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The Power of Change

By Dawn Fields Wise, Executive Director



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”
 ~ Margaret J. Wheatley, writer and teacher

This picture, from the 31st Annual Classroom Innovation Grants reception held on May 10th, captures the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation (LCSEF) Trustees and staff with some of the sponsors who were in attendance that afternoon. Each year, the reception serves as a milestone for LCSEF; not only because it is the culmination of the many incredible grants that were awarded to teachers throughout the academic year, but it is also a chance for the sponsors of these grants to meet the recipients of their funds and to witness firsthand the impact of their generosity. In the photo are 12 corporate and foundation representatives (including Board and staff who are also sponsors) who embody the thousands of others who give so tirelessly of their resources to LCSEF.

To me, this community support is symbolized perfectly by Jane Sprouse (center, right) from the Al Stroobants Foundation as she holds Westminster Canterbury Vice President Marianne Sanford’s hand. As I reflect on it now, on that simple gesture, I see so many things for LCSEF in that image: dedication, love, perseverance, hope.

And the power for change.

It is that change LCSEF looks forward to as we begin to implement our new Strategic Plan. The plan will include a focus on rebranding, and we have chosen to shorten this annual report as we lean into this effort

and work toward more meaningful engagement. The plan will also include an evaluation of our organizational capacity, programming, and partnerships with an emphasis on collaboration instead of competition; working together, not in silos; and helping to further remove barriers to learning, one student at a time—all while continuing to bridge the gap in public funding.

It is a lofty goal, and many strategic plans end up being just that—plans. However, I know we can accomplish all of this and more, because I believe that together there is no power for change greater than our community that cares for our Lynchburg City Schools.

Message from the President



It has been an exciting and productive year for the LCS Education Foundation (LCSEF). Executive Director Dawn Wise hit the ground running when she joined the Foundation in November 2022, and her skills and enthusiasm have served the organization – and the community— impressively well.

As President of the LCSEF board, I am especially grateful for the dedication of my fellow board members who—over the course of several months—shared their time and talents as the board embarked on a strategic planning process on behalf of the organization. The resulting strategic plan is providing a framework for the organization’s work, ensuring that opportunities for the Lynchburg City Schools students and teachers are LCSEF’s primary focus.

We are so grateful for your continued support of LCSEF. Your contributions help the Foundation be a positive force in the community and for that, we thank you.

Julie P. Doyle
President,
Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation



Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation Contributors

July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

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LCSEF is proud to be chosen as an approved charity for the **2023 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.**

If you are a state employee, you can donate directly to the Foundation by payroll deduction or credit card. Use our charity code 201470 and name: Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation.

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Advance our schools through
 your *tax-deductible* gift:

◆ DIRECT DONATIONS

We accept donations of cash, property, stocks, or any asset for which you can obtain an appraised value. Donations can also be made through your donor advised fund.

◆ MATCHING GIFTS

Request a matching gift form from your employer and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. Some companies also match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses, and match volunteer hours!

◆ VIRGINIA STATE TAX FORM

Allocate all or a portion of your Virginia tax refund, or an additional gift, when you complete your state tax return. Indicate your contribution on line 33 of form 760 and use code **680001** on line 11 of the Virginia Contributions Schedule (VAC), section II. The Foundation will then receive a check in the amount of your donation!

◆ PLANNED GIVING

Leave a legacy to public education and help fund the future of our programs.

◆ UNITED WAY DONATIONS

You can direct your annual United Way contribution to the Foundation. Please note our EIN: 54-1385200 on your pledge form.

◆ SHARE GREATER LYNCHBURG

LCS Education Foundation is featured on this community philanthropic platform.

◆ GIVE THROUGH YOUR IRA

Are you age 70 1/2 or older and have to take required minimum distributions? You can make a tax-free transfer of up to \$100,000 each year directly from your IRA to a charity which counts as your RMD but isn't included in your adjusted gross income. Ask your IRA administrator about the procedure for making this "qualified charitable distribution" (QCD).

◆ PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Employees of Lynchburg City Schools may contribute through direct payroll deduction. Forms available through Lynchburg City Schools Finance Dept.

Questions regarding your gift? Contact

Dawn Wise, Executive Director

434-515-5081 or wisedf@lcsedu.net

Fed Tax ID# 54-1385200



This program ensures that all students start the year with the tools to be successful in the classroom and provides teachers with supplies they need for their classrooms and for their students. Thanks to the generous support of grants and monetary donations along with materials donated from school supply drives, overstocks from local businesses, and upcycling of new and gently used supplies from the community and our own schools, our dedicated team of volunteers makes sure these supplies are distributed to the teachers and students who need them. LCS educators shop for FREE in-person on specified days or order with our on-line tool anytime. In 2022-2023, we supported 1,011 teacher visits and supplied 590 backpacks and 1,074 sets of school supplies to students in need through their school counselors.



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AI Stroobants Foundation Grant

A \$50,000 grant from The AI Stroobants Foundation provided 2 years of funding for Classroom Innovation Grants, capital for the Lynchburg Imagination Library, as well as generous funding for Back to School Supplies and the Tools4Schools Warehouse. Stroobants dollars also provided a scholarship for Elijah 'Yink' Reid, a 2023 graduate of the Empowerment Academy, to attend an accredited vocational school and become a professional barber.



Excellence In Science Scholarship



This \$25,000 scholarship was awarded to Sage Khurana, who was dually enrolled in the Early College Program, graduating from E.C. Glass High School and Central Virginia Community College in May 2023. Sage is continuing his education at the College of William & Mary, where he is studying Biology and Geology to pursue his interest in ecology and the way organisms interact with their environment.

For the past 5 years this hallmark scholarship has been funded by BWX Technologies, Inc., DTE Energy Foundation, Framatome, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Ainslie, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. David Frantz, and Dr. and Mrs. Charles Pryor.

International Paper Grant

A \$5,000 grant from International Paper funded a Classroom Innovation Grant for the ROAR Center at the Turning Point Academy. Teachers Zhakia Scott, Olivia Johnson, and Lynn Halsey wanted to provide a makerspace where their students could cultivate deeper learning and take ownership of their education by doing and creating. Computer lab stations and a mobile kitchen are just two of the ways this grant is making this dream a reality for these students.

