

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MONSTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION



NOT JUST TALK



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

I've been thinking about hospice these days: how to live the most comfortably until death inevitably comes.

I know. This is not how executive directors usually start their annual report letters, but I've been to too many funerals recently, and with the shocking news of the sudden passing of our dear friend Ed Limb, who contributed so much and encouraged us since our earliest days, I cannot help but think about my last days and how I want to spend them in this life. Ed's last gift to MEF came in the mail after his passing on December 9th. We are so grateful for all he has contributed to our organization.

Heaven is just one step away. I'm reminded of my limited time on earth and my conclusion is this: to actually live the most comfortably until I enter heaven is to live being the most generously that I can, and do it all for the glory of the Lord. In a way, we are all kinda living in hospice. Let's live fully until that day comes.

But even if we diligently plan our steps, God surprises us in profound ways.

Right before our MEF Banquet last December, our team prayed for one of our former students who we had lost touch with. The last we saw of him, he had been shot and was recovering from the wound and trauma of the event. Through a series of unmistakably God-orchestrated events, we were able to reunite after 2 years. He had suffered much, spent time in prison, grown and in his desire to turn his life around, he remembered MEF. We promised him when he was chosen in 6th grade that we would love him unconditionally. We told him as we tell all our scholars, that we are doing our best to represent Jesus' unconditional love for us. And he reached out to us. We have been able to connect him with a second chance program with the Chicago Transit Authority and continue to support him as he makes his way back onto the right path.

Meanwhile:

- 1) our 23 Monster scholars are serving their communities everyday, growing their leadership and preparing for their post secondary educational goals through our college prep and leadership activities
- 2) our 3 high school seniors are receiving acceptance letters from colleges
- 3) our 9 college students are excelling in their studies as well as striving toward their professional and personal goals all across the country.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support of Monster Education Foundation and generosity that has gotten us to where we are today. You have given our students the gift of many opportunities, and for that, we are truly grateful.

As we look ahead, we know that there is much more work to be done and we invite you to continue on this journey with us.



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# SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

**\$104,205**

Total amount of scholarships awarded\* to all 36 scholars from 2013-2022

**17%**

of total awarded scholarships have been paid out from 2019-2022

**24%**

of total awarded scholarships was awarded in 2022

**\$1,979**

average expenses per scholar  
23 high schoolers  
9 post secondary students

**\$7,134**

represents total scholarships paid out in 2022 to our 9 post secondary students



**96%**

of MEF scholars graduated high school since MEF first had graduates (2019)

\*Awarded: represents amount earned by scholars by participating in MEF events and fulfilling MEF requirements. The funds earned are saved in their scholarship accounts. The account grows until the scholar graduates from high school. Scholars can earn over \$2000 per year. Upon acceptance to an accredited post-secondary educational institution, the matured scholarship is divided equally into disbursements which are awarded annually.

# OUR WORK

Two of MEF's main missions include preparing our scholars to reach their post-secondary educational goals and helping them to become servant leaders.



## COLLEGE PREP MEETING

At our **College Prep** meeting, scholars participate in seminars targeted to their grade levels to help them explore career interests, learn about standardized testing (PSAT, SAT, and ACT), and prepare for the college application process. Scholars who prefer to pursue careers in the trades are also provided with resources to help them achieve their career goals.

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The **Leadership Conference** pairs scholars with adult role models who guide them through the Life Game, a simulation of living for a month as an adult. Scholars experienced the challenges of making appropriate financial decisions with a goal of "staying in the black" at the end of the game. They learned many valuable financial lessons and many were inspired by our keynote speaker, Ernest Grays, who shared about "Knowing Your Why." Both our scholars and our adult volunteers were challenged to live authentically and with purpose.



## BRUNCH AND CONVERSATION WITH CPD

Our scholars identify ways to give back to their communities. A favorite event is our annual **Police Brunch**. Not only did the scholars have a chance to show their appreciation for the men and women who protect their communities by creating "Cruiser" care packages and providing a meal (in partnership with Foodville), but our scholars also participated in a roundtable discussion. Students and police officers are given a chance to learn more about each other through these talks. Both our scholars and the police department were grateful for this opportunity to appreciate each other more.



