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BEYOND  
THE BOOKS  
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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# Annual Report



EMPOWERING EDUCATORS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

Beyond The Books Educational Foundation  
PO Box 908, Bloomington, IL 61702-0908  
[BeyondTheBooksBN.com](http://BeyondTheBooksBN.com)

# About Beyond the Books

INTRODUCTION, 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## INTRODUCTION

Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation whose goal is to provide a long-term, self-sustaining financial base to fund innovative academic programs in Unit 5 and District 87 public schools. Organized in 1992, the Foundation is a group of private citizens and is not part of either school district. The Boards of Education of both districts encouraged the Foundation's formation and strongly support its efforts.



*“Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is a wonderful foundation which supports the innovative pursuits of local educators.*

*Nicole Henderson,  
Fox Creek Elementary*

## 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>Doug Ficca</b>	- President
<b>David L. Anderson</b>	- Vice President
<b>Shauna Hoffman</b>	- Secretary
<b>Scott Wilson</b>	- Treasurer

### Board Members:

Sarah Bauer	Morgan Lurkins
Teresa Carroll	Paula Pratt
Erin Easter	Kristi Rink
Yuki Gottschaldt	Jim Rosenlund
Erica Hartman	Jennifer Schieler
Janet Hood	Paul Tkach
Julie Howell	Scott Verdery
Cathy Lust	Mark Adams

### Ex-Officio

### Superintendents:

Dr. David Mouser  
Dr. Kristen Weikle

### Advisory:

Suzie Hutton	Michelle Lamboley
Nicole Rummel	Janel Sebeny

# More About BTBEF

## MISSION STATEMENT, FOUNDATION STRUCTURE, GRANTS AWARDS PROCESS, AND MORE

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is to fund innovative enrichment programs for the students of McLean County Unit District No. 5 and Bloomington District 87 Public Schools.

### FOUNDATION STRUCTURE

Beyond The Books Educational Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Illinois corporation that was formed in 1992. Its purpose is to provide a long-term, self-sustaining financial base that will annually fund innovative academic programs in District 87 and Unit 5 public schools. All work of the Foundation is accomplished by private citizens who serve without salary as the Board of Directors. Annually, the Board elects officers and directors, reviews policies and practices, evaluates the funded projects and conducts a financial audit. The Boards of Education of Unit 5 and District 87 encouraged the formation of the Foundation and strongly support its efforts ... a partnership for innovation in public education.

### GRANT AWARDS PROCESS

Each winter, educators in both District 87 and Unit 5 are invited to submit a written grant application which describes the project, method of implementation, cost estimate and the value of the program to students. Applications are blind reviewed by the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation Board of Directors and funding is awarded according to established criteria. The selected programs are implemented the following school year.

### WHAT KINDS OF ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED?

The objective of Beyond The Books Educational Foundation is to fund innovative programs (which are not currently offered) that enhance educational experiences. The Foundation is committed to educational excellence in the core academic areas, the arts and humanities, sciences, and technology. All age levels and areas of study are considered.

### WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL GOAL OF THE FOUNDATION?

Beyond The Books Educational Foundation is working toward growing its endowment fund and increasing donor commitments to pass-thru grants with the goal of being able to provide funding for *all* eligible grants. The ongoing financial commitment of contributors to the Foundation will enable our children and our community to become the best they can be.

# More About BTBEF

## CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS AND DONATIONS

### HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

Your check, annual pledge or donation via PayPal is appreciated.

- Contribute online or obtain forms at [BeyondTheBooksBN.com](https://BeyondTheBooksBN.com).
- Make an Honor donation to commemorate a special person (child, teacher, parent) or occasion (birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement).
- Remember someone with a Memorial gift.
- Name the Foundation in a bequest, real estate gift or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy.

### WHERE DO I SEND MY DONATION?

Print, fill out and mail the Contribution/Pledge Card with checks payable to:

Beyond The Books Educational Foundation P.O. Box 908 • Bloomington, IL 61702-0908



# Financial Update

## REVENUE TOTAL & SUMMARY, EXPENSE SUMMARY

### FOR THE YEAR OF 2023

In 2023, the Beyond the Books Educational Foundation had total revenues of \$66,839 from a combination of individual, business, and Beyond the Box (BTB) contributions, and investment returns and interest.

