



# Moraine Valley Matters

*Alumni and Friends Newsletter*

Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Newsletter - December 2021

## **What an impossible year...or two! Yet nothing can stop the dreams of our Moraine Valley students**

They have persevered through taking all of their classes online and wearing masks and socially distancing when in-person classes returned. They may have faced job losses and health scares. Many juggled being a teacher at home for their young children while being online students themselves.

Our students have faced many obstacles, but they kept pursuing their education during these difficult years.

We are amazed at our students' determination to stop at nothing when it comes to achieving their education dreams. You can help them overcome financial roadblocks with a [donation](#) to the Moraine Valley Foundation as we wrap up 2021. Your tax deductible gift can turn what seemed to be an impossible time into a time with real possibilities.

Last year, with help from donors like you, the Foundation was able to give an additional \$60,000 in scholarships at the start of the fall semester and underwrote testing fees for new students. We've helped hundreds of students in crisis with our student emergency assistance fund, that helps keep students in school when the unexpected occurs.

Please consider a donation to help make the impossible--possible.



[Donate Now](#)

Many students took online classes from home.



Students adapted quickly to masked learning.



Classes moved outdoors for safer learning.



## As 2021 comes to a close, our students say "Thank You."

Thank you for joining the Moraine Valley Foundation over the past year as we shared our thanks for all of your support. This month, we are celebrating our donors with a [video](#) featuring words of thanks from Moraine Valley scholarship recipients whose

awards would not be possible without our donors' support. We hope you enjoy seeing how much your support has meant to them and our Foundation. Thank you again for your generosity to our college community.

**WATCH VIDEO**

## Moraine Valley employees donate a record amount to support students

Moraine Valley Community College employees donated a record \$90,000 to the [Moraine Valley Foundation](#) during its 2022 Employee Giving Campaign. More than 540 employees, representing 82% of the full-time faculty and staff, contributed to help provide student emergency funds and support scholarships.



"Employee giving has increased dramatically over the last few years," said Kristy McGreal, Moraine Valley Foundation's executive director. "We are thrilled how our employees continue to support our students. This demonstrates their commitment to student success." The increase comes at a time when it is most needed. During the pandemic, some of the biggest Foundation fundraising events had to be downsized or cancelled.

Each October, the college holds the Employee Giving Campaign where employees donate a one time amount or a regular deduction from their paychecks throughout the year.



## Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Dave Shalabi and his family have a sweet holiday tradition

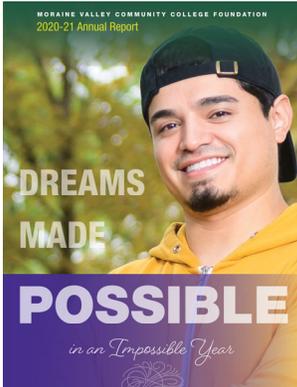
Early morning hours of deliveries and 120 pies later, local realtor and [Moraine Valley Hall of Fame](#) inductee, Dave Shalabi and his two daughters, finally started their Thanksgiving break.

Shalabi, born and raised in Orland Park and an alumnus of Moraine Valley, explained that he and his family follow a similar tradition of giving each year. Last year, he and his daughters delivered pies to the elderly, family, friends and clients. The year before, they hosted a Thanksgiving party for community leaders. This year, Shalabi wanted to focus on first responders.

*Note: This story and photo ran in the PATCH on*

*Dec. 2, 2021. The link below takes you to the original story.*

**READ MORE**



## View the 2020-21 Foundation Annual Report

The Moraine Valley Foundation Annual Report for 2020-2021 is available now for your review. Learn how your donations were put to use to help our students and the college. Stories include information on the annual fundraising events, interviews with Foundation scholarship recipients and highlights from outstanding alumni. The Annual Report also includes financial information and a list of all donors.

[VIEW REPORT](#)

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## Alumni Spotlight: Jason Thompson opens Edge Music Academy

A love of music led [Jason Thompson](#) to Moraine Valley Community College in September 2011. The Tinley Park native had a goal to eventually earn a bachelor's degree in music, and he started at Moraine Valley, where he focused on general education classes to prepare for a transfer to Saint Xavier University. During his second year at Moraine Valley, he began taking as many music classes as he could. Even after earning his associate degree, Thompson decided to make the most of his time at Moraine Valley, staying on for a third year to complete the rest of the advanced music core classes.



"I had so many fantastic professors at Moraine Valley," said Thompson. "I took the majority of my music courses with Tammi Carlson. She is a rare one-of-a-kind teacher who is able to both challenge students and make things fun."

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## Become a Foundation sponsor and help our students

The Moraine Valley Foundation offers multiple sponsorship opportunities for companies to support our students and the college. [Sponsorship](#) through the Moraine Valley Foundation sends a message that your brand is strongly aligned with the Foundation's mission of supporting Moraine Valley Community College faculty, staff and students. Sponsors may choose to support a specific event or join as an event sponsor for the entire year.

A very special thank you to our current sponsors below: Gold Level - DKA, UPS and Legat Architects and to our Bronze sponsor John and Patricia Coleman. Also, thank you to our supporting sponsors First Midwest Bank and PepsiCo.

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