

MORaine VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

COURAGE TO

DREAM

Annual Report
2022-23

Dear friends of the Foundation,

This year has been very exciting for the Foundation as we welcomed back in-person events and were able to be with many of our friends again. We are grateful for all of you who continued to support us during these challenging times.

The theme of this year's annual report is "Courage to Dream." We believe this theme reflects our past year well because what many of our students went through – continuing their studies and pursuing their dreams despite unprecedented changes and obstacles — took a great deal of courage.

Many community college students juggle school along with full-time jobs or raising children. Some are the first in their family to attend college and have to discover the path on their own. Others are from different countries and must master a new language while pursuing their education. All of these situations take an amazing amount of determination and strength to face. Their courage is extraordinary.

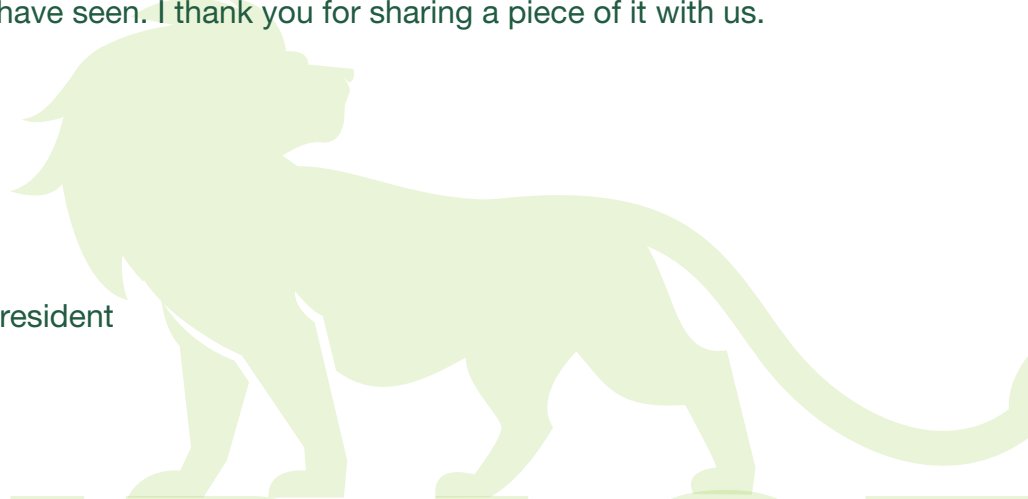
Our donors also are courageous. Despite a challenging economy, they remained committed to helping students by supporting the Foundation. This is simply incredible.

I hope you enjoy reading about our amazing students and donors who had the courage to persevere and keep dreams alive. I can't help but think of the Cowardly Lion from "The Wizard of Oz" because he wanted courage, which you give our students every day. And he had a friend who wanted a heart. I must say that you, our donors, certainly have some of the biggest hearts I have seen. I thank you for sharing a piece of it with us.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kantas, JD
Moraine Valley Foundation President



COURAGE

A fond farewell to President Jenkins

Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, who served as Moraine Valley Community College's president for 11 years, has supported students throughout her 36-year career at the college. She started as a part-time librarian and went on to hold numerous administrative positions before being named the college's fifth president in 2012.

During her tenure as president, Jenkins was an ardent supporter of the Foundation. She attended galas over the years and actively participated in many other fundraising events. She was a tireless champion for the annual Employee Giving Campaign, encouraging college employees to contribute. With her commitment to the campaign, we have seen the number of employees participating grow, leading to record-breaking donation levels.

Jenkins served as a non-voting member of the Foundation Board while president, and she has graciously agreed to continue as a board member after her retirement.

The Foundation expresses its sincere wishes to Jenkins for a wonderful retirement and thanks her for her incredible support over the years.



College searches for, names next president

After Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins announced her retirement, a six-month search for the next president commenced. The search was led by The Pauly Group and resulted in the appointment of Dr. Pamela J. Haney, vice president of Academic Affairs at Moraine Valley Community College. She took over as sixth president of the college on July 1.

"It is an honor and privilege to be named as Moraine Valley's next president," Haney said. "I'm following in the footsteps of a highly respected and committed leader from whom I've learned so much. As I begin my presidency, I promise to build on the college's excellent foundation while advancing student success, innovation, community engagement and mission-driven priorities."

Organizations impact students' lives

The Foundation has been fortunate that many individuals and organizations in our community support us in myriad ways. We are grateful for the generosity they have shown. This year, we have received significant donations from companies who donated for the first time, as well as from people and organizations who have generously supported us in the past. We are grateful for their commitment to Moraine Valley students as they pursue higher education.



Representatives from Amazon (from left) Rick Sanchez, community connections leader; Nelly Hellens, human resources partner; and co-presidents of the Warriors at Amazon affinity group, Suha Abunijmeh, and Peter Holland, senior operations manager, present a \$1,000 donation to Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins to establish a new scholarship for veterans.

Amazon's affinity groups bring Amazon employees together, and two of the groups at a regional Amazon facility have chosen to start scholarships at Moraine Valley.

The Warriors at Amazon affinity group donated \$1,000 to the Foundation to start a scholarship for veterans or dependents of veterans that can be used to cover educational expenses. The Arabs at Amazon affinity group donated \$1,000 to create a scholarship to help Arab students pursue their educational goals.

"Both affinity groups strongly believe in the power of community outreach and supporting education," said Suha Abunijmeh, inventory control and quality assurance operations manager. "We understand for many students, financial challenges are the biggest barrier to achieving their goal. We learned the Moraine Valley Foundation is committed to giving hope to students through donations, and we are honored to assist them as they continue to fulfill this mission."

Abunijmeh, who serves as co-president of Warriors at Amazon, Chicago Chapter Lead of Arabs at Amazon and North America Chapter Director of Arabs at Amazon, was a graduate of Moraine Valley, and she presented the idea of the scholarships to the affinity groups after reading about how the Foundation was helping students achieve their education.

"I love hearing how the college is helping students overcome barriers to achieve their educational goals. Education is a privilege that many around the world struggle for, and I'm eternally grateful for the opportunities I had achieving my educational goals starting with Moraine Valley," she said.

The Arabs at Amazon group also donated backpacks for the college's STEM Expo, where area middle school students came to Moraine Valley to learn about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and participate in many STEM-related activities.



