



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT



2025

Annual

REPORT

Contributions from October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

A Note from our Board President

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your support and commitment to enriching the educational landscape of our community. Your generosity has played a vital role in our mission to support the Rock Island/Milan School District students and staff. We are proud of what we have accomplished together.

This past May we proudly awarded over \$180,000 in scholarships to deserving Rocky students, enabling them to pursue their dreams and higher education opportunities. Additionally, our investment of over \$260,000 in Prime grants has empowered our dedicated teachers to enhance educational experiences within our district, benefiting countless students.

Furthermore, we are excited to share our efforts in establishing and growing an endowment fund for the district. This initiative aims to provide sustainable financial support for years to come, ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact on our community.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Your support makes all the difference in the lives of our students and teachers. Together, we are creating a brighter future for the Rock Island/Milan school district.



Zachary T Edwards
2025-26 Board President



Executive Director

Monta Ponsetto

Board of Directors

Zach Edwards, *President*

Steve Andich, *Vice-President*

Shellee Showalter, *Secretary*

LaShanta Williams, *Treasurer*

Cara Banks

Bryan Blew

Chris Elsberg

Ian Frink

Rachel Gustafson

Alli Haskill

Robin Jorgesen

Eric Rowell

Honorary Board

Pryce Boeye

Pryce T. Boeye

Barb Cady

Bill Cleaver

Reed Doughty

Rose Ann Hass

Ted Johnson

Russ Kennel

Jody Leiby

Jon Loquist

Cindy Lukasik

Sue McDevitt

Gary Miner

John Phillips

Gary Rowe

Cosette Shrader

Bob Swanson

Dave VanLandegen

Don Wentler



Direction of Support

General

Donations to our General Fund support the work of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation and help us make an impact throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District. All donations listed within this Annual Report were received from October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025.

PRIME Grants

PRIME (**P**romoting **R**ock **I**sland **M**ilan **E**ducation) Grants provide opportunities for teachers, departments and schools to explore and purchase innovative programs or materials for their classrooms. PRIME Grants are supported, in part by our Major Saver fundraiser, yearly allocations for giving, and donations given directly to the PRIME Grant Fund. The RIMEF has awarded over \$1.75 million in PRIME Grants to date.

Austin Academic Achievement Awards

For 45 years, the Austin Academic Achievement Awards has celebrated the academic excellence of our Rock Island High School students. At the Austin Academic Achievement Awards and Scholarship Night, “Top Ten” students from each class are recognized and the top 2 seniors in 10 academic areas are rewarded with scholarships. Generous donations from the contributors listed in this report were made for the awards given during our annual event held on May 14, 2025.

Scholarship Contributions

The Education Foundation currently administers 52 named scholarships providing over 80 individual awards ranging from \$500 - \$10,000. From October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025, the individuals listed made donations to establish or sustain the scholarships we award to our deserving Rock Island High School Seniors.

Honorarium/Memorial Contributions

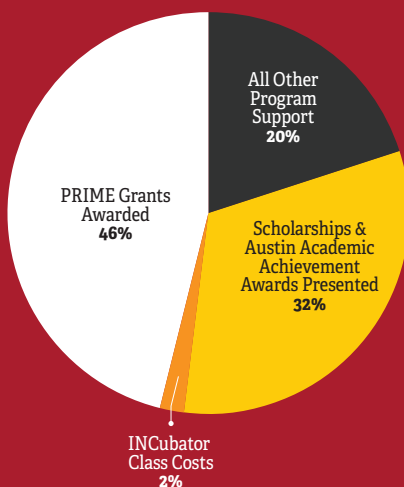
Contributions to the Education Foundation are sometimes given to honor or memorialize a family member, friend, community leader, or alumnus/alumna. Honorariums/memorials may be directed to a scholarship, a program, or to our general fund. These special gifts are a wonderful way to remember or honor someone in your life while supporting our students and schools.

Accomplishments

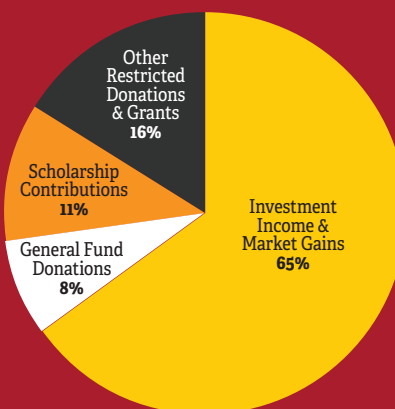
Thanks to gifts from our individual donors, businesses, community partners, and alumni locally and throughout the country, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation gave over a half a million to the Rock Island-Milan School District in 2025 for programs, materials, and scholarships. With your gifts, the RIMEF:

