

Highland Park Community Foundation

2025 Impact Report



In **1992**, a group of caring and concerned citizens came together, at the request of the City of Highland Park, to address a **pressing question**: *How can we respond to needs that exceed the capacity of existing resources?* Through thoughtful dialogue and collaboration, they founded the Highland Park Community Foundation (HPCF), an organization dedicated to **supporting local nonprofits** that **serve the residents of Highland Park and Highwood**.



Strengthening Highland Park
& Highwood since 1992

Today, **33 years later**, the need for our work is as urgent as ever. Like the children from Family Focus Highland Park featured on the cover of this Report, gazing toward the horizon over Lake Michigan, we too are focused on a future where every person in our community has the opportunity to succeed—despite the challenges they face. HPCF’s impact continues to grow, empowering local organizations and strengthening the fabric of our community. Our unwavering commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind remains at the heart of everything we do.

In 2024, HPCF proudly distributed **\$873,075 in Annual Grants** to support **65** programs and services that will positively impact the lives of hundreds of local children, families, and individuals during the course of this year. These grants go beyond addressing immediate needs—they embody a profound commitment to our community’s future, fostering opportunities for all to flourish, regardless of background or circumstances.

HPCF also awarded **11 Recovery Fund grants totaling \$127,500** to nonprofits assisting with the continued recovery of those impacted by the Highland Park shooting. This funding underscores our unwavering resolve to ensure that every member of our community feels supported on their journey forward.

Looking forward, we remain deeply committed to advancing our vision of an inclusive, vibrant community where every individual is empowered to thrive. With the ongoing support of our donors, partners, and community leaders, we will continue to strengthen the resources that help our neighbors rise above adversity and reach their full potential.



GRANT RECIPIENT: Glenkirk

“HPCF’s support is especially critical as Glenkirk, while government-funded, faces a significant gap between funding and the actual cost of providing quality services. This support ensures the success and impact of these programs, fostering a sense of belonging and enhancing the quality of life for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

Kim Berenberg, CEO, Glenkirk

annual grant recipients **2024**



GRANT RECIPIENT: Operation Warm

Creative & Cultural Arts

Arts4Impact
Bitter Jester Foundation
for the Arts
East on Central Association
Highland Park Strings
Midwest Young Artists Conservatory
Music Institute of Chicago
Pilgrim Chamber Players
The Art Center Highland Park
Uptown Music Theater of Highland Park

Education Early Childhood

Family Focus HP
Geroge W. Lutz Family Center
(JCYS Highland Park)
Highland Park Community Early
Learning Center
Tri-Con Child Care Center

Education 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

Education General

Heart of the City
Highland Park Historical Society
Highland Park Public Library
Highwood Public Library
& Community Center
The Record North Shore
Working Together

Senior Services

Southeast Lake County Faith in Action
Volunteers
Time to Dance

Services for Individuals with Disabilities

Arts of Life
Center for Enriched Living
Collaborative Community
Housing Initiative
Glenkirk
Keshet
Northern Suburban Special
Recreation Association



GRANT RECIPIENT: Heart of the City

Human Services Counseling

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

Human Services Food Insecurity

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

Human Services General

A Safe Place
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Community Partners for Affordable
Housing
Curt's Café
Direct Giving Lab
Erie Family Health Centers
Gratitude Generation
Housing Opportunity Development
Corporation
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



GRANT RECIPIENT: The Art Center Highland Park

Human Services

Substance Abuse and Prevention

Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition
GPF Foundation
Highland Park After Prom

“I cannot thank you all enough
for our partnership. I was
ruminating about how much
HPCF does for Highland Park
and Highwood, how you all
are pillars of the community,
and are a shining example of
what community foundation
philanthropy should look like!”

Kelly Walter, Manager,
Grants & Foundations, Big Brothers
Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago

Addressing Critical Needs in Our Community

The demand for mental health services—across all ages—has reached an unprecedented level. While the aftermath of the Highland Park shooting underscored this urgency, it is also driven by ongoing challenges both within our community and beyond. Many households struggle to put food on the table and working parents grapple with the rising costs of before-

and after-school care. Residents impacted by pandemic-related job losses face significant financial hardship, while seniors endure isolation and individuals with disabilities lack access to essential programs. At the same time, domestic violence and sexual assault continue to take a devastating toll on women, men, and children alike. The list of unmet needs is long.