(Left to right) Bob Meliska, Larry McGrevera and Matt Clarage, from the Orland Park Kiwanis Club, present a check to the Foundation for student scholarships.

KIWANIS CHAPTER FULFILLS MISSION BY SUPPORTING STUDENTS

The Orland Park chapter of the Kiwanis International organization began giving scholarships to the Foundation several years ago after one of its members learned that some Moraine Valley students in Career Programs, such as nursing and culinary arts, were struggling to pay for classroom supplies on top of their tuition.

“We felt the idea of providing a scholarship to help these students was a great idea worth supporting,” said Matthew Clarage, president of the chapter.

This year, the chapter awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 students, which Clarage says the organization hopes will help lift barriers that could prevent them from taking classes so they can realize their dreams.

He explained that Kiwanis groups support educational initiatives around the world to support their mission.

“These scholarships allow us to fulfill our mission locally,” Clarage said.

The Orland Park chapter raises funds for its projects by hosting weekly Bingo games at the Orland Park Civic Center and having a weekly Queen of Hearts split-the-pot drawing. They have given away approximately \$800,000 over the past 10 years for scholarships and other projects to support numerous local charities such as the Crisis Center for South Suburbia and the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation.

Clarage said hearing stories about how scholarship recipients have overcome challenges in their lives is inspiring, and the chapter hopes they will remember the helping hand they received and, as they establish themselves in their careers, they will give to others.

“The Foundation is a great tool to help people in the community get a high-quality education. We are happy to support such a great mission and are looking forward to continuing our support,” he said.

Northwestern Medicine provides funds to expand food pantry

Northwestern Medicine is helping address food insecurity in the local community by awarding a generous \$70,000 grant to Moraine Valley Community College. The funds will help expand Moraine Valley's Project Care food pantry so students, employees and the greater community will have access to a full-service food pantry on the college's campus.

When Palos Health joined Northwestern Medicine in 2021, the hospital reached out to Moraine Valley to build a strong ongoing relationship. After learning about the food pantry and the college's desire to expand it, Lori Mazeika-Myre, director of Community Affairs at Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital, encouraged Moraine Valley to apply for one of their Community Benefit Grants.

Every three years, the hospitals in the Northwestern Medicine health care system conduct a community needs assessment by surveying external and internal stakeholders in their community to determine the health needs of that area. One of those identified in Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital's 2022 report was food access and insecurity. Moraine Valley's food pantry expansion aligned with the hospital's goals.

Thomas Moran, MD, vice president and chief medical officer for Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital, (shown below), noted that providing the Community Benefit Grants to meet needs that go beyond medical issues is part of their mission.

"Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital provides medical care to our communities. But we need to partner with our communities to understand other needs. What we are hearing is that food insecurity exists. It is an issue, and we are responding to that need," he said.

This grant will cover the cost of construction, equipment, supplies and marketing associated with renovating and expanding the existing space that houses the Project Care food pantry. In addition, it will help create "pop-up" food pantries at Moraine Valley's extension sites in Blue Island and Tinley Park and fund an initial supply of food.

The renovated space will include new refrigerators and freezers to accommodate fresh produce and frozen food, as well as sinks and equipment necessary for food storage, packaging and sorting.

"One of our goals is to bring fresh food to Moraine Valley's students, as well as the community at large," Mazeika-Myre said.

Moran hopes the donation will help reduce the difficult choices individuals facing food insecurity commonly confront, such as choosing between buying food or prescriptions. And he hopes it will help give students the courage to pursue their dreams.

"Supporting students' access to food supports their education and sets them up for success in any career they choose to follow. It is an investment that pays for itself," Moran said.





COURAGE TO DREAM

Mom has chance to finish what she started 20 years ago

Coming back to school after two decades gave Sarah Kent a chance to start a new life and set an example for her daughters that it's never too late to pursue your dreams.

Kent started taking classes at Moraine Valley immediately after high school and nearly finished completing her degree in early childhood education before deciding instead to get married at 19 and begin a family.

She loved being a mother and devoted herself to her family, church and community. She spent countless hours helping at her children's school in numerous roles, serving as a teacher in her church's children's programs, and volunteering for nonprofit organizations such as Feed My Starving Children. But she found she was missing something.

"I realized during the pandemic, helping my daughters with e-learning, how much I loved being in the classroom," Kent said.

During her marriage, it was not an option for her to work or go to school. Over time, she realized her daughters would be limited in this same way, so she knew she needed to leave and create new opportunities for all of them.

"I came to the realization that what I thought was good at 19, was not what I believed was good at 40 anymore," she said. "I knew I had to leave to protect and better all of us girls."

Going through a difficult divorce was hard, but Kent knew it was the right decision.

"Coming back to school offered me a brand-new start. It was ironic – the day my divorce was finalized was the last second that the courts were open. It was five o'clock on a Tuesday night, and I started at Moraine Valley on Wednesday at noon. Overnight, my life completely changed, and it was a chance for me to have a different second chance at life," she said.

Kent will soon complete the Early Childhood Education Program she started so long ago.

"I can't wait to be doing something that I love, which is teaching children," she said.

She is grateful she received the Anne Reagan Scholarship from the Foundation because it relieved the financial burden of going back to school.

"Being awarded this scholarship has been a surprise," Kent exclaimed. "I'm completely blown away by the generosity of strangers to help me to get a better life, which will in turn give my family a better life."

Donors help give students the **COURAGE TO**

Amazon MDW7 Warriors Affinity Group Scholarship for Veterans and Arabs at Amazon Scholarship

Learn more about this new scholarship on page 4.

Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins Last Mile Scholarship

More than \$33,000 in scholarship funds were raised in Dr. Jenkins' honor for this scholarship. Learn more about it and students who benefited from it on page 14.

Amir Darwish Scholarship for Refugees

This scholarship was created with proceeds from a 5K run held on the Moraine Valley campus. The award is named in honor of Amir Darwish for his courage and perseverance in the face of adversity while pursuing the American dream. The award aids students who identify as refugees displaced from their home country and are unable or unwilling to return due to the lack of safety. The award amount varies depending upon a student's circumstances.