- Awarded \$180,700 in 95 RIMEF Named & Austin Academic Achievement Award scholarships and recognized 74 “Top Ten” freshmen, sophomores, juniors, & seniors for the Austin Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarships presented May 14, 2025.
- Paid \$5,000 in program fees for the INCubatoredu: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class at RIHS and awarded another \$7,500 in prize money at the Final Pitch for the 3 winning categories.
- Awarded \$260,220 in PRIME Grants to 144 teachers/educators for 134 innovative programs/materials to enhance the educational climate for our students in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Provided over \$16,000 in HAVlife funds allowing students ages 10-15 to participate in activities which they otherwise could not afford. For students outside of the HAVlife age parameters, the Schwiebert Extracurricular fund gave additional \$1,000+ in financial assistance for Rock Island-Milan based activities.
- Welcomed 55 new teachers, principals, counselors, and staff with gift bags filled with gift cards and supplies to help establish classrooms/offices. These “welcome bags” also contained the information new educators need to take advantage of our programs and gift cards from local favorite venues. Total: \$4,950.
- Funded \$4,775 the EL Department’s “Seal of Biliteracy” program with the gift from Jerry & Sue Horton
- Funded \$20,000 for the Big Picture Outreach Program at Rock Island High School
- Rewarded 29 teachers for their creativity with \$5,800 in funding from the Reynolds Family Foundation “Bright Ideas Awards”
- Provided over \$30,000 in additional “other” classroom/school assistance.

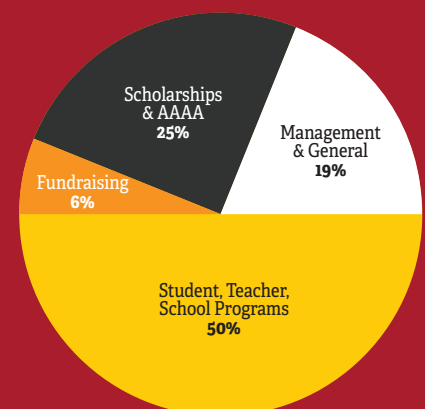
Breakdown of Program Support



Revenue



Expenses



Recorded 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024

General & Special Fund Donations

Donations received October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Director IV (\$25,000+)

Sue (Farrow) & Jerry Horton
Mary Anne & Darrell
Reynolds*

Director III (\$10,000-\$24,999)

HAVlife*
Major Saver
Sara & MikeThoms*

Director II (\$5000-\$9,999)

Drs. Bindu & Raj Alla*
Cassandra & Bruce Andich*
Pryce Boeye*
Linda & Ken Cutler
Geraldyn & John McEvoy*
Debbie & Mark Schwiebert*
Betsy & Mark Thies*

Director I (\$1000-\$4999)

Birdies for Charity
Bonus Fund
Blackhawk Bank & Trust*
Marji & Pryce T. Boeye
Barb & Brian Cady*
Class of 1960
Estes Construction*
Monique & Ian Frink*
Hungry Hobo*
Nancy & Doug Hultquist*
IMPACT – Illowa
Construction Labor
& Management*
Linda & Russ Kennel
Gwen & Gary Kennelly
Ann & David Koch*
Marion Lardner
Donald Laughead
Margaret Sheeran &
Tom Manteuffel
Dave Markward
Katie & Mike Mertel*
David Napsky
Nikulski Financial
Sue & Mike Oberhaus
Monta Ponsetto*
Melinda & Gregory Pupillo
Russell Construction
Cosette Shrader*
Patty & Craig Tillman
Ashley & Charles Wallace

William & Mary Wise
Family Foundation

Superintendent (\$500-\$999)

Marla & Steve Andich
Richard Arnell
Dorothy Beck & Phil Dennis
Eagle & Eagle
Ted Grevas
Cindy & Fred Lukasik
Martin Family Charitable
Foundation
Linda & Art Milton
Heather Schladt
Stephen Teigland
Jonathan Vandygriff
Christal Zaleski

Principal (\$250-\$499)

Kelly & Connie Gersick
Caroline Good
Sheila & Paul Guse
Hodge Development
Nancy & Steve Johnson
Helen & Gary Miner
Karen & John Phillips
Penny & Robert Ramsey
Teresa Rockwell
Maynard Siegel
Molly Teigland
Sandy & Don Wentler
Jacqueline & Pete Wessels
Michelle & Curtis Whisler

Valedictorian (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous – 5
Julie & Dean Bacon
Mary & Robert Bacon
Cara & Charlie Banks
Nancy & Chuck Barbaro
Laura & Louis Belby
Karen & William Bibee
Jerry Boxman
Bev & Norm Brunswig
Lisa Burke-Martin
Judith Bybee
Brenda & Alan Carmen
Class of 1954
Judith Cohen
Sharyl O'Melia Craggs
Valerie & Lynn Cunningham
Nancy Dann

