

Gripp Grants Enrich Learning

D39 Educational Foundation raises funds throughout the year to award Gripp Grants and to support D39 programs that enrich learning for students. In the 2024-2025 school year, the Foundation awarded three grants totaling **\$4,845**.

Grant applications are welcomed from all members of the D39 community, including teachers, staff, parents and students, or any organization that makes a proposal consistent with the mission of the Foundation. Applications should outline all pertinent details of the new program or resource. If funded, the community member who submitted the grant application manages the grant moving forward.

In the 2024-2025 school year, the Foundation awarded three grants totaling **\$4845**. The Foundation also awarded **\$25,000** for special projects for a total of **\$29,845** given back to our district to promote and celebrate student learning.

Toniebox Audio Players

Romona Elementary School received funding to purchase Toniebox Audio Players and several Tonies Audio Play Characters and audiobooks. The Players can be checked out from the library for students in grades PreK – 4th grade. Access to these devices supports auditory comprehension, calming strategies, academic independence, and reduces segregation of students with disabilities.

Yoto Audio Players

McKenzie Elementary was given funding to purchase Yoto devices, a versatile audio-based learning tool that offers students a screen-free alternative to engage with educational content. These devices can be checked out from the library for students in grades PreK – 4th grade. The Yoto device offers audio stories and music that can significantly improve students' listening, comprehension, and language skills.



Living City of Pompeii

Wilmette Junior High received funding for an exciting enhancement to the Latin Program. The Program includes an immersive experiential Living City of Pompeii project with 8th Grade Latin students. The goal of the project is to recreate structures that existed 2,000 years ago in the ancient city of Pompeii. Students were assigned a structure (homes, bath houses, temples, restaurants, etc.) and were responsible for bringing it to life through a historical simulation.

The Gripp Grant provided for the purchase of durable re-useable materials for building up to 30 playhouses, along with art materials, costumes, and props.

Gripp Grant Submission Deadlines for 2025-2026

Fall Deadline – Monday, October 24th, 2025

Spring Deadline – Monday, March 2nd, 2026



The Foundation also gifted \$25,000 for special projects in the district



The D39 Foundation Board approved an Art Grant, providing each of D39's elementary schools, Central, Harper, McKenzie, & Romona, \$5,000 in funding to work on a mural with a local artist. The funding was made available through the Sam Mikaelian Arts Fund and the Lechner Ray of Light Fund. The main theme for this project was a focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Art teachers and students worked with the Evanston Mural Arts Program to develop a unique image and project plan for the school. This unique, site-specific artwork is now proudly displayed and permanently installed in each school building.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the D39 Educational Foundation,

As the 2024/2025 school year concludes, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude for the work accomplished by the D39 Educational Foundation. This year was a time of transition, with many long-time members moving on to new adventures and a record number of new trustees joining our team bringing fresh perspectives to our important work.

The D39 Educational Foundation focused on our most beloved fundraisers this past year. Our 4th Annual College Paddle Night in November raised more than **\$8,000** providing a fun round-robin style tournament for all levels of players. In the new year, we saw the return of two of our most highly attended events: Family Bingo Night and Trivia Night. Family Bingo Night provided a fun night out for D39 families, packing the Highcrest Middle School cafeteria with over 200 game players. This popular family-friendly event raised nearly **\$5,000**. Our last event of the year was the highly anticipated Trivia Night. This event always brings out the best costume and theme competition from our community and this year it did not disappoint. Twenty teams competed for two top prizes, one for Best in Show for best overall table theme, and of course trivia champions! This banner event is always our largest fundraiser of the year, and this year we raised more than **\$15,000!**

Our fundraising efforts this year made it possible for us to fund Gripp Grants totaling just under **\$5,000** to recipients at three of our D39 Schools. Romona Elementary received a grant to purchase Toniebox Audio Players for their school library. McKenzie Elementary welcomed Yoto devices with audiobooks, music, and podcasts to their learning commons. Both the Toniebox and Yoto devices will promote focus while helping to support auditory comprehension, calming strategies, and academic independence for elementary students. Our final Gripp Grant recipient was Kelly Shoemaker, who oversees the Latin Program at Wilmette Junior High School, and runs an annual immersive/experiential Living City of Pompeii project with 8th Grade Latin students. With our funding Ms. Shoemaker purchased durable, reusable materials for building up to 30 playhouses, along with art materials, costumes, and props that can be used for years to come.

This year, we also completed our very first elementary school-wide mural project in collaboration with local mural artist Molly Z. from Art Encounter in Evanston. These murals were installed in all four of our D39 Elementary Schools this Spring. Fourth-grade students from each school worked with guidance on creating these masterpieces, with each student adding to a small section of the mural. Each mural showcases the importance of individual diversity and collective unity within the D39 Community. This project was funded by a special grant from both the Sam Mikaelian Fine Arts Fund and the Ray of Light Fund.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who volunteered and attended our events. I am also incredibly proud of our hard-working trustees, especially our new members, for their commitment and dedication this year. I am so proud to be a part of this generous and dedicated community! On behalf of the entire foundation, thank you again for your continued generosity and support of the D39 Educational Foundation's mission.

