreement helps promote clarity, accountability, and mutual understanding for both parties and is the starting point for a collaborative process for assessment and strategic thinking about how the Foundation and District can most effectively work together).*
- Established financial accounts
- Established a web/media presence
- Hired professional tax services
- Set up and synchronized accounting procedures and processes
- Updated Donor Management System
- Fine tuned our Vision, Mission, and Purpose
- Developed processes that ensure that decisions align with our Vision, Mission, and Purpose
- Explored ways to maximize investments in the District



WELCOMING NEW D41 KIDS BOARD MEMBERS!



Kate Marsh
DIRECTOR

Kate is a D41 graduate who returned to Glen Ellyn in 2016. She has been involved with the Churchill PTA including Communications and Outreach roles, and the D41 PTA Council as both the Treasurer and President. After volunteering to assist with the Foundation's inaugural summer musical, she is looking forward to the next one! Kate and her husband Lennie have 2 daughters who attend Churchill and Hadley schools.



Amy Becker
DIRECTOR

Amy is a Forest Glen mom who has been actively engaged in the district. Her younger daughter is enrolled in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. "She absolutely LOVES getting the books and wants to read the month's book almost every night." Amy is an engineer by trade.



Aqsa Mahmood
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Aqsa has been a resident of D41 for all 22 years of her life! She grew up within D41, going to elementary school at Abraham Lincoln and middle school at Hadley Jr. High. She currently works as a Digital Content Specialist and graduated with a degree in English and Communications from UIC. She is passionate about education for children and is excited to make a difference!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

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 reach more people who share our vision. Invite your friends and neighbors to visit our website at www.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.

VOLUNTEER

Your time and talents are invaluable to us. Join our dedicated team by becoming a board member or by volunteering 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: info@d41kids.org

DONATE

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 using the QR code below or send a check to D41Kids Foundation, 793 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

PARTNER WITH US!

We are looking for corporate sponsorships. Together we can do so much more. As a corporate sponsor you can empower our young people to recognize their potential and realize their dreams. To learn more, please email us at: info@d41kids.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEET THE TEAM



LYNN BRUNO
CHAIRPERSON



MARTA SCARLESKI
VICE CHAIRPERSON



SHAZDHE NOUMAN
SECRETARY



DAVID SMUD
TREASURER



AMY BECKER
DIRECTOR - DPIL



LEE FRUIT
*DIRECTOR - WINTER
OUTERWEAR*



KELLY HANE
*DIRECTOR - SUPPLIES 4
SUCCESS*



AQSA MAHMOOD
*DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS*



GAIL CHANEY KALINICH
DIRECTOR



KATE MARSH
DIRECTOR



KAREN WINTER
DIRECTOR



ERIKA KREHBIEL
D41 CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



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