

Empowering Success

In & Beyond the Classroom

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





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Dear Friends,

Generosity, partnership, and unwavering dedication—these are the hallmarks of a year that allowed the Special Education Foundation (SEF) to achieve extraordinary impact in 2025. SEF's programs have benefited more than 7,500 students who receive special education services in St. Louis County, with individual opportunities for learning, growth, and independence..

We are profoundly grateful to you, our friends, for making it possible.

Here are just a few highlights:

Working in partnership with SSD, we purchased four power wheelchairs through The Mobility Project, an initiative that empowers students served by the Special School District with complex mobility needs to experience independent movement. The funds raised during the 22nd annual Dan McLaughlin Charity Golf Tournament and Auction will bring more than just mobility to students, but will also bring independence, connection, and dignity. We look forward to sharing with you the positive impact this has on students and their families.

We added a new scholarship to our portfolio of post-secondary financial assistance. The Jane



*Julia Burke, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors*



*Tim Eby
Executive Director*

Vickrey Leadership Scholarship was established this year to provide a \$5,000 scholarship to a selected student who has graduated from the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy. This scholarship is a fitting way to remember Jane, who served as SEF Board Secretary and Board liaison to the Fred Saigh Leadership Program before her passing in 2024.

Our new Autism Independence Project has achieved remarkable results for more than a dozen students in its first full year.

In addition to another successful golf tournament, 2025 marked the second annual Starfish Awards. This year's event, held in June at The Reverie in Chesterfield, recognized eight deserving

individuals with Starfish Awards, plus three Community Starfish Awardees.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the SEF Board of Directors for their exceptional leadership and to our amazing staff for their commitment to our mission, which has made a profound difference in the lives of countless students.

Finally, we are grateful to our partners at the Special School District of St. Louis County for their unwavering dedication to helping students.

As we look ahead, your continued belief in our mission is the fuel that will power the next year of transformation. Thank you for making a tangible difference in the lives of every student we serve.



▶ WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1984 as Missouri's first public school foundation, the Special Education Foundation (SEF) offers vital support and resources beyond what tax dollars provide to students served by the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD).



▶ WHO WE SERVE

The Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD) is Missouri's largest provider of specialized education, committed to empowering students of all abilities to achieve their fullest potential. Serving children and youth with disabilities from ages 3 to 21, SSD operates under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and delivers personalized support based on each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

SSD offers services in a variety of educational settings throughout St. Louis County—from SSD teachers working within students' local school districts to dedicated SSD schools and private agency placements. Today, 97% of SSD students receive their education within their home district schools.

SSD currently supports nearly 22,000 students with disabilities across 22 school districts, provides career and technical education to more than 1,400 students, serves over 900 students in private or parochial schools, and assists more than 100 adult learners working toward practical nurse licensure.



By the Numbers

YOUR IMPACT FISCAL YEAR 2025

7,989

students helped
in 2025

86

educators received
Classroom Innovation Grants

\$51,882

Funding innovative
classroom projects to
enhance student learning
and success

1,361

students experienced
the Arts in the Classroom
performances

\$15,886

in assistance to **46 students** with hearing aids,
molds and eyeglasses

\$41,007

spent on adaptive equipment for
26 students in need

17

Students supported in the
Autism Independence Project
with **\$13,750 in scholarships**

\$2,700

Raised for Winter Coat Drive

250

Students and families
supported through
Critical Needs

\$18,184

spent on students in need

\$11,000

Supporting the Special School District school projects,
including the Juvenile Detention Center and Bridges Program
747 Students

35

grants to help send
Kids-to-Camp

\$16,780

funded to support students
during academic breaks

16

Students selected to
participate in the Fred Saigh
Leadership Academy

7

Grants provided to the SSD
Principals through SEF's
Women Leaders

Adaptive & Assistive Equipment

FILLING GAPS IN PERCEPTION, COMMUNICATION, AND VISION

Adaptive equipment and assistive technology are essential in helping students with disabilities fully participate in both learning and daily life. Through a generous grant from the Tilles Foundation, the Special Education Foundation (SEF) is able to provide funding for specialized equipment to support students served by the Special School District up to age 21.

