

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Inspiring her to
succeed today...



...to build a
better tomorrow!

The Elkhart Education Foundation ignites the power of community, connects generous hearts with inspired education, and provides resources needed for EVERY child to excel inside and outside of the classroom through extraordinary learning experiences.

EEF awards grants for innovative teaching projects, extra-curricular activities and character building special programs to the teachers and students of Elkhart Community Schools.

\$180,000

**distributed to Elkhart
Community Schools
since 2015**

58

projects funded

10,000+

students impacted

40%

**increase in student
engagement**



Elkhart Education Foundation

LEARN MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS
AND HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE...

www.OneCityOneMission.org

Elkhart Education Foundation



PROVIDING EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING EXPERIENCES
& HELPING KIDS DISCOVER THEIR SPARK

Engaging Activities



Athletics, Arts, Academic Clubs

Innovative Teaching



Character Building Special Programs



Who We Are:

EEF, a 501(c)(3) organization, manages and expends funds received from donations that support the mission, vision and goals of the Elkhart Community Schools. EEF provides funds for innovative teaching practices, education programs and activities – Athletics, Arts, Academic Clubs – that are outside of the parameters of the traditional operating budget for Elkhart Community Schools.

Extracurricular Grants:

The evidence is overwhelming and compelling: participation in student activities increases standardized test scores, GPAs, graduation rates, college acceptance and college success rates. Extracurricular activities are one of the most effective tools in increasing student engagement and graduation rates. EEF provides scholarships to cover individual and/or team participation fees for Arts, Athletics, or Academic clubs in exchange for community service hours.

Innovative Teaching Grants:

The best teaching methods come from our greatest assets: educators. We support new ideas and practices to strengthen teaching and learning. Our goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare students for bright and rewarding futures. EEF provides Innovative Teaching Grants to educators who have developed engaging lesson plans that promote curiosity and a love for learning.

Special Programs:

Field trips, internships, speakers, campus visits and job shadowing opportunities will be expanded and prioritized in order to educate the “whole” student and to prepare them for success in the workforce.



“The Elkhart Education Foundation has been such a blessing to the boys and girls of the Elkhart Community Schools. Through the grants the EEF has supported many of our children are experiencing art projects, music projects, thespian activities and academic projects in their classroom that would not have been possible without the funding of grants teachers requested for their children.

It is through the **generosity of our Elkhart community** with financial and time donations to the Elkhart Education Foundation these opportunities are made possible for our children. An **investment in our youth today** will help determine the future of our community, state and nation.”

Robert Woods
Elkhart Community School

EEF Grant Programs

INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANTS

The Elkhart Education Foundation is proud to support ECS by providing grant money to educators who have developed engaging lesson plans that promote curiosity and a love for learning.



A Sampling of Grant Proposals Funded by EEF.

AUGUST 2015

Name of Program/Grant	Campus	# of Students Impacted	Amount
Wiggle While We Work	Woodland	22	\$750
Tools of the Mind for Kindergarten	Eastwood, Hawthorne, Beck & Beardsley	260+	\$5,000
Kinesthetic Classroom	Monger	25	\$1,000
Orchestra Private Lessons Scholarships	ECHS	150	\$992
Blazer Penant Magazine	ECHS	15	\$750
Husky Big Three Incentive Program	NorthSide	640	\$2,500
Rock Band Club Silent Rehearsal Studio	ECHS	30	\$971.84
G.E.M.S. Girls Excited about Math and Science	Roosevelt STEAM Academy	25	\$850
ElkLogic Robotics Mechatronics Training	ECHS	52	\$1,000.00
El Sistema Music-infused program	Roosevelt STEAM Academy	200	\$5,000
iPads for Language Arts	West Side	169	\$5,000

PROGRAMS THAT TRUMP POVERTY

By promoting involvement in extracurricular activities and special programs, the Elkhart Education Foundation is dedicated to assisting students in finding their 'spark' and developing their passion to help pursue college and future job tracks.





**ELKHART, INDIANA SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER
CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION AND COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROJECT
2015 - 2018**

A collaborative education project with:

Elkhart Community Schools, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and the Elkhart Education Foundation

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Established by his friends and family in 1968, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights continues his legacy of working to protect the rights of individuals everywhere. Whether partnering with those on the front lines of the struggle for justice, bringing human rights education into schools around the globe, or encouraging financial leaders to consider human rights in their investment strategies, the RFK Human Rights works with and through individuals to create a more just and peaceful world.

RFK Speak Truth To Power (STTP)

For more than 45 years, the RFK Human Rights has built an extensive grassroots network that includes human rights defenders from more than 100 countries. Drawing from their inspiring stories, the RFK Human Rights has created Speak Truth To Power (STTP), a multi-faceted human rights education initiative designed to raise awareness and empower individual humans to realize their capacity to create change.



