



KALISPELL
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Gratitude

REPORT
2024-2025



DEAR FRIENDS OF KALISPELL EDUCATION FOUNDATION,

We are proud to share with you our first-ever annual report, a milestone that reflects not only how much our community’s support has helped our students and teachers thrive, but also how it has strengthened and grown KEF as an organization. Your generosity has made it possible for us to expand our impact, tell more of these important stories, and work toward a bold vision: reaching every student, every year.

Inside, you will see how your support has come to life by funding innovative classroom grants, creating hands-on science experiences, putting books in the hands of eager readers, giving students access to outdoor adventures and college campuses, and ensuring teachers have the tools they need without dipping into their own pockets.

This past school year, because of you, we earned the maximum match in the 2024 Great Fish Community Challenge helping us impact over 4,800 students and 200 teachers. We also launched our Classroom Champions program and partnered with community organizations like the Applied Materials Foundation and Glacier Bank to meet real, immediate needs in our schools. These pages show what is possible when a community rallies around its students.

Montana remains one of the lowest-funded states for public education, even with passed levies. But your commitment is bridging that gap and bringing opportunities to life that otherwise would not exist. Thank you for believing in our students, our teachers, and the future of our community.

With gratitude and excitement for the road ahead,



Jevon Clark
Board President



Dorothy Drury
Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission and Overview.....3

Program Report.....5

In Memoriam.....11

Our Supporters.....12

Investing in the Future.....16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jevon Clark - *President*
Mark Flatau - *Vice President*
Lynn Dykstra - *Secretary*
Josh Kroll - *Treasurer*
Anna Marie Bailey - *Founder*
Adam Cebulla - *Alumni Chair*
Cara Rathke - *Communications Chair*
Sue Brown
Kate Lufkin
Francy McAlister
Carol Santa
Heather Sullivan
Matt Jensen, KPS Superintendent
(ex-officio)

STUDENT BOARD

- Vincent Lam (FHS ‘25)
Creed Wiley (FHS ‘25)
Gabrielle Crozier (GHS ‘25)
Naomi Miller (GHS ‘26)

STAFF

- Dorothy Drury, Executive Director
Jenny Cloutier, Program Director



WHO WE ARE

MISSION

The Kalispell Education Foundation aims to enrich and support Kalispell Public Schools.

VISION

The Kalispell Education Foundation believes that every teacher should be afforded the resources to inspire and deliver the best education to each individual student.

FUNDING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

KEF empowers teachers to go beyond traditional classroom limits to enable our students to innovate, lead, and, most importantly, learn for their futures. We accomplish this through the generosity of our community that supports our outreach, financial development, and ongoing funding of extraordinary educational programs.

OUR DISTRICT



Kalispell Public Schools has six elementary schools, one middle school, and four high school locations. Additionally, our district provides the primary public high school option for 13 partner districts.

Kalispell Public Schools

Edgerton Elementary
Elrod Elementary
Hedges Elementary
Peterson Elementary
Rankin Elementary
Russell Elementary

Kalispell Middle School

Flathead High School
Glacier High School
Linderman Education Center
HG Robinson Ag Center

Partner Districts

Cayuse Prairie
Creston
Deer Park
Evergreen
Fair-Mont Egan
Helena Flats
Kila
Marion
Olney-Bissell
Pleasant Valley
Smith Valley
Somers/Lakeside
West Valley



6,061
TOTAL STUDENTS

OUR IMPACT

Kalispell Education Foundation supports the students, staff, classrooms and vision of Kalispell Public Schools for the benefit of the greater Kalispell community. We provide an opportunity for our community to further the essential taxpayer dollar in order to help our students receive the best education possible.