SEF is committed to improving the education and well-being of students who face financial barriers, focusing on providing augmentative devices, adaptive tools, hearing aids, eyeglasses, and other vital technologies. Our mission is to promote greater independence and improve the overall quality of life for the students we serve.

Through our audiology program, more than 46 students have received hearing aids, and 26 students have benefited from adaptive or assistive equipment. These life-changing tools empower students to engage more fully in their education and build the skills they need for independence—in school and beyond.



"My daughter received a mini iPad. We signed her up to participate in a program offered by St. Louis University Speech and Pathology Department to assist individuals using communication devices. She attended a few sessions in the summer and will continue in the fall. While she knows how to use the device, she needs encouragement in using it to communicate. We're working on helping her see it as more than a tool used for school work and as a benefit to communicating with others"

—Satisfied Parent

"My son received an iPad for communicating. This device helps my son talk and recognize things better. It makes my life so much easier. Thank you SEF!"

—Happy Mom

"Because of your support, I was able to receive a new pair of hearing aids after the ones I had broke. My hearing aids really help me in school and with all the other programs I attend. They also came with a Bluetooth connection which makes watching TV and talking on the phone easier."

—Thankful Student

SEF Presents! Arts in the Classroom

BRINGING THEATER AND MUSIC ENRICHING
EXPERIENCES INTO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Theater and music programs offer transformative benefits for students with disabilities, boosting self-esteem, enhancing social skills, improving language development, and deepening appreciation for the arts. Participation in the performing and visual arts often helps students discover hidden talents and unlock new forms of self-expression.

At the Special Education Foundation (SEF), we believe the fine arts are a vital part of every student's education. We are dedicated to creating inclusive artistic opportunities—whether through theater productions, music ensembles, or other creative experiences—that support personal growth and meaningful engagement in learning environments.

This year, SEF brought 13 performances to SSD, partnering with leading arts organizations including The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Metro Theater Company, The Black Rep, Opera on the Go!, and others to bring more performances and programs directly to the students. It was the first time the students at the Juvenile Detention Center were able to come together as a whole to experience the talented musicians of Jazz St. Louis and learn about the history of rap music.

Our efforts are made possible through generous community support. We recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Regional Arts Commission, and \$2,500 from the Schutte Family.



"Thank you for supporting Southview School with the Opera on the Go! performance and workshop. This performance meant so much to the students. They are still talking about the experience."

—Kristin Gleich,
Southview School

"Our students love these interactive stories. Students remembered these performances from last year and it's exciting as a teacher to see the students attentive and engaged. Students who are often reluctant to participate felt comfortable to join in. We are so thankful that our students were able to be part of this wonderful experience. Thank you SEF!"

—Ellen Birch,
Ackerman School



Autism Independence Project

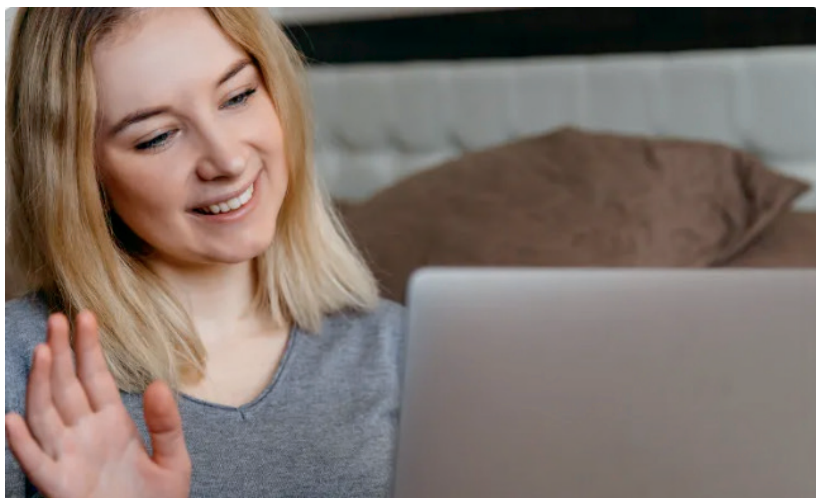
IMPROVING INDEPENDENCE & INCREASING SOCIAL SKILLS

The Special Education Foundation is proud to partner with iSocial for the Autism Independence Project—an initiative that aligns with SEF’s mission to empower students with disabilities served by the Special School District. This project focuses on strengthening social skills and expanding life goals to support more independent, fulfilling futures. 2024-2025 completed its first year since launching the Project.

