

EXPANDING OUR POTENTIAL

unlocking opportunities



ELKHART
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

2017 IN REVIEW impact report

mission results

Your donations, volunteer hours, and advocacy for education have allowed us to fund initiatives that cultivate **meaningful**, some would say **extraordinary**, learning experiences for the teachers and students in Elkhart Community Schools!



6

Libraries Renovated for the 21st Century

21

Extracurricular Grant Projects Funded

23

Innovative Teaching Grants Funded

1

Brand New Learning Garden Built

100 Students participated in summer enrichment day camp

1,000+ Hours of community service hours paid forward through students

250 Boxes of school supplies collected, packed & distributed to ECS teachers

10,000+ ECS students impacted

GRANT DISTRIBUTION

Innovative Teaching & Extracurricular Grants

2015	\$36,270
2016	\$86,613
2017	\$105,750

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Living Libraries, Learning Garden, & Speak Truth to Power

2015	\$15,000
2016	\$55,000
2017	\$130,000

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

what's next for EEF

Partner with EEF as we move forward to 2018 and support excellence and innovation in education!

TARGETED INITIATIVES

8
Library Renovations

2
Learning Gardens

\$100,000
in Grants Distributed

20%
Increase in Summer Day Camp Participation

upcoming events

Trivia Night	MAR 8
Pay it Forward Day	MAY 14
Kick-Off Classic	AUG 25
Golf Classic	OCT 1
Ugly Sweater Run	DEC 1





SCHOOLS



GRANTS For Innovative Teaching & Extracurricular Activities

Innovative Teaching Grants are designed to encourage, facilitate, recognize, and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches to the accomplishment of program objectives. This program offers teachers and administrators the opportunity to apply for grants that support innovative programs or projects to promote higher levels of engagement. The grants must enhance student academic performance and support the objectives, goals, and initiatives of Elkhart Community Schools.

The evidence is overwhelming and quite compelling: Participation in student activities increases students' standardized test scores, GPAs, graduation rates, college acceptance rates and college success rates. Additionally, it practically eliminates the likelihood that a student will choose to drop out of high school. The Elkhart Education Foundation is committed to filling in the budgetary gaps in order to keep these engaging extracurricular activities available for ALL students.



LIVING LIBRARIES

With the advent of the 1:1 technology initiative at Elkhart Community Schools, the Living Libraries Project brings libraries into the 21st century and transforms each space into a learning commons. These new learning spaces become the epicenter of innovation for their schools. Rather than maintain a strictly quiet location for individual study, the Living Libraries Project creates environments for collaboration and interactive learning where many forms of literacy are explored.

TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

For parents and teachers alike, school supplies can be expensive. With the Tools for Schools program, we ensure teachers receive the supplies their students need to be successful. Through in-kind donations, stuff-a-bus events, and partnering with local businesses and organizations, EEF sends each school building boxes of the most needed school supplies for teachers to distribute directly to their students.



LEARNING GARDENS

The Learning Garden Project plans to build and sustain a curriculum-based learning garden at each of the Elkhart Community Schools elementary buildings. The gardens are dynamic environments for students and teachers to observe, discover, experiment, nurture, and learn. The Learning Garden serves as an outdoor classroom where all students can go for reading, writing, reflecting, meeting, and developing real-world skills.



SUMMERSCAPE

The Summerscape Day Camp program offers full-day and half-day enrichment programs for students in grades K-7 during summer vacation. Our themed week-long camps are led by certified ECS teachers and assisted by qualified high school and college students. Some of the best learning happens outside of the classroom on field trips, experiencing nature, exploring living history and through hands-on, project based lessons. Adventure awaits students at Summerscape!

TEACHER MORALE

The work of ECS teachers and staff truly matters! Encouraging our highly-qualified teachers is important and essential to public education. First Friday contests, treats, lunches, and free professional development and training opportunities are some of the ways that EEF helps keep teachers and staff encouraged and feeling appreciated.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

Speak Truth to Power is a multi-faceted educational curriculum for students at all grade levels. This human rights curriculum makes history come alive by presenting living role models and heroes who have boldly worked to address the world's most pressing human rights issues. Students are exposed to learning opportunities that encourage them to become defenders in their community.

PROJECT EXCURSION

The Project Excursion program seeks to provide at least one (1) field trip per year for every student in the district completely free of cost. Field trips are particularly important for disadvantaged children. Field trips aid in the learning experiences of students who are visual learners, build on classroom instruction, help to cultivate a better understanding of topics, and expose students to worlds outside their own.

KINDNESS TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

Good vision is essential for students of all ages to reach their full academic potential. Studies show behavior problems go down and academic success goes up when children have corrected vision. In collaboration with Boling Vision Center, this initiative is designed to ensure success in education through accurate eyesight supported by school visits from a mobile vision unit offering check-ups and supplemental eyewear for students in need!

