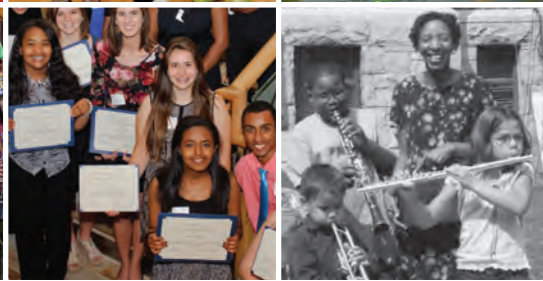


# 20 CELEBRATING YEARS



*together*



*for our kids*



# DEF celebrates the people with

“It’s Always Been About Helping Our Kids.”

It started with a vision in 2001 — a simple idea that would have profound implications. What if a community brought together people, resources, and ideas to ensure that every child had what they needed to thrive? Twenty years ago, this vision became the Decatur Education Foundation.

In March 2020, when our lives were upended by the global pandemic, people immediately reached out to us with donations of funds, volunteer time, and expertise. In the midst of a crisis, our community did what it has done for the last 20 years: we came together to find creative solutions to the challenges facing our kids.

This report kicks off a year of celebrating the DEF community with a look back at our history. We plan to share much more in the coming months, but hope this brief retrospective makes you feel proud of how our community has always put its kids first.



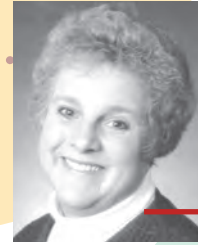
Gail Rothman  
Executive Director  
Decatur Education Foundation



Bob Wilson  
Chair



Gayle Gellerstedt  
Vice Chair



Lyn Menne  
Secretary



Charles Orth  
Treasurer



Candler Broom  
Mary Brown Bullock  
Dennis Byerly  
Susan Cobleigh  
Haywood Curry  
Walt Drake  
Jerry Eickhoff  
Jim Eley  
David Ewing  
Bill Floyd

Bill Funk  
Edith Hambie  
Ida Love  
Rich Mahaffey  
Susan Rutland  
McCullar  
Laura Mendenhall  
Mary Miller  
Andre Pattillo  
Anthony Powers

Jimmy Smith  
Judy Turner  
Sara Turnipseed  
Jason Uchitel  
Ken Willis  
Elizabeth Wilson

Sherri Brown  
Executive Director

## Inaugural DEF Board

From the beginning, individuals and businesses stepped up with support

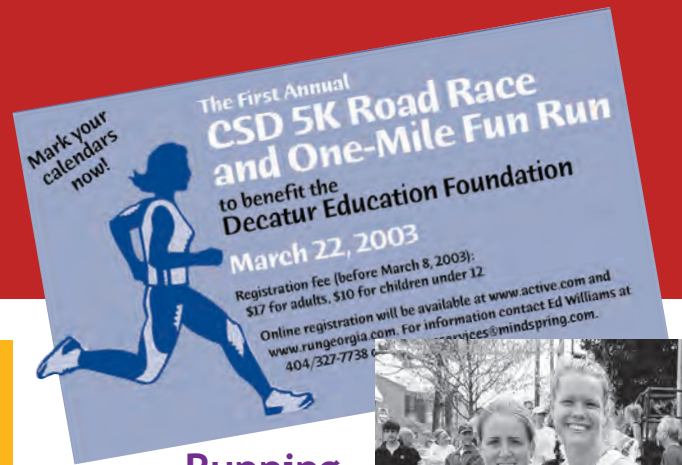
2001

An idea is born;  
DEF board established

*a vision that ALL Decatur kids should have opportunities to reach their full potential*



Mike Gallagher presents Glennwood teacher Heather Borowski and DEF Executive Director Sherri Breunig with a grant from the Great Decatur Beer Tasting Festival.



Running for our kids . . . it all began here.



Thanks, Kira Wilsterman!

**Strike up the band!**

Thanks to a \$50K grant from VH-1 secured by DEF, Oakhurst Elementary Principal Mary Mack and some of her students happily receive the delivery of 35 musical instruments. Glennwood and College Heights Elementaries also received instruments.