What is iSocial?

iSocial is an innovative remote group therapy program developed by Dr. Janine Stichter and her team at the Thompson Center for Autism at the University of Missouri. Designed to build social competence, iSocial helps individuals with autism develop essential life skills, form meaningful relationships, and prepare for successful employment. The program delivers group-based telehealth therapy for children and adults, making support more accessible than ever.

With \$18,500 in funding, 7 students from the Special School District were able to participate in iSocial’s programming during the 2024-2025 school year—marking an exciting first step in helping more students lead confident, independent lives.



“Before iSocial, my daughter was unaware of the importance of the words she uses. Now she is very aware of the meaning of words. She had an argument last week with friends and was able to talk to me about how she felt and the words she used. This is all from iSocial.”

—Relieved Mom

“My son is very proud of his improvements from iSocial. He is able to identify them and now feels more comfortable at school in the classroom with his peers. Now he is able to sit with the class and responds to some of their comments/questions.”

—Proud Mom



Critical Needs

PROVIDING EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

For many students with disabilities, financial hardship and physical challenges create barriers that go far beyond the classroom. When basic needs like warm clothing, food, or personal care items are unmet, it can have a profound impact on their confidence, health, and ability to succeed in school and in life.

That's why the Special Education Foundation is committed to standing in the gap—meeting critical needs with compassion and urgency. In partnership with the Special School District, we work year-round to ensure students are supported, starting with our annual Winter Coat Drive. Thanks to generous donors, students receive warm coats and accessories to face the cold with dignity.

Through this program, SEF has also provided food baskets to approximately 140 families during winter and spring breaks, and again as summer begins—making sure no child goes hungry during school closures. We've helped students show up with pride in uniforms for job training, outfits for graduation ceremonies, and essential hygiene products throughout the year. Every item provided is more than just a necessity—it's a message to students that they are seen, valued, and supported.



Classroom Innovation Grants

SUPPORT FOR CREATIVITY TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

Teachers are the heart of the classroom—visionaries who see potential where others see limitations. For educators serving students with disabilities, that vision often includes finding unique, hands-on ways to make learning meaningful, engaging, and inclusive. But too often, these ideas come at a personal cost, with teachers reaching into their own wallets to bring their dreams to life.

That's where the Special Education Foundation steps in.

Since 2002, SEF's **Classroom Innovation Grants** have supported the creativity of teachers across the Special School District, providing the resources they need to turn bold ideas into powerful learning opportunities. Whether it's sensory learning stations, adaptive technology, job readiness simulations, or interactive art and science projects, these grants are designed to spark imagination and enhance outcomes for students with disabilities.

In the past year alone, SEF awarded **\$51,882 in Classroom Innovation Grants**, empowering **86 dedicated educators** to implement projects that go beyond traditional instruction. These grants help transform classrooms into spaces where curiosity is ignited, confidence is nurtured, and students are inspired to learn in ways that work best for them.

Through this program, SEF doesn't just fund materials—we invest in the passion of educators and the limitless potential of their students. Each project is a reminder that when we support teachers, we expand what's possible for every child.

Litzsinger School received two prestigious awards from the PRiME Center at St. Louis University for outstanding student growth during the 2022-23 school year. Litzsinger ranked 4th in the "Beating the Odds" category for mathematics growth and 11th in statewide growth for all students. "Our principal attributes the rewards system for both iReady and Exact Path as one of our keys to success.



Seeing the positive results of our hard work—like ranking 4th in the "Beating the Odds" category for mathematics growth—is a testament to the power of innovation and collaboration."

—Amanda Wise, Litzsinger School

"The Teen Cooking Academy is designed to support students in learning basic skills in the kitchen including safety, cooking, cleaning, preparation, creating a shopping list with a budget, following a recipe, using measurements, and learning how to safely navigate a kitchen independently. The students work with the chef in the kitchen to establish a realistic timeline to make sure the meal can be completed prior to the end of the session. After the meal has been prepared, students will also use social skills to ask teachers and building staff if they would like to try what has been prepared. The chef has partnered



with us to support students learning basic skills, independent living, and life skills both in the kitchen and in the community."