The Dechert Family
Patricia & Lowell Dorman
Marie & Achiel Dupont
Doris Engstrom
Karen Erickson
Sue & Al Fensterbusch
Richard Gaylord
Donna & Kenneth Hill
Bob Humphrey
Linda Jacobs
Carol & Ted Johnson
Robin & Bill Jorgesen
D'Ann & Bob Lagerblade
Mary Ann Linden
Jan Masamoto
Jacqueline & Ted Maxeiner
Bettina McWilliams
Karen & Ken Meyer
Carole & Bob Monke
Kristen & J D Moon
Sandy & Larry Mortier
Joyce & Mike Mullinix
Jeanne & David O'Melia
Karen & Jerry Murphy
Barbara & Robert Park
Vernon Redd, Sr.
Jean & Tom Roche
Rock Solid
Barbara & Phillip Salstrom
Alexandra Choroshenko
Sandway-Gutekunst
Teresa & Douglas Scherer
Jean & Dwight Schwertley
H. Dennis Sears
Karen Shifo
Nancy & Michael Sims
Sue & James Spurgetis
Marianne & Ron Stablein
Jane & Dave Strickler
Elizabeth Eagle
& James Teros
Shari & Robert Tomich
Jan & Jerry Tutskey
Marcia & John Wetzell
Gloria & Steve Wisley
Susan & Dennis Wolfe
Don Wooten
Karen Ylinen

Dean's List (\$50-\$99)

Anonymous
Mary Jane & David Andich
Lynne & Larry Brandenburg
Jennifer & Brian Casey
Janice David

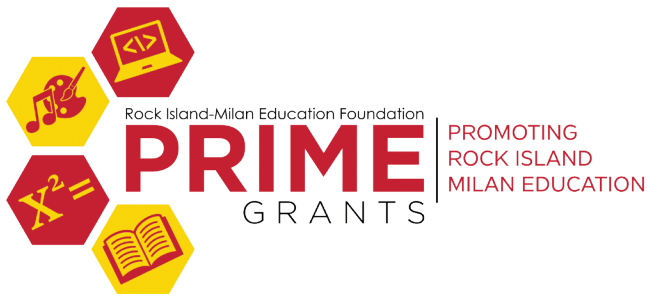
Martha & Jeff Dismer
Theresa Engholm
Dan Fay
Diane Gilliland
Chloe Andich Goldsmith
Rachel & Bill Gustafson
Sandy & Bob Gustafson
Dora Hoben
Darcy & Jerry Johnson
Jane & Kevin Koski
Mary Kvamme
Connie Mohr-Wright
Krista & Greg Monson
Cynthia & John Robertson
Royal Neighbors of America
Donald Siegel
Molly Soba
Jennifer & Fred Thiede
Patricia Walkup
Marybeth Doden Whitten
Christy & Thom Wignall
Kaye & Stephen Wright

Honor Roll (up to \$50)

American Bank & Trust
Anonymous – 6
Jane Ander
Mary & Charley Arnold
Mary & Bruce Boehm
Janice & Gregory Golz
Jill Hoff
Joyce & Frank Lambert
Rita & Bill Martin
Jone & Leslie Paarman
Linda & Gary Rowe
Marge Early & Cliff Scharer
Theresa & Thomas Scott
Linda Soto
Judy & Larry Weindruch

*General and/or special programming





** Barbara Fackel PRIME Grant Recipient
 *** Rock Island Art Guild PRIME Grant Recipient

\$260,219.90
 PRIME GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2025-2026

134
 GRANTS

146
 EDUCATORS



Teacher Grants

Earl Hanson Elementary

Melissa Barton – \$1,500.00
 Alleena Blackwell* – \$940.00
 Hannah Brandenburg – \$1,500.00
 Jacquelyn Cobb*** – \$1,400.00
 Amanda Hollingsworth – \$1,500.00

Brandy Junis – \$1,300.00
 Dorisa Ramos-Podoba – \$1,162.50
 Stacy Rohm – \$1,498.55
 Jennifer Schrempf – \$1,498.55
 Bailie Vandygriff – \$1,500.00

Eugene Field Elementary

Tyler Allison – \$1,200.00
 Edwina Campbell – \$1,010.57
 Jessica Daves – \$1,499.12
 Ashley Reeves – \$1,500.00
 McKenzie Seymour – \$1,489.05

Frances Willard Elementary

Kelly Beale – \$1,500.00

Horace Mann Early Learning Center

Patti Brooks – \$1,500.00
 Tanya Hepner – \$1,500.00
 Aubrey Keller – \$1,500.00
 Stephanie Mader – \$1,500.00
 Michele McDonald – \$1,500.00
 Jennifer Mohr – \$1,500.00
 Jeanne Mueller – \$1,500.00
 Kylie Ramsey-Moody – \$1,500.00
 Linnea Sparacello – \$1,500.00