# OUR WORK



## FISCAL LITERACY PROGRAM

As our scholars get older, some of them have started working. They are asking great questions about how to save and spend their hard earned money wisely. We have instituted a **Fiscal Literacy Program** to help them learn how to prepare financially for their future. Each month scholars meet to learn. Topics have included “what is money and why is it important” and “How should I save.” Some of our working scholars have learned about Roth IRAs and have even opened up their retirement accounts.

## EARTH DAY MONSTER STREET CLEAN UP

Earth Day provided an opportunity for our scholars to help beautify the Englewood community. Our scholars, along with their families, friends and others in the community, spent hours picking up trash and other debris. The cleanup was followed by a festival sponsored by Greater Southwest Development Corp that was open to the community, providing an opportunity for neighbors to bond. We are so proud of our scholars who acted as leaders in various areas of the clean up and festival. They even helped to create a mural out of bottle caps.



## RUSTIC FALLS NATURE CAMP

Rustic Falls Nature Camp holds a special place in the hearts of MEF scholars. Many of our scholars have never been outside the Chicago city limits. Rustic Falls, located in Burlington, Wisconsin, is a beautiful nature retreat that allows kids to be kids. MEF scholars spent a day helping prepare the camp for the summer season by cleaning up, raking leaves, and mulching the grounds. While their efforts were greatly appreciated, it was the scholars who were cared for so lovingly by co-founder Deanna Hallaghan. Our scholars really appreciated the opportunity to give back while enjoying nature.

# KEY STORIES



## BRYANNA AND KAMIYA



There was a lot of girl drama happening at Sherwood school, and one of our scholars decided that it was up to her to do something about it. Bryanna teamed up with Kamiya, another Monster Scholar, to get to the root of the problem and bring the community of girls together to tackle this issue. Their project: "Knocking Out Girl Drama" was an amazing success. They grouped girls together who previously had conflict, and led them on team exercises and competition. Then they followed up with talking out the issue: Why are we fighting with each other? After a great discussion, they released their issues away symbolically in a balloon release. For the rest of the year, school administration and students have reported that Girl Drama at Sherwood largely has disappeared!

## HEAL AMERICA



MEF had the privilege of working with **Justice Journey Alliance** to **Heal America** by uniting communities and law enforcement over a meal and conversation. Last summer, we co-launched the **JustBrunch Conversations** series of 3 incredible events inviting teens and law enforcement to three locations across Chicago which culminated in a fun reunion at WhirlyBall- Lincoln Park. Through events and initiatives like these we will bring peace to our community! Monster Scholars shaped every part of our events!

# INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Each year, our scholars are asked to complete an Individual Service Project (ISP) in which they target needs in the community, then plan and execute projects to work toward solutions.

## INDIVIDUAL SERVICE PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2022

### **Distributing Care Packages to the Homeless | Aisha**

My family and I visited homeless shelters and other places where the homeless congregate and passed out the care packages lovingly made by the student council at Beaubien Elementary.

### **Give a Gift | Shiloh**

I used my ISP budget to purchase and put together drawstring bags including warm gloves, beanie hat, and socks. I then drove around to find those I could give them to and had an amazing conversation with a homeless man named Wayne.

### **Knocking Out Girl Drama | Bryanna, Kamiya**

We set up team building activities with the help of Ms Grey and Ms Beal to stop girl drama. We had a great discussion with the girls about the girl drama issue we had been experiencing.

### **Just Brunch Conversations | Shiloh, Vincynthia, Logan**

In partnership with Justice Journey Alliance and powered by Heal America, We brought together teens and police officers to have brunch and discuss how we could work toward more connection between the police and the community.

### **Kiley Cares School Supplies Donation | Kiley**

Before my event, i asked my network of friends and family for donations and when it was time to distribute the supplies to students, i asked them all to read and sign a pledge for peace and working hard in school.

### **Giving Thankfully | Shalom**

I collected all my belongings and organized them to donate to the "Bridge Mission" program in Nigeria and Senegal.

