



Worchester
Educational
Development
Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Our mission is to support the Worcester Public Schools, connecting students and teachers with needed resources, enriching the student experience, and advancing equity through collaboration.

From the President and Executive Director

In 1951, the science fiction movie, “The Day the Earth Stood Still” was first released. Who would have known, nearly 50 years later, that speculative fiction would come close to reality?

The fall and early winter fulfilled student visits to our region’s superb cultural institutions, distribution of warm winter outerwear through the Worcester Public Schools Coats for Kids initiative, vigorous instruction for college and career readiness through the Hanover Insurance Group Foundation AVID program, and presentations of early literacy materials to the parents of newborn babies. WEDF honored 10 Distinguished Alumni of the Worcester Public Schools and the nascent WPS alumni network “Worcester Alumni & Friends” began to take shape through the leadership of newly hired Advancement Associate Christina Chappell and a multi-generational, enthusiastic advisory committee.

The shutdown closed schools but learning could not stop. When WEDF heard about the need for additional Chromebooks for remote learning, we quickly commenced the Connected Kids campaign in partnership with the Worcester Public Schools. By July, with generous contributions of all sizes, WEDF had raised funds for 500 Chromebooks.

We join with the rest of the world in navigating the uncertainty of the near future and are ready to continue current programs and explore new venues that will ensure bright futures for all students. WEDF remains committed to our mission. We started with \$10 in the bank 15 years ago and wondered where that initial investment would take us and are proud we have been able to provide nearly \$ 6 million in educational programs for our most precious resource – our children.

The very nature of our work depends on strong partnerships with the district, foundations, corporations, cultural institutions and individuals who represent a committed and caring community. We are deeply grateful to all of you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Mills
President

Louise Clarke
Executive Director

FOCUS AREAS



Arts & Culture



College & Career Readiness



Health & Wellness



STEM

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Susan O’Neil • Worcester Public Schools

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WPS Alumni Network

John Gardner, founder of the Independent Sector, once wrote on empowering communities, "Our tradition of voluntary association is still vital. And its vitality is rooted in good soil – civic pride, compassion, spiritual commitments, a sense of individual responsibility and whatever cynics may say, a commitment to the great shared effort to improve our life together and to ensure a good future for our children and our children's children." Gardner's words describe the very essence of the work of WEDF; by creating partnerships we are nurturing our community's most precious resource, our children.

WPS alumni have played a critical role in WEDF's story from the very beginning. In November of 2019 WEDF hosted its ninth Distinguished Alumni & Friends of the Worcester Public Schools Awards event, and the foundation is proud to have a board of directors primarily comprised of WPS alumni. Worcester Alumni & Friends is a network for alumni, teachers, parents, and other friends of the Worcester Public Schools. An advisory committee has worked to build the foundation for a vibrant and sustainable community. The committee has surveyed needs and interests and the possibilities are endless. With a mission "to engage graduates of Worcester Public Schools with each other and the community to support WPS students and schools for future success," the network aims to maintain a student-centered focus while providing the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

The network will officially launch in early 2021, but you can become an early member now at worcesteralumni.org.



Community Response in the Time of Coronavirus

While the jury will be out for a long time deliberating the effectiveness of distance learning, the verdict is in that during this pandemic that has caused social isolation, technology has been the notable tool in keeping us connected. When WEDF learned that not all of Worcester's students had access to Chromebooks, we joined with the district to ensure that all students are connected to their learning, their teachers, and each other.

WEDF was able to act quickly to launch the Connected Kids Campaign and by the end of July, we had raised funds for 500 computers. The response from a generous community was tremendous with contributions from almost 200 donors. IPG Photonics and an anonymous foundation each purchased Chromebooks for 100 students. Some individuals sponsored one student, two students, or even an entire classroom. Organizations including Guild of St. Agnes and the Major Taylor Association made munificent contributions. WEDF Board members reached out to friends and family who were happy to help.

WEDF is deeply gratified by this outpouring from a caring public. As we face the long dark winter ahead, we are somewhat at ease in knowing that as we continue to navigate through this strange new world, the children of Worcester are linked to their education and to those very important individuals who often make all the difference in their lives, their teachers.



9th Class of Distinguished Alumni and Friends of the Worcester Public Schools

These awards honor WPS alumni who have achieved outstanding success in academics, the arts, business, community service, humanitarian efforts, research, and other fields.

