

2025 Impact Report



5
YEARS

 THE FAYETTE
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

A Letter to Our Community

Dear Friends,

As the Fayette Education Foundation marks its five-year anniversary, we reflect with gratitude on how far we've come—and how deeply our community believes that education is everyone's business.

This year, our impact reached further than ever before. Through your generosity, the Foundation continued to fund creative classroom projects, expand early-learning and literacy initiatives, and connect students with real-world career experiences. We've seen firsthand how community investment can ignite potential and change lives.

As we celebrate this milestone, we also recognize an important part of our growth. The Fayette Education Foundation has transitioned from a fiscal sponsorship under the Blue Grass Community Foundation (BGCF) to an independent nonprofit organization—an achievement that strengthens our ability to expand capacity, deepen partnerships, and sustain our mission for years to come. We continue to value our collaboration with BGCF on mission-aligned initiatives that support local students and families.

The Fayette Education Foundation operates independently from Fayette County Public Schools, allowing us to raise and manage private resources that directly benefit students and educators while remaining flexible and responsive to emerging needs. We are proud to collaborate closely with FCPS leadership to ensure our work aligns with district priorities—while preserving the independence essential to sustain our mission and expand opportunities for every student.

Our first five years have proven what's possible when a community comes together around education. With your continued support, the next five will bring even greater opportunity, equity, and excellence for Fayette County students.

With sincere appreciation,

Kaelyn Query Caldwell
Board President



Carrie Boling
Executive Director



State of Schools: How Community Support Is Powering Student Success

Nearly 600 community and business leaders gathered on September 12, 2025, at the Central Bank Center for the Fayette Education Foundation's State of Schools Breakfast, presented by UK Federal Credit Union. Now a cornerstone of the Foundation's mission, the annual event unites Fayette County in support of public education.

The Foundation uses this signature gathering to showcase how private giving fuels innovation, equity, and opportunity in classrooms across the district. The morning celebrated student talent, honored volunteer service through the Golden Apple Awards, and recognized the generous partners whose investments make educational excellence possible.



"When I look at the Portrait of a Graduate, I don't just see a framework on a page. I see my own story. I am a product of FCPS, and what I've gained here has been more than lessons in math, English, or science. I've been prepared for what's next."

-Shaun Okpebholo-Mwangi

2025-26 Board of Directors

Chair: **Kaelyn Query Caldwell**, Lexington Event Co./Transylvania University

Chair-Elect: **Kim Sweazy**, Toyota

Treasurer: **Michael Baer**, Fusioncorp Design

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Jackie Winterbottom, Valvoline Global Operations

Latarika Young, Lexmark, a subsidiary of Xerox

Executive Director: **Carrie Boling**

ABOVE: Shaun Okpebholo-Mwangi, a senior at STEAM Academy and Locust Trace, is the creative force behind Bloom Brotha, a Lexington-based floral business.

Featured at the 2025 State of Schools Breakfast, Shaun shared his Fayette County Public Schools journey with nearly 600 community leaders — and his company provided the event's beautiful floral arrangements.





LEFT: March 13, 2025 was a lucky day for ten Lexington preschoolers. In partnership with Fayette County Public Schools, 250Lex and KY Saves 529, The Fayette Education Foundation awarded 529 Scholarship Savings Accounts to help families save for their children's education.

Bluegrass Bright Start is a partnership between The Fayette Education Foundation and KY Saves 529 which allows community partners and donors to invest in students' educational futures.

The Kentucky Educational Savings Plan Trust, known as KY Saves 529, is a 529 Plan sponsored by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KY Saves 529 is designed to help families save for their beneficiary's education in a tax-advantaged way.

\$73,356 invested in 38 projects in 2025



**BRIGHT
GRANTS PROGRAM
IDEAS**

Empowering Teachers to Inspire Students

Each year, with a boost from Blue Grass Community Foundation, Bright Ideas Grants fuel teacher creativity across Fayette County Public Schools. From STEM and literacy initiatives to arts and career-readiness projects, these educator-designed programs bring learning to life for students. When we invest in teachers' ideas, we invest in brighter futures for every child.

Investing in Tomorrow's Teachers

In addition to awarding the 5th Annual Manny Caulk Jr. Memorial Scholarship, the Foundation presented two Aspiring Teachers Scholarships presented by Gerry Brooks.

Both scholarships nurture the next generation of educators by helping Fayette County graduates pursue teaching degrees and return home to inspire future students.

These scholarships strengthen our community's educator pipeline and ensure that local classrooms are led by those who understand and love our schools.

CONGRATULATIONS,

JORDAN!

