



CHELSEA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

IMPACT STATEMENT 2024-25

Mission

Enhance the Chelsea School District's educational experiences by financing projects beyond the resources of the district and by providing scholarships to district graduates.

Vision

Chelsea Education Foundation is a highly regarded, valuable and caring resource to students and teachers and is a trusted and beneficial conduit for all community members.

Values

Mission Driven, Strategically Grounded, Financially Sustainable, Community Focused

Chelsea Education Foundation (CEF) is a non-profit organization that provides funding for a wide spectrum of educational activities benefiting the students of Chelsea, Michigan. Funds raised through donations, endowments, and events are managed by investment professionals and distributed to recipients by the CEF board. The Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and Charles Schwab provide assistance to ensure investments are maximized.

In 1990, the Chelsea Education Foundation was founded by Joe Piasecki, then superintendent of the Chelsea School District. The goal of the foundation was to provide a link between the school, businesses and the community to strengthen Chelsea's future. Thanks to strong community support and several significant endowments, the Foundation grew steadily and in 1999 was registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Since its beginning, over 200 volunteers from the Chelsea community have served one to three year terms on the CEF Board. Many school board members, administrators, and countless others, have donated time, energy, resources, and services throughout its 35 year existence.

Community Impact

Since 2020, the Chelsea Education Foundation (CEF) has provided \$250,000 in education grants directly to Chelsea School District teachers and educators for innovative educational programs. Additionally, \$200,000 in college scholarships have been awarded to Chelsea district students - these scholarships are funded through directed donations and gifted endowments. Together, we're enriching student experiences and supporting educators across our district.

A Message from the President

Dear CEF Supporters,

This year, we proudly celebrate 35 years of the Chelsea Education Foundation. That's three and a half decades of community support, inspiration, and meaningful impact, all made possible by people like you. I often speak of gratitude when it comes to the generosity and dedication of CEF's supporters, because your commitment continues to help Chelsea students thrive from their early education through high school graduation. The fact that we've been doing this for 35 years is no small feat. It's a legacy.

In this milestone year, which honors the vision of our founders, CEF awarded more than 27 Impact Grants across the Chelsea School District and 37 scholarships to graduating seniors. These grants provided enriching experiences for students of all ages, including field trips to the DIA and Holocaust Memorial Center, hands-on programs like the Native American Experience, and essential classroom resources like lap desks, math manipulatives, and literacy tools. Each grant did more than fund a program or purchase supplies; it empowered educators, inspired students, and opened doors to learning and growth.

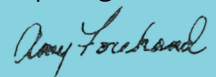
Looking back on this year, and all those that came before, one thing is clear: CEF's legacy is measured not just in time, but in lives touched and futures shaped. What began in 1989 as a simple idea has grown into a shared commitment to education that lifts students up and prepares them to meet the world with confidence and curiosity.

We're also incredibly grateful for the partnerships that continue to expand our reach. Collaborations with organizations like 5 Healthy Towns and Ann Arbor Kiwanis have helped us meet growing needs and pursue new opportunities. At the same time, traditions like the Serendipity Book Drive, Authors in Chelsea, and Washington DC scholarships keep our community closely connected to our mission.

As we look to the future, CEF will remain focused on supporting the district's strategic goals, including cultural awareness, early education, and professional development. Our scholarship program will continue to be a cornerstone of this mission, helping students take their next steps with confidence and support.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. Your generosity helps ensure that the future for Chelsea's students is bright, promising, and full of possibility.