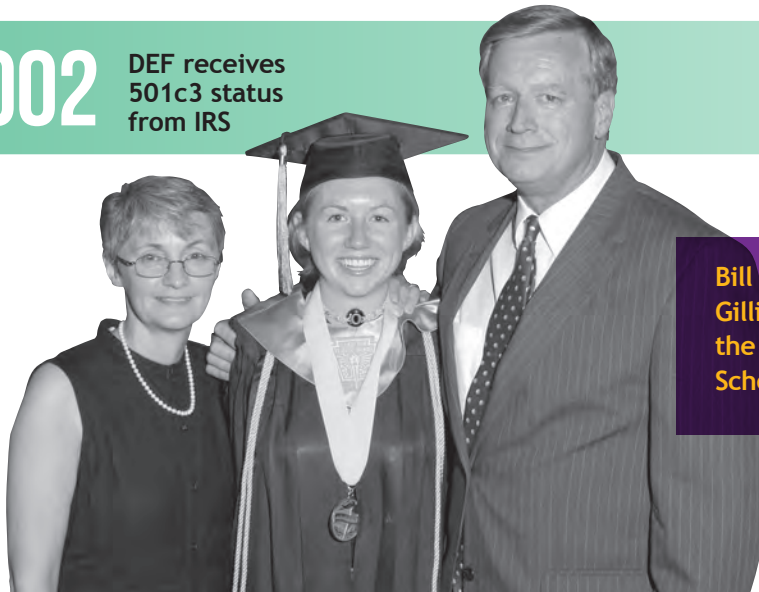


**2002**

DEF receives 501c3 status from IRS

First DEF scholarship awarded; first 5k fundraiser

**2003**



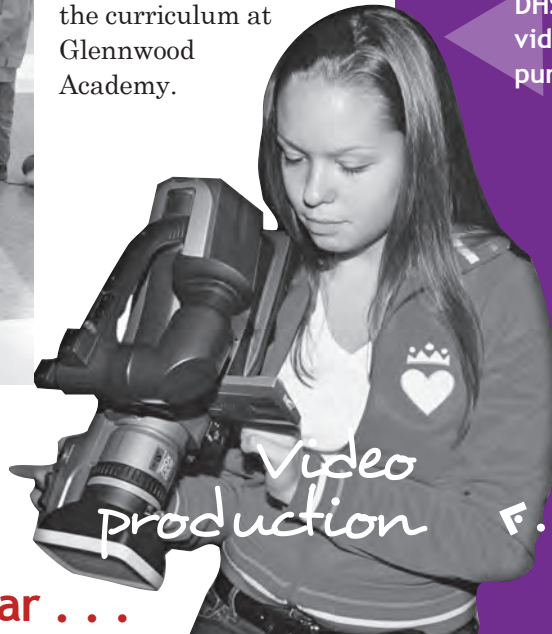
Bill and Donna Woolf with Gillian Connolly, first recipient of the Sarah Lynn Woolf Memorial Scholarship, May 2003



Teachers at Glennwood wrote a grant to infuse more music into the curriculum at Glennwood Academy.

## Students explore their interests and find their passion

DHS student Angela Cavalli studies video production thanks to equipment purchased through a DEF grant.



## Culture Club!



A DEF grant-funded field trip took RMS students to Seven Stages Theater.

## The very next year . . . way more runners!



Today, Tour deCatur is a beloved family tradition, and a big “fun-raiser” for our programs.

**2004** First evening fundraiser party: Low Country Boil

## The Low Country Boil Begins

Celebrity chefs (aka Decatur elected officials) turned pounds of shrimp into a low country boil to raise money so that all Decatur’s kids could have new books. And Decatur’s favorite fall event was born.





Gardening



Photo-journalism



In the (school) newsroom

The possibilities for our kids are unlimited and through DEF, our community helps turn great ideas into great opportunities.

# DEF celebrates 20 years of our community coming together for our kids

**2005** DEF launches first multi-year strategic plan

CHECLC Family Resource Center opens, funded by DEF

**2006**

Through the years DEF has benefited from the time, talent, and gifts of so many DEF friends.



*Eddie and Anne Fowlkes were honored in 2006 for their volunteer work painting trees in the hallways of the new College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center.*

# DEF celebrates 20 years of promoting



Life-size Scrabble at Renfro

Shakespeare without tears at Glennwood



Reading to the dog at Winnona Park



College Heights teacher and student enjoy reading time in the DEF-funded Family Resource Center



## Having fun and getting fit at the Tour deCatur

The introduction of running clubs at the elementary schools helped the Tour deCatur grow by leaps and bounds and runners from all of our schools showed up with plenty of school spirit.