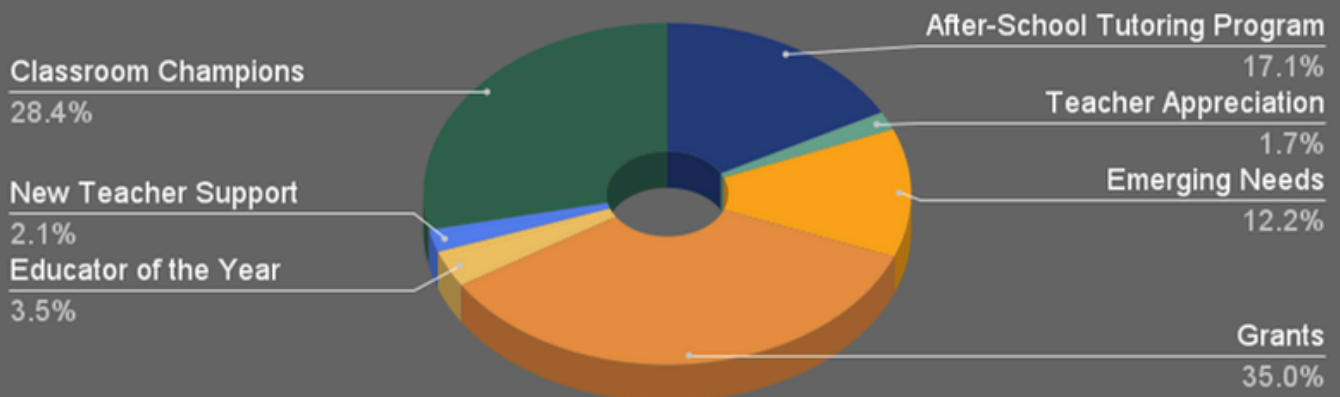
\$203,746

funds raised during the
2024/2025 school year



Rankin students enjoy their new podcasting equipment

2024-2025 Program Investment



CLASSROOM GRANTS

42 GRANTS

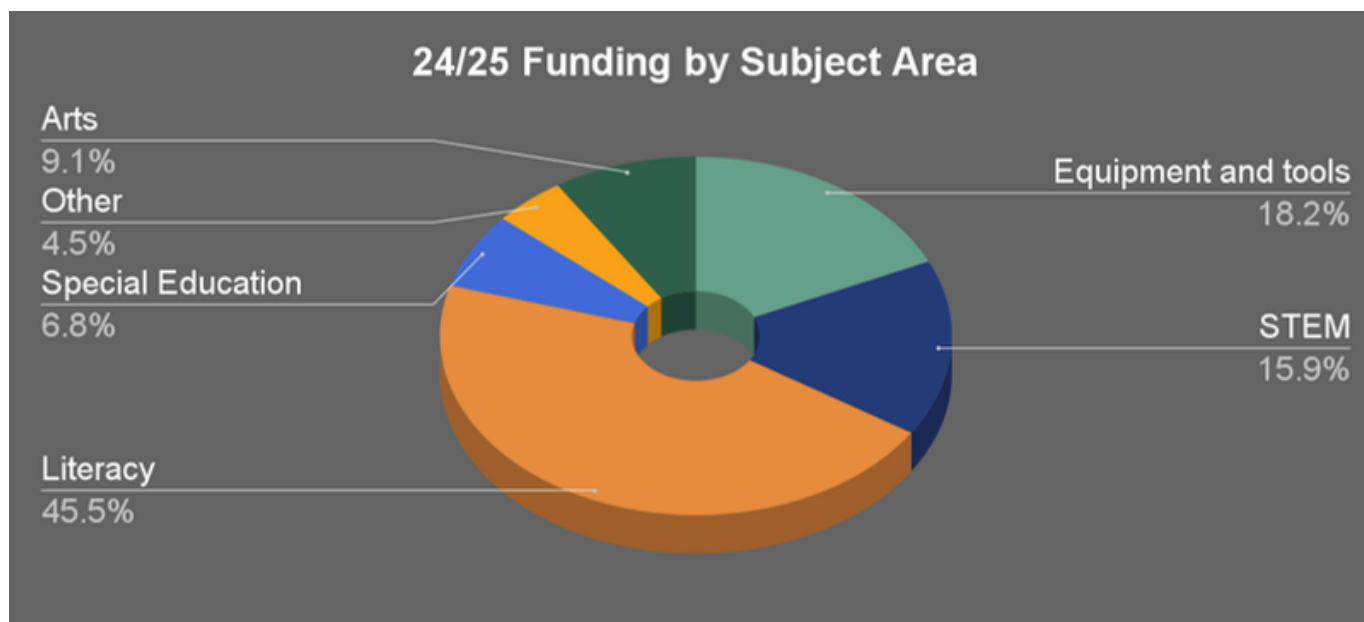
200 TEACHERS
IMPACTED

4,800 STUDENTS
IMPACTED



COOKING AND SCIENCE WITH LIFE SKILLS CLASSES

“This grant allowed us to create a unique blend of therapy and education that was not only effective but also joyful. Our students weren’t just learning—they were exploring, creating, and connecting with others in ways that felt meaningful and empowering. The success of this year has solidified our belief that hands-on, functional learning activities like these are essential, and we are eager to continue and expand the program in the future.” Patrick McElwain, Special Education, Hedges



SPOTLIGHT ON: LITERACY



20
GRANTS



2,952
STUDENTS
IMPACTED



\$13.9K
INVESTED

This year, 45.5% of the classroom grants we awarded were centered around literacy. This included everything from materials and games aimed at approaching literacy from a unique perspective, to take-home bags that facilitate parental involvement, to an assortment of books aimed at reaching a broader audience of young readers.

Words with Friends: KMS Book Club - “My students have not stopped talking about how much they enjoy Book Club and they look forward to it every week. I have seen a huge increase in student involvement and work completion since increasing student choice and agency. Students are smiling while doing work and projects and students who typically did little to no work before are now actively participating. It really has been an amazing thing to watch.” Mikayla Kazmier - KMS

Library Books for ELL Students - “Our students have loved the books we purchased as a result of this grant. Particularly our Spanish speaking 4th graders have continually checked them out. And several of our other Peterson students have taken the opportunity to read familiar books in a different language. Thank you for making some feel the familiar comforts of a home they’ve left and given others an opportunity to immerse themselves in another language.” Kim Lister - Peterson

ROCKET RALLY

KMS 8TH GRADERS RECEIVE A CULMINATING SCIENCE PROJECT UPGRADE



Shared by Maree Mitchell, 8th Grade Science

A rocket project has existed every year as a culminating activity for our 8th-grade science curriculum. It remains one of the most effective and engaging ways for students to apply key principles of forces, motion, and the scientific process in a hands-on, memorable way.

