

GLOUCESTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FY2021 Impact Report

Gloucester Education Foundation drives innovation, encourages creativity, expands opportunities for all students and empowers educators to strengthen teaching and learning in the Gloucester Public School district.
www.thinkbest.org



DEAR FRIENDS, THANK YOU!

You are the foundation of the Foundation—your generosity, especially during this past year, has been nothing less than phenomenal. You have helped provide opportunities for our students, teachers and administration that one year ago weren't thought possible. The following pages show highlights of some of the programs you helped fund and provide a brief overview of our financials. Because there are so many of you we need two pages of small font for your names! Additionally, but also very importantly, having raised more than \$3 million towards the GEF endowment fund, we have completed our Capital Campaign. And so we want to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to you all.

GEF is stronger because of you, our schools are stronger because of you and Gloucester is stronger because of you.

Thank you, thank you.

Warmly,
The GEF Board of Directors

"I am always confident that GEF is focused on innovative ideas and programs, a result of strong collaboration with GPS. The impact on students is immeasurable, as their journeys are shaped and stories are told, my heart is touched, making it easy to support GEF."

—**ELAINE WEBB**
GEF supporter

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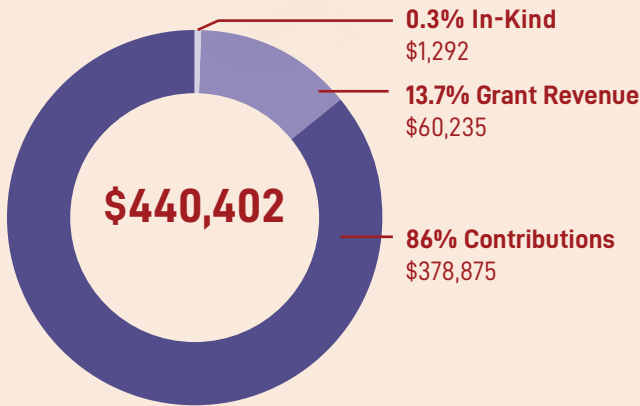
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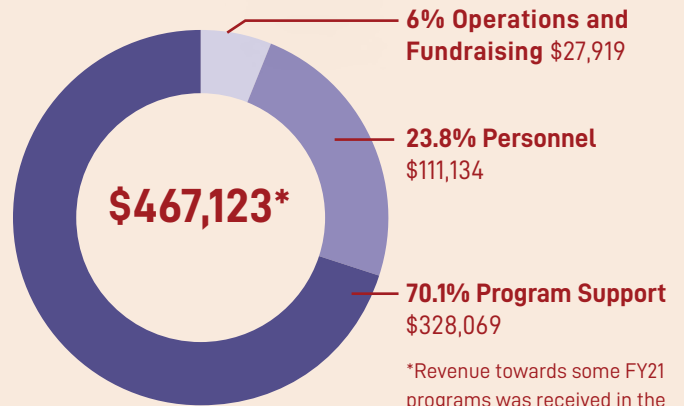
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FY 2021 REVENUE TOTAL



FY 2021 EXPENSES TOTAL



*Revenue towards some FY21 programs was received in the prior year.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



> 530
corporations and families donated



\$328,000
of funding to Gloucester schools



100%
of students in Gloucester schools benefited from GEF-funded projects



25
projects funded



200
kindergarten through third grade students used new online phonics programs



70
kids learned to play ukulele

50
desks built by teachers for remote learners



1,000
hugs given to Ace the community support dog



GEF ENDOWMENT FUND Since 2017, generous community members and organizations have made donations and planned gifts towards our Campaign for the Future that will grow GEF's endowment fund to \$3 million! These gifts help secure GEF for the long term, so that Gloucester children will benefit from innovative programs in our schools for years to come. GEF always welcomes gifts directed toward this goal.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to your support, over \$328,000 in program funding from GEF was distributed among our schools this year. This is an amazing display of our community's generosity. Projects supported remote learning, continued our focus on STEM innovation, ensured that theater and music could continue despite the challenges of COVID-19, and brought our school community closer in a year when isolation loomed large. These projects would not have been possible without your generous gifts. Thank you.



TOP: Artwork by students from West Parish Elementary.

ABOVE: Cast members from Gloucester High School's spring performance of *High School Musical*.

ARTS

Music and Theater Technology Upgrades GEF grants to Gloucester High School's Music and Theater Departments provided equipment for students to record their work and collaborate during remote and hybrid learning. This high-tech solution kept our kids making music, singing and performing all year, even when they couldn't be in school together.

Digital Photo Lab Gloucester High School's digital photography class is in high demand, and up-to-date equipment is crucial for the program. A GEF grant with lead funding from local artist Robert Amory brings 26 upgraded Macbook Pro computers to the lab so that students can continue creating in this state-of-the-art facility.

