

# 2026 IMPACT REPORT



Highland Park Community Foundation



**We believe in the power of local impact** — especially in times like these. As economic pressures grow and community needs become more complex, families across our community are facing increasing challenges. Every day, our donors' generosity transforms lives in Highland Park and Highwood, supporting programs that help children, families, and adults not only thrive, but find stability and support when they need it most.

In 2025, HPCF reached a significant milestone, awarding **64 annual grants totaling \$1,012,240** — our largest annual grant distribution ever. These grants empower our nonprofit partners and the residents they serve to reach meaningful milestones. Some are critical and life-changing: a new level of independence for an aging neighbor, a college campus visit that makes a dream feel possible, or the safety and stability of moving into an affordable new home. Others mark the beginning of a journey: a preschool diploma celebrating a child's first steps into learning, a Participant of the Year award recognizing hard work and perseverance, the mastery of a new cheer or cooking skill. Big or small, each story — and others, captured on our cover and throughout this Report — reflects the profound impact of neighbors supporting neighbors.

Our grants strengthen local organizations, expand access to essential services, and enrich the quality of life for youth, adults, seniors, and families across Highland Park and Highwood. This impact is possible only because of the generosity, trust, and shared commitment of our donors and nonprofit partners. Together, we are building a more compassionate, cohesive, and resilient community — one where every resident is valued and supported, and where hope and opportunity are within reach for all.



“Over 25 of our 8th grade student-athletes recently visited Lake Forest College — for many, it was their very first glimpse of college life. From exploring the campus to engaging in Q&A sessions tailored to their curiosities, the day was about more than a tour — it was about planting seeds of possibility. By connecting academics, athletics, and aspiration, we showed our soccer players that college is not just a dream — it's within reach.”

Rena Lee, Executive Director,  
Heart of the City

GRANT RECIPIENT Heart of the City

# 2025 annual grant recipients

## Creative & Cultural Arts

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



GRANT RECIPIENT: Gratitude Generation

## Education Early Childhood

Family Focus HP  
Highland Park Community Early Learning Center  
JCYS Highland Park – George W. Lutz Family 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



GRANT RECIPIENT: Working Together

## Senior Services

Partners in Aging  
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

## Human Services Counseling

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

## Human Services Food Insecurity

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

## Human Services

### Substance Abuse and Prevention

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



GRANT RECIPIENT: Community Partners for Affordable Housing

“Thank you so much for your continued support of the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic. Since day one, the Foundation’s support has made a meaningful and lasting difference for vulnerable individuals and families in our community. Your generosity ensures that those in need of free legal services related to housing, domestic violence, and immigration concerns have access to critical legal assistance, helping clients find safety, stability, and a path forward during some of their most difficult moments.”

Susan Shulman, Executive Director,  
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic

# Addressing Critical Needs in Our Community

Across Highland Park and Highwood, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities face growing challenges. Rising childcare costs, housing instability, and food insecurity force difficult choices every day. Seniors and individuals with disabilities often encounter gaps in support that affect daily life and long-term opportunities. Mental health needs remain high, and many cannot afford the services they need to cope, much less thrive. Domestic violence and sexual assault continue to have far-reaching impacts on women, men, and children.

These rising needs come at a time when nonprofits are stretched thinner than ever. Public funding has not kept pace with growing demand, yet local organizations continue to respond with creativity and

Statistics obtained from kff.org, census.gov

dedication, delivering vital services and programs that help residents navigate these challenges and strengthen the fabric of our community.

Highland Park Community Foundation plays a critical role in making this work possible. By directing funding to the areas of greatest need, HPCF ensures that residents — especially the most vulnerable — have access to services and programs that help them build stability and lead fulfilling lives.



**1 in 5**

adolescents report symptoms of anxiety or depression and a significant number say they are not receiving the therapy they need.



**22**

When federally funded special-education services end at age 22, many individuals with disabilities lose vital education, social, and employment supports.



**26%**

Older adults now represent approximately 26% of the Highland Park and Highwood population — a percentage that continues to grow each year.