Prior to this year, I relied heavily on a volunteer group for launch equipment, supplies, and scheduling, which often limited when and how the project could be implemented. Thanks to this grant, we now have all the essential materials we need to independently conduct rocket launches, giving us greater flexibility and control over both the timing and the instructional focus.

An exciting new development this year is our "Rocket Rally," a culminating event where two teams from each of my five classes will compete on May 30 for prizes. This allows students to showcase their work and achievements in a celebratory, competitive atmosphere. It gives students a moment to shine and creates an authentic audience for their efforts, encouraging even deeper investment in the scientific process.

One of the most encouraging outcomes is seeing students take ownership of the scientific process. They are not simply building rockets for fun; they are using real data from prior launches — including straw rockets, Alka-Seltzer rockets, and stomp rockets — to inform their decisions. Prior to building the water bottle rockets, students gathered data about rocket mass, fin shape, and nose cone shape. They used this information to modify designs, make predictions, and explain their reasoning, demonstrating true application of scientific skills.

This level of engagement and analytical thinking aligns with the ultimate goal of science instruction: having students make decisions based on evidence rather than guesswork. Teams debated design choices using data and observations, not just personal opinions. In post-activity reflections, several students even cited examples of how a mistake or unexpected result in a previous launch influenced how they adapted their final rocket designs.

Overall, the project is creating, not only memorable experiences, but it is also leaving students more confident in using data to solve problems — a skill that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

EMERGING NEEDS

Great learning can happen everywhere! KPS is committed to expanding experiences that connect students to real-world environments, career paths, and the natural resources that surround us. KEF is proud to support these efforts by helping remove barriers and create access for all students.

PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITY



Last fall, 40 students made the two-hour trip to the University of Montana, Missoula campus, many visiting a college campus for the very first time. The brain child of Flathead High School Career Center's Kristin Bay, and in collaboration with U of M and KEF (which funded transportation), students explored academic programs and enjoyed lunch on campus. For students who might not otherwise have the means to visit, this trip made college feel a little more real - and a little more possible. Expanding opportunities starts with access, and this trip delivered just that.



OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR EVERY STUDENT



Living in the Flathead means world-class outdoor opportunities are just outside our doors, but not always within reach for every child. This year, thanks to generous KPS family donations and KEF support, every 5th grader had the chance to ski at Whitefish Mountain Resort. For many, it was their very first time on skis and an unforgettable experience. Whitefish Mountain Resort's free ski pass program for all 5th graders, combined with community support, helped ensure no student was left behind. Outdoor learning belongs to everyone, and this effort helped make that vision a reality.

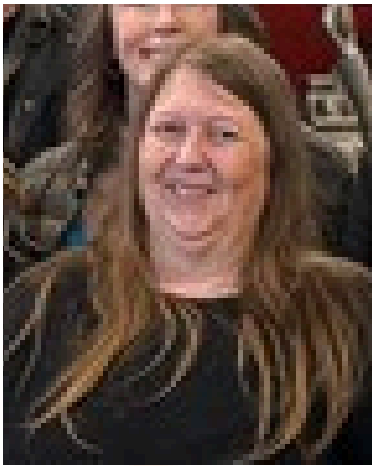
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND KINDNESS

In partnership with 
Stockman Bank
Member FDIC

2024-2025 EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

"Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be."

- Rita Pierson



Sandy Weeks
Essential Personnel
Ag Center



Kim Lalum
Essential Personnel
Peterson Elementary



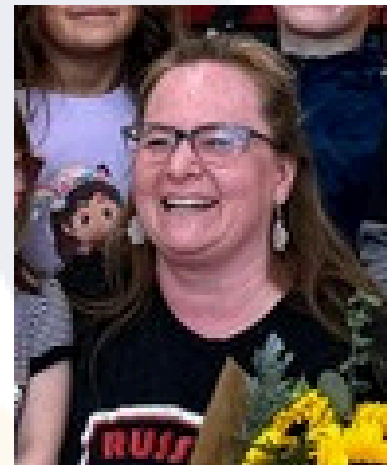
Teresa Hartford
Essential Personnel
Edgerton Elementary