Elementary School Ukuleles Recorders, band and singing were prohibited this year due to COVID-19, but Beeman Elementary Music teacher "Mrs. Presti" made sure the music never stopped by offering ukulele instruction. GEF was happy to fund the ukuleles, which will now remain a permanent part of the music curriculum.

"My 5th grader was excitedly talking about her music class this morning and has decided she wants to buy a ukulele!"—Tanya McKeen, parent

Elementary School Theater At West Parish Elementary, GEF supported a charming fifth grade production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. Despite

mask-wearing and unexpected student quarantines, the show went on and the lively production was streamed online for the whole community.

STEM

Bringing Labwork into the Home When COVID-19 restricted in-person, hands-on learning, your support enabled the Gloucester High School science department to continue doing lab work in new ways. A grant for online platforms led by teacher Carol Cafasso meant that all GHS science students could work with actual data rather than simulations.

O'Maley Science Center With your support and funding from New England Biolabs Foundation, teachers Amy Donnelly and Dave Brown have re-imagined the STEM labs at O'Maley Innovation Middle School into a centralized hub for investigative, laboratory-centered teaching. With this unique initiative, a resident scientist will guide student use of professional grade equipment to study aquaponics and more.

REMOTE LEARNING

Desks for All During remote video classes, teachers at O'Maley Innovation Middle School saw that many kids had no space at home for schoolwork. Teachers put their heads together and designed a portable desk, and with GEF support built and distributed over 50 of them for free to students in need.



Online Literacy and Phonics Platforms

Thanks to your support, elementary reading coach Kristie Lambert and her colleagues brought "Whizzimo," a new online literacy program to our K-3 students that allowed them to use virtual tools that made phonics concepts come to life.

Teacher-Student Pen Pals Teachers at the elementary remote academy could not meet their students in person this year, so a GEF grant helped them establish connections to their kids through good old fashioned snail mail by providing postage and mailing supplies.

Remote Learning Centers During hybrid learning, in-person classes ended by noon, and some students were not logging in for afternoon classes. With funding from Essex County Community Foundation, Small Steps Fund and donors like you, GEF partnered with the YMCA so that these students could have reliable internet access, help with afternoon afternoon schoolwork, and a safe place to have some fun, too.

COMMUNITY

Countdown to Kindergarten Your support ensured that 230 new kindergarten families felt welcome and prepared. A COVID-19 safe community drive-through event presented incoming kindergartners with a custom Gloucester coloring book, backpacks, supplies and a festive parade to help them get excited for school.

Art for Equity Our first-ever student grant went to Gloucester High School senior Mila Barry for her project to raise awareness

THANK YOU

to our teachers, administrators, and school staff for going above and beyond the call of duty this year. Your continued innovation in the classroom, and your heartfelt dedication to our students kept the kids learning and engaged all year long. In this year of incredibly difficult circumstances, Gloucester Public Schools staff rose to the occasion and overcame every challenge thrown their way. We are so proud of your work and humbled by your commitment. Thank you.



TOP LEFT: Students from O'Maley Middle School participating in the Remote Learning Center program, a partnership among the YMCA, GEF and Gloucester Public Schools.

TOP RIGHT: A Middle School student in the O'Maley Science Center.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Gloucester High School students help distribute Whoopie Pies to teachers during teacher appreciation week.

about diversity and inclusion in education. Mila's team of students created a mobile mural and raised funds to support purchases of books by Black and Brown authors for school classrooms and libraries.

Ace, the Community Support Dog Thanks to the Dusky Fund and other local donors like you, the Gloucester Police Department's adorable community impact dog, Ace, spent quality time in classrooms helping students cope with social-emotional needs and challenges presented by the pandemic.



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This list includes contributors who made gifts between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. We make every effort to ensure accuracy; please let us know if we have made an error or inadvertently omitted your name.

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Fifth graders from West Parish Elementary perform *Bye Bye Birdie*.



"I couldn't be more impressed with the Gloucester Education Foundation. I have been stunned by how generous the Foundation is and what a great partner it is; how focused you are on supporting our students and our staff in every way you can imagine. It's hard for me to express the gratitude I have for the Foundation and for each person that helps make it the great organization it is. GEF has been a tremendous help this year with its flexibility and its endurance. GEF just keeps on coming."

—BEN LUMMIS

Superintendent, Gloucester Public Schools



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: GHS theater students at a socially distant rehearsal; An incoming kindergartner participates in our drive-through Countdown to Kindergarten event; Seamus Buckley, GHS student working remotely; GHS alum Rebecca Dowd working as a GEF intern (photo by GHS photography student Treely Dowd); GHS student artwork; A GHS music student recording "Music Trivia" using GEF-funded equipment. **COVER:** A GHS student in the school STEM lab (photo by GHS photography student Treely Dowd)



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