With deepest gratitude,



Amy Forehand
President, Chelsea Education Foundation

2024-25 CEF Teacher Grants

\$62,422 to Chelsea Schools

District Wide

- Registration for EdLeader 21 Annual Conference
- Classroom and Media Center Books and Literacy Materials
- Grades 3-12 Resource Room Community Outings

North Creek Elementary

- White Boards
- Classroom Sensory Walk
- Special Education Behavior Intervention Classroom Store Supplies
- Special Education Sensory Support Tools
- Hands On Museum Field Trip

South Meadows Elementary

- South Meadows 5th Grade Drama
- Maker Space Supplies
- Authors In Chelsea

Beach Middle School

- Etienne Charles: Earth Tones Concert
- 8th Grade Orchestra Field Trip to the Detroit Symphony
- Beach Middle School Art
- WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)
- BMS Technology Class - Safety Saw
- Attend National Council for Social Studies Conference
- 8th Grade Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg Trip

Chelsea High School

- Murals
- Professional Development At Meadowbrook Theatre
- Free Choice Books / Book Tasting Program
- Art/Science Class Supplies
- Ceramics Program Materials
- Arbor Club - Recycling Bins
- Field Trips for Art
- Link Crew
- Link Crew Coordinator Training
- CHS Diversity & Social Club Awareness Club (DSAC) Activity Support

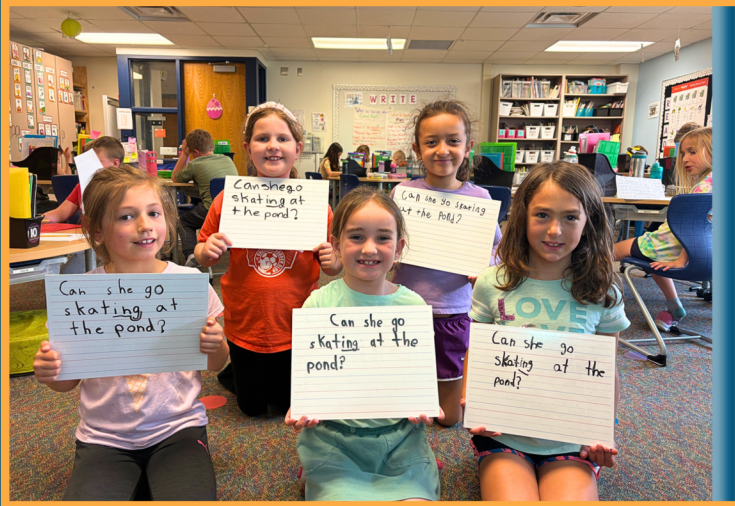
CEF has funded \$250,000 in grants since 2020 that helped support the creative endeavors of the Chelsea School District educators. These grants supported a wide variety of initiatives at every level of the student experience, from early learning to high school leadership. They spanned from social emotional learning support to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) topics to literacy support, and beyond.

Chelsea High School Mural



Spotlight on Teacher Grants

White Boards for North Creek Math & Writing



8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip



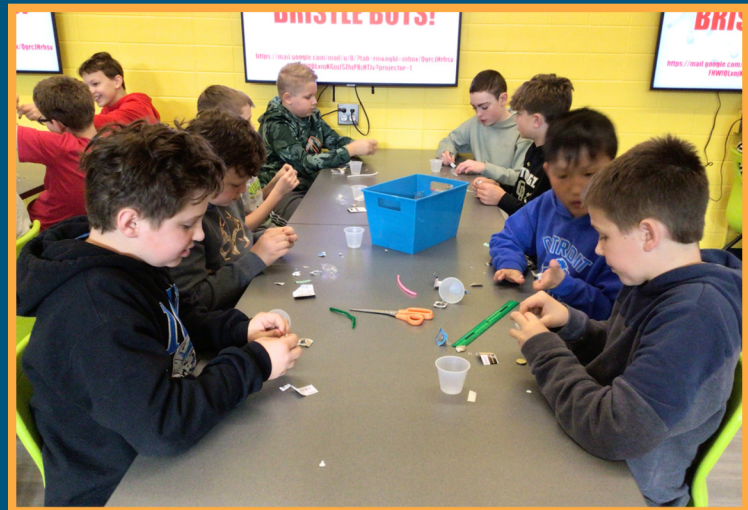
Chelsea High School Link Crew



CHS Visits Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry Mural at DIA



Bristle Bots! South Meadows Maker Space Supplies



In Addition to CEF's Joseph Piasecki, Academic, and Community Service Scholarships, We are Honored to Support these Memorial Scholarships.

