



**Milwaukee Public Schools
FOUNDATION, INC.**

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION, INC.

5225 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208

(414) 475-8567

www.mpsfoundation.net

Background Overview

The Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc. was organized in 1998 as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation for educational and charitable purposes. A volunteer board of directors from the local community governs the foundation.

Mission:

The mission is to promote educational excellence and strengthen community participation in the Milwaukee Public Schools located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Goals:

The foundation focuses support on the following broad goals:

- Enhancing learning opportunities for students
- Encouraging creative and innovative educational programs
- Recognizing and supporting teachers and support staff
- Increasing parent involvement
- Promoting MPS in the community and encouraging private sector involvement

Needs:

The Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc. seeks to raise funds and secure donations from individuals and private-sector organizations to support programs and projects not affordable through public funds. Donor support is needed to provide enhanced learning opportunities for students in Milwaukee Public Schools.

The Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is the 33rd largest school district in the nation and the largest school district in Wisconsin. MPS is a large urban decentralized school district serving about 82,444 students with over 8,000 educators, administrators and other staff in 200 locations. Current MPS demographics reflect the following diversity: 56.6% of the students are African-American; 22.6% Hispanic; 11.9% White; 4.8% Asian; 0.8% Native American; and 3.2% other non-White. There are 19.2% of students identified with special education needs and 9.5% of students have limited English proficiency. Nearly 81% of the students are eligible free or reduced price lunch, an indicator of the number of children living in poverty. Individually, 40% of the district's schools have free or reduced lunch rates of 90% or more and nearly 70% of all school sites have free/reduced lunch rates of 80% or more.

The Milwaukee Public Schools knows that quality teaching will result in higher student achievement and that educating students means more than instruction. Children learn and achieve more when they are cared for, when they are safe, and when they have a healthy well-being. Therefore, Milwaukee Public Schools values and encourages strong and true partnerships with parents and all those in the community who influence and affect students and families.

Contributions are greatly appreciated and will be used to directly benefit Milwaukee Public Schools – the students, staff, and programs. Donors may direct gifts to the MPS Foundation to support a variety of ongoing programs and/or specify the gift to help ensure funding long into the future.

Primary Areas of Support:

The foundation seeks to fund programs and projects not affordable through public funds to provide enhanced learning opportunities for students. Since it was established, the MPS Foundation has received contributions totaling over \$2.2 million and had disbursements to MPS schools and programs totaling \$1.7 million. Contributions help support a number of programs. Examples include, *but are not limited* to the following:

- *Classroom Teacher EXCEL Grant Program* – Support for an annual mini grant program for creative classroom projects or activities that enrich the learning experiences of students. About 450 grants have been awarded.
- *Student Assistance Programs* – Support for programs that enrich student learning, i.e., educational field trips, extra-curricular and recreational activities, scholarships and others. Provided support for:
 - *Reading Is Fundamental Program* - provides free books to students in 50 schools annually;
 - *U.S. Youth Games* - supported 140 local youth, ages 11-15, to compete at this national event through restricted donations;
 - *MPS Best Friends and Best Men Programs* - supports youth character development and abstinence programs;
 - *Adaptive Athletics/Special Olympics* - supports youth Special Olympics activities in MPS;
 - *Vision Project 20/20* - funds vision exams and eyeglasses for eligible MPS children;
 - *Dental Treatment Program* – funds dental treatment services for low-income and uninsured children in MPS; and
 - *Access Defibrillation Program* - provides equipment & training to respond to incidents of sudden cardiac arrest.
- *After-school and Recreational Programs* – Support for after-school educational and recreational programs, including the Community Learning Centers. Grants and books have been awarded to MPS schools and programs.
- *Teacher Education and Leadership Development* – Support for teacher education and leadership development, including support for selected teachers successfully completing the National Board Certification Program, the New Leaders for New Schools program, Excellence in Education Awards presented by the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, and an annual teacher recognition gala.
- *Art and Music Programs* – Support for programs and schools to promote the integration of the arts with classroom curriculum.
- *Career and Technology Programs* – Support for innovative state-of-the-art career and technology programs.

Restricted Funds:

The Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc. has a general undesignated fund as well as a number of restricted or designated funds. The MPS Foundation serves as the umbrella tax-exempt charitable organization for several MPS schools and programs, including: MPS Scholarship Fund; MPS Arts Fund; Arts Based Coalition (ABC) Arts Focused Schools Fund; Best Friends/Best Men Milwaukee Programs Fund; Craig Montessori School Fund; Fairview Charter School, Hartford University School for Urban Explorations Fund; Honey Creek Elementary School Fund; Lincoln Center of the Arts Fund; MacDowell Montessori School Fund; Maryland Avenue Montessori School Fund; Golda Meir School Fund; Milwaukee High School of the Arts Fund; MPS Dental Treatment Program, MPS Library Fund; MPS Vision Project 20/20 Fund; and Sherman Multicultural Arts Elementary School Fund.



A new Milwaukee Public Schools Scholarship program was established in 2009 through a generous anonymous donation to the MPS Foundation. The donor provided seed funding to establish the scholarship program as a show of support for public education in Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin and hopes others will consider donating to the scholarship fund for students in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

In the first year (June 2010 high school graduates) five \$5,000 scholarships were awarded students enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools to attend a public college or university in the state of Wisconsin. The scholarships may be renewed for up to three years pending successful completion of renewal criteria and availability of funding.

Advised Fund: An Advised Fund was established with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to support the MPS Foundation's mission and goals long into the future and to help ensure long-term growth. A portion of the monies used to establish the Advised Fund came from generous donations made *in memory of Ann Shansky*, who was an elementary school teacher in MPS for 34 years.

Donors:

The MPS Employee Combined Giving Campaign (workplace giving campaign) continues to be the primary source of income for the MPS Foundation's undesignated fund. The MPS Foundation is also included in the district's spring United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) campaign and city employees are able to donate funds to the foundation as a part of the city's VISIONS campaign designated to support MPS' art and music programs. Donations are welcome and encouraged from retired employees, individuals, and organizations. Annually, a number of restricted donations are received from private foundations earmarked for specific programs.

How You Can Make A Difference:

Your tax-deductible donation will support the mission and goals of the MPS Foundation and is greatly appreciated. Gifts of any amount may be made payable and sent to the:

*Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 2181
Milwaukee, WI 53201-2181*

Tax Exempt Status – 501(c)(3):

The foundation has received tax-exempt status in accordance with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as an organization of the type described in section 509 (a) (1) and 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi). Donations to the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible and will directly benefit the students in our schools.

MPS Foundation, Inc. - Board of Directors:

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| <p>Ms. Daisy Cubias, City of Milwaukee, Mayor's Office Mr. James Hall, Hall Legal Mr. David Meissner, Community Representative Ms. Vel Phillips, Community Representative Mr. Jeff Spence, Milwaukee Board of School Directors</p> <p><u>Ex-Officio Members:</u> Mr. William Andrekopoulos, MPS Superintendent Ms. Michelle Nate, MPS Chief of Finance & Operations, serving as Treasurer of MPS Foundation, Inc. Executive Director, MPS Foundation, Inc.</p> | <p>Mr. Harry F. Franke, Cook & Franke, S.C. Mr. William Jenkins, Jenkins & Associates Mr. Timothy Sheehy (Ms. Devon Turner), Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce Ms. Roxanne Starks, Parent Representative</p> |
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For additional information, please contact:

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