Financial Aid Scholarship

As part of the Foundation's Employee Giving Campaign, members of the college's Financial Aid Department created this scholarship. The recipient must have successfully completed at least 12 credit hours at Moraine Valley with a cumulative 2.0 or higher GPA and plan to enroll in a minimum of six credits during the semester the scholarship is awarded. The recipient must have a FAFSA or RISE Act Alternative Application on file and demonstrate financial need.

Cindy Sullivan Returning Women's Scholarship

Learn more about the donor of this scholarship and why she started it on page 11.

Laura De Ment Memorial Scholarship

Laura De Ment was a longtime member and a past president of the Palos/Orland Area branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She was a registered nurse and worked in many positions, including as a school nurse. She used her training on various mission trips around the world. Her final position in the branch was co-chairwoman of Public Policy. The AAUW Palos/Orland Area branch currently has three active scholarships offered at the college.

DREAM

with new scholarships

Moraine Valley Community College Radiologic Technology Scholarship

Students in the Radiologic Technology Program at Moraine Valley are eligible for this award. Recipients should have a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled in at least three credits during the semester the scholarship is awarded.

Moraine Valley Community College Respiratory Care Scholarship

The National Board for Respiratory Care has offered a scholarship of up to \$5,000 for a Moraine Valley student enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy Program during the 2023 academic year. Recipients must have a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled either full or part time.

Wade family offers three new awards helping nursing and business students

Mike Wade, professor of business at Moraine Valley, created the Donna E. Wade RN Scholarship in honor of his late mother. After raising five children, she decided to study nursing at Prairie State College because she always wanted to give back and felt nursing was her calling.

Wade's wife, Kathy Miller, wanted to honor her late mother with a nursing scholarship in her name and created the Joan E. Miller RN Scholarship. Kathy and Mike chose to do the scholarships in their mothers' names to honor them and pay tribute to all nurses who have touched their lives. They recognize the powerful impact that nurses have on not only the patient's life, but the patient's family, as well. These two scholarships help students purchase nursing textbooks and medical equipment.

In addition, Wade created another scholarship this year to help students who were on the Financial Literacy Certificate track of the college's Business Program. Students must demonstrate financial need and have at least a 2.0 GPA.



Mike Wade (far right) meets Donna Davison, the recipient of the Donna E. Wade Scholarship, and her children.

DONORS CREATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Former faculty member continues to impact students



Sharon and Dick Fritz spent their 30-year careers at Moraine Valley as professors. Sharon taught history and sociology, while Dick taught in the Mathematics Department.

“I was an original employee, and Dick arrived the following year,” Dr. Sharon Fritz said. “I think we both considered the people at Moraine Valley to be family.”

When Dick passed away several years ago, she started a Foundation scholarship called the Richard and Sharon Fritz Scholarship as a memorial to him, and she has continued to support the scholarship.

“Because my husband was a mathematician, I set up the scholarship so the recipients would be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students. My hope was they would pursue something in STEM – not just while at Moraine Valley but when they went on, as well,” Fritz said.

In addition to honoring her husband, Fritz wanted to help students achieve their dreams.

“It’s very hard to teach at Moraine Valley and not understand some of the issues students face. From the beginning, we saw how many students struggled to make ends meet. And I certainly agree with the Foundation’s concept that many students just need a little bump. It doesn’t have to be a million dollars – just something

that can help them get over an economic hurdle they might have. And I know Dick would have agreed,” she said.

Fritz had the opportunity to meet three of her scholarship recipients at past events, which she said was fulfilling.

“It was reassuring to hear them talk about what they’re doing and hear them say ‘thank you.’ They are very driven and goal oriented, and they seemed really grateful,” Fritz said. “In one case, the recipient’s family was there, and they were so excited. That was very touching.”

Fritz has deepened her commitment to the Foundation by endowing her scholarship.

“I’ve made it a point to do that with our scholarship, so even if something happens to me, it will still go on. I think the concept of the endowment is a really good idea,” she said.

Fritz also is considering starting a second scholarship for students studying history, and she would encourage others to create a scholarship.

“It is an investment in the future. You’re trying to help people who deserve the help but maybe can’t find it anywhere else. I think that’s a good thing, and I wish everyone would do it,” she said.

TO HONOR LOVED ONES

Donor establishes scholarship to support moms

When Tracy Sullivan started a Foundation scholarship, she wanted to honor her mother while helping other moms return to school.

“I wanted to give back to Moraine Valley because it’s been such a special place to my family. My mom was a returning adult student in the 1990s. She went to college for the first time when she enrolled in a psychology class with one of my brothers and me as a summer class. Mom came along and fell in love with the place,” Sullivan said.

Her mother, Cindy Sullivan, went on to earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in English after discovering her love for education, writing and communication at Moraine Valley.

“It was the first thing my mom did for herself rather than for her children. I thought creating a scholarship could help another mother who was raising a family and might not otherwise be able to take as many classes or be as comfortable going back to school without it,” Sullivan said.

She wanted the scholarship to be awarded to a returning woman who had the courage to dream of a college education like her mother did.

“The Moraine Valley scholarship is important to me because of my mom’s story. I wanted to make sure I helped another mom earn her degree,” she said.

Sullivan worked in the higher education realm for over 30 years and recently retired from her administrative position at Governors State University. She serves on Moraine Valley’s Board of Trustees because she is passionate about higher education and serving her community. She also served as an adjunct business instructor at Moraine Valley for over 20 years, which also impacted her decision to start a scholarship.

“I have seen the diverse student body that Moraine Valley has – all ages, ethnicities, styles, personalities and goals. I wanted to make sure whatever their dreams are, if there’s something I could do to make it a little easier for them to achieve, I wanted to help,” Sullivan said.



Tracy Sullivan (left), her mom, Cindy, and scholarship recipient Chardae Bland.

She and her mom met the first recipient of the Cindy Sullivan Returning Woman Scholarship, nursing student Chardae Bland, at the Foundation’s Scoops and Scholarships ice cream social.

“It was wonderful. She was so excited and said when she heard she got the scholarship, she screamed. She brought two of her daughters and her mom to the event. To have my mom talk to Chardae and her family was awesome. I am glad I got to know her. She told me how the scholarship gave her an opportunity she could not have had without it. For my mother to hear that story, and that the scholarship that has her name on it made an impact, made me very proud,” Sullivan said.

She noted the Foundation staff was helpful in setting up the scholarship, and she hopes others will support the Foundation.