The Robert W. Wagner Engineering Scholarship

Honors a graduate pursuing a degree in Engineering.

Funded by the Electa M. Wagner and Robert W. Wagner Endowment

The Judith Lynn Wagner Owens Teacher Scholarship

Honors a resident of the Chelsea School District who is pursuing a degree in Education.

Funded by the Electa M. Wagner and Robert W. Wagner Endowment

The Jillian Lea Drow Memorial Scholarship

Honors a graduate who is pursuing a degree or skilled training at the post-secondary level.

Funded by a CEF Endowment established in Jillian's honor

The Joel Gentz Memorial Leadership and Service Scholarship

Honors a Chelsea School District graduate who demonstrates leadership and service.

Funded by a CEF endowment established in Joel's honor

The Mary Merkel Scholarship

Honors a Chelsea School District resident pursuing an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Master's degree in a health-related field.

Funded by the Mary E. Merkel Endowment

The Doris Schumacher / A. Henry Schumacher Memorial Scholarship

Honors a graduate from Chelsea School District who is currently enrolled at an accredited college or university and has completed at least one year of schooling at an accredited college or university.

Funded by the Doris Schumacher Endowment

CEF is Proud to Support all Careers

The Charles and Florence Pour Memorial Aviation Scholarship

In memory of Charles and Florence Pour, grandparents to a local Chelsea resident, this scholarship is awarded to a graduate pursuing a post secondary education in the aviation field.

Funded by a Chelsea Family

***NEW IN 2025* Jewelry Set In Stone Scholarship: The Diamond in the Rough**

This scholarship invites budding designers to submit two designs and an essay about their inspiration. Awardees are provided a visual and 3-D printed rendering of their designs.

Funded by Jewelry Set in Stone Owner, Stephen Kolokithas

Chelsea Education Foundation Skilled Trades Scholarship

Established to support the advancement of skilled trades in our community. The honored recipient is a high school senior or graduate, or currently enrolled in a trade certification or undergraduate program who demonstrates a commitment to learning a trade and completing certification.

Funded by Diane L Kieliszewski, Edward Jones, and the family of Gary Bentley in his memory



Set in Stone
Digital Rendering of Sketch Winner

2024-25 CEF Scholarship Awards

\$36,900 to Chelsea Students

The Joseph Piasecki Scholarship

Lauren Thompson

CEF Academic Scholarships

Slater Boos, Samuel Borcharding, Emily Heiss, Hayley Hopkins, Clara Johnson, Sophia Knickerbocker, Maggie McKale, Mason Purdy, Sophia Saffian, Helen Sparks-Jackson

CEF Community Service Scholarships

Hayley Hopkins, Josie Jackson, Mason Purdy, Sonja Schemahorn, Helen Sparks-Jackson

Chelsea Education Foundation Trades Scholarship

Chase Barber

Chelsea Education Foundation Trades Scholarship in Memory of Gary Bentley

Chase Barber

Robert W Wagner Engineering Scholarship

Jackson Dell **former C.H.S. graduate*

CEF A.C.E. (Accounting, Computer Science, and Engineering)

Luke Mourad

CEF & Chelsea Alumni Association Committee President's Award

Sydney Barston, Alex Detterman, Brant Maley, Samuel Trimble, Isabella Turner **former C.H.S. graduate*

Diane Kieliszewski Female in Finance Scholarship

Clara Johnson

Lynn Wagner Owens Teacher Scholarship

Helen Sparks-Jackson

Mary Merkel Memorial Scholarship

Madison Kay **former C.H.S. graduate*

Doris & A. Henry Schumacher Memorial Scholarship

Gabe Landis, Jackson Dell **former C.H.S. graduates*

Chelsea Family Dentistry Scholarship

Sophia Knickerbocker

Jewelry Set in Stone - Diamond in the Rough Scholarship

Charlotte Tierney, Mia Rogers

Chelsea Rod and Gun Club Scholarship

Jordan Nelson

Chelsea Rod and Gun Club - David B. Steinbach Memorial Award

David Leschuk

Charles & Florence Pour Memorial Aviation Scholarship

Ashley Bobo

Joel Gentz Memorial Leadership and Service Scholarship

Jackson Dell **former C.H.S. graduate*

Jillian Lea Drow Memorial Scholarship

Carter Edwards

CEF is a Conduit for Community Members, Organizations and Businesses to Sponsor Scholarships