Longfellow Elementary

Alannah Alexander*** – \$1,500.00
 Regina Knobloch – \$1,500.00
 Riley Pobanz – \$1,498.00
 Anastasia Veloz – \$1,500.00
 Maggi Voss – \$606.13

Ridgewood Elementary

Alexis DeWilde – \$1,411.75

Rock Island Academy

Sydney Erichsen – \$500.00

Samantha Heath – \$1,450.00
 Brandy Lawrence – \$1,264.63
 Tre' McKinney – \$1,500.00
 Jamie Ruberg** – \$850.00
 Dionna Swanigan – \$1,500.00
 Kelly Vroman – \$1,026.23
 Lisa Williams – \$1,500.00

Rock Island Center for Math & Science

Lindsay Anderson – \$585.00
 Craig Brackney – \$450.00
 Amy Kennelly – \$1,500.00
 Jaqueline Krone – \$1,493.60
 Stacy Lofgren – \$752.00
 Tera McCormick-Skinner – \$300.00
 Kelly Tyler – \$1,458.00
 Chad Wickard – \$1,500.00
 Susana Williams – \$200.00

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

JaLynne Gimm – \$1,000.00
 Jane Kettering-Bryant – \$1,387.17
 Kaitlyn O'Brien – \$1,500.00

Edison Junior High School

Tara Gonzalez – \$1,500.00
 Lauren Hall – \$1,500.00
 Danyelle Hatter – \$614.38
 Christopher Versluis – \$700.00

Washington Junior High School

Clarice Brown – \$1,500.00
 Holly Moreland – \$1,500.00

Rock Island High School

Caitlin Clough – \$1,500.00
 William Gustafson*** – \$1,500.00
 Josephine Johnson – \$1,500.00
 Christopher LaRoche – \$1,500.00
 Meghan Miers – \$1,306.23
 Robert Mwaga – \$1,500.00
 Norma Ramirez – \$800.00
 Stacy Rel – \$1,499.49
 David Schrieffer*** – \$1,500.00
 Courtney Stone – \$1,157.85

Kyle Taylor – \$1,433.74
 Maria Trigueros – \$600.00
 Jennifer Trimble – \$1,479.64
 Christi Varnes – \$1,500.00
 Andrew Vogel – \$1,500.00
 Laurie Vroman – \$1,100.00

Thurgood Marshall Learning Center

Johnna Gamble – \$1,500.00

Department/School Grant

Denkmann Elementary

Jennifer Knuth & Mary Justin – \$3,000.00
 Susan Molina-Padro & Kristen Banks – \$3,000.00
 Janine Olson & Brigitte Taheny – \$3,000.00
 Angie Paprocki & Jennifer Smith – \$3,000.00
 Emily Peterson & Claudia Lopez – \$3,000.00
 Jennifer Sholl & Alissa Merchiev – \$3,000.00

Earl Hanson Elementary

Andrea Jacobs – \$2,799.65
 Mary Marunde – \$1,633.30
 Molly McGreevey – \$3,000.00
 Danielle Neneman – \$2,000.00
 Michael Rockstroh – \$3,000.00

Eugene Field Elementary

Amy Benac – \$3,000.00
 Cynthia Castro – \$2,914.60
 Angela Seys – \$2,900.00

Frances Willard Elementary

Kimberly Gardner – \$3,000.00
 Brooke Greenwood – \$3,000.00

Horace Mann Early Learning Center

Jennifer Smith & Jill Loter – \$3,000.00

Longfellow Elementary

Steven Inman – \$1,400.00
Kimberly Kettering – \$3,000.00
Latoya Lee – \$1,100.00
Tara Niemeier & Mandi Stout – \$2,356.00

Ridgewood Elementary

Elvia Goins – \$3,000.00

Rock Island Academy

Adam Beck – \$2,000.00
Vickie Duiling – \$3,000.00
Olivia Frantzen – \$2,000.00
Miranda Lee – \$3,000.00
Heather McCarty – \$1,500.00
Jamie Parkins – \$1,692.60
Molly Ricketts – \$1,000.00
Kelly Vroman – \$2,228.00
Ebonie Wilmington – \$2,633.00
Amy Zero – \$3,000.00

Rock Island Center for Math & Science

Sarah Andrus – \$1,928.77
Rita Entsminger – \$2,291.47
Amy Moffitt – \$2,895.81
Julie Ruff – \$1,713.34
Ashley Slater – \$3,000.00

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

Attendance Committee – \$2,000.00
Ryan Early – \$3,000.00
Amy Marshall – \$3,000.00