“You can attend the gala, the golf outing or both. You can invest as much as you’re able to with your time and money. I’m grateful for the efforts of the Moraine Valley Foundation and the impact it makes in the lives of students,” Sullivan said.

2022-23 Foundation scholarships

These scholarships, made possible by our generous donors,
supported Moraine Valley students during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

2022-2023 Endowed and Perpetual Scholarships

Bedford Grow Lou Dineff Memorial Scholarships
Brian A. Andersen Memorial Scholarship
Dave and Karen Heide Volunteer Scholarship
Dr. James Koeller Scholarship
Dr. Patricia M. Bauhs Scholarship
Egon Menker Memorial Scholarship
FitRec Scholarship
Great Lakes Bank Scholarship
Joann Karen Basick Scholarship
Lieutenant Gene Marcheschi Memorial Scholarship
Maribis Lou Dineff Memorial Scholarships
Matthew P. Walsh Scholarship
Moraine Valley Foundation High School Equivalency Scholarship
Returning Women Diversity Scholarship
Richard and Sharon Fritz Scholarship
Sandra Broadbent Memorial Scholarship

2022-2023 Annual Student Scholarships

AET Scholarship
Aileen S. Andrew Foundation Career Programs Scholarships
American Association of University Women (AAUW) Palos/Orland Area
Branch – Anita Ritzler Scholarship
American Association of University Women (AAUW) Palos/Orland Area
Branch – Eileen Stahulak Memorial Scholarship
Ann Koranda Memorial Scholarship for Fine Arts and Humanities
Anne Reagan Scholarships
Annie Picard Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship
Arab American Academic Excellence Scholarships
Arab American Women Scholarship
Arlene Spiros Academic Scholarships
Astro-to-Cyclone Scholarship
Atassi Foundation Scholarship
Athletics Scholarship
Automotive Technology Academic Scholarship
Automotive Technology Scholarship
Beverly Keehn Scholarships
Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
Carolina Vazquez Memorial Scholarship
Carpe Diem Women's STEM Scholarship
Chef Alex Ottman Culinary Scholarship
ComEd Scholarship
Dennis Shannon Scholarships for Leadership and Excellence
in Accounting
DKA Veteran Scholarships
Dr. Henry C. Allan Scholarship
Dr. Vernon O. Crawley Full-Time Student Scholarship
Dr. Vernon O. Crawley Part-Time Student Scholarships
Edward Walter McCormack Memorial Veteran's Scholarship
Erich Spengler Career Pathway Memorial Scholarship
Espresso Love Scholarship
Fay Fischer Memorial Scholarships
GED Preparation Program Graduate Scholarship
IHIA Healthcare Scholarship
International Student Scholarship
Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust Basic Nurse Assistant Training
Program Scholarships

Jeff Williams' Tutor's Scholarship
Jesus DeAnda Memorial Scholarships
John and Patricia Coleman Scholarship
John Gubbay Memorial Scholarship
John Michael Grotto Memorial Scholarship
John Wagner Memorial Art Scholarship
JTD Aspire Scholarships
Kevin Pressley Memorial Scholarship
Kiwanis Club of Orland Park Scholarships
Lois Dion Memorial Scholarship
Lor-Izzo Scholarship
Marsha P. Johnson Scholarship
Mary Pat Hickey Memorial Scholarship
Maryanne Terpstra Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship
Mathematics Scholarship
Matrix Fitness Scholarship
Medical Terminology Scholarships
Monocchio Family Scholarship
Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship
Moraine Valley Annuitants Association Scholarships
Moraine Valley Community College Foundation
Board Business Scholarships
Moraine Valley Community College Foundation
Board Volunteer Scholarships
Moraine Valley Executive Leadership Book Fund Scholarship
Moraine Valley Foundation Retention Scholarships
Music Scholarship
Muslim Student Association (MSA) Scholarships
Orland-Palos VFW Scholarship of Excellence
Orland Park Veterans Commission Scholarships
Palos Heights Beautification Committee Automotive
Technology Scholarship
Palos Heights Woman's Club Arts Scholarship
Palos Heights Woman's Club Scholarship
Patricia McKeague Memorial Scholarship for Bilingual Students
in Nursing and Health Sciences
Paul Simon Essay Contest Scholarship
Peter Garetto Culinary Scholarship
Powers-King Book Scholarship
Randy Conner Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship
Raymond and Margaret Lechner Scholarship
Riley Spreadbury Scholarships
Rotary Club of Orland Park Scholarships
Sandra S. Wagner Career Programs Scholarships
Sandra S. Wagner Health Care Scholarships
Selamah Chik Scholarships
Steve and Alice Molo Nursing Scholarships
Student Involvement Scholarship
Suburban Service League Scholarships
Sylvia Zroka Memorial Scholarship for Women in Science
Terri Pacelli Fine Arts and Humanities Scholarship
"Thank You Veteran" Scholarships
Umeed Scholarship for the Advancement of Asian-American Students
Usha and Swaran Scholarship
UPS Commercial Driver's License Certificate Program Scholarships
Valerie and Robert Rucinski Memorial Scholarship
W.E.B. DuBois Scholarship
William Opelka Scholarship



Emergency Assistance Fund keeps students in school when the unexpected hits

When Recreation Therapy Program student Lindsay McArdle was burdened with medical bills not covered by her insurance, she worried how she would pay them. Despite working three part-time jobs, it was difficult to focus on her studies when she was worried about how she could pay her bills. Luckily, a Moraine Valley counselor recommended McArdle receive help through the Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

"I didn't know something like this existed to help students," McArdle said. "Once the bill was paid, I could relax more and stick with my education plan."

Students facing a crisis or emergency that threatens their ability to stay in school can use the fund to pay rent, utilities, medical bills or transportation costs, or replace lost or stolen computers needed for classes. Students seeking assistance must contact the college's Counseling and Career Development Center to talk to a counselor about their circumstances. If the student is deemed to have a financial need that threatens their education or well-being, they complete an application for funds. A student may receive up to \$1,000 to help alleviate their situation.

This year, the Foundation helped more than 80 students confronting a wide variety of unexpected situations that could have derailed their studies with funds that come from individual donors, the college's Employee Giving Campaign and support from other foundations and organizations dedicated to assisting students through hardships.