Chelsea Education Foundation A.C.E. (Accounting, Computer Science, and Engineering) Scholarship

Honors a graduate pursuing a degree in Accounting, Computer Science, or Engineering at the post-secondary level.

Sponsored by John and Nancy Daly

Chelsea Family Dentistry Scholarship

Honors a graduate pursuing a degree in the healthcare field.

*Sponsored by Dr. Todd A. Napieralski,
Chelsea Family Dentistry*



CEF Scholarships Awarded on Class Night 2025

Female in Finance Scholarship

Honors a graduate or a currently enrolled college student who self-identifies as female and intends to pursue a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a financial field.

*Sponsored by Diane L Kieliszewski,
Edward Jones*

The Chelsea Rod and Gun Club Scholarship

Honors a graduate who has completed an Outdoor Recreation Safety course and has an interest in, but not limited to hunting, fishing, conservation, shooting sports, or other outdoor-related activities.

Sponsored by Chelsea Rod and Gun Club

Gold Sponsors



Blue Sponsors



Literacy Leader Sponsors

Ann Arbor Pediatric Dentistry
Chelsea Vision Care
Clark Construction
Green Tree Pediatrics
Hardwood Solutions
La Jolla Fine Jewelry
Serendipity Books
Silver Maples of Chelsea
The Forehand Company
Thompson's Pizza

High Paw Sponsors

5 Healthy Towns Foundation
Chelsea Update
D&B Strategic Marketing
Debbie Bourdon, Real Estate One
Eder & Diver Insurance Agency
Jennifer Baghdoian, Realtor, Reinhart Realtors
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation
Klink & Associates
Pandya Family Dentistry
Riemco Design + Build
Valiant Bar & Grill
The Sun Times News
Ugly Dog Distillery
Withington's
Zou Zou's Cafe



Highlights

CHS Alumni History Wall Project

Chelsea Alumni Association had a successful campaign to raise funds for this project and are starting the installation process, which aims to honor and preserve the rich history of Chelsea High School alumni by transforming a wall in the high school into an interactive display providing access to photos going back many decades.

Rivalry Match | October 2024

The 2024 "Rivalry Match" proved once again that when communities come together, incredible things happen. Through friendly competition and a shared commitment, Chelsea and Dexter demonstrated the power of community spirit, collectively raising over \$46,000 and creating opportunities for educational excellence that will inspire and uplift students for years to come.

Book Drive | November 2024

Chelsea Education Foundation (CEF) held its second annual "Sip at Serendipity" Book Drive fundraiser at Serendipity Book Store on November 19. Each year, CEF receives requests from teachers for hundreds of books. This event locally sources the books and raises funds to help ensure that students have access to the resources they need for their education.

CEF Celebrates 35 Years | May 2025

CEF celebrated a significant milestone on May 18, 2025. We gathered some founding board members and their families to Honor Their Legacy and look forward to building the future by launching fundraising for a \$1M endowment to support teacher grants and district projects.