**Recipients
were
honored at
a banquet
and awards
program on
November
6, 2019**

Matthew Aselton • Entertainment Director
Penelope Bitzas • Performing Artist/Educator
Megan Condron Smith • Investment Professional
Diane Benson Davis • Conservationist
David Greene • Educational Leader
Matt Mattus • Horticulturalist/Author
Lester McCorn • Educational and Spiritual Leader
John Morello • Decorated War Hero (Posthumous)
Donna Olsen Red Wing • Social Pioneer (Posthumous)
Jonathan Starr • Investment Professional/Philanthropist
Friend of Education Award: Fallon Health

Financial Information

For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

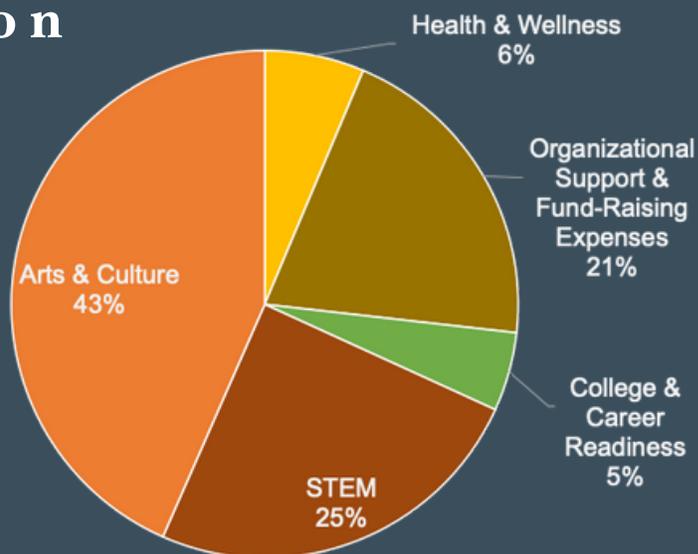
Revenue and Expenses

Total Revenue \$516,240

Total Expenses \$471,176

Expenses by Category

See chart (right)



THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for the support of our donors, who make it possible for us to support the Worcester Public Schools with our work. Hundreds of individual donors make our programs possible.

A special thank you to the George I. Alden Trust and the Stoddard Charitable Trust for their significant and continual support of the Culture LEAP Program.

We would also like to recognize the following organizations for their leadership financial contributions:

City of Worcester	Fifth Generation	The Hanover Insurance
Colby College	First Baptist Church	Group Foundation
DCU for Kids	Guild of St. Agnes	Titus Family Charitable Trust
Educational Association of Worcester	IPG Photonics	UMass Medical School
Eppinger Family Foundation	Lamoureux Pagano Associates Architects	UniBank
Fallon Community Health Plan	Major Taylor Association	UNUM
Fidelity Bank	Synergy Financial, LLC	Worcester Credit Union

Mini-Grants for Teachers



WEDF funded 17 mini grants totaling more than \$6,000 for Worcester Public Schools for curriculum enhancement programs focusing on STEM/STEAM. Funds for the grants were raised from the Distinguished Alumni event, payroll deduction and WEDF's general funds.

Fall 2019 Recipients

Megan Shea • Belmont Community • Hoop Designs
AnnMarie Morrissey • Worcester East Middle • Indoor Plants
Teresa Rivera • Thorndyke Road • TRS Composts
Meredith Lord • Burncoat Middle • Painting Project
Victoria Caezza • Burncoat Middle • What's the Matter with Color?
Luke Robert • May Street • Full STEM Ahead
Sarah Connell • Burncoat Middle & High • Let's Build a Ballpark
Noeliz Irizarry • Midland Street • Creating a Classroom Museum
Kathy Martinelli • Columbus Park • Animals Are Everywhere
Gretchen Savaria • Grafton Street • Physical Education Fiasco
Kyle Brenner • Worcester Technical High • Growing Technical Skills
Brenda Dubrey • Thorndyke Road • Kids in the Kitchen
Zohar Badenhausen • Chandler Magnet • Weather Station
Ellen Moynihan • West Tatnuck • STEAM in the Art Room
Michelle Gabrielian • Lincoln Street • Recharge and In Charge
Stacey Hill • Doherty High • Calculate Carbon Storage
Emilie Richmond • South High Community • Travel to the Olympiad