### CALENDAR YEAR 2023 REVENUE SUMMARY

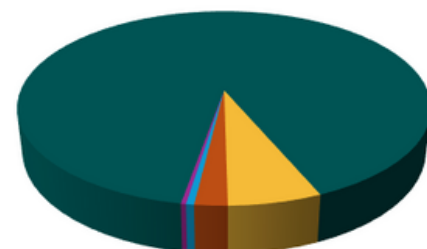
Regular Contributions	\$ 23,966
Shirk Family Foundation (BTB)	\$ 10,000
Investment Returns & Interest	\$ 32,873
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 66,839</b>



■ Regular Contributions  
■ Shirk Family Foundation  
■ Investment Returns & Interest

### CALENDAR YEAR 2023 EXPENSE SUMMARY

2023 Grant Awards	\$ 93,930
Professional Fees	\$ 6,388
Promotional Materials	\$ 345
Insurance	\$ 541
Information Technology	\$ 2,235
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 103,439</b>



■ 2023 Grant Award    ■ Professional Fees  
■ Information Technology    ■ Insurance  
■ Promotional Materials



# How Grants are Funded

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

### THE ROLE OF PASS-THRU GRANTS IN ANNUAL GRANT FUNDING

The previous page lists the revenue received in the calendar year. However, this does not always accurately reflect how the year's grants are funded. There are two main types of donations: (1) *regular donations* that are added to the endowment and (2) *pass-thru donations* that go directly to fund grants. *Pass-thru donations* are often given in years prior to the time they are used. For example, donors who want to give a pass-thru donation must commit a minimum of \$15,000 over 3 years – which will fund grants of \$5000/year for 3 years. If the full \$15,000 is donated in year one, that donation will appear in the revenue list for year one, but will not be mentioned in years two and three. Nonetheless, \$5000 of the grant-money awarded in years 2 and 3 came from that donor. This page identifies whose money was used to fund grants in 2023.

### SOURCES OF GRANT FUNDING IN CALENDAR YEAR 2023

Endowment ( <i>Regular Contributions &amp; Investment income</i> )	\$ 73,930
Ingold Family in Honor of Jack & Ann Ingold	\$ 5,000
Rivian Automotive	\$ 5,000
Shirk Family Foundation	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Grant Award</b>	<b>\$ 93,930</b>



# Grant Applications and Awards

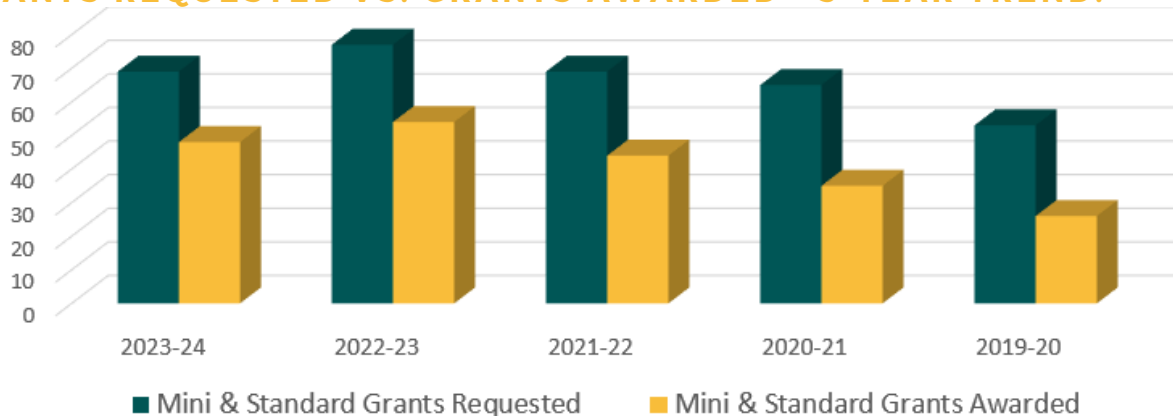
## GRANTS THIS YEAR:

In 2023, Beyond the Books Educational Foundation received grant applications for Mini and Standard Grants from educators in Unit 5 and District 87, requesting a total of \$164,245. Of those 69 applications, 47 projects were awarded a total of \$86,069. In addition, one Beyond the Box grant of \$7,861 was awarded, chosen from six applicants.