Chelsea Alumni History Wall Project



Chelsea | Dexter Education Foundations Rivalry Match



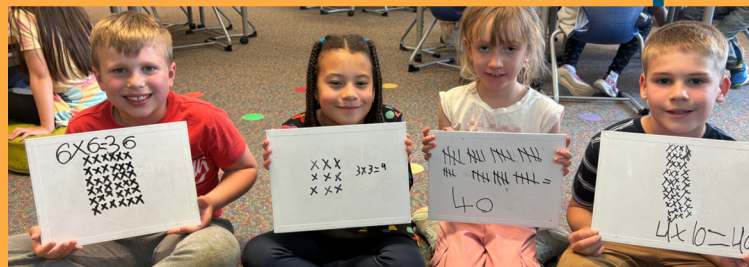
Celebrating CEF's 35th Anniversary



Impact of Chelsea Education Foundation

59,000 STUDENTS

Fifty-nine thousand students have benefited from the donations made by CEF



GRANTS 815

Programs including arts, music performances, field trips, physical and mental health initiatives, literacy development, and more



Mural in Chelsea High School

1,130 SCHOLARSHIPS

CEF scholarships awarded to students with outstanding character, community service, or academics



DONATIONS \$1.4M

Have been collected to support grants and scholarships throughout the Chelsea School District