*DEF partners with the Decatur Book Festival*

**2007** DEF establishes the first scholarship for teachers – Carriere Family Scholarship



Winnona Park students on an outing to the Decatur square to meet favorite authors and illustrators

# both *physical and mental health* so that all our kids learn healthy habits

*DEF provides scholarships and support for the Close-Up trip to Washington D.C. to ensure that every student, regardless of income, can learn how our government works and become civic-minded*



**Our annual Low Country Boil fall event continues to grow in size and FUN!**



**Friends like Arthur Ratliff are the best kind**

. . . always there when you need them, giving their time and talent. Honored here by DEF Board Chair (and awesome owner of DEF partner Ace Hardware) Tony Powers.

**2008**

DEF moves out of CSD and becomes fully independent



**2009**

DEF hires first paid staff person, Gail Rothman, executive director

# DEF celebrates 20 years of amazing



History comes alive



See how the garden grows



A quiet moment at the DEF book sale



Teachers create farm-to-school activities



Students engage!



Climbing to new heights at Rock Eagle

Magic happens for our kids when teacher innovation meets funding through DEF teacher grants.

## 2010

DEF offers CSD 101 to educate the community about Decatur's school system



## History comes alive at Oakhurst Elementary

Second graders participated in an interactive "Living Museum," teaching themselves and others about Georgia. Teacher Donna Smith said the students were engaged and enthusiastic, and the project helped to develop their research, writing, and public speaking skills.



# *educators* who come up with strategies to reach every type of learner



1 DHS math teacher David Custer gets a grant to start a low-cost graphic calculator rental program to ensure all students have the tools they need to be successful. 2 DHS students peer at the planet Jupiter using refractor telescopes purchased with the help of a DEF teacher grant. 3 F.AVE students get a lesson in girl power from author Haley Kilpatrick whose book, *The Drama Years*, covers navigating the challenges of girlhood with confidence.

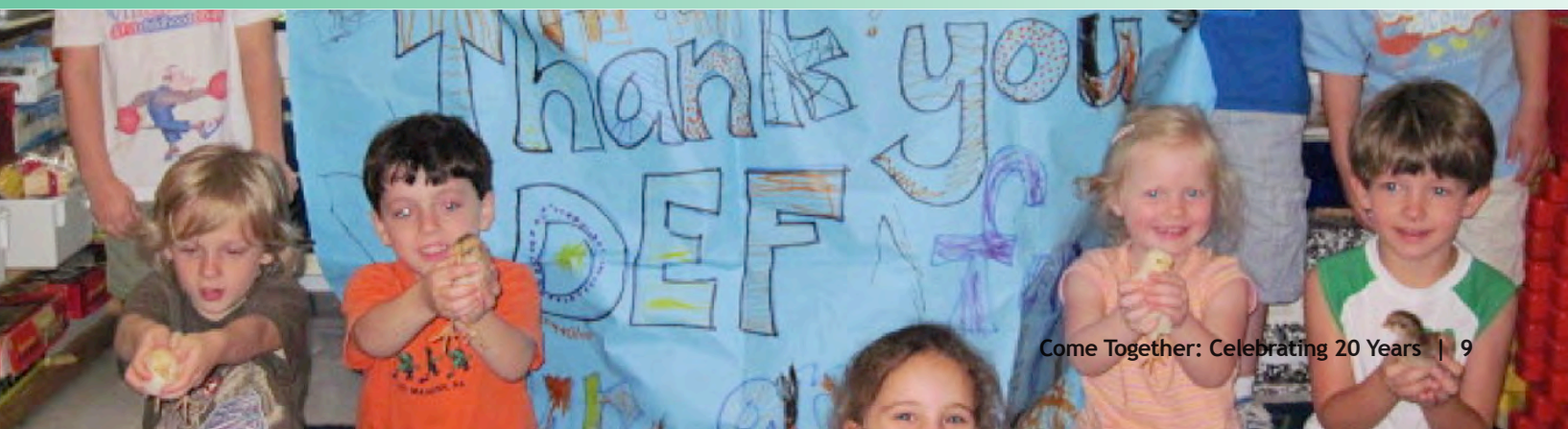
Scenes from our 10th great year  
...and the beginning of our next 10 years!