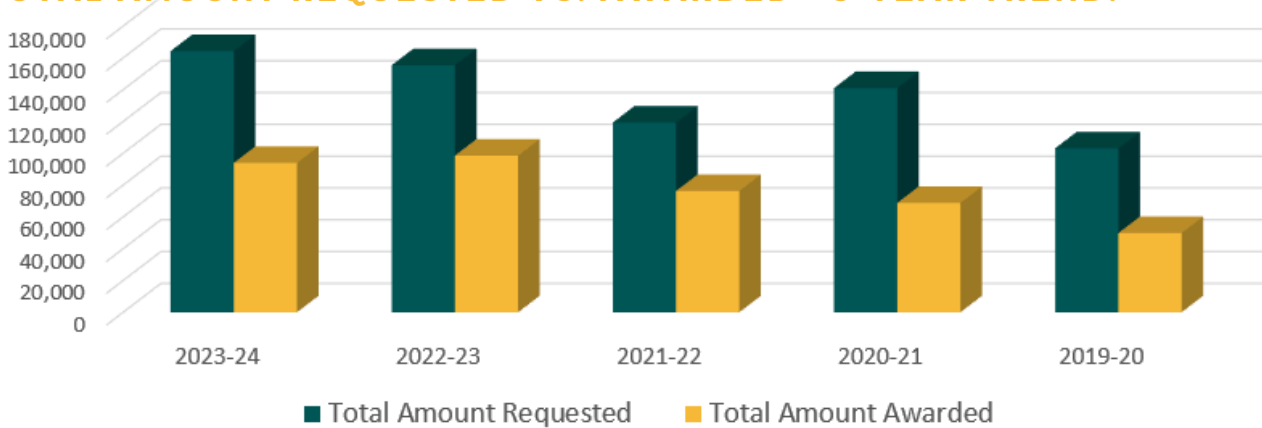
## GRANTS OVER TIME:

Since 1992, \$1,182,389 has been awarded to support a total of 995 projects.

## GRANTS REQUESTED VS. GRANTS AWARDED - 5-YEAR TREND:



## TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED VS. AWARDED - 5-YEAR TREND:



# \$94 K

Total Grant Funds  
in 2023

# 48

Grants awarded  
in 2023

# \$1.1 M

Total Grants Funded  
over time

# Donors in Fiscal Year 2023

JANUARY 1, 2023—DECEMBER 31, 2023

Mark Adams	Sarmad Gilani	Lynn Kwitkowski
Melea Adler	Shauna Gourley	Tracey Lake
David and Cathy Anderson	Tracy Graham	Rick Laleman
W Brad and Tonya Barker	David Gwarda	Jeff & Erexenia Lanier
Sarah Bauer	Steven and Cathleen Haas	Paul Lawrence
Jane and Rich Beal	Dr. Herschel and Carolyn Hannah	Kathleen Lenzini
Joshua Beal	Rose Harms	Elizabeth Luering
John Bierbaum	Matthew Harr	John and Cathy Lust
Erin Bowman	David and Pam Hays	Chris and Susan Magnuson
Gail Ann Briggs	Lisa Heaser	Carl Mason
Deborah Brown	Julie Hiles	Gregg Mecherle
Nicholas Bussan	Nancy Hoeflerle	Hayley Jo Mennenga
William and Mary Caisley	Shauna Hoffman	Margaret Modglin
Jack and Joan Capodice, Jr	Wally and Jan Hood	Don and Shari Morkin
Alan and Kathie Chapman	Chuck and Susan Hurliman	Kurt and Joyce Moser
Angela Codron	Katherine and David Hurst	Marilyn Myers
Kathy Cooper	Dr. Michael and Carol Hutmacher	Dr. Joseph and Stephanie Newcomer
Jerry and Jan Crabtree	Charles Johnson	Margaret Ninness
Frances Davis	Roy Johnson	Joe and Sarah Novotny
David & Kathleen Deneen	James Jordan	Paul and Mary O'Brian
Gil and Betty Dorsey	Chad Kahl	Janine Palma
Fred & Jamie Drake	Natalie Karr	Heather Pasewald
Erin Easter	Emily Kauten	Michelle Pilon
Jay and Sue Edmondson	Karmy Kays	Jolynn Plato
Douglas Ficca	Dawn Kelley Lett	Catherine Pratt
John Ficca	Margaret Killian	Santhy Ramanathan
Charlotte Foehr	Amy Knauf	Keith Rice
Elizabeth & Caroline Fox Anvick	Erin Knuth	Reid and Cathy Richards
Dr. John and Betty Frisch		Micheal Richardson

**YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS FUND INNOVATIVE  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

See a list of grant winners at  
[www.BeyondTheBooksBN.com](http://www.BeyondTheBooksBN.com)

# Donors in Fiscal Year 2023

JANUARY 1, 2023—DECEMBER 31, 2023

Julie Riley  
 Dr. Jerry and Carole Ringer  
 John Robertson  
 John and Vickie Robertson  
 Karrie Ruestman  
 Ed Jr and Sally Rust  
 Russell and Margaret Rutter  
 Janenne Scott  
 Amy Sena  
 Tracy & Susan Shepard  
 Dawn Sheppelman  
 Kristy Siebert  
 Carl and Chantal Sneed

Dalton Spalding  
 Dan and Kathy Steadman  
 Lewis F Steinbach  
 Susan Steinbach  
 Allison Stephey  
 Ann Sullivan  
 Angie Terrano  
 Lisa Tomlin  
 Darby & Hudson  
 Venerable  
 Richard Verdery  
 Scott Verdery

Beth Ward  
 Lyndra Webb  
 Bill and Peg Wetzel  
 William Wetzel  
 Todd Wietlispach  
 Scott Wilson  
 Jamie Wolfe  
 Jennifer Zufall  
 Country Financial  
 Renaissance Administration  
 LLC  
 Shirk Family Foundation

**YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS FUND INNOVATIVE  
 ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

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# 2023-2024 Grant Awards

SEE A LIST OF PRIOR GRANT WINNERS AT  
[BEYONDTHEBOOKSBN.COM](http://BEYONDTHEBOOKSBN.COM)

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

### BENJAMIN

\* Angie Grubic, Angela Gordon, Alyssa Swanson, Mackenzie Jefferson, and Faye Elias | \$650 | *It's in the Bag! A routine to build critical thinking, and geometry skills*

\* Melissa Kummer, Shelly Fisher, Carmen Hamilton, Lauren Romano, Jen Kuebrich, Kim Nelson and Mary Aper | \$4,996 | *Regroup, Recover, Reengage*

### CARLOCK

\* Jennifer Burns | \$876 | *Building a Thinking Classroom*

### COLENE HOOSE

\* Kendra Muganzi, Anna Watson, Sarika Bafna, Dawn Sadicoff, and Melissa Helenthal | \$2,922 | *Science Materials for ESL Classes*

### FAIRVIEW

\* Angie Grubic, Megan Deti, and Megan Maas | \$589 | *Using Our Hands to Make Sense of Division*

### FOX CREEK

\* Shannon Hedman | \$772 | *Study Math for a Better Path*

\* Shannon Hedman | \$648 | *The Zen Den*

### IRVING

\* Joy Searby and Wendy Peterson | \$781 | *Building Reading Community for All Students*

### NORTHPOINT

\* Meghan Pantaleone and Cora Olsen | \$576 | *Kickapoo and Indigenous Art Making*

### OAKDALE

\* Melissa Smith | \$3,100 | *Knowledge For All*

### OAKLAND

\* Theresa Meadors | \$3,365 | *All for STEM and STEM for All*

### Prairieland

\* Kelli Halsey, Brooke Wall, and Kelli Sanders | \$500 | *March Book Madness*

### SARAH RAYMOND

\* Sarah Bertram, Chelsie Carnes, Kaelyn Scull, and Kara Thompson | \$2,000 | *Play Based Assessments for Diverse Little Learners*

# 2023-2024 Grant Awards

SEE A LIST OF PRIOR GRANT WINNERS AT  
BEYONDTHEBOOKSBN.COM

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (CONT.)