—Alicia Firman, Parkway North High School

Fred Saigh Leadership Academy

CREATING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The **Fred Saigh Leadership Academy**, established in 2004 through a generous grant from the Fred Saigh Foundation, is one of SEF's most inspiring programs—dedicated to helping students with disabilities unlock their leadership potential and step confidently into roles of influence in their schools and communities.

Each year, the Academy brings together a group of selected students for a nine-month journey of growth, discovery, and connection. Through hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world experiences, students build essential leadership skills—from public speaking and collaboration to project management and community engagement.

The program isn't just about learning—it's about doing. Students organize and host a September car wash fundraiser, selecting and donating proceeds to three local charities, learning the value of giving back through action. Throughout the year, they visit key civic and cultural institutions such as the George Westfall Criminal Justice Center, the Missouri State Capitol, and the Holocaust Museum—broadening their perspectives and deepening their understanding of leadership in practice.

During the 2024–2025 school year, **16 students from across St. Louis County** participated in the Academy. Many alumni of the program have gone on to run for student council, lead classroom initiatives, advocate for others, and take on leadership roles in job training and volunteer work.

The program concludes each May with a heartfelt graduation ceremony. Chosen by their peers, one student is recognized with the **C.J. Aubuchon Award**—an honor given to a student who embodies kindness, inclusion, and the true spirit of leadership. For the first time, 2 students were selected for this coveted Academy award.

At its core, the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy proves that with the right guidance and support, students with disabilities can lead, inspire, and make a lasting difference in the world around them.



"My student's awareness has increased on how local businesses visited by SEF operate on a daily basis and the difference they make in the community. The trip to Jefferson City allowed most students to meet up and to get to know their state representatives, and their stance on current issues. A lot of students never get this opportunity and honestly watching from afar, I'm not sure who was more excited to meet the other, the student or the representative!

I feel the Fred Saigh leadership program helps to bridge the gap between learning & promoting how each student can have a voice in their community by understanding the process of how businesses operate."

—Nominating Teacher



Scholarships

PROPELLING STUDENTS TO FUTURE SUCCESS

The Special Education Foundation is proud to offer **three unique scholarship opportunities** that honor the lives and legacies of individuals who were passionate about education, leadership, and supporting students with disabilities.

The John Cary Scholarship, established in 2016, honors the late John Cary, former Superintendent of the Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD). A tireless advocate for students with disabilities, John's legacy lives on through this scholarship. Each year, **five \$5,000** awards are granted to college-bound students who demonstrate **resilience, courage, determination, and excellence** in academics, leadership, arts, athletics, and community service.

The Jane Vickrey Scholarship was introduced in 2025 to commemorate Jane Vickrey's extraordinary dedication to SEF and the students we serve. Jane was a former Board Secretary and the liaison to the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy, attending monthly leadership sessions and mentoring students. This **\$5,000 scholarship** is awarded to a student who has completed the **Fred Saigh Leadership Academy**, reflecting Jane's belief in giving back, leadership, and empowering the next generation.

The Christopher Davis Scholarship, established in 2005 and funded by the Ronald Davis family, awards **\$2,500** to a deserving student from the **Ritenour School District**. Created in memory of Christopher Davis—a proud Ritenour alumnus who tragically lost his life in a car accident in 1993—this scholarship honors his memory by supporting local students in their pursuit of higher education. The Davis family's ongoing generosity ensures that Christopher's legacy continues to inspire and uplift.

Through these three scholarships, SEF continues to invest in the bright futures of students with disabilities, helping them take the next step toward achieving their goals and dreams.



John Cary Scholarship Recipients



ADAM ABDULLA *Graduating from Parkway West High School*

Adam is resilient, driven, and dreams of becoming a dentist. Despite challenges growing up, he has always understood the value of education. He is described as a highly motivated and compassionate student with a strong dedication to both academic excellence and community service. Adam plans to take a gap year to pursue Islamic Studies and then attend St. Louis University or Washington University next year to study dentistry.



AUSTIN CHRISTENSEN *Webster Groves High School*

Austin is a deeply driven and disciplined student who holds himself to the highest personal standards. He is described as a determined, resilient, and humble student whose character truly sets him apart. Austin plans to attend Saint Louis University.