**2011** Tools for Success laptop scholarships launched, providing graduating seniors with laptop computers

DEF receives program gift of \$500K

**2012**





Decatur lets the good times roll during Mardi Gras to raise funds to support music education



Investing in our littlest learners



Fun pre-K field trips build strength, coordination and balance

# DEF celebrates 20 years of a community . . .

**2013** DEF starts funding early childhood education scholarship

DEF's strong partnership with Little Shop of Stories provides great access to favorite authors. Mac Barnett, author of *Mustache!* and several other books, is greeted by students who took his book to heart (and face).





DEF, Decatur Arts Alliance and Colorwheel, partnered with parade artist Chantelle Rytter for the first Decatur Lantern Parade.



DEF scholarship recipients from the class of 2015 at the Celebration of Excellence at Agnes Scott College.



A student works on set design for a DHS play using tools bought with DEF grant funds.

*... that understands  
that every kid in  
Decatur is our kid*

**2014**

DEF executive director becomes nationally certified education foundation leader

DEF creates Opportunity Partnership mentoring program (now AIM Scholars)

**2015**

*Together we experience!*

DEF supports student-led inclusive outings like this trip to the Georgia Aquarium.



# DEF celebrates 20 years of turning great



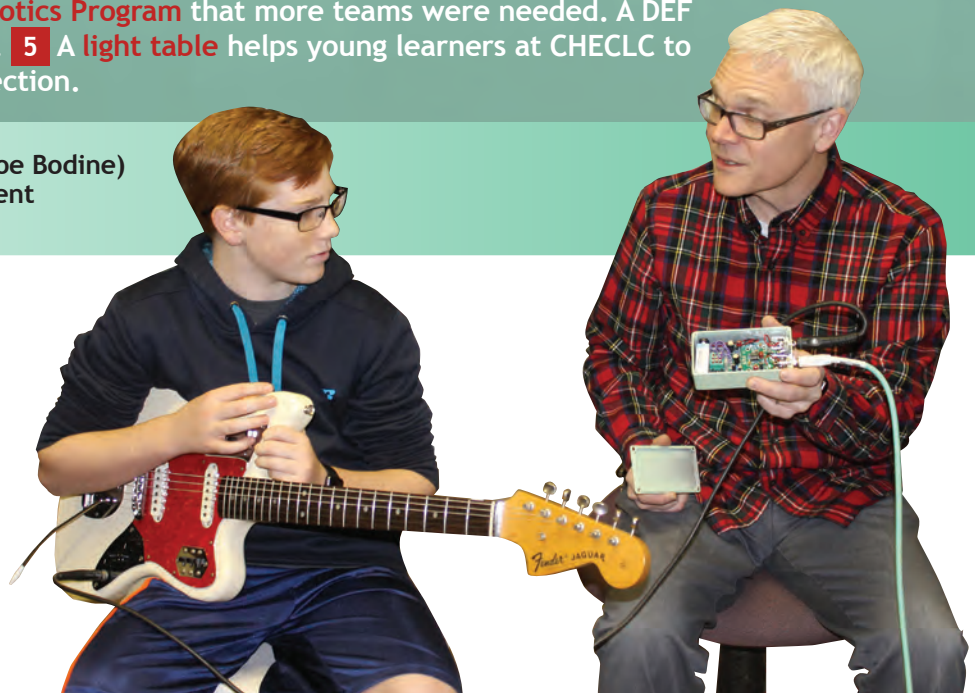
**1** Oakhurst third graders build **cigar box guitars** to learn about sound waves. **2** Students with special learning needs gain practical skills with a **student-run cookie gram business**. **3** Seventh grade students experience outdoor challenges and team-building at Rock Eagle, and DEF ensured that no student was left behind for lack of proper equipment. **4** So many fourth and fifth graders at F.AVE signed up for the **First Lego League Robotics Program** that more teams were needed. A DEF grant ensured that all could participate. **5** A **light table** helps young learners at CHECLC to work on colors, patterns, light and reflection.

## 2016

Joe's Fund (in memory of Joe Bodine) established to support student behavioral health

*Catching a sound wave*

Decatur Makers member Chris Goode talks to Evan Beech about the properties of sound waves



# ideas into opportunities for our kids

Great partners are at the core of DEF's mentoring programs.



## 2017

DEF receives innovation award from Center for Civic Innovation

DEF staff moves to larger space at Legacy Park

## 2018

**6** AIM scholars **make kites** with their Decatur Makers mentors; **7** a **yoga experience** with Marnie Grodzin of Gathered and Grounded. **8** Glennwood Elementary second graders took a **night-time sky tour** at Agnes Scott College's Bradley Observatory. **9** a DEF grant sent REACH Scholar Maha Sidi to an **electrical engineering and coding girls' camp** at Georgia Tech. **10** award-winning pre-K teacher Angela Gabriel used a DEF grant to buy **rain gear** for outdoor exploration.