"Our students are going through challenging times, and all too often, it isn't until their breaking point that they finally ask for help," said Dr. Sundus Madi-McCarthy, academic advisor. "The Student Emergency Assistance Fund has been a saving grace for so many. As an advisor, it is comforting to know that when referring a student to counseling, they are not only getting personal support, but also financial support if needed."



Old National Bank continues support of Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Robert G. Kelly, director of Business Banking, and Susan Wade, Specialty Banking Treasury Management Market manager, presented a \$10,000 check to Thomas Kantas, president of the Moraine Valley Foundation, in October 2022.

The bank also donated \$20,000 in 2020 to support the same fund. "This is the second emergency fund donation Old National Bank has given to the Foundation because it impacts so many students from so many backgrounds," Wade said.

So close yet so far – Last Mile Scholarship helps students finish

A tuition balance as little as \$100 could mean the difference between earning a college degree or dropping out of school for some Moraine Valley students. They may find themselves juggling family, jobs and making ends meet, which can make finishing their last few classes seem impossible.

“Sometimes life’s challenges and other barriers prevent students from achieving their academic goals,” said Chet Shaw, dean of Student Services. “The Last Mile Scholarship is a lifeline to students who need extra assistance in returning to Moraine Valley to complete their degree or certificate.”

An innovative group of staff members at the college, led by the Resource Development Department, created a new micro-scholarship opportunity for underserved students who held a tuition balance, qualified for financial aid, had a GPA of higher than 3.0 and needed fewer than 15 credit hours to complete their degree or certificate. These students were contacted to discuss the cause of the financial balance and what was preventing them from registering for their final college credits.

Students who met the criteria were awarded a Last Mile Scholarship. It covers their outstanding tuition balance, allowing them to use their financial aid to register for the last classes needed for completion. The Foundation awarded 11 Last Mile Scholarships during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters.

“The Last Mile Scholarship helped me by easing my balance,” said Kevon Williams, who plans to pursue full-time employment as soon as he finishes at Moraine Valley. “I plan to complete my time at Moraine Valley by graduating this winter with an associate degree and two certificates,” he said.

Chemical engineering student Mia Heard is also a Last Mile Scholarship recipient. She plans to transfer to the University of Illinois Chicago. “The Last Mile Scholarship helped me pay my tuition and continue schooling,” she said. “I may not have finished without it.”





THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE COURAGE TO DREAM

Jonathan Klikuszewski wants to be a firefighter and EMT because he enjoys helping people. He already has a great deal of experience doing so in his own family.

“My older brother, Joel, and mom both have Fragile X syndrome, which is a genetic disorder that affects their cognitive skills and ability to focus and learn. They need someone there to guide them in the right direction,” Klikuszewski said. “We constantly have to keep on eye on Joel because he’ll disappear in a second, and my little brother is only 9, so he needs someone to have fun with. My mom isn’t able to watch both of my brothers at the same time, so there’s always one of us watching each of them.”

In addition to dealing with day-to-day struggles caused by health challenges, the family has faced financial issues.

“It’s been a struggle, and we have lived off of my mom’s social security check my whole life,” Klikuszewski said.

During high school, Klikuszewski participated in baseball and wrestling, but he gave up sports his senior year to work in a machine shop to help with expenses and save for college.

Despite the many responsibilities Klikuszewski has had to assume at an early age, he does not consider it a burden.

“I love my family. They’re a joy to be around. I don’t see it as a struggle to take care of them. I think it led to what I want to do for my career. I’m going into one where I help people. I’ve always been there for them, and now I want to also help others,” he said.

Receiving a scholarship from the Foundation was a welcome opportunity for Klikuszewski, who is usually the one giving help. When he learned he was receiving the Riley Spreadbury Scholarship, he was ecstatic. “I was like, ‘I’m going to college!’”

Sponsors provide invaluable support to Foundation



Dominick Demonica and his company, Demonica Kemper Architects (DKA), has been working with Moraine Valley Community College on projects since the early 2000s, including the college's master plan, which was developed prior to the 2006 referendum that allowed the college to add numerous buildings to campus. Demonica said the transformation of the campus helped to make it "one of the nicest campus environments for a community college throughout the state."

Over the years, DKA has worked with many Illinois community colleges so Demonica has the opportunity to see them up close.

"I get a good glimpse of what they do for students and their communities. That was one of the reasons I focused my practice on community colleges – I see the good they do," he said.

Demonica has served on the Moraine Valley Foundation Board since 2009 and has found the experience to be fulfilling.

"I've had the opportunity to be on scholarship committees and read dozens and dozens of essays about struggles students have. From some people's perspective, a scholarship of \$500 for textbooks can appear to be small, but those small things make a world of difference for students," he said.

DKA has been an annual Foundation sponsor for several years at the Gold Level. This year, they increased their sponsorship from \$10,000 to the \$15,000 Platinum Level to help more students.

"Over the past few years, my firm has been doing very well. When I looked at the \$5,000 on my end and what impact it has on my firm versus the impact it will have on helping students be able to get their education, it was a no-brainer," Demonica said.

This year, to honor veterans, he asked the Foundation to focus the DKA funds on student veterans or dependents of veterans.

"My father was a veteran," Demonica said. "I've always had a strong desire to be patriotic, and I feel like if students are going to make a decision to serve, where they put their life on hold and make sacrifices, they should get something out of that. I respect them for doing something for all of us. We should give back to them."

Demonica hopes others will consider supporting the Foundation because he believes everyone at Moraine Valley is committed to helping students succeed, and he thinks that support can help students achieve their dreams.

"It's hard for any of us to dream when we have financial pressures. If we can relieve some of those pressures, their minds can go to that place of dreaming of doing something different with their lives. If we can all do that to some degree, then we're all going to be better," Demonica said.

2023 Annual Event Sponsors

Thank you to the following companies for their generosity and contributions in support of the Foundation through their event sponsorship.

PLATINUM



GOLD

John and Patricia
Coleman

SILVER



BRONZE



SUPPORTING



comedSM
AN EXELON COMPANY



Wealth
Management
Heide Wealth
Management Group

LEGAT
ARCHITECTS

Having fun and raising funds

A winning combination

Golfing “fore” scholarships

The 41st annual Golf Outing in September 2022 was another winner! The sold-out event raised over \$35,000 that will be used for student scholarships with the incredible support of sponsors and golfers.

