

Three Gripp Grants Awarded from the District 39 Educational Foundation

Three Gripp Grants totaling \$15,033 were awarded to 20 teachers, library professionals, and administrators, positively impacting every student in the District by addressing needs encompassing those resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

One Book, One District

Madeline Elman, 2nd grade teacher (Romona), along with library professionals Linda Diekman (Central), Lynn Mestanas (Harper), Kate Johnston-Legg (McKenzie), Elizabeth Ceisel (HMS), Daphna Neirick (WJHS), as well as Kate O'Brien, 2nd grade teacher (Central) and Rebecca Littman, Principal (Central), received a grant to fund **One Book, One District**, which was co-funded by each of the district school's PTAs' and PTOs'. The program, which took place in May 2021, connected all schools and students in District 39 through one common book. The book, *Outside, Inside* by LeUyen Pham, addresses how much the outside world has changed because of the pandemic, but what is inside our homes and inside our hearts has grown. The goal of the program was to unite all students in the District through a shared story and supporting activities, including a virtual author visit which occurred May 4th, access to the physical book as well as E-books, and an innovative story walk at each of the six schools. The outdoor story walk made the book safely accessible to all members of our district and community. Additional classroom activities were available to teachers to further explore the concepts of the book including writing activities, SEL activities, and philanthropic activities.

Innovative Learning through Apple Pencils

Dr. Cheri Bridge, Technology Integration Specialist (WJHS), Stephanie Rubenstein (WJHS), 8th grade math teacher, Jill Forti, Technology Integration Specialist (WJHS), and Nicole Peters, LBS (WJHS), received a grant to fund **Innovative Learning through Apple Pencils**. After piloting the learning tools in the WJHS Math Department this fall, the team felt every classroom could be improved through the use of the smart tool which connects at-home learners with

in-person learners seamlessly and effectively. The Apple Pencil also enhances teaching and learning in multiple ways now and will continue to inspire learning into the future. The grant includes the purchase of Apple Pencils to equip every teacher and specialist at the Junior High, as well as provide professional development to optimize the smart tools' use in each classroom. Rollout of the program occurred during Spring 2021, with ongoing professional development occurring as needed over the summer months.

Romona Mud Cafe

Kristin Johnson, EC LBS, and her fellow Romona colleagues including Elizabeth Foley, EC LBS, Stacy Levine, Kindergarten teacher, Kristen Olsen, Comprehensive LBS, Stephanie Boron, EC SLP, Cindy Anderson, Principal, Lisa Anderson, Assistant Principal, and Amanda Barton, EC Coordinator, received a grant to fund the **Romona Mud Cafe**, an all-seasons outdoor classroom which is used by the District's Early Childhood program, as well as Romona Elementary students in grades K-2. The wooden structure takes the form of a cafe including a "mud kitchen", dining area, and work table, with the goal of providing space that allows a year-round, nature-rich environment to learn through play-based, imaginative, and collaborative experiences. In addition, the space can be used for curriculum based lessons and is universally accessible to the community of students at Romona. The structure was completed in late winter 2021 and students enjoyed the Mud Cafe through the remainder of the year, which allowed for safe, outdoor activity, compliant with COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Gripp Grant Deadlines

Fall Deadline – October 29, 2021
Spring Deadline – March 4, 2022

LAB39

LAB39 is excited to offer after-school STEM enrichment classes again this year. Open to all HMS and WJHS students, this eight-week session of classes, taught by volunteer experts from our community will start after Thanksgiving Break. Past topics have included Aerodynamics, Circuit City, Disease Detectives, and Sports Physiology. We are excited to see this year's offerings and know the kids will enjoy exploring a variety of STEM subjects. Class registration to start in late October!



The foundation's **Appreciation Certificates** program is for gifts of \$39 in honor of a D39 teacher, staff, or administrator. Recipients receive a certificate and are recognized on the **Wall of Honor**. Our D39 community purchased over 200 certificates, raising about \$8,000 to support the foundation's Gripp Grant program. This year was a record year for Appreciation Certificates, reflecting how appreciative our community is for District 39 personnel. Thank you to all D39 teachers, staff, and administrators for your dedication this year!

From the Chair

What a year the 2020-2021 school year turned out to be!

From remote classrooms and hybrid learning to a full time in-person option ultimately offered to all students in late spring. Tremendous support from the community and from the Foundation’s talented 32 Trustees allowed us to have a successful year, despite the chaos of the pandemic.

Due to state wide restrictions on in person gatherings, we had to cancel all in-person fundraisers and the LAB39 science enrichment classes. The cancellation of our in person “Attire to Inspire” Fashion Show, Movie Night, Pub Crawl and Trivia Night severely restricted our fundraising potential. Not surprisingly, we did not meet our fundraising goals this past year. However, with the generosity of our Trustees and community supporters, our Annual Appeal raised over \$14,000 exceeding our expectations.

Thanks to the talent, ingenuity and perseverance of our Event Planning Committee, we pulled off two virtual fundraisers. Family Bingo Night was very successful providing a fun and enjoyable night for everyone. Traditionally, the in-person event sells out but the virtual format allowed all who were interested to participate, resulting in 150 families attending the event from the comfort of their homes. Family Trivia Night also looked a lot different from our annual adults-only event; however, fifty eight teams enjoyed a competitive night of trivia, while also bonding with their family and friends.

Three **Gripp Grants** were awarded this school year totaling over \$15,000 and benefitting all six District 39 Schools. Additionally, through the use of the **Sam Mikaelian Community Arts Fund**, “The Silver Lining Project: Celebrating the Unexpected and Rewarding Moments During COVID-19” was successfully launched. We received over 150 submissions from students and staff commemorating the positive to come out of the Covid 19 pandemic.