Recipient of the
2025 Emmanuel
"Manny" Caulk Jr.
Memorial Scholarship
for future teachers

JORDAN WOODS
LAFAYETTE HS

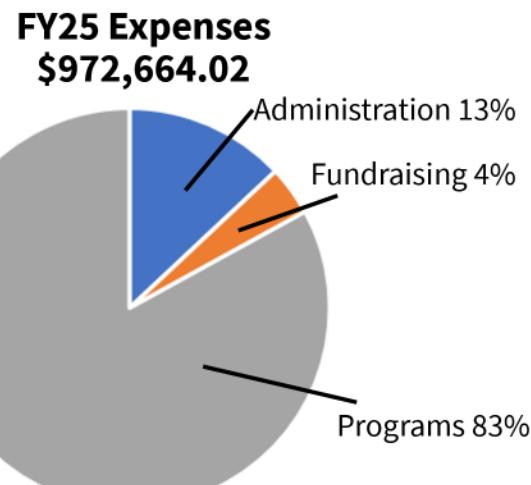
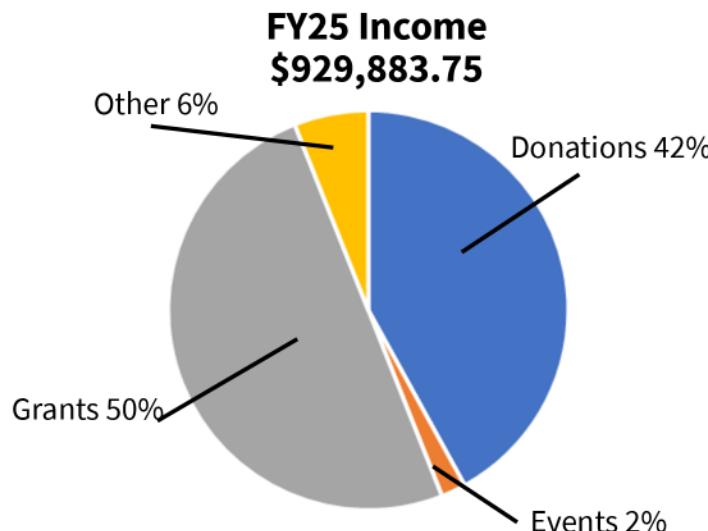


Partnership in Action: Education Is Everyone's Business

- A.** Toyota's Driving Possibilities initiative goals are to expand access to STEM careers, overcome barriers such as language and transportation, and align classroom innovation with future workforce pathways.
- B.** Lexmark, a subsidiary of Xerox, provided targeted funding to six schools to support STEM education, technology resources, and diversity-focused programs.
- C.** A five-year investment from two generous Lexington retirees who are passionate about education is helping students at the Success Academy discover renewed pathways to success.

Financial Snapshot

The Fayette Education Foundation is funded through corporate contributions, individual giving, grants, and other sources. We thank our donors for entrusting us with their investment in public education. The unaudited FY25 revenue and expense summary below demonstrates our commitment to transparency and stewardship.



*Named for the Foundation's first board chair, **The Alan Marcus Stein Leaders in Education Giving Society** recognizes donors who give \$2,500 or more annually or lifetime gifts of \$25,000 or more. Stein is a native Lexingtonian and long-time advocate for education.*

- 100 Good Men of Lexington
- James D. Baker
- Blue Grass Community Foundation
- Gerry Brooks
- Jon and Joy Caldwell
- Central Bank & Trust Co.
- Commonwealth Credit Union
- Kip Cornett
- Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation
- Dr. Cindy Derer and Dr. John Gohmann
- Edmentum
- Everybody Counts KY
- Fayette County Regional Collaborative
- Fifth Third Bank
- Haydon Homes, Inc.

- Independence Bank
- Kentucky American Water
- Kentucky Association of Chinese Language Teachers
- Kentucky Association of Health Plans
- Lexmark, a subsidiary of Xerox
- LG&E and KU Energy LLC
- New Vista of the Bluegrass, Inc.
- Publix Super Markets Charities
- Toyota Kentucky
- Toyota USA Foundation
- University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union
- UnlockED
- Valvoline Global
- WesBanco
- YMCA of Central Kentucky

The Community Behind Our Impact

\$250,000+

Toyota USA Foundation

\$100,000-249,999

Blue Grass Community Foundation
Lexmark
Toyota Kentucky

\$50,000-99,999

Dr. Cindy Derer and Dr. John Gohmann
MacAdam Early Childhood & Literacy Fund

\$25,000-49,999

David C. Humphreys Memorial Fund
Delta Dental of Kentucky Foundation

\$10,000-24,999

100 Good Men of Lexington
Fayette County Regional Collaborative
Independence Bank
Kentucky Association of Health Plans
Louise James Children's Fund
University of Kentucky
Federal Credit Union

\$5,000-9,999

3.14 Going Forward Fund
Gerry Brooks
Central Bank & Trust Co.
Commonwealth Credit Union
Edmentum
Innovation in Public Education Fund
Kentucky American Water
UnlockED
WesBanco
YMCA of Central Kentucky

\$2,500-4,999

Jon and Joy Caldwell
Kip Cornett
Fifth Third Bank
Kentucky Association of Chinese Language Teachers
LG&E and KU Energy LLC
New Vista of the Bluegrass
Publix Super Markets
Charities
Valvoline Global