VIVIAN LANG *Afton High School & South Technical High School*

Vivian is a resilient and determined student who has learned to advocate for herself, overcome challenges, and persevere through hard work. She is described as a compassionate leader who uplifts others, actively contributes to her school and community, and never hesitates to advocate for herself or support her peers. Vivian also participated in the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy in 2023 and received the C.J. Aubuchon award, selected by her Academy peers. Vivian plans to attend St. Louis Community College to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.



IAN MCDOWELL *Ritenour, Dayspring Arts & Education, and North Technical High School*

Ian is a driven and talented student with a passion for graphic design, maintaining a 4.0 GPA while completing dual enrollment courses and attending trade school to advance his skills. He is described as a talented and dedicated student whose maturity, integrity, and creative problem-solving consistently set him apart as a leader among his peers. Ian plans to attend Covenant College.



ZION NORMAN *McCluer North High School*

Zion is a resilient and determined individual who has overcome the challenges of foster care and a learning disability with strength and purpose. She is described as a driven and well-rounded student whose resilience, academic excellence, and leadership shine through her accomplishments in the rigorous International Baccalaureate program, with recognition as a French National Honors student. Zion plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University to make a lasting impact on her community.

Christopher Davis Scholarship Recipient



GENYSHA MCNEAL *Ritenour High School*

Genysa is a resilient individual who learned to navigate a blended family and overcome learning disabilities, fostering a strong sense of adaptability and determination. Genysa is described as a goal-oriented student whose perseverance and self-advocacy have led her to consistent academic success and personal growth. Genysa plans to attend St. Louis Community College and is aspiring to become an ultrasound technician.

Jane Vickrey Leadership Scholarship Recipient



LILAH DURHAM *Brentwood High School*

Lilah is a highly motivated and academically driven individual who consistently exceeds expectations despite facing learning disabilities. Lilah demonstrates leadership and empathy, evidenced by her participation in the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy and her work with children with special needs. As a creative and accomplished artist and writer, Lilah aims to pursue these passions in college at Webster University.

Kid-to-Camp

SUPPORT TO KEEP STUDENTS LEARNING AND ENGAGED DURING ACADEMIC BREAKS

Camp is more than just a getaway—it's a vital opportunity for growth, connection, and continued learning for students with disabilities.

Extended school breaks can often disrupt the progress students make during the year, but camp programs help bridge that gap. They provide a structured, supportive environment where students can build social skills, form meaningful friendships, and gain greater independence and self-confidence through hands-on activities and peer interaction.

The Special Education Foundation's **Kid-to-Camp** program ensures that students have access to these enriching experiences by providing camperships—scholarships awarded based on financial need and the student's potential to benefit from the camp environment.

In the past year alone, SEF invested **\$16,780** to send **35 students** to camp during winter, spring, and summer breaks. These experiences create lasting memories and promote emotional, social, and educational growth, helping students return to school more confident and ready to succeed.



"If it weren't for the campership, I would not be able to send my son to camp. He looks forward to camp every year. He's learned to ride a scooter for the first time and although it's more of a struggle, he's learning to play pickleball. Your foundation is wonderful and I really appreciate you making this possible for him."

—Happy Mom

"The campership was incredibly helpful for our family. It gave my daughter the opportunity to participate in a safe and supportive environment where she could socialize, gain confidence, and enjoy new experiences. As a parent, it was a relief to know she was in good hands and having a positive experience during the summer. We're truly grateful for the support."

—Grateful Family

Women Leaders

PASSIONATE CHANGEMAKERS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The **Special Education Foundation's Women Leaders** are a powerhouse of compassion, dedication, and purpose. Since 2009, this inspiring group of women has been united by one mission: to uplift and empower students with disabilities in St. Louis County. Born from the energy of a single friend-raiser event, the group quickly transformed into a movement—driven by a desire to create lasting impact for students served by the Special School District (SSD).

These women are more than just fundraisers—they are advocates, visionaries, and changemakers. From glamorous fashion shows to the **2nd Annual Starfish Awards**, the Women Leaders pour their hearts into events that raise critical funds for programs and projects that make a real difference in the lives of children with disabilities.