Sincerely,
Melissa Pundsack
2024-2025 Board Chairwoman

A Year of Engaging In Person Events

The Foundation hosts a variety of events throughout the year, with a two-fold purpose: **To raise charitable funds to support our Gripp Grants and other programs and to create social opportunities for our community.** Here are some highlights from this past year's events:

Trivia Night

D39 Educational Foundation's annual Trivia Night raised over **\$15,000**. This highly anticipated event promises creative costumes and energized competition from our community. This year did not disappoint with 20 teams competing for two top prizes! One prize was awarded to the team with the top trivia score, while the other prize goes to the Best in Show for best overall theme.

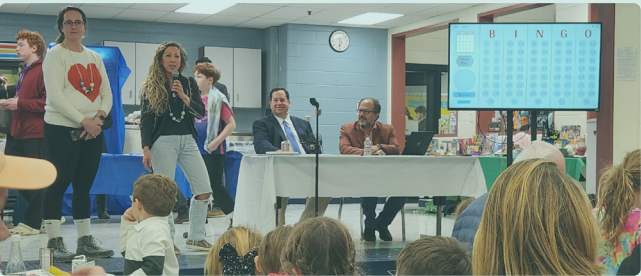


Paddle Night



The D39 Educational Foundation hosted its 4th Annual College Paddle Night on November 16th. It was a beautiful night in Wilmette – perfect for paddle and a little friendly competition! Sixty-four participants played in a round-robin style tournament, sporting their favorite college-themed gear. New this year was a “party” option for those who wanted to support the Foundation, but were unable to play. It was a huge success! The event featured more than \$5,000 in raffle prizes, and some great food and drinks. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to our generous sponsors, local businesses, and volunteers. College Paddle Night raised more than **\$8,000**.

Bingo Night

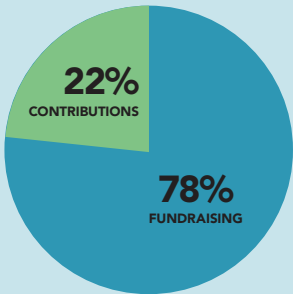


On Friday, January 24th, 2025 the District 39 Educational Foundation hosted a fun-filled evening that brought together over 200 enthusiastic bingo game lovers. The event was full of energy. Generous donations from both participants and local businesses allowed winners to enjoy a wide range of exciting prizes. The event raised nearly **\$5,000**.

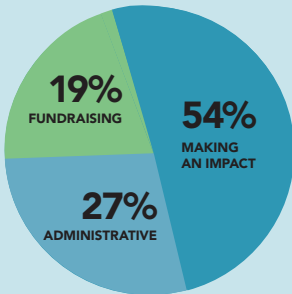
Public Support and Revenues	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS			
PTA/PTO Contributions	\$750.00	--	\$750.00
Sponsorship Income	\$1,000.00	--	\$1,000.00
Appreciation Certificates	\$1,131.00	--	\$1,131.00
Ray of Light Fund	--	\$825	\$825.00
SAM Fine Arts Fund	--	\$5,000	\$5,000.00
Corporate Matching	\$2,032.87	--	\$2,032.87
FUNDRAISING*			
Annual Appeal	\$3,797.94	--	\$3,797.94
Trivia Night Event	\$20,250.00	--	\$20,250.00
Paddle Night Event	\$8,220.00	--	\$8,220.00
Bingo Night Event	\$5,699.00	--	\$5,699.00
INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME	\$9.11	--	\$9.11
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$42,889.92	\$5,825.00	\$48,714.92
EXPENDITURES			
Administrative	\$14,115.85	--	\$14,115.85
Fundraising			
Annual Appeal	\$29.83	--	\$29.83
Trivia Night Event	\$7,760.64	--	\$7,760.64
Paddle Party Event	\$39.39	--	\$39.39
Bingo Night Event	\$1,967.08	--	\$1,967.08
Teacher Appreciation	\$49.46	--	\$49.46
General Fundraising	\$25.10	--	\$25.10
MAKING AN IMPACT			
Special Gifts	--	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Gripp Grants*	\$1,872.84	--	\$1,872.84
Professional Fees	\$1,560.00	--	\$1,560.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$27,420.19	\$25,000.00	\$52,420.19
Change in Net Assets	\$15,469.73	\$(19,175.00)	\$(3,705.27)
NET ASSETS END OF FY 2025	\$87,069.73	\$4,425.12	\$91,494.85

*As of fiscal year end, two awarded grants have not been disbursed.

REVENUE SOURCES:



EXPENDITURES:





615 Locust Rd. • Wilmette, IL 60091

2024-25 FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

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Jeremy Page – Treasurer
Andrea Wald – Secretary

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Honored Lifetime Member

Sam Mikaelian

3 Ways to Donate to the Foundation Today! Visit www.d39foundation.org
1. General Donation **2. Tree of Inspiration** (\$1,000-\$5,000) **3. Appreciation Certificates** (\$39)