Speak Truth To Power – Transforming Classrooms

As an educational tool for students at every grade level, the STTP human rights education curriculum shows students that they, too, can make a difference in the global struggle for justice. STTP uses the stories of courageous heroes from around the world to teach students about human rights and empower them to become defenders themselves. As students begin to self-identify as human rights defenders, they learn to take active roles in the work of creating a more just and peaceful world.

The STTP curriculum consists of three parts. Part one provides students with a background in the history of human rights, focusing on human rights principles, covenants, and conventions like those in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Part two presents the defenders' stories and gives teachers a "toolkit" for creating change. These lesson plans provide a variety of activities aimed at demonstrating how students can stand against injustice. The final activity in each lesson plan asks the students to "Become a Defender" by working for change in their schools and communities. The students are asked to assume the role of a human rights defender in their own lives.

Teachers who use STTP in their classrooms express time and again that the curriculum fills important gaps in young people's learning. In the United States, for example, children may learn about the history of human rights leaders like Harriet Tubman or Eleanor Roosevelt, but they lack the critical opportunity to connect those figures and their accomplishments to human rights problems in the world today. Likewise, while there are school programs that deal with issues of character, honesty, fairness, and equality, the lessons often lack practical examples to inspire students to make the right choices in their own lives. The STTP curriculum provides a way to make history come alive by presenting living role models who have boldly worked to address the world's most pressing human rights issues. Students are then challenged to identify specific projects they can create to bring change to their homes, schools, and communities. Speak Truth To Power was designed with the understanding that education is about more than the attainment of basic skills—it is about the fullest development of a human being.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST	REQUEST	Notes
RFK Center Staff & Volunteer Travel and Accommodations	Pay for the travel and accommodations of RFK Center Staff and Volunteers for STTP events, Professional Development, Teacher Training and Defender visits.	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	Anticipating 6 visits at a minimum over the course of this phase of STTP Elkhart development.
RFK Center Staff Salaries/consultants	Curriculum and training manager: Karen Robinson STTP executive director: John Heffernan STTP program assistant: Jenny Girardi	\$45,000.00	\$20,000.00	This covers costs associated with the time spent by STTP staff associated with STTP Elkhart planning, development and assessment.
Teacher Stipends	Compensate Teachers for Participation in Curriculum Development	\$7,500.00	\$4,000.00	The compensation is specifically for teachers who participate in working on any modifications to the current curriculum and program so that it aligns with and is mapped into the plans developed by the teachers, helping adapt our materials to best fit the needs and direction of STTP Elkhart.
Program Supplies, Materials and Printing	Approx. 220 teachers at \$25.00 per teacher	\$5,500.00	\$2,000.00	Lesson plans, STTP posters and bracelets, printing of training and activity specific work, training binders for teachers.
Civic Action Project Costs	Development and implementation of a civic action project: \$150 per teacher, 25 teachers total	\$7,500.00	\$3,750	The Civic Action Projects typically serve as a culminating action so typically after they have learned about STTP. As we work with the teachers, this can be modified. These funds come back to Elkhart teachers for their classroom projects.
STTP Defender Travel and Accommodations	Pay for Travel and Accommodations for STTP Defenders during visits to Elkhart schools.	\$7,000.00	\$4,000.00	STTP Elkhart will aim to bring at least two STTP Defenders to Elkhart over the course of this phase.
TOTAL Direct Costs		\$82,500.00	\$38,250.00	
Administrative costs at 14%	Indirect cost related to project including, accounting, executive oversight etc.	\$11,550.00	\$5,355.00	
Total		\$94,050	\$43,605.00 \$14,535.00 per year	5/15- Paid \$5666.50 2/16- 8,868.50 due 8/16- \$14,535 due 8/17- \$14,535 due

The Living Libraries Project

Bringing our elementary school libraries into the 21st century.

The Stats:



This project will impact **7225** elementary school students in the district, **70%** of which are classified as low-income.



11 out of 14 elementary buildings in Elkhart Community Schools are considered “book deprived” because of their Title 1 status. Their access to reliable technology is almost non-existent.

The Reality:



- heavy, immovable furniture -few spaces for collaboration -half-empty bookshelves -no technology

The Proposal:

With the advent of the 1:1 initiative at Elkhart Community Schools, we see the need for our libraries to reinvent themselves. As content becomes more accessible online, the role of the library should become less about housing tomes and more about connecting learners and constructing knowledge. With this transition, not only will the way in which students consume content change, but also how they utilize the library space. Rather than maintain a quiet location for individual study, our libraries need to create environments for collaboration and active learning.