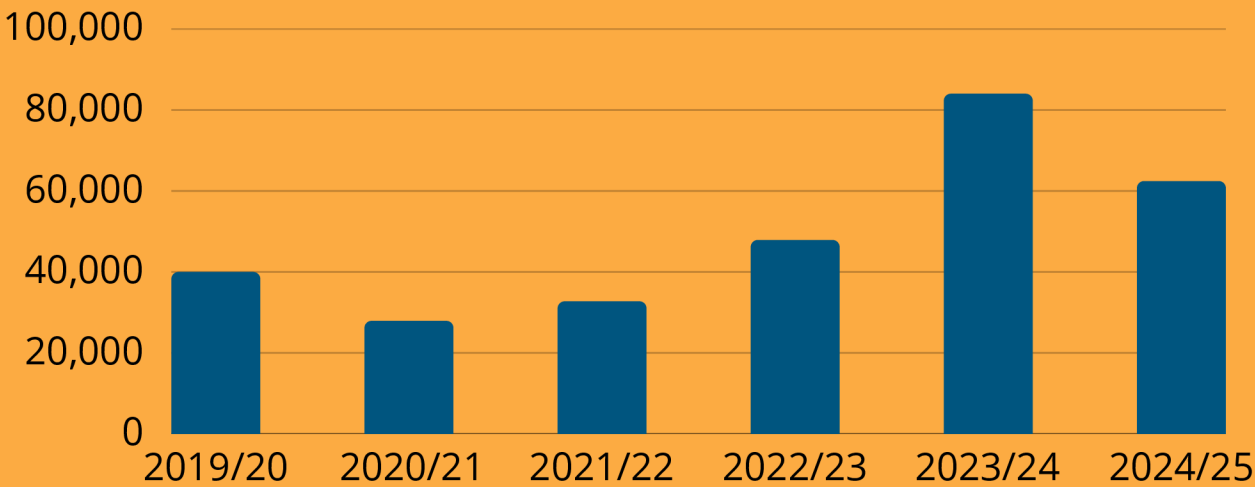


CHS Experiences Van Gogh at DIA

2024-25 Financial Impact

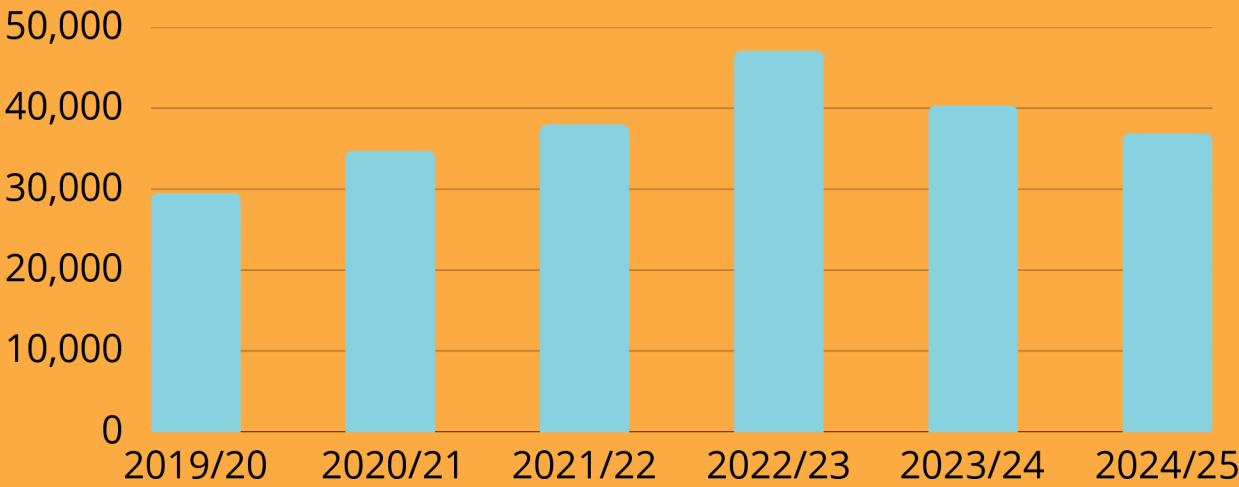
TEACHER GRANTS

\$62,422 AWARDED IN 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR



SCHOLARSHIPS

\$36,900 AWARDED IN 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR



Chelsea School District Staff

Spotlight on Chelsea Alumni Association Committee

Chelsea Alumni Association's mission is to create avenues for Chelsea alumni to Communicate, Connect, Volunteer, Support, and Participate in Chelsea Schools and Chelsea-related activities.

The Chelsea Alumni Association (CAA) is growing, with over 650 members, and continues to strengthen its mission of connecting, supporting, and engaging Chelsea alumni with the school and community.

Monthly Board Meetings

The Steering Committee meets monthly to plan initiatives and welcome new members. Meetings are open to all CHS alumni—check our eNews, social media, and website for dates.

Connecting Events

CAA has expanded events, including Meet & Greets, Euchre Night, a Christmas Sing-along, and a popular Homecoming tent for alumni to reconnect and learn about upcoming activities.

Class Reunions

CAA has a Reunion Coordinator, Angie (Cavadas) Smith '70! CAA helps reunion planners wrap their arms around all the tasks necessary to hold a successful reunion and shares information regarding venues, vendors, and reunion activities. Most importantly, we help get the word out to classmates using CAA communications and social media.

CHS Alumni History Wall Project

We're excited to share our latest initiative - the **CHS Alumni History Wall Project**. With this project, we will honor and preserve the rich history of Chelsea High School alumni by transforming a wall in the high school into an engaging historical timeline of our beloved schools. Visit our website to learn more and how you can help support this project.

Social Networks

Facebook: Chelsea Alumni Association

Instagram: @chelseaalumniassocmi

LinkedIn: chelsea-alumni-association-mi

Website

<https://chelseaalumniassociation.org/>



June Board Meeting



Alumni Crew at the Homecoming Parade



Alumni Euchre Tournament Winners



Thank You to Our 2024 - 2025 Board



CHELSEA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



Amy Forehand
PRESIDENT



Katie Hepler
VICE PRESIDENT



Patrick Roberts
TREASURER



Suzanne Morrison
SECRETARY



John L. Daly
BOARD MEMBER



Jane Diesing
ALUMNI CHAIR



Karen Owen
BOARD MEMBER



Wendy Zielen
NOMINATIONS /
GOVERNANCE



Libby Evans
BOARD MEMBER



Nicole Darby
BOARD MEMBER



Marcus Kaemming
BOARD MEMBER
(non-voting)



Mike Kapolka
BOARD MEMBER
(non-voting)



CEF Scholarship Recipients

Chelsea Education Foundation P.O. Box 281, Chelsea, MI 48118

Email

President@chelseaeducationfoundation.org

Social Networks

Facebook: @ChelseaEducationFoundation

Instagram: @chelseaeducationfoundation

Twitter: @ChelseaEducFndn

LinkedIn: chelsea-education-foundation-mi

Website

www.chelseaeducationfoundation.org



Chelsea Education Foundation is a 501(c) (3) organization.
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