Luke Johnson
High School
Flathead High School

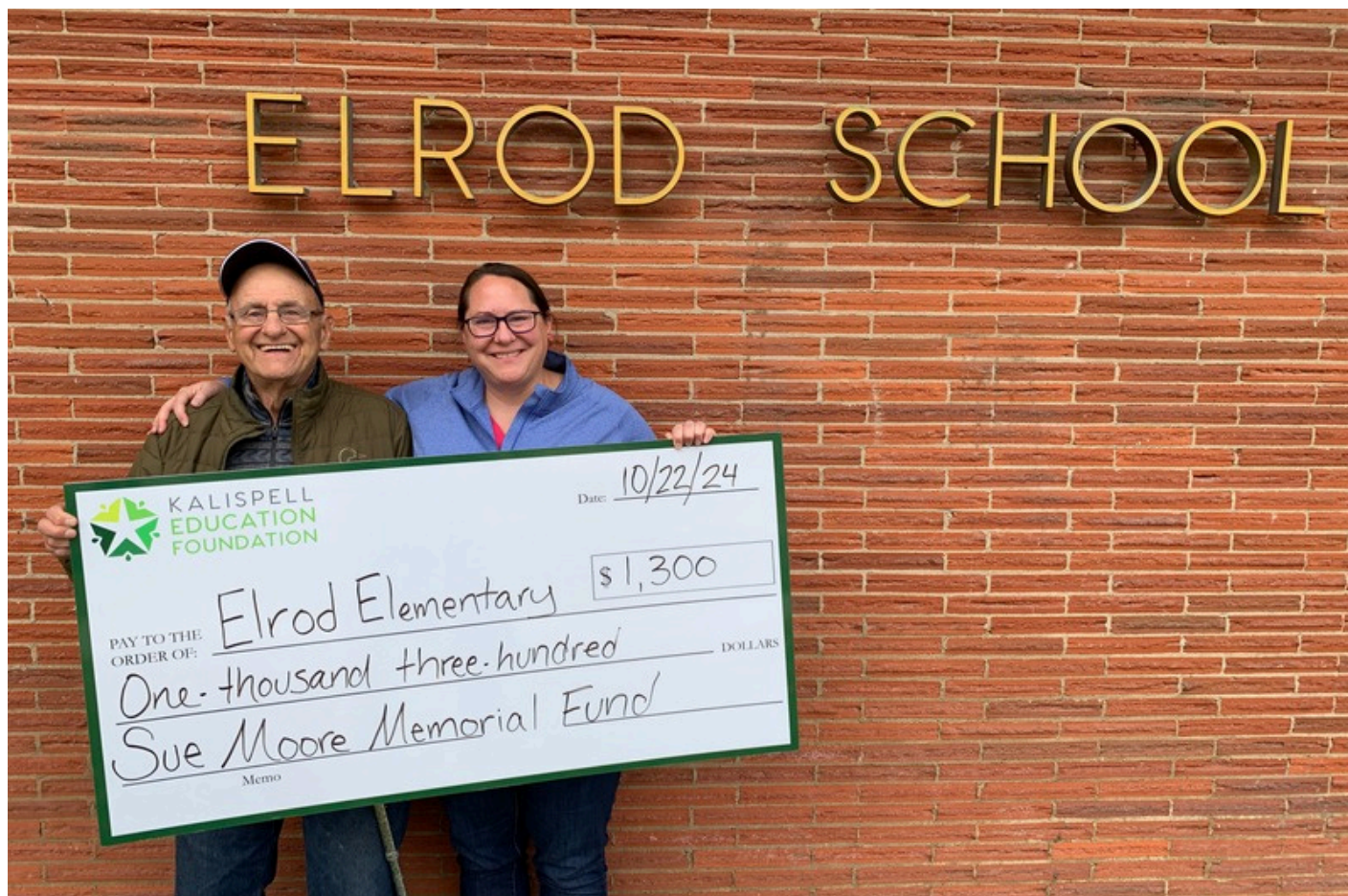


Susie Trefney
Middle School
Kalispell Middle School



Beth Lincoln
Elementary School
Russell Elementary

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED A NOMINATION!



IN MEMORIAM

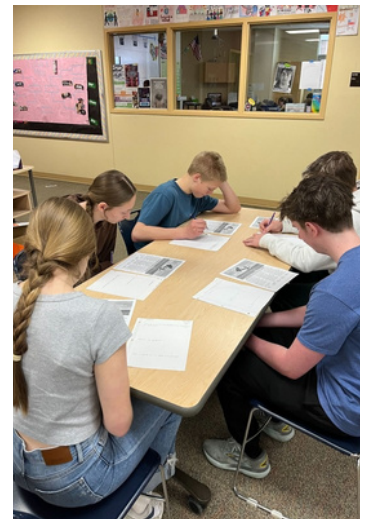
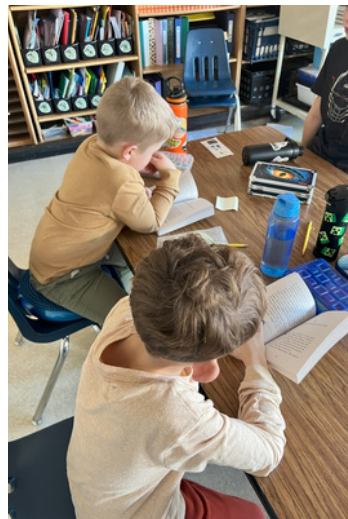
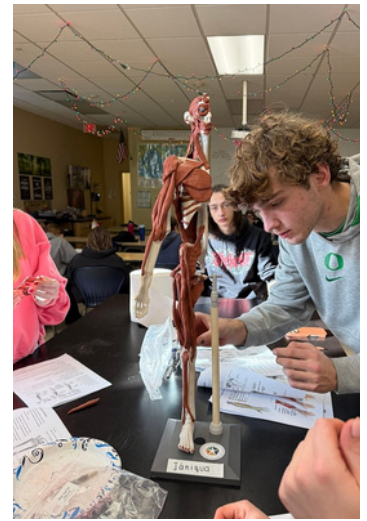
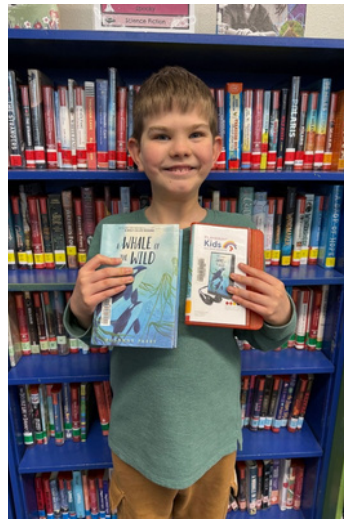
SUE MOORE'S LEGACY