Everyone had a great time at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club spending the day on the greens, playing unique games at various holes, networking with fellow golfers and toasting the winners at the post-golf celebration dinner.

The outing's Title Sponsor was Live Right Senior Care. Event sponsors included Wind Creek Chicago Southland, All-in-FORE-Fun Sponsor; Mr. and Mrs. Coleman and UPS, Breakfast Sponsors; IMEG Corp., Golf Ball Logo Sponsor; Beary Landscaping, Beverage Cart Sponsor; Noral Jewelers, Golf Awards Sponsor; Stogie Life Cigar Shop, Cigar Sponsor; Dell and Intel, Felt & Lukes, LLC, Live Right Senior Care and Tire Services Company, Lunch Sponsors; Canon, Prize Sponsor; LinJen Promotions, Inc., Swag Bag Sponsor; Brickstone Brewery, Brewery Sponsor; and PepsiCo, Course Refreshment Sponsor.





Scaring up good times and helping students

It was a ghoulish good time for runners, walkers and fans who came out for the ninth annual Halloween 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by the Foundation and Moraine Valley's Health, Fitness & Recreation Center. The themed event raised over \$9,750 for the Foundation.

Serious runners led the pack, followed by participants of all ages and running abilities who wanted to raise money for student scholarships. Children even had a chance to cross the finish line by participating in the Kid's Dash.

To add to the fun, many runners came dressed as penguins, bees, super heroes and monsters. Prizes for costumes were awarded in several categories. Kids jumped in a bounce house, decorated pumpkins, got their faces painted and more at the Little Pumpkins' Patch.



GATEWAYS

GALA

Gateways Gala makes debut

At this year's annual fundraising gala, which raised nearly \$64,000, the Foundation launched a new theme – Gateways Gala – to reflect how the college is a gateway to anyone seeking a successful future through higher education. Each year, the Gateways Gala will emphasize a specific area at the college that will benefit from the funds raised at the event. This year's focus was "Reimagining Futures," which related to supporting student success programs that help students nearing completion of their degree or certificate program.



The new theme was matched with new food stations that featured dishes such as bao buns and gumbo and a new Golden Ticket Raffle. Moraine Valley culinary arts students created a delicious trio of desserts and attendees were treated to music by Artistrings. For extra fun, there was a heads-and-tails game and a rotating photo booth. The highlight of the evening was the live auction where bidders competed for travel packages, food experiences and a NASCAR package. They also heard impactful stories from former scholarship recipients.

The Gateways Gala honored Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, the former president of Moraine Valley Community College, who retired in June. To honor Jenkins, funds were raised for a new scholarship, named the Sylvia M. Jenkins Last Mile Scholarship, that will go to students who are nearing the end of their degree or certificate program but are facing challenges that may make it difficult for them to finish.

Sponsors of the Gala included Governors State University and Wind Creek Chicago Southland, Entertainment Sponsors, and Robbins Schwartz, Table Sponsor.

Employees are Unstoppable in support of Foundation



For the third consecutive year, Moraine Valley employees donated a record amount of money during the “Unstoppable” Employee Giving Campaign. With over 600 employees contributing, and 88% of full-time employees donating, the campaign raised \$90,500, which is the largest amount of money raised since it began over 10 years ago.

“We are thrilled such a high number of employees donated to the campaign. It’s truly a testament to their dedication to our students,” said Kristy McGreal, executive director of the Moraine Valley Foundation. “It is rare to see this level of participation in an employee giving campaign, and it is inspiring to see the staff and faculty increase their contributions each year to support the work we do.”

MORaine VALLEY ALUMNI ARE EXCEPTIONAL

Hall of Fame recognizes alumni

Moraine Valley's Alumni Hall of Fame honors exceptional alumni who have made significant contributions in their professional and personal lives. The 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees include Jim Craver, '96; Dr. Walter Fronczek, '82; Tom O'Malley, '87; and Marjorie Owens-Klotz, '83.

Jim Craver, who also was named the 2023 Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, has had a successful 20-year career in the hospitality industry and currently serves as the general manager of Homewood Suites by Hilton Chicago – Downtown. He also has served as an adjunct instructor at Moraine Valley, where he incorporated his real-world experience into the hospitality courses he taught.

As the Distinguished Alumnus Award winner, Craver also was the college's nominee for the statewide Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award sponsored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

Dr. Walter Fronczek had a nearly 40-year career at Moraine Valley, where he held numerous positions before his final role as dean of Liberal Arts, a position he held for 17 years before retiring. A few of the initiatives he led included creating the Speaking and Writing Center, Honors Program and American Sign Language Program. In addition, he oversaw operations in the college's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Tom O'Malley, the superintendent of Evergreen Park Community High School District 231, has been in education for over 30 years. He was a teacher and held numerous administrative positions before taking on his current role in 2017, where he oversees all functions of the district and serves as the chief negotiator for the Board of Education. He also has held positions in several education-related organizations.

Marjorie Owens-Klotz is owner of Owens Media, which provides marketing and public relations services and public speaking training. Prior to starting her own company, she led communication efforts for the Village of Orland Park for 37 years. She also teaches speech communications at Moraine Valley and Saint Xavier University and marketing at Trinity Christian College.



*Inductees Tom O'Malley, '87; Jim Craver, '96;
Dr. Walter Fronczek, '82; and Marjorie Owens-Klotz, '83*

Over 100 family members and friends attended the induction ceremony, which was held at the Moraine Business and Conference Center on the college's main campus in Palos Hills

"We were thrilled to welcome these new inductees and honor their professional and personal achievements," said Patti Mehallick, director of Alumni and Annual Programs for the Moraine Valley Foundation. "They join a distinguished group of individuals in our Alumni Hall of Fame, who collectively are a snapshot of thousands of students who attended Moraine Valley and are leading happy and successful lives."

Learn more about the Alumni Hall of Fame [here](#).

For information on nominating a Moraine Valley alumnus, email alumni@morainevalley.edu.

Alumni award gifts to 2023 graduates

Moraine Valley Alumni Hall of Fame inductees welcomed each member of the class of 2023 at the two commencement ceremonies held in May. Jim Craver '96 (pictured), Elaine Echols '07 and Dr. Walter Fronczek '82 congratulated graduates as they exited the stage and awarded them with an official Moraine Valley Alumni lapel pin.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



Jason Knade began classes at Moraine Valley after his father died to stay close to his family as they dealt with their loss. During his time at the college, he explored several options for his major before going on to earn a bachelor's degree in English at the University of Illinois Chicago and a master's degree in fine arts from Governors State University.