**THE LIBRARY IS THE
HEART OF THE
SCHOOL, IT'S THE
HUB.**

The Vision:



- Bright, welcoming learning environments
- Flexible, moveable furniture to encourage creative collaboration
- Infusion of technology including access to tablets, chrome books, online card catalogue, online research tools
- Adding to and updating the current book selections
- Creating spaces for innovative teaching practices including play-based learning
- Comfortable spaces to share in the joy of reading



Professional Learning Center for ECS Faculty

If we want our teachers to be innovative, we must provide them with collaborative professional development space that models the kind of innovation we want them to mirror in their classrooms.

Vision includes :

Tech-friendly furniture

Walls of whiteboards for brainstorming

Collaborative break-out areas for small group work.

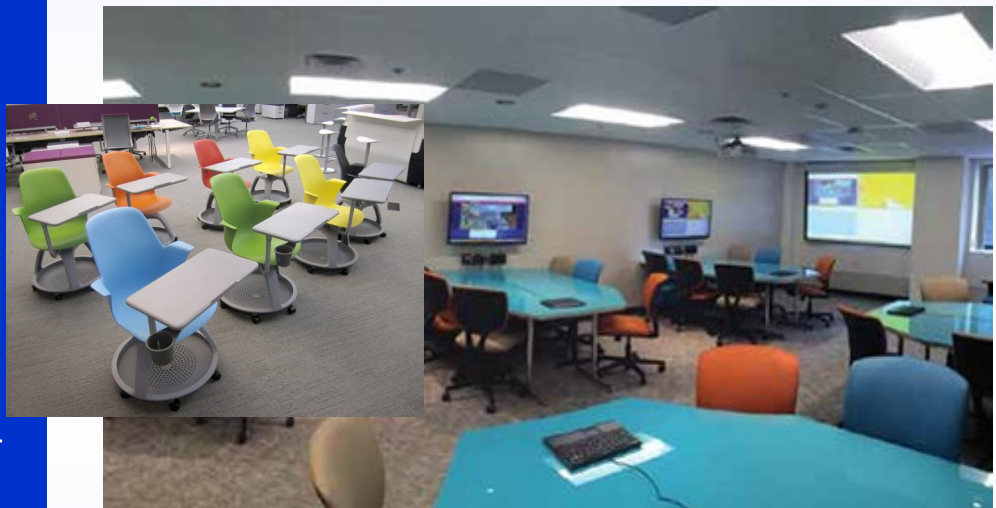
Coffee-house comfort

Spaces for large-group presentations & tech integration coaching

Cutting-edge technology

Projected Cost:

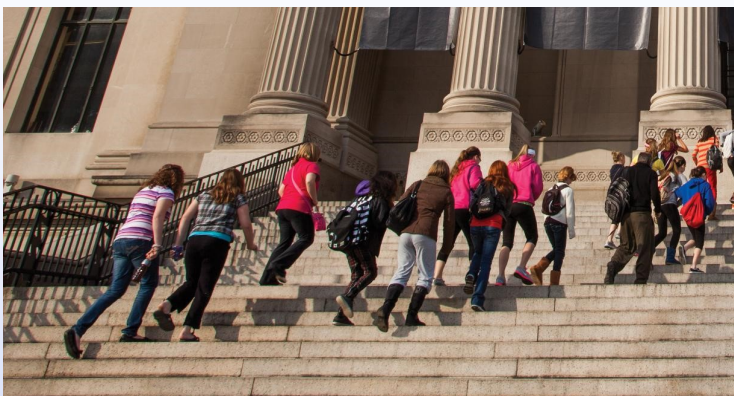
With the help of in-kind donations from community partners and some materials and labor provided by ECS, we hope to keep the cost of this project in the range of \$20,000.



Project Excursion

Helping Kids Explore the World!

This EEF program seeks to provide 1 field trip per year for every student in the district completely free of cost. Today's students are visual learners and a field trip lets them touch, feel, and listen to what they're learning about, build on classroom instruction, gain a better understanding of topics, build cultural understanding and tolerance, and expose them to worlds outside their own. Field trips are particularly important for disadvantaged children, as they provide students with unique opportunities that level the playing field. Field trips give diverse and financially-in-need students equal opportunity to experience things outside classroom that their families may not be able to afford. In the pursuit of education the "whole" student, field trips must be available to all students regardless of their ability to pay.



With the help of community partners and with the ability to negotiate bulk pricing for entrance fees, we are estimating the program to cost an average of \$5 per student in the district. This amounts to approximately \$65,000 per year.

Money well spent!

Kindness To

EEF is currently raising the final \$50,000 necessary to get the Kindness to Prevent Blindness Mobile Exam Unit Up and Running with all the proper equipment!