Sue Moore, who passed away on August 17, 2024, was a dedicated educator, including years spent as a Title I tutor at Elrod Elementary. Her passion for helping students, especially those who needed extra support, earned her a special place in the hearts of the Kalispell community. In true Sue Moore spirit, the Moore Family directed memorial donations toward KEF. All funds donated were directed to Elrod Elementary programs and needs.



PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE

As the cost of providing a high quality education continues to rise and resources are stretched thin, we are especially grateful to our family of supporters who prioritize our students and teachers in their philanthropy.



A special thank-you to those who gave during the **2024 Great Fish Community Challenge**! Thanks to your support, KEF received the maximum match, receiving an additional \$14,500, made possible by Whitefish Community Foundation's Circle of Giving donors.

We also extend our gratitude to those who supported our teachers and their classrooms through our new **Classroom Champions** program. These direct donations empowered teachers to meet needs and seize opportunities for their students throughout the year!

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

Ali Alberton
Hank and Catherine Allen
Sarah Allen
The Allison Family
Anna Marie Bailey
Michele Bailey
Jodie Barber
Neil and Jo Anne Bateman
Brent and Valarie
Benkelman
Paul and Kelly Berkram
Melissa Block
Mick and Kim Blodnick
Linea Bonefeole
Don Bonet
Barbara Boorman
Helen Brooks
Robert and Sue Brown
Sara and Ryan Busse
Nick and Katie Cantrell
Marcus and Jeanne Carlson
Joshua and Amber
Carpenter
Adam and Lauren Cebulla
Jevon and Rose Ann Clark
Geri Clements
Pamela Clostio
Sara Cole
Anna Coles
Sheila Conners and Joe
Bottomly
Coastal Community Fund
Pass Through at Coastal
Community Foundation
Sue and Ed Corrigan
Alex Cummings
John and Lois Cummings
Neil and Rosemary Deering
Mark and Kim Dennehy
Gabe Dillon
Astrid Dolezal
Emily Dolan

Mark Drury
Noel Drury
Brian and Susan Dykhuizen
Lynn and Ben Dykstra
Liz English
Tom and Katherine Flass
Mark and Gayle Flatau
Gary and Pat Freebury
Peter and Mary Fusaro
Katherine Gates
Richard Gordon and Cheryl
Watkins
Christina Granrud
John and Toni Gunnerson
Zoe Gustafson
Anthony Haag
Renee Harkins
Cindy Harvey
Tamara Harvey
Dennis Heinzig
Heidi Hickethier
Sherry Hodges-Ward
Eric Holdhusen
Brad Holloway
Jeff and Tracey Hornby
Charlotte Housel and Jonathan
Fetter-Vorm
Tom Hollo and Dorothy Drury
Matt and Marisa Hoyne
Jim and Alyson Illich
Lance and Shelley Isaak
Matt Jensen
Gordon Johnson
Erik and Shanna Kaltschmidt
Linda Kaps
Kristy Kennerley
Tracy Ketchum
John and Cheryl King
Rick Kinonen
Joe and Tracy Kola
Josh and Sarah Kroll
Jesse Kuntz