AIM scholar Halima gets a new perspective at Intown Gymnastics



Close-Up trips can be life-changing, as it was for these students who met national hero and civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis during their trip to Washington, D.C.

New experiences show us what's possible



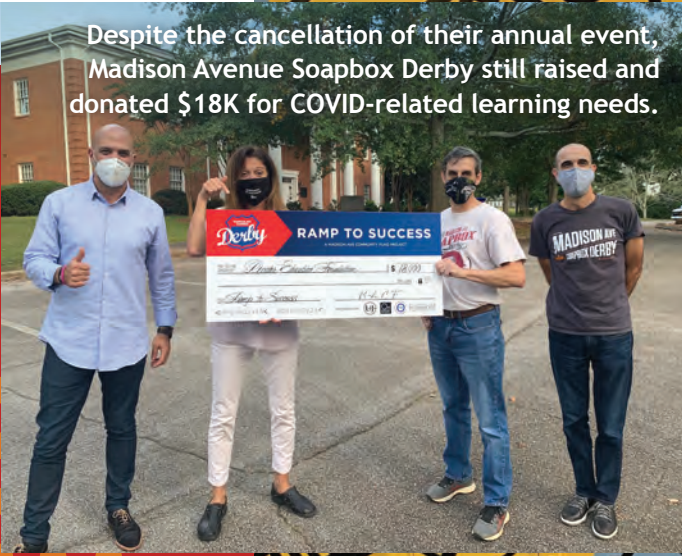
AIM Scholars spent a week exploring Atlanta which included a trip to the Delta museum.



Glennwood kindergartners use white boards to practice dictation, handwriting, and sound awareness using the Orton Gillingham Approach to literacy.

2019 Lighten the Load program launched to serve emergency needs

# DEF celebrates 20 years of working towards equity in our schools and community.



Despite the cancellation of their annual event, Madison Avenue Soapbox Derby still raised and donated \$18K for COVID-related learning needs.



Freshman Sara Deshpande designed and painted this vibrant mural to decorate the entrance hallway of the Decatur Student Center at DHS



Not even a pandemic stopped our AIM Scholars from learning with local baker and registered dietician Jennifer Weissman on Zoom. The results? Delicious!



DEF funds purchased copies of *I Am Every Good Thing* about the joys of Black boyhood.

**2020** DEF pivots to serve emergency pandemic needs

DEF celebrates 20 years **2021**

*In our two decades, we could never have imagined a school year like 2020-2021*

Thanks to the generous support of our community, DEF was positioned to pivot quickly to address the urgent needs of our students as a result of the pandemic.

Thanks to you, we've **awarded** . . .

**\$2,823,294**

Grants

**\$827,804**

Scholarships

From audited financials from founding through FY20 (6/30/2020).

## A Snapshot of Our Growth and Success

YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
STAFF	1	1.5	1.5	2	3	3	3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
PROGRAM \$ SPENT	\$149K	\$16K2	\$188K	\$488K	\$432K	\$433K	\$501K	\$490K	\$488K	\$544K	\$657K	\$598K
FUNDS RAISED	\$186K	\$198K	\$231K	\$659K	\$477K	\$471K	\$513K	\$621K	\$696K	\$725K	\$822K	\$835K

Figures reported for fiscal years (July 1-June 30). Revenues and expenditures from audited financial statements.



DEF staff

- FROM LEFT:
- Gail Rothman  
Executive Director
  - Muslimo Sheikh  
Program Coordinator
  - Leah Humphries  
Resource Development  
Manager
  - Drew Johnson  
Operations Manager
  - Erin Murphy  
Communications Manager
  - Marie McCollum  
Director of Programs  
and Partnerships



Decatur  
Education  
Foundation

500 S. Columbia Dr.  
Decatur GA 30030  
404-377-0641

We invite YOU  
to be part of our  
**next 20 years!**

Learn more! Donate!  
Mentor! Volunteer!  
Start a Scholarship!  
Support our kids!

Follow us on social media  
for more celebrations,  
historical photos and  
other fun surprises!

2022



DecaturEducationFoundation  
@DEF\_DecaturGA



decatureducationfoundation.org