

Aurora East Educational Foundation

2022-23 Annual Report



*Building Better Communities
Starts with Outstanding Schools .
Come Be Part of Helping the Aurora East Schools be Great!*



2022-23 Annual Report

Board of Director's Message

Dear Friends,

The purpose of the Aurora East Educational Foundation (AEEF) is to provide enrichment programs and educational opportunities for students in Aurora East Schools, District 131. To that end, the Foundation provided opportunities through its Mini-Grant program, Tom-A-Hawk Turkey Trot, Virtual Learning and Attendance program and, of course, scholarships through the Excellence in Education Endowment, Careers in Education Endowment and Career and Technical Education programs. In all, AEEF programs enriched the educational opportunities for approximately 5,000 students in District 131.



However, we can do more! On the last page of this report there are several ways you can contribute to the AEEF. No donation is too small, and recognition is promoted throughout the community. Should you wish to fund a scholarship, either on the short-term or long-term, please feel free to contact any of our Board of Directors.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, we will potentially be partnering with District 131 on a College and Career for All focus. This initiative will focus on students in grades sixth through twelve that plan to either attend a 4-year college, community college or enter a trade or career path. Both District 131 and the Board of the AEEF are excited about this new program.

Each year three board members step off our board and three new board members come on. Please consider joining our team. Simply contact any of our existing members to join our team of compassionate, considerate, and caring board members. Giving back is what makes the Aurora East Educational Foundation fun and rewarding.

On behalf of the AEEF Board of Directors, District 131, and the students at Aurora East School District 131, we thank you for partnering with us to enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Ken Darby, President
Josie Gehler, Vice President
Michael McCue, Treasurer
Tom Madden, Secretary
Lisa Morales, Ex Officio

Trina Zinzer
Ray Torres
Darnell Gibson
Vitri Rachadyanto

Pat Rogers
Mark Michelini
Carol Reiseck
Theresa Shoemaker



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2022 Golf Outing

The 2022 golf outing was a huge success! Congratulations to the team of Steve and Jan Kenyon, Rhonda Mont, Lisa Morales, Merry Carey, Michael McCue, and several others. The 2022 outing included 112 golfers, two gold sponsors (\$1,500), one silver sponsor (\$1,000). Thirteen Tomcat sponsors (\$500), 26-hole sponsors (\$250), a beverage cart sponsor (\$200), two Competition sponsors (\$150), and two event sponsors (\$100). The outing grossed over \$34,000 and netted just under \$23,500.

And finally, A big thank you to Jan & Steve Kenyon, who did the lion's share of coordinating and communicating for these past several years, and who, after many years, have decided to step down. We wish Jan and Steve much happiness going forward. Replacing Jan and Steve will be a tremendous challenge, but our new committee, led by Ray Torres, is up for the challenge.



AURORA EAST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Golf Outing Financial History For Fiscal Years 1999 through 2022

Year	Notes	Net Proceeds
2022		\$ 23,408.00
2021		23,074.00
2020	COVID Cancellation	-
2019		21,849.00
2018		17,421.00
2017		25,505.00
2016		10,996.00
2015		14,336.00
2014		12,971.00
2013	Event Not Held	-
2012		14,000.00
2011		11,525.00
2010	Event Not Held	
	No Records	
1999-2009	Available	

Registration and other information for the 2023 Golf Outing can be found at <https://aeefgolf131.com>.



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2022 Mini-Grants

The Aurora East Educational Foundation awarded 22 Mini-Grants for a total of \$26,504.28. The grant funds were used for field trips to Medieval Times, a Shakespeare Festival, and an initial payment for a trip to Washington, DC; to providing soft seating for students; to purchasing a percussion set for the drum program; to a kitchen and grocery check lanes simulations; to providing cooking supplies for the independent living program; to supplies for the Peer Buddy portion of the Special Olympics program; to replacing worn-out books in the library; to purchasing camera equipment for the yearbook staff; to purchasing supplies to the Special Education transition program for adult students; to purchasing emergent literacy textbooks for students with disabilities; to supplies for a green vegetable garden; to purchasing Lego robots for elementary STEM students; to purchasing sensory manipulatives for students with special needs; and finally to fund Monarch and Bluestem Award nominations. In total, 4,073 students had their educational opportunity enhanced by the Mini-Grant program, approximately three in every ten District 131 students.