Our community is fortunate to have many dedicated nonprofits working tirelessly to address these issues. Yet, these organizations face mounting financial strain, making it increasingly difficult to sustain their work. This is where HPCF steps in, bridging funding gaps and providing the resources needed to ensure Highland Park and Highwood residents have the opportunity to lead stable, fulfilling lives.



1 in 3

adolescents aged 12 to 17 received mental health treatment in 2023 (most recent year for which data is available)



Over one-third

of individuals aged 50 to 80 report feeling lonely, and nearly as many experience a sense of isolation



22%

of students in District 112 and **14%** of HPHS students live in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold



GRANT RECIPIENT: Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers

“Highland Park has the highest percentage of older adults of any suburb in Lake County. Nearly 40% of residents aged 75 and older live alone—many are widows and widowers, live on fixed incomes, and face challenges with independent living—all factors that increase the risk of social isolation and loneliness. Funding from the Highland Park Community Foundation is critical as it supports deliberate interventions such as our In-home Counseling, Friendship Line, and Good Day Home Delivery program. These programs break the cycle of isolation that often leads to anxiety, depression, and cognitive decline. Something as simple as our Birthday Fairy program is especially important because it ensures seniors receive their well-deserved recognition for traveling another year around the sun.”

Robbie Boudreau, Director
Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers

Following the closure of the Highland Park Shooting Response Fund, HPCF established the Recovery Fund to provide grants to nonprofits addressing the ongoing needs of victims and the broader community impacted by the shooting. In 2023, we distributed **\$367,000** through 15 grants to support these critical needs. In 2024, thanks to the continued generosity of donors to the Fund, we awarded an additional 11 grants totaling **\$127,500**.

By the end of 2024, however, donations to the Recovery Fund had significantly

declined, making it no longer feasible to sustain a separate Recovery Fund Grants Program. As a result, effective January 1, 2025, we have integrated recovery-related support into our Annual Grants Program. While the Recovery Fund has formally closed, our unwavering commitment to supporting victims and the entire community remains steadfast. Through our Annual Grants Program, we will continue to address the ongoing needs of those impacted, ensuring no one is left behind as our community moves forward together.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

- Art Impact Project
- Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition
- Family Focus Highland Park
- Family Service of Glencoe
- Highland Park Public Library
- Highwood Library & Community Center
- Josselyn
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- PreOla Impressions
- Southeast Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers
- The Art Center Highland Park



GRANT RECIPIENT: Josselyn, 2024 Recovery Fund Program Activity — School Based Art Therapy

“On behalf of Highwood Library & Community Center, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the Highland Park Community Foundation for our 2024 Recovery Fund grant. Marieli’s* journey is a powerful testament to the impact of your funding. After experiencing trauma from the Highland Park shooting and already struggling with domestic violence and an unhealthy work situation, Marieli felt trapped in a cycle of hopelessness. Through therapy at the Highwood Library, funded by your grant, she gained the tools to process her trauma and rebuild her life. With newfound confidence, she set boundaries, started a fulfilling new job, and became emotionally available for her children, rebuilding her relationship with them. She also increased her areas of interest and motivation for self-care. Marieli now describes her life as ‘joyful and resilient,’ grateful for the support that helped her move from despair to possibility.”