GRANT RECIPIENT: Partners in Aging, Supportive Older Women's Network (SOWN)

“Highland Park continues to have the highest percentage of older adults of any suburb in Lake County. Many aged 75 and older live alone, are widowed, live on fixed incomes, and face challenges maintaining independence. Ongoing reductions in public and nonprofit human-service funding have weakened the broader safety net for seniors. As a result, Partners in Aging is experiencing a sharp increase in referrals from agencies no longer able to meet these needs. This is at the same time that demand for our own services is growing due to an aging population. HPCF’s funding provides critically needed support, enabling us to respond to as many needs as possible and help older adults live safely, independently, and with dignity.”

Robbie Boudreau, Director, Partners in Aging

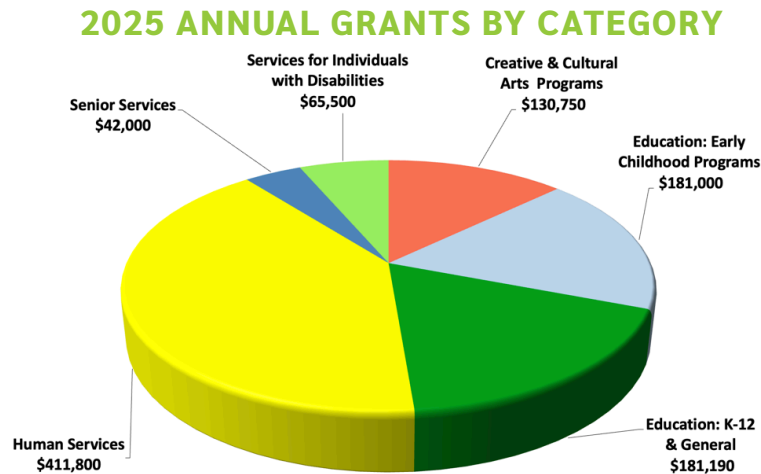
# HPCF Annual Grant Awards & Distributions

For 34 years, Highland Park Community Foundation has supported the programs and organizations that make our community stronger. Through our Annual Grants, we help ensure that children, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities have access to the services and opportunities they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

Our grants touch every part of community life. They support early childhood and K-12 education, helping young people build the skills and confidence to succeed. They fund creative and cultural arts programs, fostering shared experiences, deeper understanding, and opportunities for self-expression that bring people together.

They provide critical services for seniors, promoting independence, connection, and well-being. They support individuals with disabilities, ensuring access to education, social engagement, and meaningful opportunities. And they strengthen essential human services, from mental health care to food access, that help families meet their most basic needs.

The chart below shows how our 2025 Annual Grants are distributed across these five key areas, reflecting the breadth and impact of HPCF's work in Highland Park and Highwood.



# Highland Park Community Foundation Special Awards



JENNIFER SOBEL

## HPCF Golden Apple

At Highland Park Community Foundation, we know that outstanding teaching is key to helping students achieve their full potential. Each year, we celebrate exceptional educators in our public schools with the HPCF Golden Apple Award and the Sara Sher Excellence in Teaching Prize. In 2025, we were proud to honor **Jennifer Sobel**, a seventh-grade Dual Language Spanish/Spanish Language Arts teacher at Northwood Middle School, for her dedication, creativity, and impact in the classroom.



VANESSA FLORES

## Personal Achievement Award

The Personal Achievement Award honors a student who has demonstrated exceptional perseverance in pursuing personal goals, despite facing significant challenges. This award recognizes growth, resilience, and determination throughout the high school years, rather than a single academic or extracurricular achievement. In 2025, the award was presented to **Vanessa Flores**, a first-generation, college-bound student at Highland Park High School, in recognition of her remarkable personal accomplishments and dedication to her studies.



LENNY INNOCENZI

## Jack Blane Community Service Award

Jack Blane was a remarkable leader—an accomplished businessman, humanitarian, Rotarian, and City Councilman. As one of our founders, he set a standard for vision, dedication, and community service. The Jack Blane Community Service Award recognizes an individual whose extraordinary efforts reflect Jack's enduring commitment to creating positive, lasting change in the lives of others. This year's award was presented to **Lenny Innocenzi**, longtime and former owner of Buffo's, for his decades-long commitment and service to our community.

## Corporate & Foundation Champions











Since 2020, HPCF's Corporate Champion Program has cultivated strong partnerships with businesses, providing essential resources to address both immediate and long-term community needs. Alongside Corporate Champions, Foundation Champions play a vital role in sustaining HPCF's work and supporting programs that make a meaningful impact. Together, the Champion Program has grown to **20 Corporate Champions and 7 Foundation Champions**, another milestone we are proud to celebrate.