Aurora East Educational Foundation	
2022 Mini Grant Awards	
School	Grants
Allen	1,500.00
Benevides	1,500.00
Brady	1,500.00
Cowherd	4,500.00
East High	5,800.00
Krug	750.00
Oak Park	2,435.28
O'Donnell	4,019.00
Simmons	3,000.00
Waldo	1,500.00
Grand Total	26,504.28

Aurora East Educational Foundation	
2022 Mini Grant Awards	
School	Students
Allen	45
Benevides	150
Brady	30
Cowherd	222
East High	89
Krug	4
Oak Park	530
O'Donnell	77
Simmons	2,908
Waldo	18
Total Students	4,073



A tremendous debt of gratitude is due Tom Madden for his leadership in organizing the Mini-Grant program and coordinating with both the district and the committee members over these last five years. Tom has taken the Mini-Grant program to the next level. A sincere thank you goes out to Josie Gehler, Ray Torres, Mark Michelini, Merry Carey, Pat Rogers, and Tom, of course, for reading and awarding the 2022 mini-grants.

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2022 Tom-A-Hawk Turkey Trot

The 2022 Tom-A-Hawk Turkey Trot was not for the faint of heart. The day-time temperature hovered around 30 degrees. However, a majority of the over nine hundred registrants braved the chilly weather to enjoy an invigorating run through downtown Aurora. In addition, Dick Shindel was out there with Dick's Donuts and our very own, Bill Deligiannis braved the cold in his turkey regalia!



This collaboration with West Aurora's A+ Foundation is in its second year and was fortunate enough to have over \$39,000 in sponsorships; the Durham Foundation donated \$10,000; Organic Life and the Fox Valley Park District both contributed \$5,000; in addition, there were many \$1,000 donations which were huge for the profitability of the event. Overall, the event raised \$22,507 for the AEEF Foundation.

A huge thank you goes out to Bill Deligiannis and Shane Gillespie and the team at West Aurora A+ Foundation who coordinated the event.

Registration and more information can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Aurora/TomAHawk5k>

Giving Tuesday

The AEEF is fortunate to have strong financial support from parents, alumni, former teachers, and other community members who wish to provide scholarship opportunities to graduating seniors of East Aurora High School. Please see the attached list of names that have provided scholarships in the past and have, in some cases, provided scholarship opportunities over several years. Please consider adding your name to the list next year.

This year's Giving Tuesday event was held at the Spartan House. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet many of our donors and mingle with our Board Members. Many thanks go out to Merry Carey, Trina Zinzer, Bill Deligiannis, and Michael McCue for coordinating.

AURORA EAST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION		
2022-23 Scholarship Donors		
	Donor	
1	Stephanie Manriquez Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000.00
2	Rich & Margie Fazio	\$1,000.00
3	Cruz Family Education Scholarship	\$1,000.00
4	Mario & Shirley Fazio	\$1,000.00
5	Alderman Ted Mesiacos	\$1,000.00
6	James & Susan Skelley	\$1,000.00
7	East Aurora Council AFT Local 604	\$1,000.00
8	Dr Susan Cooper in memory of Terry Shoup	\$1,000.00
9	Dr Susan Cooper in memory of Terry Shoup	\$1,000.00
10	Diana S Embry In Memory of Delbert Dufraim	\$1,000.00
11	Thomas & Anne Louise P Strong in honor of Frances & Thomas Strong	\$1,000.00
12	Dick's Mini-Donuts	\$1,000.00
13	Merry L Carey	\$1,000.00
14	James & Susan Skelley	\$1,000.00
15	Mary/Casey/Ann/Michael/Nicole McCue (in memory of Randy McCue)	\$1,000.00
16	John Struck	\$1,500.00
17	John & Janet Avendano	\$1,000.00
18	John & Janet Avendano (in memory of William McCormack)	\$1,000.00
19	Diana S Embry In Memory of Delbert Dufraim	\$1,000.00
20	Platt Electric in Memory of Cam Leadbetter	\$1,000.00
21	The Hawks Family Fine Arts Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Total One Time Scholarships		\$21,500.00
Recurring Scholarship		
22	Carol Thompson (reoccurring for four years)	\$1,500.00
Total Scholarships		\$23,000.00