### STEVENSON

\* Deborah Tucker | \$234 | *Hands on Literacy*

### SUGAR CREEK

\* Priscilla Steers | \$418 | *Social Emotional Learning Strategies Through Literacy*

### TOWANDA

\* Stacie Lange | \$774 | *The Power of Play*

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS / JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

### BLOOMINGTON JHS

\* Kristen Ayers | \$200 | *Storypod Audio System*

\* Kristen Ayers | \$355 | *SPOT Social Emotional Learning Curriculum*

\* Kristen Ayers | \$1,288 | *Switch Users Library*

\* Joshua Jett and Steve Chorba | \$1,464 | *Growing Mindfulness*

\* Yesica Jones | \$755 | *Learning through the years*

\* Rachel Kuehnl | \$469 | *Get on the Grid*

\* Jeffrey Platt | \$4919 | *Air Powered Racers: Engineering and Aerodynamics*

\* Kristie Price, Yesica Jones, Becca Knarr, and Marsha Veninga | \$4,079 | *Cootie Critter Inheritance*

\* Marsha Veninga, Kristie Price, Rebecca Knarr, and Yesica Jones | \$4880 | *Using Graphic Novels to Teach Science*

### Evans JHS

\* Kate Shanks | \$3,928 | *Literature Brought to Life: Virtual Student Book Trailers, Talks, and Blogs*

\* Kate Shanks | \$3,230 | *"We're ready for our closeups, Mr. DeMille" -- Student Film Festival Project*

### KINGSLEY JHS

\* Michael Rigali | \$254 | *Interactive Surface Area & Volume*

# 2023-2024 Grant Awards

SEE A LIST OF PRIOR GRANT WINNERS AT  
BEYONDTHEBOOKSBN.COM

## HIGH SCHOOLS

### Normal Community High School

- \* Meghan Hawkins and Hunter Watts | \$604 | *Increasing Civic Engagement Through Debates*
- \* Meghan Hawkins, Ricky King, and Christine Konopasek | \$780 | *Looking Through the Eyes of Others: Graphic Novels in US History*
- \* Hunter Watts | \$800 | *Experiential Learning: Statecraft Simulations*

### Normal Community West High School

- \* Ryan Budzinski, Kimberley Boehm, and Sara Williams | \$3,940 | *My Dot in 3D!*
- \* Tim Franz and Jackson Suddarth | \$3,100 | *PodCATS Studio Upgrade*
- \* Lauren Goveia | \$488 | *HeartMath to Achieve Emotional Balance for Students*
- \* Jen Hamler | \$799 | *The Calm Classroom*
- \* Amanda Long | \$460 | *Expanding the Polypeptide, Expanding Student Learning*
- \* Amanda Long | \$750 | *Protein Folding Fun with 3D Modeling Kits*
- \* Katie Lopez | \$436 | *Seeing Double - Using Perception-Altering Goggles in AP Psychology*
- \* Kelsey Mueller and Chad Aubin | \$3,135 | *Flying Discs for All*
- \* Abigail Primo | \$1985 | *Magnificent Molecular Genetics: DNA and Mitosis Models*
- \* Jackson Suddarth | \$4569 | *Projecting The Future of Fashion*
- \* Catherine Unsbee | \$424 | *Mini-Qs in modern US History*
- \* Valentine Walker, Joel Swanson, and Michael Burt | \$4950 | *Saltwater Intrusion, a Salty Reality That Threatens Our Drinking Water*
- \* Valentine Walker, Joel Swanson, Daniel Highby, and David Lehr | \$4460 | *It is High Time to Revisit Fuel Cell Technology to Help Renewables*

# 2023-2024 Grant Awards

SEE A LIST OF PRIOR GRANT WINNERS AT  
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## SPECIAL GRANT AWARD - BEYOND THE BOX (UP TO \$10,000)

### NORMAL COMMUNITY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Chad Aubin | \$7,861 | *Wrist-Based Heart Rate Monitors for Inclusive Engagement and Growth*

This grant will allow for the integration of wrist-based heart rate monitors to provide individualized and inclusive physical education experience for all students. With heart rate zones specific to each student and the ability to create and work towards their own goals, students will experience a challenging and individualized environment tailored to their unique abilities. By empowering students to take ownership of their own health and wellness, they will develop a deeper understanding of their own fitness levels and be motivated to achieve better outcomes.

*Monies for this award were provided by the Shirk Family Foundation*