But their work doesn't stop there. Every September, the Women Leaders gather with SSD school principals—including those from the Summit Academy (formerly known as the Juvenile Detention Center) and Bridges Program—to listen, learn, and collaborate. Principals present special project proposals through the **Principal Grants Program**, sharing how these initiatives could enhance student learning, build independence, or improve social-emotional skills.

Thanks to the Women Leaders' support, SEF funded **\$11,000 for 7 Principal Grant projects**. These innovative, student-centered projects—many involving adaptive technology, skill-building tools, and inclusive enrichment—become a reality. They fund what tax dollars often can't, opening new doors for students and showing them what's possible.



"We greatly appreciated the generosity of the Women Leaders for providing our students with the performance from the Metro Theatre Company and support for our end of the school year celebration."

—Lisa Leonard-Sneed,
Ackerman School

"With the ability to purchase yearbooks for our students this year, we aim to celebrate the achievements and experiences of each student while fostering a sense of pride and community within our school."

—Brian O'Connor,
Northview School

"This school year, our staff is taking on the role of new school branding by creating a new school name and mascot - 'Summit Academy'. We just built the logo and are currently seeking board approval for the new name. Purchasing customized school gear will help with the launch."

—Ann Hawkey, Juvenile
Detention Center

2nd Annual Starfish Awards

HONORING QUIET HEROES, POWERED BY SEF'S WOMEN LEADERS

The Special Education Foundation proudly held the 2nd Annual Starfish Awards in June to celebrate the quiet heroes within the Special School District—those who may never seek recognition, but whose everyday actions make a profound and lasting impact.

These honorees embody what it means to care deeply. They:

- ▶ Show unwavering compassion and kindness, no matter the circumstance.
- ▶ Leave a heartfelt and lasting imprint on students, families, and staff across SSD and the 22 partner districts in St. Louis County.
- ▶ Provide strength and support during the hardest of times, offering comfort when it's needed most.
- ▶ Inspire a ripple effect of hope, resilience, and community.

On June 12, the Special Education Foundation proudly hosted the **2nd Annual Starfish Awards at The Reverie in Chesterfield**—an unforgettable evening filled with heartfelt recognition, moving stories, and deep appreciation for the unsung heroes of special education in St. Louis County. More than a ceremony, the Starfish Awards served as a powerful reminder of the incredible strength, resilience, and humanity that fuel the work of educators, staff, and advocates across the Special School District. We celebrated not only our award recipients but the collective spirit that drives SEF's mission—making sure every student feels seen, supported, and empowered to thrive.



The following were recipients of the 2025 Starfish Awards:

TITUS COTHRINE – Bus Driver at Arrowhead Elementary, Hazelwood School District

JAMEE HEIDMANN – Teacher at Westridge Elementary, Rockwood School District

WENDY HOPKINS – Paraprofessional at Parkway South High School, Parkway School District

SHUNNA JOSHUA – Teacher, Michelle Obama Early Childhood, Riverview Gardens School District

BRIDGET LINDERS – Teacher at Iveland Elementary, Ritenour School District

AMANDA MORAN – Paraprofessional at Dressel Elementary, Lindbergh School District

GAIL ROSS – Paraprofessional at Ackerman School, Special School District

JULIE SANDERS – Teacher at Hancock Place Elementary, Hancock Place School District

STARFISH LEADERSHIP AWARD
Dr. Germain Stewart – Principal, McCurdy Elementary Hazelwood School District

COMMUNITY STARFISH AWARD
MaryLee Burlemann, SEF Volunteer and Special School District Retiree

SPIRIT OF SEF AWARD
Debbie Smith, Fred Saigh Leadership Academy Coordinator

22nd Annual Dan McLaughlin Golf Tournament

TEEING UP HOPE AND DRIVING CHANGE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For decades, the Special Education Foundation (SEF) has been a source of hope, compassion, and opportunity for thousands of children with disabilities and their families. At the heart of this mission is the Dan McLaughlin Golf Tournament and Charity Auction—an inspiring tradition now in its 22nd year.

Through the generosity of our community, this event over the years has raised over \$5 million, with every dollar directly benefiting students served by the Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County. These funds provide so much more than financial support—they offer access to life-changing resources like adaptive equipment, leadership development, camp experiences, and classroom innovations that help students thrive both in school and beyond.