In 2025, we welcomed five new Corporate Champions: **DINX Social Club, Freedom Home Care – A PurposeCare Company, Menoni & Mocogni, Scott Byron & Co., and Setna iO**. We are also proud to recognize **Mesirow**, which renewed its five-year pledge at the program's highest Platinum level, and **Beal Properties** and the **Leva Family Foundation**, for increasing their pledges in 2025 to the Platinum Level, demonstrating exceptional commitment to our community.

We are deeply grateful to all our Corporate and Foundation Champions. Their partnerships help HPCF expand opportunities, respond to urgent needs, and create lasting impact.

**We welcome new Champions year-round! For information, please email our Executive Director at [terri@hpcf.org](mailto:terri@hpcf.org).**

- Platinum Level** Alvin H. Baum Family Fund, *founding Foundation Champion*  
Beal Properties  
The Blane Foundation  
Leva Family Foundation  
Mesirow, *founding Corporate Champion*  
Linda and Richard Price Family Fund  
Setna iO  
Sunset Foods
- Gold Level** First Bank of Highland Park
- Silver Level** Curi Capital  
DINX Social Club  
Focus Partners Wealth  
Hecktman Family Foundation  
Klaff Family Foundation  
The Regeneration Fund
- Bronze Level** Autohaus on Edens  
Ballyhoo Hospitality  
Daniel Management Group  
Freedom Home Care – A PurposeCare Company  
Gregory Auto Group  
Highland Park Bank & Trust  
Mariani Landscape  
Menoni & Mocogni, Inc.  
Porsche Exchange  
Ravinia Plumbing, Sewer, Heating & Electric  
Scott Byron & Co.  
Shellé Jewelers

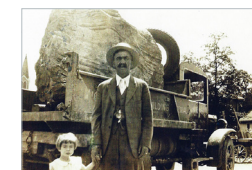
PLATINUM LEVEL	 <b>Baum</b> <small>ALVIN H. BAUM FAMILY FUND</small>	 <b>BEAL PROPERTIES</b>
	 <b>Mesirow</b>	 <b>SETNA iO</b>
	 <b>SUNSET FOODS</b>	<b>The Blane Foundation</b> <b>Leva Family Foundation</b> <b>Linda and Richard Price Family Fund</b>
GOLD LEVEL	 <b>First Bank of Highland Park</b> <small>A Division of First Bank Chicago</small>	
SILVER LEVEL	 <b>Curi CAPITAL</b>	 <b>DINX SOCIAL CLUB</b>
	 <b>FOCUS PARTNERS WEALTH</b>	
	<b>Hecktman Family Foundation</b>	<b>Klaff Family Foundation</b>
	<b>The Regeneration Fund</b>	
BRONZE LEVEL	 <b>Autohaus</b> <small>WE DRIVE YOUR DREAMS</small>	 <b>Ballyhoo HOSPITALITY</b>
	 <b>Freedom HomeCare</b> <small>A PurposeCare Company</small>	 <b>Gregory AutoGroup</b>
	 <b>DMG Management Matters</b>	
	 <b>HIGHLAND PARK BANK &amp; TRUST</b> <small>AWINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK</small>	
	 <b>MARIANI</b>	 <b>Menoni &amp; Mocogni, Inc.</b> <small>Building &amp; Landscaping Materials &amp; Ready Mix Concrete</small>
	 <b>PORSCHE EXCHANGE</b>	 <b>Ravinia</b> <small>PLUMBING • SEWER HEATING • ELECTRIC</small>
	 <b>SCOTT BYRON &amp; Co.</b>	 <b>Shelle JEWELERS</b>



*“Becoming a Corporate Champion was an easy choice. We live here, are raising our family here, and built our business here because we believe in this community. HPCF’s work positively impacts local lives, and we are proud to help make that difference.”*  
**David Sloane, on the right with his wife, Brooke Sloane, and Christine and John Bakalar, Co-Founders, DINX Social Club**



*“Our home office is in Highland Park, and many employees live locally. With families here, we are committed to supporting the community. Giving back is central to our service-focused philosophy. It’s all about caring for the place we live and work in.”*  
**Jenanne Rock, Director of Operations, Freedom Home Care - A PurposeCare Company**