He eventually went on to become an award-winning filmmaker whose work has appeared on CNN, Fox, Lifetime, ESPN and ABC News, among others. He has done work for Nike, Canon and Amtrak, as well as filmed a U.S. president and the Pope.

"My experience at Moraine Valley contributed to my professional success," Knade said. "I met, worked alongside and studied under a collection of people who were diverse in every sense. That broadened my mindset and cultivated an understanding of and appreciation for others' perspectives."

[Read more](#) about Knade.



Susan Manion has combined her love of music and business to become a star in both. After leaving Moraine Valley, she continued her studies in business and started a successful janitorial company, which allows her to earn a good living while simultaneously pursuing a career in music. She has appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, recorded with members of Hootie and the Blowfish and written a song that was featured in a Hallmark Channel movie.

"When I was a student at Moraine Valley, they inspired me to live my dreams and never give up," Manion said. "That attitude has played a role in my success."

[Read more](#) about Manion.



Hussein Mohd works as a structural civil engineer for the international firm Ardmore Roderick and has been assigned the lead for Chicago's Jackson Park Mobility Improvement Project, the future site of the Barack Obama Presidential Center. His accomplishments are amazing considering when he moved from Jordan to the U.S. seven years ago with his family, he did not speak English. He enrolled in Moraine Valley's Intensive English Language courses to learn the language and later went on to earn an associate degree before transferring to the University of Illinois Chicago and ultimately realizing his dream of becoming an engineer.

"Moraine Valley armed me with the foundation and the building blocks, plus many technical skills needed for my career," Mohd said. "You have no idea how thankful I am."

[Read more](#) about Mohd.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Sweet new event serves up gratitude



Ice cream and gratitude were in abundance at the inaugural Scoops & Scholarships event held in September 2022. The ice cream social allowed donors to meet their scholarship recipients who personally thanked them for making their scholarships possible.

The weather was a bit chilly, but everyone enjoyed the frosty treats, pastel decorations and warm conversation.

“It was wonderful to see the donors and students talking and laughing over a dish of ice cream,” said Patti Mehallick, director of Alumni and Annual Programs. “We were glad to provide this opportunity for our donors to meet the recipients of their scholarships and learn more about their dreams.”

I just called to say ‘thank you’

Members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society volunteered to call more than 300 donors to thank them for their generous contributions during the Foundation’s annual Thank-a-Thon in May. The event was fun, and participants could win prizes for making the most calls and having the least voice messages or hang-ups. One participant said the best part was talking to the donors, who were genuinely pleased to get a personal call from a Moraine Valley student.



Foundation provides ‘musical chairs’

When choirs and musicians practice or perform on stage, they need to sit in chairs that provide support, good posture and comfort to use their instruments well. The chairs Moraine Valley musicians were using were 25 years old and had outlived their functionality. Considering the chairs are used by musicians who perform in the college’s eight academic music ensembles, as well as visiting performers, a considerable number needed to be replaced, but the expense to do so was not budgeted.

In 2019, the Foundation partnered with the Fine and Performing Arts Center (FPAC) in a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$50,000 from contributions by generous patrons and friends for FPAC improvements, including the purchase of 120 new chairs. The padded chairs are designed for comfort and ease of performance and came with 12 rolling storage racks for convenient movement on and off stage.

“These are specialty chairs designed for musicians to promote proper performance posture by mimicking stand posture, which is important for good physical alignment,” said Doug Bratt, professor of music. “Proper positioning helps improve overall tone and sound production. Also, maintaining proper posture can help prevent performing-related injuries.”



MORAINES VALLEY ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL LUNCHEON



The Moraine Valley Annuitants Association held its first luncheon since the pandemic in November 2022 in the new culinary arts restaurant, Table 67. The highlight of the event was a presentation by Merri Fefles-Dunkle, professor of history and political science and coordinator of the Study Abroad Program, who shared family letters from World War II, while the members enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Moraine Valley culinary arts students.





Thank you for our
supporters!

Arab Student Union raises funds for scholarships

After a two-year hiatus, the Arab Student Union (ASU) held its annual Scholarship Award Ceremony in May. Six students were awarded scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000 each from funds raised by ASU student members and donations from generous supporters. Approximately 100 ASU members, scholarship recipients, donors and family members attended the event in the Moraine Business and Conference Center.

STORIES BEHIND



Each year, the Foundation accepts donations for personalized engraved bricks that are installed on the walkway winding through the campus' beautiful Shakespeare Garden. They are engraved in late summer and installed in the fall in the garden near the Gateway. Although each brick is limited to three engraved lines with 14 spaces per line, many carry special meanings behind the brief messages.

Here are a few of the stories behind some bricks installed this year.

"Lil Ray Sullivan 1992-2019"

Donor: Dr. Jeffrey McCully

Ray was a student during Dr. Jeffrey McCully's first semester as a sociology professor at Moraine Valley. "He was outgoing, funny, thoughtful and caring. I was thrilled to see he signed up for my class the following semester," recalls McCully. "Years later, I was devastated to learn he lost his life to domestic violence. It brings some small amount of peace to know that his memory will live on at Moraine Valley."

"For my Coley, the mighty one."

Donor: Eric DeVillez

Years ago, when the Foundation donation wall in Building M was established, Professor Eric DeVillez's youngest son, Cole, wasn't born yet, so his name isn't listed on the wall with the rest of the DeVillez family. "As of now, he's never been there to see that list of names," DeVillez said. "But I imagine him standing there some day thinking about our family, and I wonder what he'll look like then, what he'll dream of and who he'll be."

DeViliez explained that when he thinks about Moraine Valley, he recalls how many generations of his family it has touched, and he wants Cole to feel included in that in a tangible way. "He's my mighty little guy – seven years old at the moment – so in some small way, that brick will allow him to be seven years old and the 'mighty one' in my heart and mind for a long, long time. Maybe one day he'll come here for classes and find his name in the Shakespeare Garden, pause, and think about all of us being together. That makes me so happy."