Kindness to Prevent Blindness- With success in education so closely tied to good eyesight, the partnership with Boling Vision Center and their Kindness to Prevent Blindness initiative is a natural fit. Donations made to get the mobile unit built and working will come in through the Elkhart Education Foundation to ensure they are tax-deductible. Boling Vision Center will arrange for doctors and techs to donate their time for school-related visits. A single employee dedicated to scheduling, oversight of inventory, care of the unit, driving & serving as a tech will be employed by and receive benefits through BVC (since the unit will be used for profit-making as well) and will receive supplemental income through EEF for philanthropic hours. Boling Vision Center will rent the mobile unit from the Elkhart Education Foundation for profit-making activities (Rate TBD) serving as an income stream for EEF. EEF and BVC will continue to seek corporate partners and major donor to collaborate with this endeavor and plan to enlist the Lions Club of Elkhart to assist in a volunteer capacity as well.



Prevent Blindness

HOW IMPORTANT IS AN ANNUAL EYE EXAM 




1 IN 4

CHILDREN HAS A VISION PROBLEM.¹



**EVERY CHILD.
EVERY YEAR.**

**VISION CAN AFFECT SPORTS
PERFORMANCE, TOO!**

-  HAND-EYE COORDINATION
-  DEPTH PERCEPTION
-  EYE TRACKING ABILITY

60% OF CHILDREN WITH
LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
HAVE AN **UNDETECTED
VISION PROBLEM.**²

80% OF **INFORMATION**
CHILDREN RECEIVE IN THE CLASSROOM IS
PRESENTED VISUALLY.⁴

70% OF **JUVENILE DELINQUENTS**
HAVE AN UNDETECTED AND
UNTREATED VISION PROBLEM.³



JOIN LET'S GO SEE
IN OUR COMMITMENT
TO **GIVE 10,000
EYE EXAMS
AND GLASSES.**



Financial Snapshot

Support & Revenues 2015

Contributions & Grants	\$152,617.65
Investment Return	\$2,587.52
Restricted Revenue (Earmarked for Ex. Dir Salary)	\$25,000
Total Support & Revenues	\$180,205.17

Expenses

Grants Distributed to Elkhart Community Schools	\$53,313
Programs Operated in Elkhart Community Schools	\$56,686.82
Operational Expenses & Salaries	\$36,409.33
Total Expenses	\$146,409.15
Increase in Net Assets	\$33,796.02



“The Elkhart Education Foundation has been ‘walking the walk’ since day one. In under two years, they’ve hosted several community events, initiated and fulfilled three grant cycles, and and helped bring community leaders together on many occasions to focus on the needs of students and educators.

They’ve also brought a bit of fun and encouragement to our building – as a staff we’ve started to come together more to take photos and participate in EEF related challenges.”

Kurt Weimer
Elkhart Community School Teacher

“I have been a part of other education foundation startups, and the Elkhart Education Foundation is by far the most action-oriented I have seen.”

Dr. Robert Haworth,
ECS Superintendent



Art Decio

Founder of Skyline Corporation, Philanthropist, Advisor to the EEF Board

“This is an outstanding organization that raises the level of excellence in education for all of Elkhart’s kids. I hope the community will join me in learning about the Elkhart Education Foundation and contributing to their important mission.”



Donor Spotlight

David L. Blisk

CEO, Spire Investment Partners, McLean, VA | Founding Donor Circle, Elkhart Education Foundation

“I am honored to join with the Elkhart Education Foundation to return “Our” Elkhart Community Schools to that of the gold standard. Over the years, so many of us benefitted not only from a fantastic academic experience, but from a huge variety of extracurricular activities that were available and open to all of Elkhart’s students. Those experiences weren’t expected as much as they were just provided regardless of a student’s economic means. They were “top-shelf” and unrivaled by any other part of the state. Today, such is not the case, and many programs have ceased to exist or are prohibitively expensive.”



Enter the transformational work of the Elkhart Educational Foundation. Over time these efforts will restore Elkhart to again be that place, taking the lead, in serving its children and giving them the opportunity to compete in this 21st century. Those of us that truly benefited from those glory years must come together and impact this noble effort by supporting the work of the Elkhart Education Foundation.



Dr. Richard Boling III

Owner & Managing Member of Boling Vision Center

“The Elkhart Education Foundation demonstrates excellence in everything they do. Their tenacity and determination to provide extraordinary learning experiences for all of Elkhart’s kids is unmatched. As a business owner, I know how crucial it is to have a competent and engaged work force to guarantee a successful Elkhart, and EEF is partnering with Elkhart Community Schools to make sure that happens. Frankly, I’ve never seen such big impact so quickly by any one organization in my many years of philanthropic partnerships in this community. I care because there is no such thing as “other people’s kids” and we must work together today to insure a better tomorrow!”