Edison Junior High School

Cassandra Salas-Mikaio*** – \$3,000.00

Washington Junior High School

Dawn Deaner – \$3,000.00
Emilie Heald*** – \$1,150.00

Rock Island High School

Lorelei Andedo – \$3,000.00
Lonnie Behnke – \$1,500.00
Emily Bohling – \$3,000.00
Katie Dennis – \$2,598.75
Jason Kitterman – \$2,000.00
Jana Miller-DeDecker – \$3,000.00
Maria Schrup Hanrahan – \$3,000.00
Michael Tollenaer – \$3,000.00
Wade Weber – \$3,000.00

Multi-School Grants

Denkmann Elementary

Jeff Martin – \$2,000.00

Frances Willard Elementary

Breann Laermans – \$4,974.40

Longfellow Elementary

Eliana Aguilar – \$2,000.00

Ridgewood Elementary

Mara Goodvin – \$5,000.00
Monica Painter – \$2,550.00

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

Giovanna Davila – \$5,000.00

Edison Junior High School

Matthew Manweiler – \$4,974.40

Rock Island High School

Kathy Lelonek – \$3,000.00

Rock Island-Milan School District

Chris Beierlein, Dionne Lohman, Jen Woolsey – \$5,000.00
Bettina McWilliams – \$5,000.00



PRIME Grant Donations

Donations received October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Director II (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Rock Island Art Guild

Director I (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Edward's Creative (In-Kind Donation)

Sue & Paul McDevitt

Cindy Pettit-Emerick

Superintendent's Circle (\$500-\$999)

Nancy & Doug Hultquist

Cindy & Fred Lukasik

Melinda & Gregory Pupillo

Randi Segal

Principal (\$250-\$499)

Barb & Brian Cady

Nancy & Bill Hass

Geralyn & John McEvoy

Valedictorian (\$100-\$249)

Mary Brooks

Lori Lefstein & Michael Diamond

Patricia & Lowell Dorman

Chris Elsberg, State Farm Ins.

Monique & Ian Frink

Nancy & Dustin Galbraith

MaryAnn & Mike Halpin

Rose Ann & Jim Hass

Lorey Hillyer

Bob Humphrey

Linda & Russ Kennel

Jan Masamoto

Mary & Robert Milas

Teresa Rockwell

Kathy & Chad Ruggenberg

Alice & Kevin Traylor

Susanne Walker

Dean's List (\$50-\$99)

Diana & Brian Alm

Cassandra & Bruce Andich

Marla & Steve Andich

Mary & Alan Andich

Martha & Jeff Dismar

Rebecca & John Each

Georgia & Bob Steeber

Kym Vandygriff

Lois Wehner

Honor Roll (up to \$50)

Ann Balderson

Lynne & Larry Brandenburg

Nick Brandle

Natalie & Jeff Condit

Daryl Empen

Rita Greathouse

Julie & Doug Humphrey

April Palmer

Carl Schoessel

Nancy Strohl

Marie & Richard Timmer

John Westensee



**AUSTIN ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Thank you to our AAAA Contributors!

Donations received May 2, 2024 – May 1, 2025

Individual/Family

\$1,000+

Ann Austin
Nancy & Nick Coin
Karen & Jim Collins
Karen Haberthur Leonard
Ron Schmits
Nancy Schwegler
William Schwegler
John Shallman
Wendel Swan

\$500 – \$999

Beverly & Duane Bonsall
Dorothy Beck & Phil Dennis
Tim Joannides and Family
Becca & Jared Kitterman
Cindy & Fred Lukasik
Janet & Norm Moline
Sue & Mike Oberhaus
Thomas Schwegler
Sara & Mike Thoms
Patty & Craig Tillman
Linda Tobin
Jean Kuehl Tuech
John Westensee

\$250 – \$499

Bob Barton
Julie & Bob Blew
Mark Brooks
Bev & Norm Brunswig
Barb & Brian Cady
Kathy & Dan Davis
Kelly Fackel
Karen & John Frieden
Sheila & Paul Guse
Julie & Paul Hansen
Jim MacMillan
Geraldyn & John McEvoy
Helen & Gary Miner
Kitty & Ray Nolin
Roxanne & Frank Nowinski
Karen & John Phillips
Monta Ponsetto
Miles Rich
Teresa Rockwell
Carolyn Eagle &
Rick Simmon

Thomas Schwegler
Bill Stengel
Molly Tiegland
\$100 – \$249
Barbara & Lawrence
Ashpole
Christie & Patrick Berryhill
Virginia Blinn
Pryce Boeye
Gertrude & Walter Braud
Emilie Braughton
Valerie & Lynn Cunningham
Rock Island County Retired
Teachers