SHAKESPEARE GARDEN BRICKS

“Because of him, there is you. May 5, 2023”

Donor: Ann Webb

When Ann Webb’s father, John Speed Henson, passed, she decided to purchase a brick in his memory. Because of his hard work and belief in the value of education, Webb and her brothers were able to attend college and earn bachelor’s degrees.

“My dad did not attend college until much later in life. He was born in an impoverished Appalachian town where his only choice, as the oldest of 10 children at age 9, was to start working in the coal mines,” Webb said. “He always told us kids there was some part of him that was aware of the truth that only education could change his situation.”

The words engraved on his brick have a simple yet deep meaning.

“Because of my dad, there is me, his child who has spent the past 23 years working in education,” Webb said.

“Daddy thought there was no role or career more important than that of a teacher, and it pleased him to no end to brag on me. I will miss him for the rest of my days.”

“To Joan Kostka, a star crossed love endures”

Donor: Stanley Kostka

Stanley and Joan Kostka were coworkers and friends as Moraine Valley employees.

“After waiting my turn to date her, I decided to make my move,” Stanley said. “It wasn’t love at first sight, but Joan’s warmth and joy of life quickly won me over.”

The parents of two and recent new grandparents, Stanley and Joan enjoy biking together, and on their trips, he noticed her admiration of benches with dedications on them. Wanting to give Joan a meaningful and long-lasting gift, and being a Shakespeare scholar in his school days, a brick in the Shakespeare Garden in Joan’s honor was the perfect way to show his love forever.

“It was a way to give back to the college,” he said. “I visit there quite often. It’s a very peaceful place to get away for a few minutes in my day. Seeing her name on the brick there makes it even more special.”

If you would like to celebrate an event or remember a loved one with an engraved brick, contact the Foundation Office or order one online at morainevalley.edu/buyabrick.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Moraine Valley Community College Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations who help keep higher education accessible and affordable for our community and students. Their generosity supports scholarships, faculty innovation grants, special projects and the student emergency fund. The list below includes donations made from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

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Tasia Page
Mary Pat Hickey
Memorial Scholarship

“Born to an unwed mother and an absentee father, struggle, hardship and perseverance were instilled in me from an early age, and it taught me the importance of hard work. My goal of completing my education and securing a stable life for my daughter and me motivates me. I want to become a nurse with a goal to help and heal.”



Giselle Montes
Sandra S. Wagner Career
Programs Scholarship

“This is the first scholarship I’ve received, and it’s meant a tremendous amount to me. It’s going to pay for my tuition and books and help me further my education.”



Gabriel Nelson
Kiwanis Club of
Orland Park Scholarship

“Getting a Foundation scholarship has helped me financially and academically because now I can pursue my college dreams and get a degree.”

IN-KIND DONORS

The Foundation is thankful for our local community members, businesses and colleagues who make in-kind contributions to the Foundation throughout the year. In-kind donations help the Foundation support the college and our students by providing goods and services at no cost to the college or the fundraising events. Each dollar we save is another opportunity to help students achieve their educational goals. We would like to extend a special thank-you to the following in-kind donors.

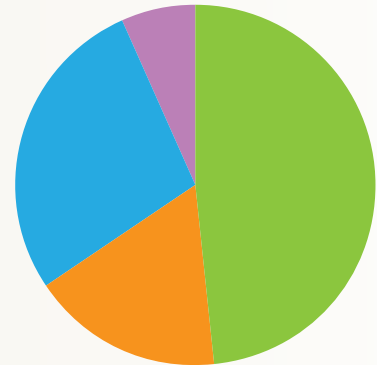
Accelerate Indoor Speedway	Girl and the Goat Restaurant	Moraine Valley Community College Fine and Performing Arts Center	Ravinia Festival
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Fifth Generation, Inc.		Precise Printing Network, Inc.	
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2022-23 Financial Statistics

Foundation Revenue

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

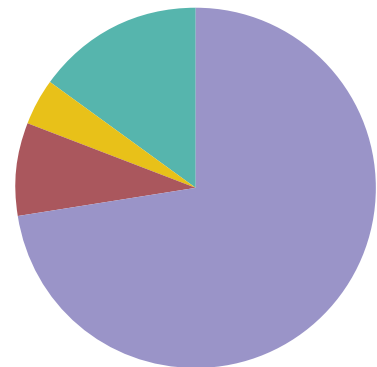
● Donor Contributions	\$647,392
● Special Events	\$228,263
● Investment Income	\$368,147
● Endowment Investment Income.....	\$88,773
Total	\$1,332,575



Foundation Schedule of Functional and Program Expenses

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

● Disbursements to the College.....	\$589,091
Student Scholarships \$300,652	
Student Support \$118,388	
College Programs and Facilities \$170,051	
● Administration.....	\$69,527
● Fundraising.....	\$33,726
● Special Events	\$121,270
Total	\$813,614



Financial Position as of June 30, 2023

Cash and Investments	\$5,810,151
Other Assets	<u>\$207,376</u>
Total Assets.....	\$6,017,527
Liabilities.....	\$46,648
Net Assets	\$5,970,879

2022-2023 Revenue and Expenses

Foundation Revenue.....	\$1,332,575
Foundation Expenses	\$813,614
Net.....	\$518,961

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President
Vice president, The Teton Group



Helen Lobas
Vice president
Chief financial officer, Brucker Company



Margaret Lehner, Ed.D.
Secretary
Vice president for Institutional Advancement
and executive assistant to the president,
Moraine Valley Community College

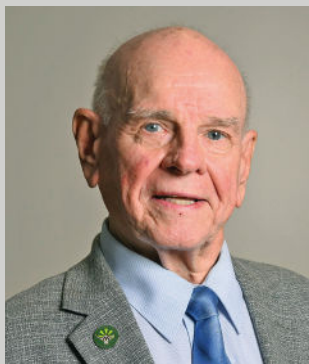
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External Affairs Manager, ComEd



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(deceased)
Community volunteer



John Daley
Community volunteer



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To promote and financially support college programs and financial assistance to students, while exercising prudent management and investment of donor funds.

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To be the charity of choice for educational charitable giving of private gifts from donors sympathetic to our cause.

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Executive assistant

Patti Mehallick
Director of alumni and annual programs

Lisa Rispoli
Special events and donor relations manager

This report covers July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.



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