



Decatur
Education
Foundation

Working Together

For

Our Kids



Impact Report
2022-2023 School Year



Inside:

IN THE CLASSROOM. IN THE COMMUNITY. BEYOND DECATUR. Our initiatives impact every Decatur student during the school year.

What We Do

The Decatur Education Foundation grew from a group of Decatur residents who saw disparity in opportunities among our students and sought to do something about it. For more than 20 years, DEF has worked with community members – both organizations and individuals – to expand learning opportunities and eliminate inequities in education so every student has what they need to thrive.

Who Is the Decatur Education Foundation?

Since 2002, Decatur students have been our primary focus. Our mission is to ensure that every student has what they need to learn and thrive. Central to this work is eradicating barriers to learning and development that are caused by systemic racism, income inequality, food insecurity and the lack of behavioral health supports.

Our Focus

We partner with the City Schools of Decatur and Decatur Housing Authority to remove those barriers by providing unique learning opportunities in and out of the classroom, and supporting our teachers through Teacher Innovation Grants.

In the Classroom



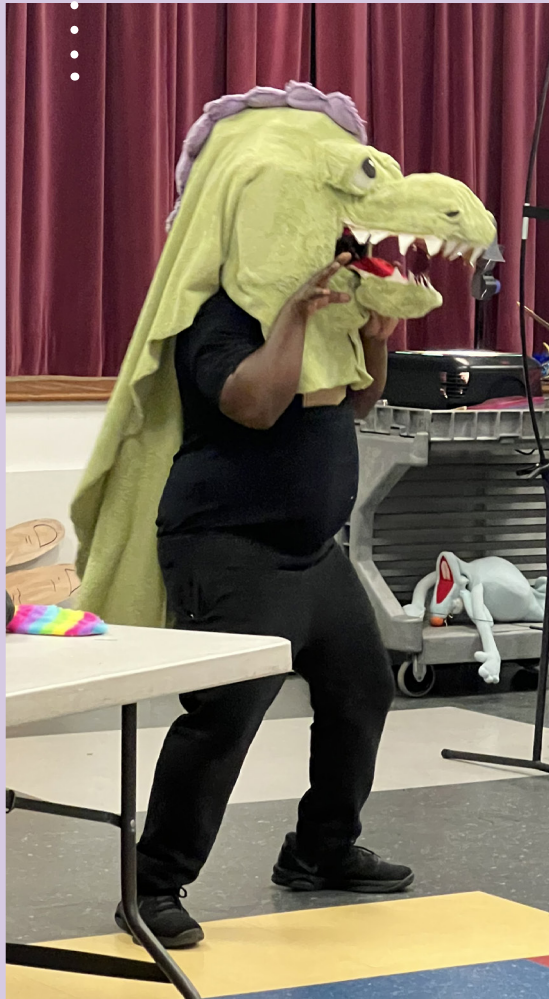
Practicing social skills
and collaboration



• Experiential learning

• Promoting literacy and creativity

• Expanding opportunities



Teacher Innovation Grants

Every fall, City Schools of Decatur teachers are invited to apply for Teacher Innovation Grants to enhance their learning expeditions, accommodate different learning styles, and bring creative ideas to life. Last year, we awarded \$35,000 in grants to almost every school in the district to purchase new technology and band instruments, increase diverse representation in classrooms, and provide new learning experiences. To read all of our impact stories, please visit decatureducationfoundation.org/impact-stories.

• Providing tools for every learner

For Our Kids



Lighten the Load

Last year, we helped coordinate monthly Amazon wish lists to ensure hungry students at Beacon Hill Middle School and Talley Street would have snacks and weekend food bags. DEF works directly with the school social workers to identify students and families in need and provides emergency funds for diapers, childcare, emergency housing, MARTA cards, utility assistance, and eye exams.

Our community partners Color Wheel Art Studio chose DEF as their beneficiary for their Empty Bowl event - an international grassroots effort to raise awareness and funds to help eliminate food insecurity within our community. Attendees enjoyed homemade soups from Brick Store Pub in handmade bowls they could take home. The event raised \$3,000 to support our Lighten the Load program.