*“As Highland Park’s oldest family-owned business, we have a long tradition of supporting local organizations. We are proud to be a Corporate Champion, helping fund initiatives that enhance community well-being and make a real difference for those who need it most.”*  
**Dan (Flint) Miotti, President, Menoni & Mocogni**



*“Highland Park has been home to Scott Byron & Co. since the start. Supporting HPCF lets us give back to the community that has given us so much. We believe in looking out for neighbors and working together to create meaningful, lasting impact.”*  
**The Team at Scott Byron & Co. – Ken Williams, Andy Otting, Gordon Held, and Scott Byron**



*“I’m a Highland Park native, now raising my family here, and this community has always meant a lot to me. At Setna iO, we believe in building strong communities, and supporting HPCF is a meaningful way to give back to the place that shaped me.”*  
**David Chaimovitz, Founder and CEO, Setna iO**

“One of my goals in starting my own business was to be able to support those in need around me beyond the walls of the clinic. I am grateful for the HPCF’s existence and breadth of distribution.”

David Derdiger,  
Clinic Owner & Operator,  
Open Flow Acupuncture

## Connecting Commerce with Community

Created in partnership with the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce, Connecting Commerce with Community encourages local businesses to invest in our community while receiving ongoing promotional support. This collaboration strengthens both our local economy and the well-being of Highland Park and Highwood residents.

We proudly recognize the Chamber-member businesses that stepped forward in 2025 as HPCF sponsors, helping to strengthen our community in meaningful ways.



ABLAZE Design Group  
Arbor Terrace Highland Park  
DINX Social Club  
DiVinci Painters  
First Bank of Highland Park  
Flexx Personal Training  
Freedom Home Care –  
A PurposeCare Company  
Gearhead Outfitters  
Gilbert Orthodontics  
Gregory Auto Group  
Hearing Health Center  
Highland Park Bank & Trust  
Highland Park Ford Lincoln  
Highland Park Neighbors

IC Signs & Graphics  
J. Blanton Plumbing  
Judy’s Pizza  
Keyth Security  
Menoni & Mocogni  
North Shore Compassionate Care  
Open Flow Acupuncture  
Pasquesi Plumbing  
Perlis MedSpa & Wellness Center  
Ravinia Plumbing, Sewer, Heating  
& Electric  
Studio41 Home Design Showroom  
Summer Classics Home  
Sunset Foods  
Therapeutic Kneads

## Aiming High for Highwood

Aiming High for Highwood engages Highwood businesses in our fundraising efforts and increases awareness of the Foundation’s work in both Highland Park and Highwood. This campaign broadens our reach and strengthens partnerships with the businesses that help bring our mission to life.

We proudly recognize the following Highwood businesses for their support in 2025:

28 Mile Distilling  
ABLAZE Design Group  
Ami. Jerusalem Street Food  
Bent Fork Bakery  
Buffo’s  
Clucker’s Charcoal Chicken  
D’s Coffee Shop  
Del Rio Restaurant

Giggles Play  
Holloway Studios  
La Plancha Loca  
Law Offices of Diambri & Caravello  
Maria’s Bakery & Caffe  
Miramar Bistro  
Oak Terrace Highwood LLC  
Pastificio

Poeta’s Italian Food Market  
Raden Wellness  
Sandy’s Restaurant  
Tala Coffee Roasters  
The Silk Thumb  
The VITI Companies  
Toffee Traditions



Interested in becoming a sponsor or supporting HPCF through these initiatives? Contact our Executive Director at [terri@hpcfil.org](mailto:terri@hpcfil.org) to learn more about how your business can make a lasting impact on our community!

“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 community, we are committed to giving back and fostering growth and success for the next generation.”

Ava Markoutsas, Owner

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.

