

Aiming High for Highwood

Launched in September 2024, *Aiming High for Highwood* is an annual fundraising and awareness building campaign aimed at rallying Highwood businesses to support the community's most pressing needs. The initiative aims to foster a spirit of collaboration and generosity, with funds raised benefiting all Highwood and Highland Park residents, many of whom also work in the community. By supporting this campaign, local businesses play a crucial role in strengthening the community and addressing critical challenges faced by their neighbors.

Business owners understand the importance of a strong and dependable workforce – employees who have access to essential life needs, including adequate food for their families, secure housing, quality childcare, proper clothing, and more. These are the very needs that Highland Park Community Foundation (HPCF) works to address through its Annual Grants to nonprofits, including Northern IL Food Bank, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Tri-Con Child Care Center, Operation Warm, North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, Nuestro Center/Josselyn, Highwood Library & Community Center, and others. By supporting *Aiming High for Highwood*, businesses help ensure HPCF has the resources it needs to fund the vital services these agencies provide, which directly benefit their employees and the broader community.

In 2025, HPCF awarded 64 Annual Grants totaling \$1,012,240 to organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Highwood and Highland Park residents. As community needs continue to grow, we recognize the importance of doing even more in 2026 and beyond to ensure that the services these organizations provide for children and adults remain strong and accessible to all.

"As a small business owner of IC Signs & Graphics for the last 16 years, I know every dollar counts, and it's foundations like Highland Park Community Foundation that go above and beyond expectations for our community! We are proud to support our community and its people!" **Cory Hock, IC Signs and Graphics**

"A lot of the organizations the Foundation invests in to improve the community directly benefit a large number of Highwood residents, including Tri-Con Child Care Center, Nuestro Center-Josselyn, the Highwood Public Library, and many others. However, not everyone is aware of the HPCF's involvement, and it's crucial that more people understand the scope of its work."

Lenny Innocenzi, Longtime Owner of Buffo's and Community Leader

"At ABLAZE Design Group, we believe in the power of community and the importance of supporting our future leaders. We are proud to contribute to the *Aiming High for Highwood* campaign, helping to provide opportunities for local students to thrive. As a family-owned business rooted in the Highland Park community, we are committed to giving back and fostering growth and success for the next generation."

Ava Markoutsas, Owner

A special thank you to Lenny Innocenzi for his dedication and leadership, which were instrumental in securing the participation of many of the initial *Aiming for Highwood* supporters: 28 Mile Distilling, ABLAZE Design Group, Del Rio Restaurant, D's Coffee Shop, Highwood American Legion, IC Signs & Graphics, Buffo's, Law Offices of Diambri & Caravello, Maria's Italian Bakery & Caffe, Joy & Lenny Innocenzi, Jerry's Liquors, Pastificio, Sandy's Restaurant, and The VITI Companies.

All *Aiming High for Highwood* supporters are recognized on HPCF's social media pages, website, press releases and Impact Report. To join this growing list of businesses, please contact HPCF Executive Director, Terri Olian, at terri@hpcf.org or 847-433-4100.