### **Carnival | Tahrell**

My brother and I helped set up the carnival which was meant for individuals with disabilities. I spent the day dressed as a clown getting to greet and interact with the participants. I learned so much from those with disabilities about being unique and appreciating differences.

### **Park Cleanup | Micah**

I went to the school playground and cleaned up by myself for an hour. I could really see what a difference I could make. I'm going to always be a Good Samaritan and help whenever and wherever I can.

### **Park Cleanup | Logan**

My mom and I gathered materials and cleaned up the park. We were blessed to not run into any trouble, like gangs especially since it was night time.

### **Litter Pick Up | Terrell**

# FINANCIALS

Unrestricted Contributions*	\$109,204
Restricted Contribution	\$30,000
Other Revenue**	\$6,760
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$145,964</b>

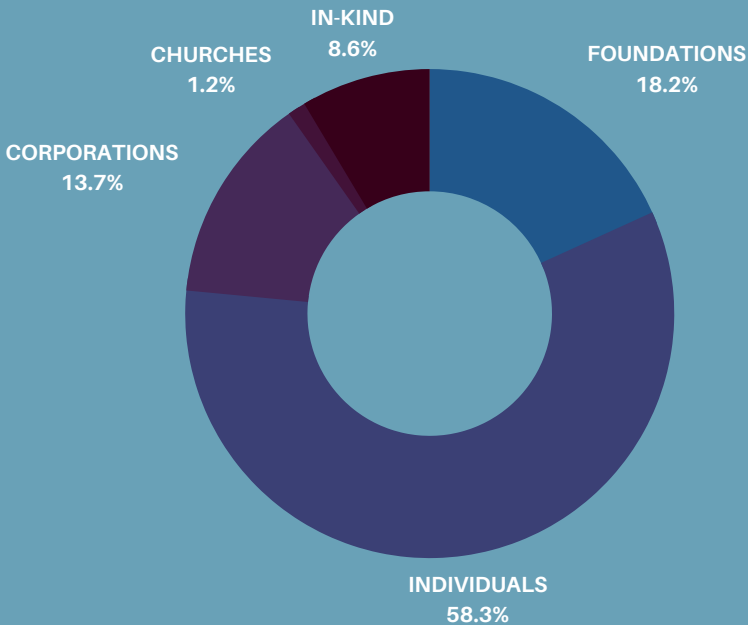
## REVENUE

Program	\$40,113
Non-Program	\$23,227
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$63,340</b>

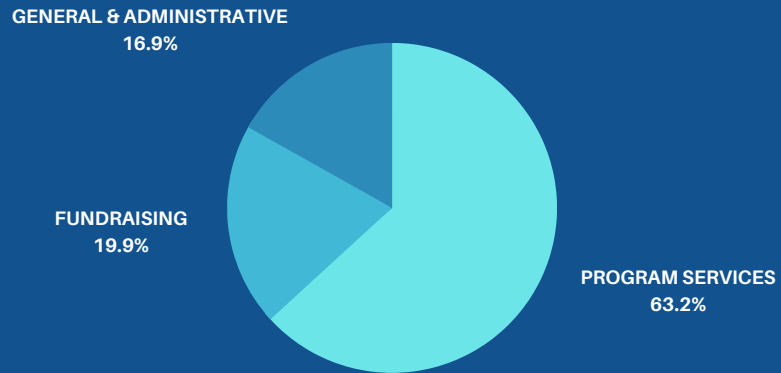
## EXPENSES

\*includes in-kind contribution  
 \*\*represents ticket and product sales

## UNRESTRICTED OPERATING REVENUE PER SOURCE



## ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES



## BREAKDOWN OF PROGRAM EXPENSES





# FUTURE DREAMS

## ✦ TRAIN THE TRAINERS

### Empower scholars to be more influential in their schools

Our Monster Scholars are amazing kids, growing up in some of the most under-resourced communities in Chicago. Yet they are diamonds in the rough: Compassionate, Driven, College-bound, Peacemakers. But they are not esteemed for this by their peers. In fact, we've found that the kids who are the most compassionate and smart often are bullied in school. Many of our scholars have experienced this kind of pain and this has broken our hearts. We want to equip our scholars with more tools to be positive role models in their schools by providing 1) More leadership coaching and counseling and 2) Funds to serve their schools in School-Based Service projects giving them opportunity to engage with their peers in improving their school community.

