



HIGHLAND PARK  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
IMPACT REPORT  
2024





The Highland Park Community Foundation **expands opportunities** for all residents and **addresses unmet needs**.

Through relationships we have built with over 60 organizations that serve Highland Park and Highwood residents, we are **uniquely positioned** to identify where help is needed most and provide it through grant funding to nonprofits. Through these grants we **strengthen** families, **support** individuals with disabilities, **nurture** children, **assist** older adults, **develop** skills in teens, **enable** creative and cultural experiences, and more.

In 2023, our commitment to community translated into the distribution of over **\$1.1 million** to address residents' needs and improve the quality of life for everyone. This included nearly **\$785,000** in Annual Grants and an additional **\$367,000** strategically allocated to address the ongoing challenges faced by residents affected by the Highland Park shooting. With a **32-year legacy of unwavering support for the community**, fueled by the enduring generosity of our donors, we will continue to be a **safety net** creating a thriving future for all.



GRANT RECIPIENT: Family Focus Highland Park

"Each year, the funds you allocate allow us to continue offering our services to more families in need and to expand our services as well. We are especially grateful this year as we launch our new Doula Services Program. The support you provide helps guarantee we can continue to provide valuable programming. We know the importance of our work, but funding from the HPCF validates us in the community. The Foundation has become a household name and being a grant recipient immediately makes us a member of a group of which we're proud to be a part."

Bobbie Hinden, Director  
Family Focus Highland Park



GRANT RECIPIENT: Highland Park Community Early Learning Center

**k-12**

- 112 Education Foundation
- College Bound Opportunities
- Focus on the Arts
- HPHS - Estudiante to Student Mentor Program
- HPHS - Homework Club
- HPHS - National Hispanic Institute
- North Shore School District 112 - Service Learning

**general**

- Heart of the City
- Highland Park Historical Society
- Highland Park Public Library
- Highwood Library & Community Center
- Working Together

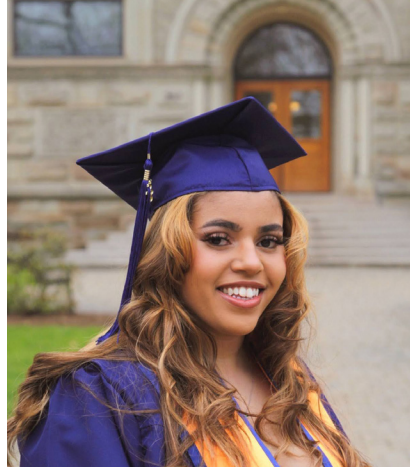
**EDUCATION**

**early childhood**

- Family Focus HP
- Highland Park Community Early Learning Center
- JCYS - Lutz Family Center
- Tri-Con Child Care Center



GRANT RECIPIENT: The Art Center Highland Park



GRANT RECIPIENT: College Bound Opportunities - HPHS grad

**SENIOR SERVICES**

- Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers
- Time to Dance

**SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

- Anixter Center
- Arts of Life
- Center for Enriched Living
- Collaborative Community Housing Initiative
- Glenkirk
- Keshet

**HUMAN SERVICES**

**counseling**

- Art Impact Project
- Cancer Wellness Center
- Family Service of Glencoe
- Josselyn
- Willow House

**food insecurity**

- Bella Ru Catering
- Blessings in a Backpack Highland Park
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Roberti Community House
- SaLT - Service and Learning Together



GRANT RECIPIENT: Community Partners for Affordable Housing - new HP homeowners

**general**

- A Safe Place
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Curt's Café
- Direct Giving Lab
- Gratitude Generation
- Infinity Foundation
- JCFS Chicago Response for Teens
- Keeping Families Covered
- Kids Rank
- Mothers Trust Foundation
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- Operation Warm
- Parks Foundation of Highland Park
- United Way of Lake County
- Youth Services
- Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE & PREVENTION**

- Community - The Anti-Drug Coalition
- GPF Foundation
- HP After Prom
- Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation

“On behalf of the Cancer Wellness Center Board of Directors and participants we serve, thank you for your generous support. Your grant will be used to support critical cancer supportive care for Highland Park and Highwood residents. Your support allows the Cancer Wellness Center’s expert staff to provide comprehensive programs and mental health services to support the physical and emotional wellbeing of anyone impacted by cancer. Your gift makes a huge difference in our ability to offer hope, guidance and support to those facing cancer.”

Nancy Bulzoni, Executive Director  
Cancer Wellness Center

“Nearly 30% of Highland Park residents are 65 years and older and that percentage will grow over the next several decades. Faith in Action Volunteers would not be able to respond to the diverse needs of these seniors of different backgrounds and abilities without the HPCF, which takes a lifespan approach to its grant evaluation process. The Foundation recognizes that a resident of 85 years deserves the same good health, well-being, and quality of life as a young child, new mother, or 50 year-old father of four. Our agency would not be able to respond to the increasing needs of this community’s growing older adult population without HPCF’s financial support.”