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2022-23 Scholarship Program

AURORA EAST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION			
2022-23 Scholarship Awardees			
#	Year	Student	Scholarship
1	2023	Aidan Romo	Aurora East Education Foundation Education Scholarship
2	2023	Assyria Balfour	Aurora East Education Foundation Education Scholarship
3	2023	Eddie Guerrero	Aurora East Education Foundation Education Scholarship
4	2023	Lizbeth Jimenez	Aurora East Education Foundation Education Scholarship
5	2023	Stephanie Perez	Aurora East Education Foundation Education Scholarship
6	2023	Anabel Celis	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
7	2023	Arely Perez Medina	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
8	2023	Christine Quillooy	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
9	2023	Eileen Castelo	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
10	2023	Faith Gabriel	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
11	2023	Grace Alcalde	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
12	2023	Jahn Marvilla-Lemus	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
13	2023	Juan Garnica	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
14	2023	Lizbeth Garcia	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
15	2023	Mayra Espinoza-Villa	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
16	2023	Meleny Salgado	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
17	2023	Perla Barrios	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
18	2023	Rodolfo Alvarado	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
19	2023	Ruby Vega	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
20	2023	Salma Frausto	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
21	2023	Yaritza Lopez	Aurora East Educational Foundation Excellence Scholarship
22	2023	Jocelyn Esponiza-Villa	Aurora East Educational Foundation Scholarship

Currently, there are two endowment funds administered by the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, the AEEF Excellence in Education and AEEF Educational Careers Scholarship programs. The Excellence in Education scholarships are awarded to students who have excelled academically at Aurora East High School and the Educational Careers scholarships are awarded to students who wish to pursue teaching degrees and become future educators. On the horizon, the AEEF is working on creating a Pathways to Careers Scholarship Endowment for students who chose pathways in fields that do not require a baccalaureate degree, service professionals like police and firemen, trades like

carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and medical professionals such as lab technicians, dental arts careers and many, many other fields.



AURORA EAST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	
2023 Career and Technical Education Scholarships	
Year	Name
2023	Billy J. Jones
2023	Raul Leon
2023	Andres Gomez
2023	Rafael Contreras
2023	David Mendoza
2023	Eric Cruz
2023	Annette Gonzalez

In 2023, there were seven recipients of the CTE scholarships.

A huge thank you to Tom Madden, Bill Deligiannis, Ken Darby, and Darnell Gibson who worked closely with District 131, the students and the schools or programs these students will be attending.



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How can YOU support the Aurora East Educational Foundation?

There are many ways to support the AEEF and our work within East Aurora School District 131.

- Giving Tuesday – 11/29/2022 – www.cffrv.gives/east
- Cash or checks (Please make checks payable to *Aurora East Educational Foundation*)
- Memorial gifts
- Naming the Foundation in your will or as beneficiary of a life insurance policy
- Donations of real estate or other real property
- Giving a gift in tribute to a special person
- [Make an online donation](#) to the AEEF through the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
- Obtain a [Tomcat credit/debit card](#)
- Attend a fundraiser, such as the [AEEF annual Golf Outing in July](#).
- District 131 staff can [set up a payroll deduction gift by using this form](#)
- View the [AEEF's \\$1.31 Employee Giving Campaign Video 2022](#). The AEEF is grateful for the support of D131 teachers and staff.



Our mailing address: Aurora East Educational Foundation, 310 Seminary Avenue, Aurora, IL 60505

Regardless of the size of your donation, be assured that it will be gratefully received, acknowledged, and put to work for maximum benefits promoting educational excellence in East Aurora School District 131.

All gifts are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged.

For more information on the AEEF Foundation please see our website at <https://www.d131.org/aurora-east-education-foundation/>. Or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=aeeef131>. And finally, contribute to our scholarship endowments at <https://www.cffrv.org/foundation-funds/funds/>.



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District 131 Schools

Total Number of Schools: 23
Preschool Centers: 2
STEAM Academy: 1
Elementary Schools: 12
Middle Schools: 3
Magnet Academy: 1
High Schools: 1
Alternative High School: 1
Partnership Schools: 1

Student Enrollment

The total enrollment of students is 12,800.

Building Operations

Total square feet of building space is 1.4 million square feet.

Student Ethnic Distribution

Hispanic: 87.6%
Black: 7.3%
White: 2.8%
Multi-racial: 1.2%
Asian: .7%
American Indian: .3%
Pacific Islander: .1%

District 131 Employees

As of January 2023, the total number of employees is 1,654.

- Certified staff: 994
- Teachers with advanced degrees: 745