This year's tournament was a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together with purpose. A total of **\$336,347** was raised through sponsorships, golf participation, happy hour, and the always-spirited silent and live auctions. These funds will help SEF continue its vital work supporting not only students but also the dedicated educators and staff who guide them each day.



A Powerful Drive for Mobility

At this year's tournament and auction, something truly impactful happened during the Fund the Need portion of the evening. Thanks to a generous matching gift from the Toombs family, guests came together during the auction to raise \$40,000 in support of the Special Education Foundation's Mobility Project—a life-changing initiative that provides students with physical disabilities access to adaptive mobility equipment they may not otherwise receive.

With the support raised during the event, SEF was able to purchase 4 motorized wheelchairs for the Special School District (SSD) to use across its schools. These wheelchairs will provide increased freedom, comfort, and access to learning environments, giving students the tools they need to participate more fully in classroom activities and daily school life.

The Mobility Project ensures that students with complex physical needs have access to the right equipment to thrive—not just physically, but socially

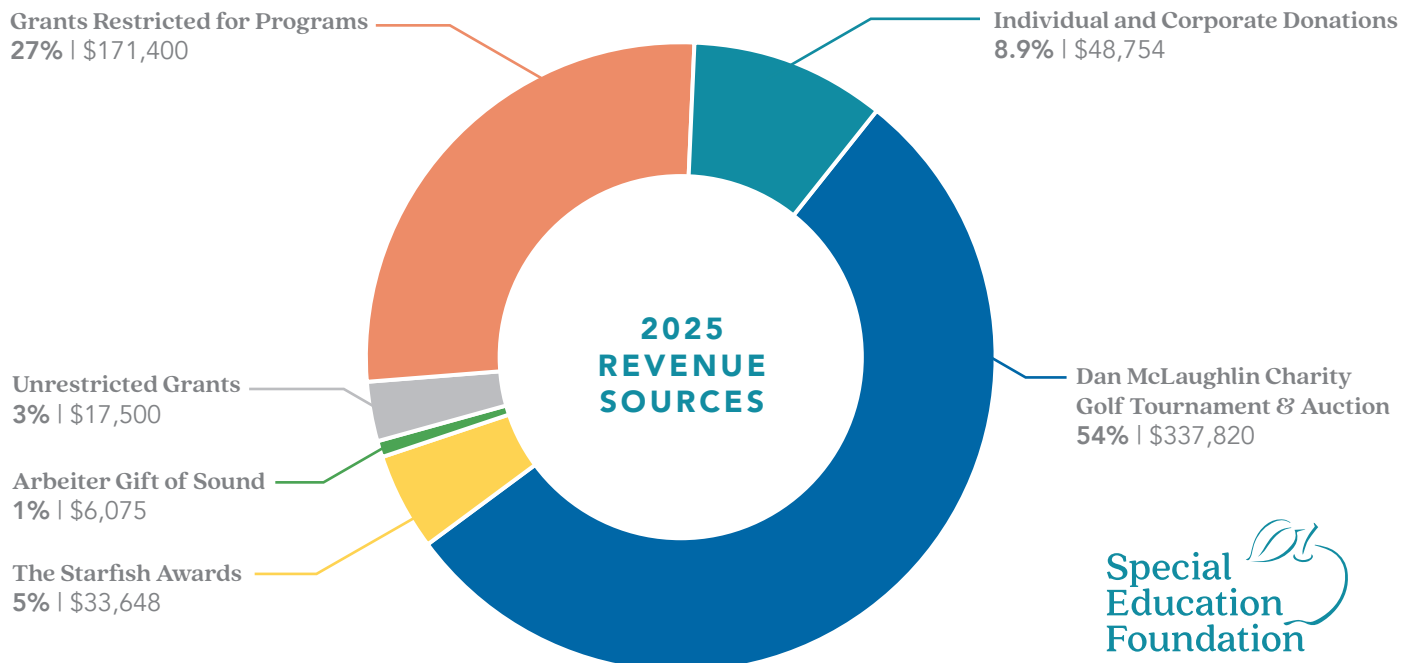
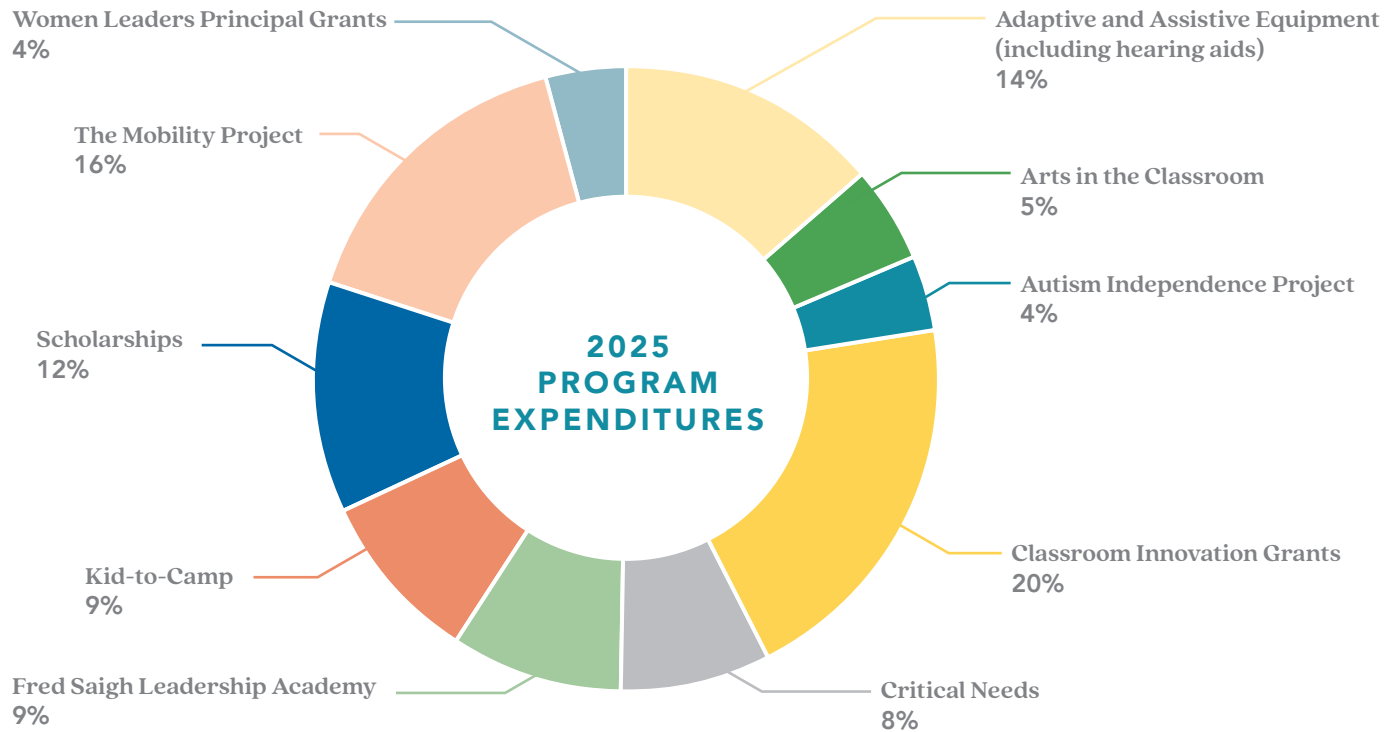
and emotionally. From walkers and standers to specialized seating and power wheelchairs, this program helps remove barriers and promote inclusion, independence, and dignity.

We are deeply grateful to the Toombs family and all who supported Fund-the-Need this year. Because of your generosity, more students will be able to move, learn, and engage with the world around them in ways that weren't possible before.

As the need for assistance continues to grow, SEF remains deeply committed to expanding its reach and impact. Together, we are building brighter futures—one student, one classroom, and one act of kindness at a time.



By the Numbers



**Your contribution has the power to
make a profound impact on the lives
of individuals with disabilities.**



DONOR INFORMATION

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Email _____

Gift Amount: \$ _____

GIVING OPTIONS

▶ Credit/Debit Card

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card Number _____

Exp Date (MM/YY) _____ CVV Code _____

▶ Check enclosed

Please make check payable to Special Education Foundation.

▶ Online Options

Donate through our website:
sef.stl-org



▶ Planned Giving

Please contact me with information about how I can include SEF in my will or estate plan.

Mail Completed form to:

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