Laura Ramirez, Executive Director

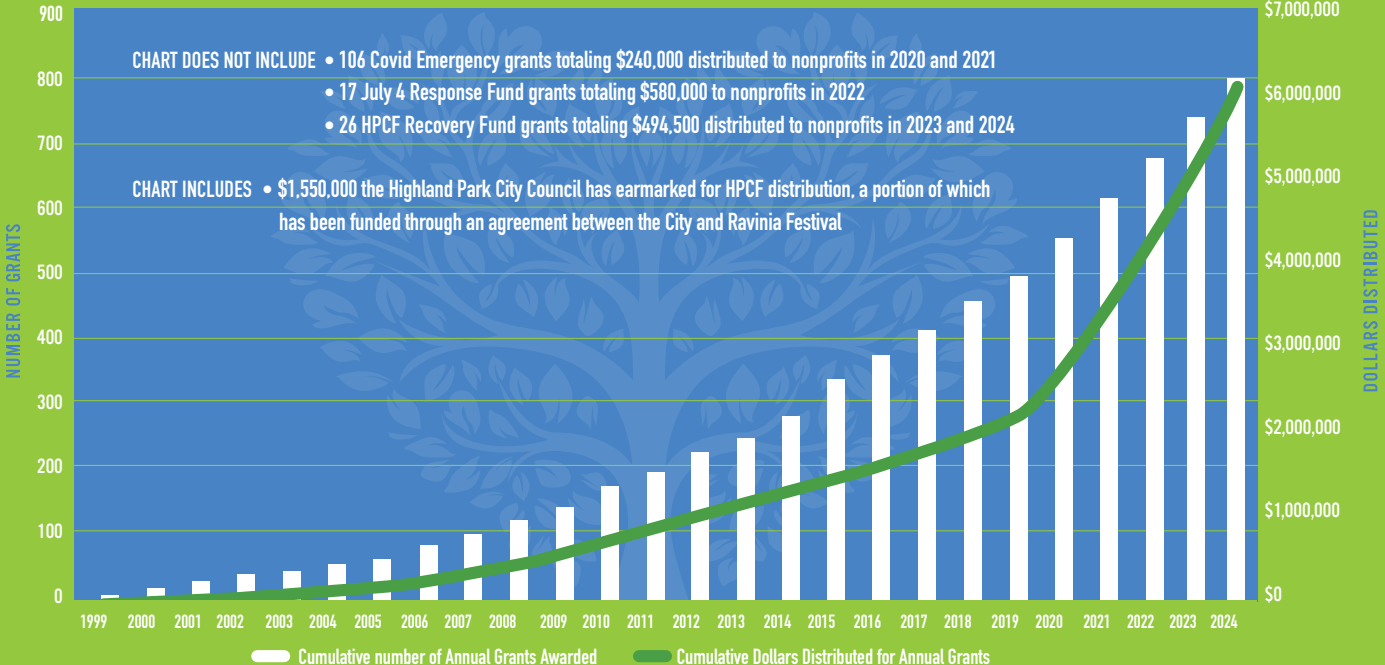
* name changed to protect her identity

HPCF Annual Grant Awards and Distributions

For **33 years**, HPCF has been dedicated to addressing the diverse needs of **children** and **adults** in **Highland Park** and **Highwood** through Annual Grants to nonprofit organizations. These grants support a wide range of services, including early childhood education, youth counseling, college readiness programs, senior services, support for individuals with disabilities, affordable housing, mental health care, legal aid, food access, and other

essential human services that many residents cannot afford. Our role extends beyond ongoing support—we are here when crisis strikes. Whether responding to the **2022 Highland Park Shooting** or providing critical assistance through our **COVID Emergency Relief and Recovery grants** we have stood by our community during its most challenging moments. These efforts underscore our commitment to helping those facing unexpected hardship.

CUMULATIVE ANNUAL GRANT AWARDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS 1999-2024



HPCF Golden Apple

At HPCF, we believe that excellence in teaching is key to helping young people unlock their full potential. Each year, we honor an outstanding educator in the Highland Park-Highwood public schools with the **HPCF Golden Apple Award** and the **Sara Sher Excellence in Teaching Prize**. In 2024, we were proud to recognize **Sarah Douglas** for her unwavering dedication as a teacher of physical education, adaptive physical education, team sports, and traffic safety for grades 9-12 at Highland Park High School.



L to R: Sara Sher, HPCF Golden Apple Committee Chair, Sarah Douglas

Jack Blane Community Service Award

Jack Blane was a visionary leader—an accomplished businessman, humanitarian, Rotarian, and City Councilman. As a founder of HPCF, Jack was a true trailblazer and champion for our community. The **Jack Blane Community Service Award** honors an individual whose exceptional service reflects Jack’s unwavering commitment to creating a positive, lasting impact on others. At our 2024 Gather for Good event, we were proud to present the award to **Pablo Alvarez**, a passionate advocate for improving the lives of both students and adults. A counselor at Highland Park High School, Chair of the Board of Directors at Josselyn, and Moraine Township Trustee, Pablo embodies the spirit of service and leadership that this award was designed to honor.



Pablo Alvarez

Personal Achievement Award

The **Personal Achievement Award** recognizes a student who has shown exceptional perseverance in the pursuit of personal goals, despite facing significant challenges. This award honors the student’s growth, resilience, and determination throughout their high school years, rather than focusing on a specific academic or extracurricular accomplishment. The 2024 recipient of this award was **Katerina Shutman**.