The Lalor Family
Sarah Lamb
Lauren Langmead
Leadership Flathead Class of 2026
Dustin Leftridge
Gordan Lemke and Brian Rogers
Annie Lillard
Justin and Moira Linam
Beth Lincoln
Rebecca Linden
Norma Linsky
Kate Lufkin
Fred Longhart and Marjory
McClaren
Steve and Carol McGuire
Brian and Denise Manning
Jinnifer and Gabe Mariman
Georgia Mayhew
Francy McAllister
Cathryn McDevitt
Val and Allan McGarvey
Steve and Carol McGuire
Rosemary and John McKinnon
George and Celeste McLean
Terry and Katy Meyers
Eric Miletich
Brian and Heidi Miller
Bob Moore
Devonna Morgan
Shane Moss
Jim and Adele Murphy
Kelly Murphy
Merisa Murray
Douglas and Barbara Nelson
Terri Nutter
Colleen O'Brien
Richard and Vallina Ostrem
Michele Paine
Mark Panicek
Mark Parrish
Larry and Val Parsons
Dan and Jean Paschke
Monica Pastor
Marti Paugh
Michael Pellini
Cara Rathke
The Redfield-Zlogar Family
Shannan Reichenberg
Tom and Cindy Roberts
Michael Russell and Sally
Cameron-Russell

Renee Russell
Holly Ryan
Stephen Sagner
Barbara and Herbert
Sanders
Kristi Sanders
Susan Schmid
Cole Schneider and Maggie
Doherty
Kevin and Elizabeth
Scholten
Kristopher Schreiner
Mike Schwaller and Mona
Cuthbert
Jenna and Josh Sears
Charitable Fund
Robert and June Sebo
Family Trust
Jennifer Sevier
Bryan Sinram
Kim Smith
Lucy Smith
Will and Bonnie Smith
Tery Solomon
Melissa Speer
The Spratling Family
Amanda Stamm
Alan Stanfield
Gus and Jen Stein
Dallas Stuker
Bill and Heather Sullivan
Ron and Merna Terry
Justin van Emmerik
Molly Valdez
Jordan and Sarah Vaughan
Jean, Rob and Steve Vogt
Teryn and Matt Waldenberg
Scott Warnell
Carol Bibler and Jim Watson
Courtney Westphal
Ursula Wilde
Bryce Wilson
Wesley and Fay Wolf
Dan and Ann Marie Zorn

*Thank
you!*



THANK YOU to our 2024/2025
Community Partners

Catalyst



Visionary



Champion



Innovator



COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Thanks to a generous donation from the Applied Materials Foundation, every elementary school teacher in Kalispell Public Schools received a classroom supply bag tailored to the specific needs of our district. These bags ensured that when a student was missing supplies, teachers had what they needed on hand without dipping into their own pockets. The impact did not stop with the donation. Applied Materials employees rolled up their sleeves



and helped pack every single bag, making this a true community effort. KEF was proud to partner in this project that supported both students and the dedicated teachers who serve them.

We are grateful for the organizations and individuals who quietly show up for our schools through donations and volunteer time. Their generosity and hands-on support uplift both students and teachers in meaningful ways. These partnerships help meet real needs, inspire confidence, and remind our schools they are surrounded by a community that cares deeply.



INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE



Our schools are filled with dedicated teachers and bright, capable students, yet Montana remains among the lowest-funded states for education—even when levies pass. Public dollars alone cannot meet the full needs of our classrooms, but with the added strength of community investment, we can bridge the gap. Together, we are closer than ever to our goal of impacting every student, every year. We invite you to join us in this vital work—through your gifts, time, and advocacy, you help ensure that excellence in learning and teaching thrives in Kalispell.



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

There are many meaningful ways to join with KEF and support our schools.

GIVE

Donate, give to a teacher's classroom, or memorialize another with a gift.

PARTICIPATE

Attend a school event.

SPONSOR

Join our community partner program and sponsor a classroom grant or school-wide initiative.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Leave a permanent mark on our community and a lasting legacy for our schools with a planned gift to KEF.

CONNECT

Be a part of our online community with email updates, on social media, and help us share the great work that our public schools are doing.

CONTACT US

P.O Box 9136
Kalispell, MT 59904
www.kalispelleducationfoundation.org
406-334-6002
or
find us on Facebook and Instagram