Virtual Pals Tutoring

There may be ONE good thing that arose during the Covid shutdown: our Virtual Pals Tutoring Program. We pair 1st - 8th grade students with an adult volunteer for a weekly, one-hour virtual session. During the last school year, we paired 14 CSD students with adult volunteers! We have expanded our efforts to include in-person tutoring.

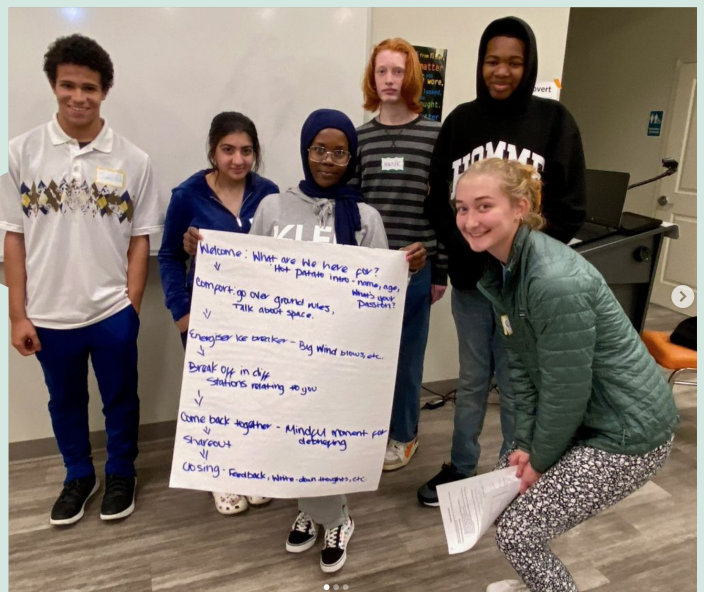
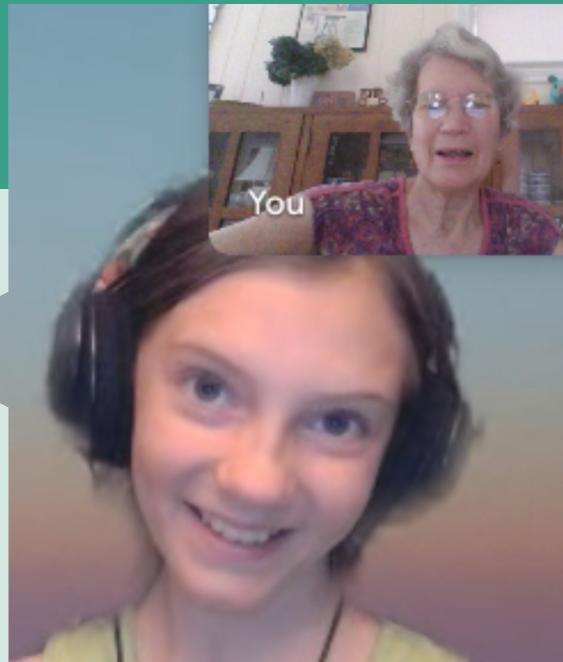
Would you like to provide extra help to a student by becoming a virtual tutor one-hour per week? Please visit decatureducationfoundation.org/expanding-opportunities to learn more and sign up.

College Counseling for High Schoolers

After our pilot program last year, DEF's college counseling partnership with College Ave Consulting is ready to triple in size this year! The program provides opportunities for students with financial need and supports them through the college research, application, acceptance, and scholarship process. We will be adding a cohort of DHS juniors to the program in January 2024. For more information, please visit decatureducationfoundation.org/expanding-opportunities.

Engaging Youth Voice

DEF partnered with VOX ATL to train a cohort of Decatur youth to be facilitators of youth voice in the community. Through a series of listening sessions and community "share-outs," DEF collected the teen cohort's input to be used to inform future priorities. This year, we will continue to engage youth voice through Decatur's Child Friendly Cities Initiative Teen Leadership Team (a UNICEF program) who will work with the City Commission to implement their action plan to make Decatur a more child-friendly city.