L to R: Laurie Levin, HPCF Board Chair, Betsy Brint, HPCF Immediate Past Chair and Board Member, Katerina Shutman, Jean Meadows, HPCF Board Member and Personal Achievement Award Committee Chair

Building Stronger Connections and Supporting Local Businesses for Greater Impact: New Initiatives in 2024



Interested in becoming a sponsor or supporting HPCF through these initiatives? Contact us today at info@hpcf.org to learn more about how your business can make a lasting impact on our community!

Connecting Commerce with Community

Developed in partnership with the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, Connecting Commerce with Community is designed to foster meaningful investments into our community while providing ongoing promotional support for participating businesses. This initiative helps local businesses thrive, while advancing our shared mission of strengthening the community.

We are grateful to the businesses that took a leadership role in 2024 as sponsors of the HPCF and members of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Arbor Terrace Highland Park | Highland Park Neighbors |
| First Bank of Highland Park | J. Blanton Plumbing |
| Flexx Personal Training | Judy's Pizza |
| Freedom Home Care and Medical Staffing | Menoni & Mocogni |
| Gearhead Outfitters | North Shore Compassionate Care |
| Gilbert Orthodontics | Pasquesi Plumbing |
| Gordon Salon | Perl's MedSpa & Wellness Center |
| Highland Park Bank & Trust | Summer Classics Home |
| Highland Park Ford Lincoln | Sunset Foods |

Aiming High for Highwood

Aiming High for Highwood is a new campaign focused on engaging Highwood businesses in our fundraising efforts and raising awareness of the Foundation’s work in both Highland Park and Highwood. The initiative expands our reach and ensures that Highwood businesses are active partners in our mission.

We proudly recognize the following businesses for their generous support through this initiative.

- 28 Mile Distilling
 ABLAZE Design Group
 Anonymous
 Del Rio Restaurant
 D's Coffee Shop
 Highwood American Legion
 IC Signs & Graphics
 JD Pizza (DBA Buffo's)
 Joy & Lenny Innocenzi
 Jerry's Liquors
 Law Offices of Diambri & Caravello
 Maria's Italian Bakery & Caffè
 Pastificio
 Sandy's Restaurant
 The VITI Companies
 Toffee Traditions

Corporate and Foundation Champions: Building Long-Term Partnerships for Lasting Impact

Corporate & Foundation Champions

Launched in March 2020, HPCF's **Corporate Champion Program** was created to build long-term partnerships with businesses, ensuring we have the resources to meet both immediate and ongoing needs within the Highland Park–Highwood community. Building on this success, we introduced our **Foundation Champion Program** in August 2023.

When businesses and foundations support HPCF, they help community members overcome challenges, unlock opportunities for underserved residents, and create lasting change. In 2024, we were proud to welcome three new Corporate Champions: **Beal Properties**, **Ravinia Plumbing**, and **Ballyhoo Hospitality**. We also welcomed three new Foundation Champions: **Klaff Family Foundation**, **Leva Family Foundation**, and **The Regeneration Fund**.

We are deeply grateful to our 17 **Corporate Champions** and 6 **Foundation Champions** for providing essential resources that make our work possible. Their support strengthens our ability to serve the community and create a positive, lasting impact.

Contact us at info@hpcf.org to learn how your business or foundation can join this growing network of Champions!

PLATINUM LEVEL	Alvin H. Baum Family Fund , founding Foundation Champion The Blane Foundation Leva Family Foundation Linda and Richard Price Family Fund Mesirow , founding Corporate Champion
GOLD LEVEL	Sunset Foods
SILVER LEVEL	Beal Properties First Bank of Highland Park Kovitz Klaff Family Foundation The Regeneration Fund
BRONZE LEVEL	Autohaus on Eden Ballyhoo Hospitality Banner Kitchen and Bath Daniel Management Group Gregory Auto Group Highland Park Bank & Trust Mariani Landscape Menoni & Mocogni, Inc. Porsche Exchange Ravinia Plumbing, Sewer, Heating & Electric Scott Byron & Co. Shellé Jewelers

“Since 2009, Ballyhoo Hospitality has been committed to providing outstanding service and engaging with the community. Our mission is to create feel-good dining experiences for our neighbors in Chicago and the North Shore. We are proud to serve as a Corporate Champion for the Highland Park Community Foundation, working to build connections and enhance the vibrant hospitality landscape in Highland Park.”