We want to train our scholars to be leaders right inside their context. This will also allow us to meet other promising students to recruit into the MEF program so we can grow our Monster Impact.

## ✦ COLLEGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

### Give opportunity for college students to grow their scholarships while in college

We now have 9 scholars who have successfully graduated from high school and are attending college: Winston Salem State University, Tuskegee University, Morton College, Kennedy King College, Illinois State University, University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Washington University in St. Louis.

We would love to allow our students to keep growing their scholarships while they are attending college. Many of our college scholars are balancing their immense school workloads, learning a whole new university culture, and working in jobs to keep up with bills. We would love to allow our college students to continue growing their funds in their accounts with us. As of now, our scholars can grow their scholarships only up to senior year in high school. We hope that as our foundation grows, we can keep growing their accounts into college.

## ✦ MEF MULTIPLIED!

### Inspire others to start organizations modeled after MEF to reach other under-resourced communities

Last year, we had the immense privilege of witnessing the birth of a brand new organization largely modeled after MEF, selecting and equipping servant leaders in an entirely different context than the city of Chicago. Eagles Wings was launched Nov, 2022 under the leadership of Joe Park to serve the Native American Lakota population in Pine Ridge, South Dakota with the support of some of our very own MEF board members serving on the Eagles' Wings board.

We know that God has given us this vision, not to just keep for ourselves, but this **Monster Scholarship Earning paradigm** is one that can be replicated in any context anywhere in the world.

What if someone started a Monster Scholarship Earning program in the juvenile detention center in Chicago? Or in communities in Africa, Ukraine, Turkiye, or Korea? Our heart is to invest in the next generation of servant leaders, and this is a need across the country and across the world.

## ✦ ENDOWED MEF

### Build up an endowment so MEF can be sustainable for the long term

Finally, a huge goal for us, maybe in the next 10 years or so, is for us to become a totally self-sustaining endowed organization that does not need to depend on fundraising to keep our programs and scholarships running. We have already started taking small steps to invest funds toward this Monster goal, however we are far from it. Thank you to some of MEF's dear friends who have given specifically for us to head that direction.

# OUR SCHOLARS

## College

Ashley  
Diamond  
Ekua  
Jeffery  
Makaela  
Mark  
Shalom  
Tashauna  
Zahria

## 12th

Cordell  
Demareon  
Vincynthia

## 11th

Hope  
Jaila  
Jayla  
Shiloh  
Terrell

## 10th

Elliot  
Laquintion  
London  
Micah

## 9th

Avion  
Christopher  
Kamiya  
Jaliyah

## 8th

Aisha  
Bryanna  
Kiley

## 7th

Emar'e  
Logan  
Tahrell

**6th - Recruiting in Spring**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Chang  
Kyu Choi  
Michael Chang  
Eileen Chyna Norwood  
Jerry Riles  
Rene Alvarado  
Chris Agyeman-Knight  
Raschele Himalaya  
Alana Groves  
De' Airius Salibi  
Jisu Kim

# PARTNERSHIPS

Justice Journey Alliance  
Leadership Foundations  
Asian McDonalds Operators Association (AMOA)  
By the Hand  
Chicago Police Department  
KPMG  
Lurie Children's Workforce Training  
Narrative 4  
Rush Education and Career Hub (Rush Hospital)  
Together Chicago  
University of Chicago International House Foundation  
Urban Outreach Foundation  
Wheeling Park District

# STAFF

Executive Director: Jennifer Chang  
Chief Operations Officer: Christine Toy  
Accountant: Wunmi Oduyebo  
Financial Project Manager: Sarah Toy





# EQUIPPING YOUNG LEADERS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

## **OUR MISSION:**

Seek, Identify, and Equip young Leaders of Change to pursue higher education and make a lasting difference in the community.

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