Candy Canik &
Dave Dehnel
Shirley Dooley Knight
Marie & Achiel Dupont
Charles Dyson
Frank Edwards
Sue & Alan Festerbusch
Patricia & Loren Flater
Susan & Terry Gordon
Cindy & Larry Graves
Carol & Bill Greathouse
M Joyce Hanna
Connie Hayek
Kathy & Don Healy
Lorey Hillyer
Dora Hoben
Alice & Randy Jacobs
Lana & Steven Johannes
Carol & Ted Johnson
Linda & Russ Kennel
Don Knabe
Larry Koester
Carol & Gary Kramer
Peggy & Ed Lieblein
Lori Lefstein &
Michael Diamond
Carol & Robert Lowitz
Nancy Luckenbill
Regina & Robert Mason
Patricia & Mike Matson
Jay P Mayesh
Buffy McLaughlin
Karen & Tim McMillan

Mary & Mike Mendelin
Vicki & Carroll Morrow
Joyce & Mike Mullins
Ronna & Stephen Nitekman
Karen & Pete Nyman
Jeanne David O'Melia
Barbara & Robert Park
Judy Patsch
Anna & Mike Philhower
Ellen Pohlman
Cynthia & Steve Pressly
Jean & Tom Roche
Ginny & Frank Ryner
Barbara & Phillip Salstrom
Judy & Larry Schulte
Cosette Shrader
Holly & Tom Sparkman
Barbara & Tom Spike
Sue & James Spurgetis
Georgia & Bob Steeber
Jack Stewart
Jana & Dave Strickler
Nancy Strohl
Gary Sullivan
Debbi & Bob Swanson
Liz Thulin
Jim Tolson
Shari & Robert Tomich
Sue Traver
Alice & Kevin Traylor
Dorothy & Jeff Tubbs
Jan & Jerry Tutskey
Margaret Tweet
Char & Pat Verschoore
Darla & Ralph Walters
Dara Wegman-Geedeey &
Kevin Geedeey
Lois Wehner
Sandy & Don Wentler
Marcia & John Wetzler
Marybeth Doden Whitten
Sharon Williams
Gloria & Steve Wisely
Marsha Maurus Zaranti
Up to \$99
Helen Bai
Ann Balderson

Laura & Louis Belby
Birdies for Charity
Kelly Bishop
Nick Brandle
Peg Bulat
Diane Carnithan
Rita & William Currier
Martha & Jeff Dismar
Toni & Steve Gasper
Mary Beth Reiff Harvey
Rita & Bill Martin
Nancy McManus
Karen & Jerry Murphy
Mary & Jeff Newcomb
Toni & Ted Niemann
Dee & Paul Noe
Sarah & Jason Roessler
Sally & Chuck Scott
Mary Ann & Randy Slusser
David Soboroff
Richard Thomas
Donald Thompson
Cindy & David VanLandegen
Joyce & Preston Zawada

Business Contributors

Allmakes Office Furniture
Birdies for Charity
Blackhawk Bank & Trust
Bowman Accounting
Group O, Inc.
The Hungry Hobo
IBEW Local Union #145
Modern Woodmen
of America
Picture Perfect Travel
Rock Island Optometric
Center
Tri-City Building
&Construction
Trades Council
Wheelan-Pressly
Funeral Homes
Whitey's Ice Cream

In-Kind Contributors

Bally's Quad Cities
MajorSaver
Twisted-BoKay

**DEPARTMENT
SCHOLARSHIPS**

First place – \$2,000
Second Place – \$1,500

Business

1st: Alexis Gahimbare
2nd: Trace Downing

**Career & Technical
Education**

1st: Yessenia
Leos-Ochoa
2nd: Jaleeyah McNeal

EL – English Learners

1st: Presence Erodiance
2nd: Namira Mirzai

English

1st: Arion Lonergan-
Shinskia
2nd: Leah Kitterman

Fine Arts - Performing

1st: Thom Elliot
2nd: Stella Houk

Fine Arts – Visual

1st: Zee Phares
2nd: Sophia Stout

Math

1st: Nyx King
2nd: Bibi Kamala
Barikzay

Science

1st: Luis Arredondo-
Lopez
2nd: Makyah Daniels

Social Studies

1st: Zoe Ehlers
2nd: Kylie Melchi

World Languages

1st: Mu Phlay
K'Toee Soe
2nd: Benjamin Huisman

RIMEF Endowment Fund

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was established to support the financial needs of the Rock Island-Milan School District, providing funds for projects, materials, and programs that would otherwise go unfunded by traditional resources. The establishment of the **RIMEF Endowment Fund** ensures that the RIMEF will continue to assist with the financial needs of the district, strengthen our schools, and build successful futures for our students for years to come.

- The fund will support district-led initiatives & programs
- The fund will utilize only the interest/earnings earned.
- Investment strategies will be regularly reviewed.
- Anyone may invest in the fund with a minimum \$5,000 donation.