# 2025 annual campaign donors

## \$300,000

City of Highland Park

## \$25,000 - \$100,000

Anonymous Foundation  
The Cretors Family Foundation #  
Hecktman Family Foundation  
Nancy and Andy Mills #  
Linda and Richard Price Family Fund \*

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

Alvin H. Baum Family Fund #  
Anonymous  
Beal Properties #  
The Blane Foundation #  
Cookie and Henry Kohn  
Monette and Craig Leva #  
Mesirov #  
Setna iO #  
Karyn and Bill Silverstein #  
Sunset Foods #

## \$10,000 - \$14,999

Binny's Beverage Depot #  
Hilary and Gidon Cohen #  
DINX Social Club –  
Christine & John Bakalar,  
Brooke & David Sloane #  
Elevate Creative #  
First Bank of Highland Park #  
Klaff Family Foundation #

Kovitz #

Sacks Family Foundation #  
Heather and Ben Sher #

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

1111 Foundation #  
ACG Productions #  
Autohaus on Edens #  
Ballyhoo Hospitality  
Banner Kitchen & Bath Showroom #  
Bartlett Wealth Management #  
Shoshanna Bernstein  
The Bill Bass Foundation  
Robbie and Jim Boudreau #  
Beth and Bruce Wiley Boyd #  
Betsy and David Brint #  
Cheryl and Carey Cooper #  
Daniel Management Group #  
Elrod Friedman, LLP #  
Freedom Home Care -  
A PurposeCare Company #  
Bryna and Edward Gamson  
Gregory Auto Group #  
Highland Park Bank & Trust #  
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Keyth Security Systems, Inc. #  
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Mariani Landscape #  
Menoni and Mocogni, Inc. #

Patricia and Ken Pell #

Tamra and Edward Polen  
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Heating & Electric #  
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**\$2,500 - \$4,999**  
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Elaine and Brian Weinberg #

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Lisa and Richard Worsak #  
Jeffrey Zivin #  
  
**\$1,000 - \$2,499**  
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Allstate Foundation  
Sofia and Pablo Alvarez  
Anonymous  
Anonymous Foundation  
Arbor Terrace Highland Park #  
Allison Silver & Janet Borden,  
Arrow Home Advisors, Compass #  
Kate and Leone Barnett #  
Kathleen and Stuart Barnett  
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LLP #  
Jan and Jack Frigo #  
Fulton Developers #  
Gearhead Outfitters #  
Wendy Shorr and Stuart  
Gelfman #  
Kari Guhl and Larry Gerber #

Julie and Mark Gerstein

Gilbert Orthodontics #  
Janice and Joel Goldblatt #  
Carol and Peter Goldman #  
James Gottlieb  
Nancy and Sam Guren  
Guy Scopelliti Landscape Inc. #  
Hamra Enterprises #  
Dana and Randall Harland #  
Hearing Health Center #  
Highland Park Ford Lincoln #  
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Cathy and Richard Hirschmann #  
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IC Signs & Graphics #  
Joy and Lenny Innocenzi  
J. Blanton Plumbing #  
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Jasculca Terman Strategic  
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Ashley and Jared Olian  
Terri and Rob Olian  
Open Flow Acupuncture #  
Ozinga #  
Pakula Axelrad Foundation #  
Pasquesi Plumbing #  
Perlis MedSpa & Wellness  
Center #

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John Ropiequet #  
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The Something Real  
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Beth and Mark Sonneborn  
Mike Stark/Highland Park  
Neighbors Magazine #  
Lauren Stone  
Donna and Tom Stone  
Studio41 Home Design  
Showroom #

Merle and Jim Styer

Summer Classics Home #  
Janet and Walter Swartz  
Tamarak Day Camp #  
Andrés Tapia #  
Ted Pickus/The Wexler Gault  
Group #  
Therapeutic Kneads #  
Trillium Foundation  
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Nadine and Richard Woldenberg  
Cere and Tom Woods  
Jennifer and Eric Zoberman #  
  
**\$500 - \$999**  
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Vic Bassi  
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Berkman Family  
Joanne and Robert Bernstein  
Emma Kowalenko &  
Anthony Bilotti  
Bobbi and Ken Brown  
Henry Budnik

# Gather for Good Sponsor

\* Includes a payment toward a multi-year pledge

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Kathy and Ron Emanuel \*  
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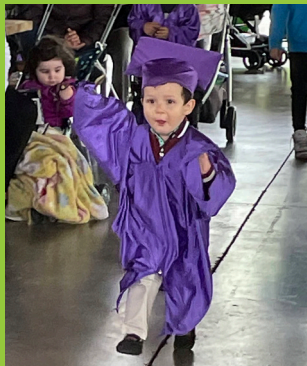
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