Robbie Boudreau, Director  
Southeast Lake County Faith  
in Action Volunteers

GRANT RECIPIENT: Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers



## Urgent needs in our community

The aftermath of the Highland Park shooting and COVID, combined with an uncertain economy, have exacerbated the demand for mental health services for children and adults, while households grapple with ways to put food on their tables.

Working parents find themselves unable to afford essential before- and after-school care for their children. Residents have experienced devastating job losses and have not recovered financially. Seniors face isolation and trauma from world events, and individuals with disabilities lack access to programs to meet their needs. Domestic violence and sexual assault have increased, and the list goes on.

Our community is fortunate to have dedicated nonprofits addressing these needs, but they too face financial challenges. The Highland Park Community Foundation is a safety net, bridging funding gaps and providing essential resources to empower these organizations to directly support the residents of Highland Park and Highwood.



**22.6%**

of students in District 112 and

**17.4%**

of HPHS students live in households where the income is below the federal poverty threshold



**48%**

of the households in Highwood and

**37%**

of the households in Highland Park are housing cost burdened



**44%**

Nearly half of the adults 65+ living in our community report they live with a disability of some kind and need help

Statistics obtained from IL Report Cards 2022-2023, American Community Survey 2022, US Census Bureau

# Highland Park Shooting Recovery Fund

Our community remains profoundly affected by the Highland Park shooting. Many face ongoing challenges, particularly with regard to mental health. Through our Recovery Fund, we provided 15 grants, totaling \$367,000, addressing these persistent needs.

Our gratitude extends to the generous donors listed on the Honor Roll of Recovery Fund Donors found on our website. With their support, we anticipate continuing to provide assistance through both HPCF's Recovery Fund and HPCF Annual Grants, illustrating our steadfast commitment to our community and aiding those impacted by the shooting.

## GRANT RECIPIENTS

Art Impact Project  
 Community – The Anti-Drug  
 Family Focus Highland Park  
 Family Service of Glencoe  
 Gratitude Generation  
 Highwood Library &  
 Community Center  
 JCC Chicago  
 JCFS Chicago

Josselyn  
 Parks Foundation of Highland Park  
 Rainbows For All Children  
 Southeast Lake County Faith  
 in Action Volunteers  
 The Art Center Highland Park  
 The Balance Project  
 Youth Services

“As a result of our programming, 124/137 (91%) of clients are demonstrating an understanding of their own emotions and mental health and are better able to manage their symptoms. One brief story, of many we could share, about a young mom of two who survived the shooting... She ran for her life with her kids, and could not unsee what she saw. She attended the Library’s support group the day after the shooting and was keeping things together on the outside, but inside felt very insecure. Recognizing the need for more focused support, she started attending individual counseling sessions with one of our bilingual therapists to address depression and anxiety. Extended individual counseling has helped her develop self-confidence,

self-esteem, and has lessened the anxiety and depression. She is now working with the Library’s certified coach to set and accomplish life goals. With your support, this mom was able to heal and process what she experienced at the Highland Park shooting. The skills she gained have helped her to move from being a victim to thriving.”

Laura Ramirez, Director  
 Highwood Library & Community Center



GRANT RECIPIENT: Highwood Library & Community Center - Art Therapy Group



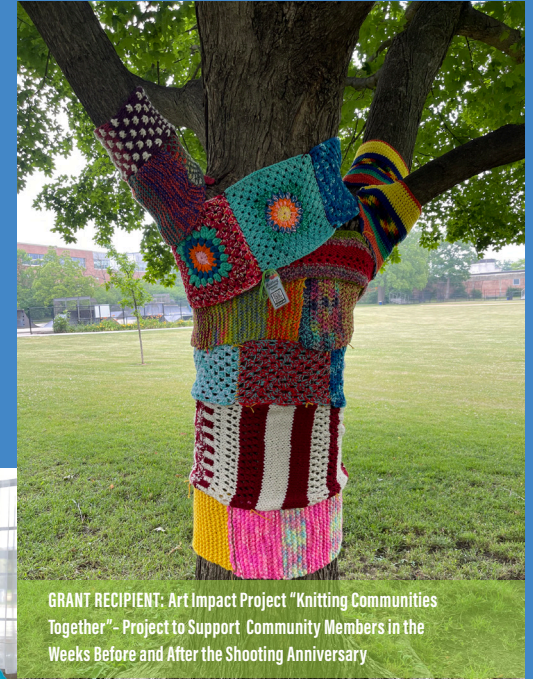
GRANT RECIPIENT: Josselyn - Counseling Services



GRANT RECIPIENT: Family Focus HP - Horticultural Therapy Program



GRANT RECIPIENT: Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers - Older Women's Support/Discussion Group



GRANT RECIPIENT: Art Impact Project “Knitting Communities Together”- Project to Support Community Members in the Weeks Before and After the Shooting Anniversary

## IMPACT

Through our **Annual, COVID-Emergency, and Recovery Fund Grants**, we have infused over **\$5.7 million** of critical funding into the Highland Park-Highwood community to improve people's lives and strengthen our entire community. Our **annual grantmaking to nonprofits has increased** from an initial distribution in 1999 of **15 grants**, totaling **\$15,000**, to a distribution in 2023 of **63 grants**, totaling **\$784,825**. These grants have provided life-changing opportunities for Highland Park and Highwood residents of all ages and abilities.