\$1,000-2,499

American Trust Company
Bluegrass Care Navigators
Bluegrass Community and Technical College
Bruce J. Heim Foundation
Carrie and Scott Boling
CHI Saint Joseph Health
Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass
Commerce Lexington
Community Action Council
Curriculum Associates
Dr. Anthony Everett
Houchens Insurance Group
Impressions Marketing
JRA Architects
Rodney and Wendy Jackson
Sarah Jefferson
Julius Marks Fund
Keeneland
Lexington Event Company
Lexington Public Library
Dr. Demetrus Liggins
Ryan Simpson
Alan M. and Ginger Stein
Tate Hill Jacobs Architects
Transylvania University
UK College of Education
Latarika Young

\$500-999

Audio Enhancement Inc.
Andre Fomby
Forcht Bank
KPC Architectural Products, Inc.
Lauren Lovely
Members Heritage Credit Union
Randa Remer Ph.D.
Mark Stein
Kim Bugg Sweazy
Theresa Wilson

\$100-499

Christian Adair
Amplify
Anonymous
Melissa Bacon
Ted Ball
Amy Black
Debbie Boian
Luke Bradley
CentrePointe Christian Church
Timothy Costich
Crank & Boom Craft Ice Cream
DSC Fitness LLC

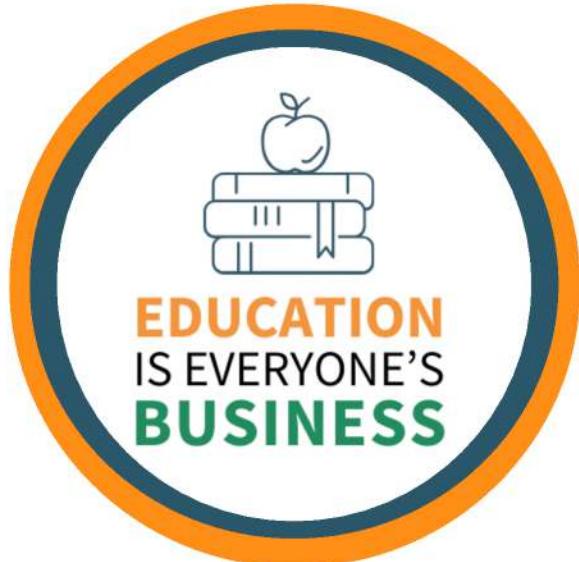
Anne Stewart DeMott

Noelle Dick
Anne Gay Donworth
Jacqueline Gordon Duvall
EOP Architects
Fayette Co. Education Assoc.
Sarah Gaines
Tierra L. Gentry
Scott Goedde
Guide Realty
Melissa Hammer
Alicia Hensley
Mandy Higgins
Rachael Howard
Kentucky 120 - American Federation of Teachers
Kim and Paul Lyon
Laurel Raimondo Martin Ph.D.
Amy Maupin
Melissa McCart-Smyth
Alexandra McConnell
Rebecca McCray
Latonya Meekins
Cyndy and Herb A. Miller Jr.
Diane Minnifield
Stephanie Mobley
Monica Mundy
Hadiyah Newbern
Kim Parker-Brown
Jenifer Payne
Michael Potapov
Nikita Reed
Ronald Reinhardt
Jean Sabharwal
Simone Salomon
Anna Shepherd
Marianne Sherman
Alex Spangler
Stephanie Spires
Laura Stallins
Stratton Eyes
Ame and David Sweetall
John Tackett
Killian Timoney
Traditional Bank
Lucy VanMeter
Kristofer D. VanZant
Abby Vaughn
Mary Ann Vimont
Leah von Trout
Debra Wekstein
Kellie Wheatley
Katie Corcoran Williams
Jackie Winterbottom
Tiffany Yahr

Up to \$100

James Adams
Anonymous
Jennifer Baker
Andrea Banks
Dr. Houston Barber
Ike Boling
Lori Bowen
Bill Bradford
Michael Branch
Tracy Bruno
Maria Castelan
Alex Chadwell
Sandra Chambers-Collins
Hazel Compton
Tansy Coats
Lynne Cornish
Margaret Crabtree
Mingliang Dai
Brian Derer
Laura Duffy
Raine Engle-Minichan
Gwyn Everly
Tyler Fields
Amy Gilkison
Denise Gray
Nick Guadagnoli
Cathi Harmon
Cathy L. Hart
Shelby Isert
Bryne Jacobs
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Janine Lindgreen
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Natasa Mongiardo
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Jessica Waldmann
Margaret Warriner
Glenn Wilson

Thank you to our donors who wish to remain anonymous.



fayettefoundation.org

The Fayette Education Foundation in Action



Sponsoring Teacher of the Year



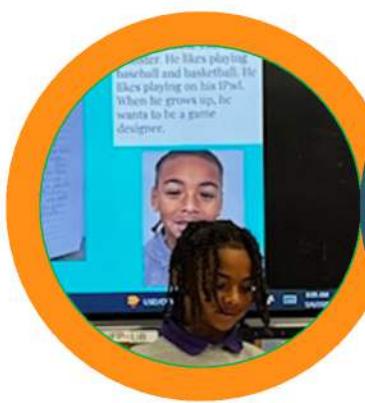
Mobilizing quick support for families in need



Supporting the arts



Expanding summer programs



Elevating mall projects that make a BIG difference



Promoting early literacy



Providing opportunities for students to shine



Building bridges to opportunity with partners