- The contribution may be made in one or multiple payments
- The **RIMEF Endowment Fund** is a permanently restricted fund.

“
There is no greater return than an investment in a child's education.
 ”

Your gift to the **RIMEF Endowment Fund** is an investment in our children's education creating a legacy that will impact many future generations of RIMSD students.

For more information or to make your investment in the RIMEF Endowment Fund, please contact the RIMEF at (309) 581-2154 or rimef@rimisd41.org

Memorial / Honorarium Contributions

Donations received October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Memorials

Jesse Adams

Cindy & Fred Lukasik

Paula Youngblood

Arnell, MD

Richard Arnell

Dr. Robert Brooks

Mary Brooks

Ronda Aschemann

Anonymous

Marla & Steve Andich

Karen & William Bibee

Mary & Bruce Boehm

Lisa Burke-Martin

Jennifer & Brian Casey

Darcy & Jerry Johnson

Eagle & Eagle

Cindy & Fred Lukasik

Linda & Art Milton

Krista & Greg Monson

Kristen & J.D. Moon

Nikulski Financial

Joan & Leslie Paarman

Theresa & Thomas Scott

Linda Soto

Elizabeth Eagle

& James Teros

Jennifer & Fred Thiede

Susan & Dennis Wolfe

Kaye & Stephen Wright

Kurt Dasso

Janice David

Laura Denoma

Lorey Hillyer

Donald E. Devinney

*memorials to Donald E. Devinney Business & Business Education Scholarship

Anonymous – multiple

Mary Jo & Jeffrey

Anderson

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Scholarship Contributions

Donations received October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Nell Althoff Family Memorial Scholarship

\$10,000:
Kenneth Love Family

Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship

\$250:
Julie and Paul Hansen

Carole S. Barkan Memorial Scholarship

\$500:
Rachel Barkan
Steve Barkan

RIHS Class of 1961 Scholarship

\$1960:
Class of 1960

RIHS Class of 1961 Scholarship

**Memorial donations as listed*

\$2,000 and up:
Linda & Mike Denoma

\$1,000-\$1,999:
Clara & Ray Bulens

\$100-\$499:
Lorey Hillyer*
Madelyn Nelson

\$50-\$99:
Carrol Scherer Brandt
Dan Fay
Sandra & Rodger Kramer

RIHS Class of 1963 "First in the Family" Scholarship

\$1,000-\$1,999:
Vicki Birdsell-Baker
Emmett Clevestine
Gwen & Gary Kennelly
Karen Haberthur Leonard
Elizabeth Eagle
& James Teros

\$500-\$999:
Judi & John Harland
Robyn & Alan Jensen

\$100-\$499:
Judith Cohen
Kathleen & Robert Connell
Jack Fields
Lorey Hillyer
Christine & Allan Koch
Jacqueline &
Ted Maxeiner
Penny & Robert Ramsey
Jacqui & Mark Robertson

Up to \$100:

Roseanne & David Byme
Michael Herman
Donald Siegel
Susan Sikkema
David Soboroff
Nadyne Stockhecke
James Thompson

Donald E. Devinney Business & Business Education Scholarship

**Memorial donations as listed*

\$20,000:
Karen & Donald
Devinney

Troy H Ellis Scholarship

\$2,000 and up:
**Memorial donations as listed*
Ellis Golf Tournament

\$1,000-\$1,999:
Cookie & Terry. Ellis

\$500-\$999:
Bryan Ellis
MSPT & Associates

\$100-\$499:
Anonymous - 4
Diane & Daniel Budelier
David Gass
Nancy & Doug Hultquist
Matthew Whitson
Steve Whitson

\$50-\$99:
Patti & Donald Deleu
Robin & Corey Ellis

Hass Family Scholarship

\$100-\$499:
Katherine & Mike
Boehm
Rose Ann & Jim Hass

Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship

Up to \$50:
Carol & Bill Greathouse

Donavin J. Keim Scholarship

\$1,000:
Roberta Milas
& Mitchell Lopez
Nature's Treatment of Illinois Scholarship

\$2,000:
Nature's Treatment
of Illinois

Herb Niemann Scholarship

\$1,000-\$2,000:
Kay Niemann
Toni & Ted Niemann

\$100-\$499:
Janet Pauley

Up to \$100:
Lynn & James Cimfel

R. Dale Owen "Be the Light" Memorial Scholarship

\$2,000 and up:
Ascentra Credit
Union Foundation

Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship

\$10,500:
Miles Rich

Chet and Louise Schultz Scholarship

\$500:
Shockley Foundation

\$100-\$499:
Everett McDowell

William & Saralie Shallman Memorial Scholarship

\$25,000:
John Shallman

Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship

\$100-\$499:
Jack Barrows
Linda & Russ Kennel
Cindy & Fred Lukasik

Rosemary Woodward Scholarship

\$7,500:
Rock Island Community
Foundation

DW Young Memorial Scholarship

\$4,000:
Nancy Jacobsen/
QC Community
Foundation Fund

An additional \$1,640 was raised for various scholarships through Birdies for Charity!