## ANNUAL GRANTS

Pre - 2003	47 totaling	\$120,830
2004 - 2008	89 totaling	\$336,650
2009 - 2013	133 totaling	\$625,550
2014 - 2018	175 totaling	\$868,419
2019 - 2023	286 totaling	\$3,182,500*

\* Includes \$1,250,000 of City of HP funds the Council has budgeted annually since 2018 for HPCF distribution to nonprofits that serve our community, a portion of which has been funded through an agreement between the City and Ravinia Festival.



GRANT RECIPIENT: Keeping Families Covered

## HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS

### Highland Park Community Foundation Golden Apple

We believe that excellence in teaching helps young people reach their full potential. Each year, therefore, the HPCF honors an outstanding educator in the Highland Park-Highwood public schools with the HPCF Golden Apple Award.



Mirela Vesa, Pre-K Self-Contained Special Education Individualized Learning Program Classroom Teacher

### Personal Achievement Award

We honor a student who demonstrates perseverance toward personal goals when faced with obstacles or other challenges, acknowledging the student's growth during high school as opposed to the attainment of a specific level of achievement or status.



2023 Award Recipient Carlos Sanchez, HPHS '22, with (L to R) HPCF Board Member Jean Meadows, HPHS Teacher Sam Toro, and HPCF Advisory Council Member Nancy Mills

### Jack Blane Community Service Award

Jack was a successful businessman, humanitarian, Rotarian, and City Councilman. A founder of the HPCF, he was also a trailblazer and true champion of our community. Each year, this award is presented in his honor to recognize an exceptional level of service to our community.



2023 Award Recipient Latham & Watkins and the legal team of (L to R) Mark Gerstein, Daniel Breslin (not pictured), Diana Doyle, Karen Klass, and Daniel Robinson, recognized for their invaluable counsel and contribution to the Together Highland Park Unidos Committee, which the HPCF formed to manage the distribution of funds donated in the aftermath of the Highland Park shooting.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

# Corporate & Foundation Champions

Our Corporate Champion Program was launched in March of 2020 to create longer-term partnerships with businesses that will ensure we have the resources we need to address urgent as well as on-going needs of Highland Park and Highwood residents. Building on the Program's success, we launched our Foundation Champion Program in August of 2023.

When businesses and foundations champion the HPCF, they help community members overcome adverse circumstances, open doors for underserved residents, and change lives. We welcome our newest Corporate Champion, **Daniel Management Group**; thank the **Alvin H. Baum Family Fund** for leading the way as our first Foundation Champion; and gratefully recognize our 12 Corporate Champions and 3 Foundation Champions for providing critical resources for the work we do each year. Please contact us to add your business or foundation to our growing list of Champions!

- PLATINUM LEVEL**
  - Alvin H. Baum Family Fund**, founding Foundation Champion
  - The Blane Foundation**
  - Mesirow**, founding Corporate Champion
  - Linda and Richard Price Family Fund**
- GOLD LEVEL**
  - Sunset Foods**
- SILVER LEVEL**
  - First Bank of Highland Park**
  - Kovitz**
- BRONZE LEVEL**
  - Autohaus on Edens**
  - Banner Kitchen and Bath**
  - Daniel Management Group**
  - Gregory Auto Group**
  - Highland Park Bank & Trust**
  - Mariani Landscape**
  - Porsche Exchange**
  - Shellé Jewelers**



"Daniel Management Group is proud to be investing in the Highland Park-Highwood community as an HPCF Corporate Champion. Giving back to the communities where we live and serve is central to DMG values. We are thrilled to partner with the HPCF and look forward to being a part of the impact that the HPCF provides to area nonprofits."

Roger Daniel, Founder & President, DMG

PLATINUM LEVEL



The Blane Foundation Linda and Richard Price Family Fund

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



"The Alvin H. Baum Fund strives to better people's lives. We are proud to be the first Foundation Champion, and to make a commitment that will improve the lives of Highland Park and Highwood residents. We hope to inspire others to support the HPCF generously in order to provide resources the community needs and to enrich the lives of all residents."

Joel Friedman, President, Alvin H. Baum Family Fund

# Thank you for your generosity and support! We are excited to continue working together to achieve our vision of an inclusive, well-rounded, and vibrant community where residents' lives are enriched through our collective efforts.

## \$100,000 - \$300,000

City of Highland Park  
Nancy and Andy Mills #

## \$25,000 - \$30,000

Anonymous Foundation  
Linda and Richard Price  
Family Fund \*  
Mesirow \*  
The Mills Family Charitable  
Foundation \*

## \$15,000 - \$24,999

Alvin H. Baum Family Fund \*  
The Blane Foundation \*  
Betsy and David Brint # \*  
Celebrate Highwood  
Sunset Foods \*  
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## \$10,000 - \$14,999

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Anonymous Foundation  
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Showroom \*  
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\* Includes a payment toward a multi-year pledge



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