In Fall 2020, the Foundation gifted \$3,000 to help District 39 build a dedicated e-book library for use exclusively by students at all six schools after the schools’ brick-and-mortar libraries closed as a COVID-19 precaution. Finally, the Foundation remains committed to using the **Ray of Light Fund**, in collaboration with Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High School, to bring the “We All Live Here” program to our 5-8th graders. This project was put on hold, just as it was getting started in March 2020, but we hope it can resume in the 2021-2022 school year.

It has been an honor and pleasure to work with such an amazing Board of Trustees and supportive District 39 community. I can not believe all that we were able to accomplish exclusively through remote means. All of our Trustees’ dedication, enthusiasm and creativity helped the Foundation have a successful year in the face of unimaginable challenges caused by the pandemic. On behalf of the District 39 Educational Foundation, I want to thank our entire District 39 community and our partners for all of the support and generosity given this year.

Sincerely,
Monica Grubbs,
Chair 2020-2021

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The Silver Lining Project:

Celebrating the Unexpected & Rewarding Moments during COVID-19



2020-21 is a school year we will not soon forget. We slowed down, refocused our perspective, and changed the way we live, learn, and interact with others. But from every cloud comes a silver lining.

COVID-19 inspired us to explore new talents, try new things, and develop deeper connections with family and community.

In the spring of 2021, the D39 Educational Foundation reached out to students and families and asked “What is your Silver Lining?” The goal was to find and share the positive moments amongst the unknown of

(continued on page 3)

COVID-19. We received over 150 submissions of artwork, photographs, and poems and compiled them into an inspirational photo book and uplifting video link. A true silver lining of the past year!

Silver Lining Project books are available to view at all six D39 schools, the Mikaelian Education Center, and the Wilmette Historical Society.



Pages from the The Silver Lining Book

B-I-N-G-O

Our seventh annual Family Bingo Night took place on Saturday, February 6th, 2021. Sponsored by North Shore Community Bank, the event looked a little different this year as it was the Foundation's first ever virtual event. We had close to 150 families competing over Zoom, raising more than \$6,000 for our Gripp Grant Program. Competitors earned gift certificates and gift cards from local Wilmette restaurants, as well as cash prizes, while enjoying food from J.P. McCarthy's Pizza and Grill.

Trivia Night

Our ninth annual Trivia Night was held on April 17, 2021. A total of 70 tickets were sold and 58 teams competed live on Sporcle through multiple rounds of trivia spanning various topics involving point wagering and strategy. New this year were food and wine packages from La Cocinita, J.P McCarthy's Pizza and Grill, and The Bottle Shop. Participants competed for gift certificates from local Wilmette restaurants, as well as a summer fun basket (valued at \$500). Proceeds from the event raised over \$2,600 for our Gripp Grant program.

Attire to Inspire Fashion Show

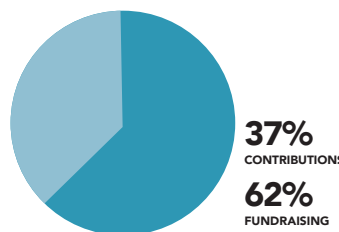
While we were unable to hold our annual Attire to Inspire Fashion Show, the Foundation partnered with Plaza del Lago, to host an outdoor fashion show on September 17, 2021. More than 70 guests dined al fresco at Convito Café while models (including the Foundation's own Trustees) showcased the latest fall apparel and accessories from Plaza del Lago shops. The fashion show raised over \$2,000 for the Foundation.

Public Support and Revenues	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS			
PTA/PTO Contributions	\$1,800		\$1,800
Sponsorship Income	\$1,000		\$1,000
Appreciation Certificates	\$7,967		\$7,967
Ray of Light Fund	--	\$268	\$268
SAM Fine Arts Fund	--	\$5,000	\$5,000
FUNDRAISING*			
Annual Appeal	\$14,865		\$14,865
Movie Event	--		--
Wilmette Holiday Shopping Event	\$593		\$593
Fashion Show	\$2,000		\$2,000
Trivia Night	\$2,696		\$2,696
Bingo Night	\$6,460		\$6,460
PROGRAM REVENUE*			
LAB39	--		--
INTEREST AND AMAZON SMILE			
	\$151		\$151
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$37,532	\$5,268	\$42,800
EXPENDITURES			
Administrative	\$12,659		\$12,659
Marketing	\$1,429		\$1,429
Fundraising			
Annual Appeal	--		--
COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Movie Event	--		--
Fashion Show	--		--
Bingo Night	\$178		\$178
MAKING AN IMPACT			
Fine Arts**	--	\$684	\$684
LAB39	--		--
Special Gifts***	\$3,185		\$3,185
Gripp Grants****	\$20,277		\$20,277
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$37,728	\$684	\$38,412
Change in Net Assets	\$(196)	\$4,584	\$4,388
Net Assets End of FY 2020	\$106,966	\$10,364	\$117,330
NET ASSETS END OF FY 2021	\$106,770	\$14,948	\$121,718

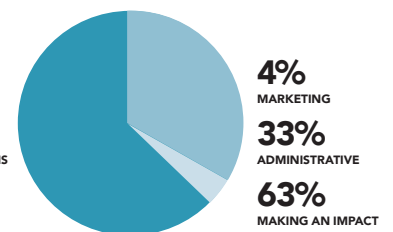
*Fundraising Events and Programming Events were adjusted b/c of Covid
**Silver Lining Project.

***Special Gift to D39 for Sora Ebooks to support remote learning.
****Prior year and current year Gripp Grants.

REVENUE SOURCES:



EXPENDITURES:





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