Ryan O'Donnell, Founder & CEO, and Jon Farrer, Partner & COO, Ballyhoo Hospitality



Ryan O'Donnell Jon Farrer

PLATINUM LEVEL	 Baum <small>ALVIN H. BAUM FAMILY FUND</small>  Mesirow The Blane Foundation Leva Family Foundation Linda and Richard Price Family Fund
GOLD LEVEL	 SUNSET FOODS
SILVER LEVEL	 BEAL PROPERTIES  First Bank of Highland Park <small>A Division of First Bank Chicago</small>  KOVITZ <small>A FOCUS PARTNERS FIRM</small> Klaff Family Foundation The Regeneration Fund
BRONZE LEVEL	 Autohaus <small>WE DRIVE YOUR DREAMS</small>  Ballyhoo <small>HOSPITALITY</small>  BANNER <small>KITCHEN & BATH SHOWROOM</small>  DMG <small>Management Matters</small>  HIGHLAND PARK BANK & TRUST* <small>A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK</small>  Gregory AutoGroup  MARIANI  Menoni & Mocogni, Inc. <small>Building & Landscaping Materials & Ready Mix Concrete</small>  PORSCHE EXCHANGE  RAVINIA  SCOTT BYRON & Co.  Shellé JEWELERS



“I decided to get involved because up to now, our charitable giving was done with little focus. Supporting this community-based charity is about uplifting the very heart of where we work and live. I believe real change begins at home, and by empowering those around us, we create a ripple effect of resilience and unity that will eventually benefit everyone.”

David Ariano, President, Ravinia Plumbing, Sewer, Heating & Electric

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for your generosity and steadfast support. Together, we are building a more inclusive and thriving community, where every resident's life is enriched by our shared commitment and collective action.

\$300,000

City of Highland Park

\$25,000 - \$100,000

Anonymous Foundation
Nancy and Andy Mills #
The Mills Family Charitable Foundation
Linda and Richard Price Family Fund *

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Alvin H. Baum Family Fund *
The Blane Foundation *
The Cretors Family Foundation
Monette and Craig Leva *
Mesirow *
Heather and Ben Sher *
Sunset Foods *

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Binny's Beverage Depot #
Celebrate Highwood
Hilary and Gidon Cohen *
Elevate Creative #
First Bank of Highland Park *
Klauff Family Foundation *
Cookie and Henry Kohn #
Kovitz *
Patricia and Ken Pell # *
Sacks Family Foundation *
Karyn and Bill Silverstein #

\$5,000 - \$9,999

1111 Foundation #
Anonymous
Anonymous Business *
Lisa and Jeff Aronin #
Autohaus on Edens *
Christine and John Bakalar
Banner Kitchen & Bath Showroom *
Bartlett Wealth Management #
Shoshanna Bernstein
The Bill Bass Foundation
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Gregory Auto Group *
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Katten #
Caryl G. Lasko
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Tamra and Edward Polen
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Rock the Ride - North Shore
Roslyn Schwartz #
Shellé Jewelers *

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Amy and Andy Small #
WeeBee and Bruce Sperling
Sallyan Windt #
Zall Family Fund #
Zivin Family Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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PwC #
Kim and David Reich #
Ellen and Ron Saslow
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Scott Byron & Co. #
Margo and Joel Spitz
Mike Stark/Highland Park Neighbors Magazine #
Linda and Donald Stewart #
Leslye and Brian Whittman #
Jeffry Wineman, Sr.
Nicki and Jim Woldenberg #
Jeffrey Zivin #

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Sofia and Pablo Alvarez
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Susie and Jim Axelrad *
Kate and Leone Barnett #
Kathleen and Stuart Barnett
Anne Flanigan Bassi and Vic Bassi
Alisa and Jami Bay #
Sue and Chuck Bergen

Gather for Good Sponsor
* Includes a payment toward a multi-year pledge

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North Shore Shell - Highland Park #
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Ozinga #
Pasquesi Plumbing #
Perlis MedSpa & Wellness Center #
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Tamarak Day Camp #
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The Andrés and Lori Tapia Possibilities Fund
Trillium Foundation

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Wellness Solutions #
Wipfli LLP #
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WLC Northshore
Nadine and Richard Woldenberg
Lisa and Richard Worssek
Jennifer and Eric Zoberman #

\$500 - \$999

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\$250 - \$499

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Brenda and Marty Becker

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Gail and Andy Brown
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\$100 - \$249
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Merle and Michael Arenson
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