In the Community



Photo: Beate Sass

Tour deCatur

Decatur's biggest 5K event happens every March and is DEF's biggest fundraiser. Your family's participation helps support all of DEF's most important programs! Starting in January, CSD elementary students begin the iRun training program with their P.E. teachers so they will be ready to participate in the one-mile fun run. Next year's race is scheduled for March 16, 2024, and will feature a 5K, the one-mile Fun Run and the always thrilling Tot Trot for the four-and-under set. Registration begins in January, 2024 at tourdecatur.com.

Soiree in the City

In November 2022, DEF gathered with many long-term supporters and community partners to celebrate 20 years of helping Decatur kids thrive. Our friends and Porchfest favorites Maxwell Street kept the dance floor vibing!



Maxwell Street
DEF
Community
Collaborators



Photos: Lynette Davis

Beyond Decatur

Waller's
Coffee Shop

DEF
Community
Collaborators



Photo: Keson Graham

No Ordinary Joe

In May 2023, DEF hosted its second No Ordinary Joe, a live music event to raise awareness and funds for Joe's Fund, DEF's initiative dedicated to student behavioral health.

Members of the Decatur High School Music Lover's Club performed covers and original pieces under the stars at Waller's outdoor stage.

Joe's Fund was established to honor the life of Joe Bodine, a 2015 DHS graduate who battled addiction. Joe's Fund has helped establish student centers at Beacon Hill Middle School and at Decatur High School, and has sponsored ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) sessions for 154 community members to-date to make Decatur a more suicide-safe city.

No Ordinary Joe raised almost \$5,000 for Joe's Fund!



Scholarships to Ignite Passions and Fuel the Future

Every May, DEF hosts the Celebration of Excellence at which we honor the past and celebrate the recipients of DEF's annual scholarships as they continue their education at colleges and universities across the country. Through the kindness of our community, DEF awards almost \$130,000 annually.

Close-Up D.C. Scholarships

— DEF also partners with the City Schools of Decatur to ensure that every DHS student who would like to attend the annual trip to our nation's Capitol can, regardless of their ability to pay. Last year, DEF donated \$12,000 to fund 28 scholarships so that all students could participate in this life-changing experience.





STEP UP
CIRCLE

Decatur Education Foundation

Corporate Sponsors for 2022-2023

Thank you to these organizations who commit to supporting our kids year-round - we couldn't do it without you!



For a complete listing of our family and individual donors, visit decatureducationfoundation.org/step-up-circle.

Board Members 2022-2023

Haqiqa Bolling, James Cobb, Robert Jeffrey, Brennan Breed, Doug Faust, Maggie Fehrman,* Molly Marrah,* Claire Miller, Martha Moore, Khal Morris/Vice Chair, Karen Paty, Lynn Paxton, Becky Payne, Lauren Pellissier,* Maria Pinkelton/Chair, Chantrice Rogers,* Steven Salcedo, Shannon Scalese, Raul Trujillo, Hans Utz

* Indicates those who completed their board term this year.

Our 2022-2023 Team Members

(From right) Gail Rothman, Executive Director (2009-2023), Leah Humphries (2019-2023), Drew Johnson, Erin Murphy, Muslimo Sheikh, Marie McCollum-Williams (2017-2023).

Interns not shown: Alexis Glover and Carly Collins

Special thanks to Lampe-Farley Creative for helping to create this report, and to our talented volunteer photographers whose images give heart to our work: Lynette Davis, Keson Graham, Arthur Ratliff, and Beate Sass.



How can you support Decatur's students? Join us!

To support youth in Decatur, we welcome you to volunteer, attend an ASIST training, become a GEM (Give Every Month) donor, or join our Step Up Circle.

Donate | Volunteer | Tell a Friend | Participate | Collaborate | Follow DEF

Thank You

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