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships

Nell Althoff Family Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500 each: A'Keyla Brown, Eliza Jolie, Leah Kitterman, Carla Nieto

Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship - \$2,000: Elizabeth McCoy
Bally's Quad Cities Scholarship - \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1,000:

Jaxon Womack, Mu Phlay K'Toole Soe, Kevin Mayares

Carole S. Barkan Scholarship - \$1,000: Elaina Adlfinger

Boeye Family Scholarship - \$2,000: Mylie Shook Grant W. and Virginia M.

Brissman Scholarship - \$4,000: Abbagale Lieber
Class of 1961 Scholarship - \$1,500 each: Isabella Adner, Ali Aliev, Keziah Anderson, Lucie Cornelio, LaNina Daugherty, Lauren Gottcent, Jozie Kerr, Richard Niyonzima, Santana Smith, Jesus Sosa

Class of 1963 "First in the Family Scholarship" - \$1,500 each: Keziah Anderson, LaNina Daugherty-Butler, Riziki Venansia

Class of 1965 Scholarship - \$1,000: Harley Payney
Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship - \$1,000: Skylar Stone

Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship - \$10,000: Carson Banks

Troy H. Ellis Scholarship - \$1,500: Lillian McDaniel
Barbara Fackel AVID Scholarship - \$1,000: Beline Shukuru

Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship - \$2,000: Myles Davis
Jim and Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500: Carson Banks

Rick Gilliland Scholarship - \$500: Lyric Rice

Ray and Elva Habarthur Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000: Isabella Marceleno

Hass Family Scholarship - \$4,000: Pedro Ramirez

Heart of a "Rock" - \$1,000: Hussein Alhamdan

Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship - \$1,000: Bibi Kamela Barikzay

Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton Scholarship - \$4,000: Whitney Stivers

Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship - \$500: Eh Su
Tim Joannides and Family Scholarship - \$1,000: Jose Salinas-Palaez

Tyler John Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000: Gladys Perez

Judith A. Katz Scholarship - \$4,000: Thom Elliott

Donavin J. Keim Scholarship - \$500 each: Football: Kevin Mayares, Wrestler: Merrick Stockwell

Knights of Pythias Scholarship - \$1,000: Elizabeth McCoy

R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship - \$500: Jayleeyah McNeal

The Marler Clark Science Scholarship - \$2,000: Benjamin Huisman

Mollie Montgomery Scholarship - \$2,000: September Naing

Nature's Treatment of Illinois Scholarship - \$1,000: Presence Erodiance

Herb Niemann Scholarship - \$1,200: Arion Lonergan-Shinskia

R. Dale Owen "Be the Light" Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000: Alex Churchill

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship - \$4,000 each: Olivia-Ann Almanza, Ler Bwe

Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship - \$4,000: Alex Churchill

Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship - \$500 each: Education: LaNina Daugherty, Music: Thom Elliot

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000 each: Christen Egan, Grace Hodonou, Skylar Stone

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Merit Scholarships - \$1,000: Elaina Adlfinger, \$500: Birdie Johnson, LyricRice

Fred Houlton "Service Above Self" Rock Island Rotary Scholarship - \$1,000: Layla Rice

Rock Island Township Scholarship - \$1,500: A'Keyla Brown

Chet and Louise Schultz Scholarship - \$2,000: Merrick Stockwell

Schwiebert Family Scholarship - \$2,500: Kamya McDuffy

William and Saralie Shallman Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500: Beline Shukuru

Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship - \$500 each: Baseball: Namarion Coleman, Softball: Madison Carroll

Thoms Family "Above and Beyond" Scholarship - \$5,000: Chase Curry

Steven and Mabel M. Velge Track and Cross-Country Scholarship - \$6,000 each: Female: Kylie Melchi, Male: Jesus Sosa

Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship - \$2,000: Jozie Kerr

Women's Computer Science, Math, & IT Scholarship - \$500: Keziah Anderson

Rosemary Woodward Scholarship - \$1,000: Madison Carroll

DW Young Memorial Scholarship - \$4,000: Zoe Ehlers



THANK YOU

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF) believes every student is entitled to a quality education. Our mission - "To Enhance Academic Opportunities for Student Success" - affirms our commitment to enrich the current environmental education of all our students. Your generous donations to the RIMEF facilitate programs, fund innovative materials and projects, provide technologies, and help further the education of RIHS seniors

"There is no greater return than the investment in a child's education."

We are tremendously grateful for your continued generosity and your investment in the education of the over 6,200 students of the Rock Island-Milan School District.



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