

2022-2023

YEAR IN REVIEW





Blue Valley Food Pantry Provides Student Job Opportunities and Serves Community

The Blue Valley Educational Foundation secured \$342,000 in funding to open the BV Food Pantry in April 2023 with the goal of providing special education students real-world career experience and community members struggling with food insecurity a place to provide food for their families.

It serves as a mini grocery store with fresh produce, canned goods, fresh and frozen dairy, eggs, and meat among other necessities. Community members in need, who live within the district boundaries, shop through the aisles, place their stock into a grocery cart and are greeted and checked out by Blue Valley students in the 18-21 Program. The Pantry is a new addition to the district's offerings and is stocked in partnership with Harvesters Food Network and Cosentino's Market. The BV Ed Foundation was thrilled to be a part of this project to secure the funding for such a worthwhile endeavor.

"BVEF is eager for our students with special needs to learn and practice a range of vocational skills in a safe environment while giving back to our community and increasing food security," says Susan Tideman, BVEF executive director.

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Susan Tideman
BVEF Executive Director

While the idea for the pantry started as a way to expand the district's job opportunities for students, it turned into more by becoming a service point in the community for those who need food. A grand opening and ribbon cutting included Kansas Governor Laura Kelly, district administration and special donors who were recognized for their generosity.

Tideman says, "We are indebted to the generosity of the Sunderland Foundation, G3, Mike and Brandy Rea family, and the Regnier Family Foundation. Because of them, we are making a difference in the community and in the lives of our special education students."

The pantry is located inside Hilltop Learning Center at 7700 W. 143rd Street and members of the community can make appointments to shop during open hours by visiting www.bluevalleyk12.org/BVPantry.

BVEF has invested
\$8.3 MILLION
in our schools
since 1992.

BVEF FUNDING FACT...



Wilderness Science Center Bridges a Path for Students and Public to Connect Mindfully with Nature

The Blue Valley Educational Foundation isn't afraid to roll up its sleeves and get to work... even if that means getting a little wet or dirty in the great outdoors.

The Wilderness Science Center, located at 5001 W. 163rd Terrace, has been an essential piece of teaching BV students about natural plants and animal life for more than 20 years, but over time, several of the footbridges had fallen into disrepair, making it impossible to safely access all areas of the surroundings.

BVEF was quick to step up to help create a Wellness Walk with interactive artwork to encourage better mental health in 2020-21, with generous funding from Keep the Spark Alive Foundation, and they saw the need to secure funding to get the footbridges repaired in 2022-23, as well as update and refresh the original Wilderness Science Center donor wall.

Foundation Business Manager Cindy McAlister says, "BVEF is

proud to have supported the Wilderness Science Center since its inception in 1999 and there have been so many wonderful improvements and additions over the years — none of them possible without the generous support of our donors, business community, Blue Valley staff, and volunteers."

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Cindy McAlister
BVEF Business Manager

The newly remodeled and enhanced footbridges were generously funded through BVEF by the Sunderland Foundation. WSC Director Gavin Spake explains, “These enhancements have allowed approximately 7,000 elementary students a year to visit for an outdoor learning experience with their class. This does not include many high school students that utilize the property with their field biology teachers to conduct their own research and studies.”


BVEF supports the philosophy that these experiences and opportunities enrich students from a curricular standpoint, and also help to teach a respect for conservation and preservation.




Performing Arts Takes A Bow

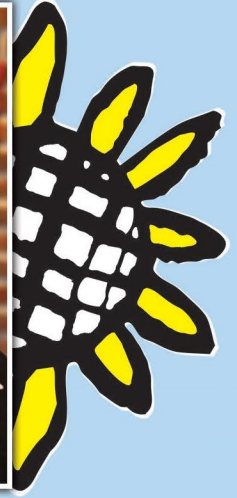
The Blue Valley School District is known for its innovative programs in mental health and wellness, exemplary academic standings, strong sports records and robust extra-curricular activities offerings. One of the pieces that make a well-rounded student is the opportunity to participate in performing arts.

BVEF is proud to support several initiatives in this area:

 \$27,000 was awarded to all nine middle schools to enhance/refresh performing arts technology

 \$74,000 raised at Battle of the Bands to fund Performing Arts Day which gives all district third and fourth graders a chance to experience what performing arts opportunities await them in middle and high school

 \$15,000 raised at Women's Giving Circle for an art gallery to exhibit student pieces at BV North High School



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Foundation recognizes someone who goes above and beyond expectations as the Volunteer of the Year. This special award was established in 2006 in honor of a former board member, Julie Miller, who dedicated many hours volunteering for BVEF. This year's recipient was an obvious choice – Sidney Nigro!

Sidney was an original founding member of the BVIP Ambassador Class of 2020 and served a two-year term as co-chair of this committee, which supports Battle of the Bands, one the Foundation's signature events. She topped the BVIP Ambassador leader board by providing the most funding through auction items and corporate donations, and she draws dozens of friends and family to this annual event.

Sidney is a home-grown hero and graduated from Blue Valley schools. We are very grateful for her support and enthusiasm... she is an extension of the Foundation!

*Congratulations to Sidney Nigro,
our 2023 BVEF Volunteer of the Year!*



\$49,000
raised through
the BVEF Staff
Giving Campaign
last year
—BVEF FUNDING FACT—



\$683K in One Day!

BVEF Gives Away Most Money in Foundation History

On November 10, 2022, BVEF was thrilled to support schools with the most money in Foundation history to be given away for teacher grants and district-wide initiatives. On hand to commemorate this special day was Blue Valley Schools Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Katie Collier, Fox4 News anchor John Holt, Voice of the Kansas City Royals Joel Goldberg, and Nick and Jake's Restaurant owner Kevin Timmons.

The morning kicked off with a Pep Rally which included district office colleagues, a student pep band, high school cheerleaders, and lots of excitement, while educators around the district waited anxiously to see if their dreams would come true with a grant from BVEF.

"We were thrilled to be able to give away more than \$683,000 in grant money to teachers and district-wide programs, which is the largest amount in BVEF history," according to BVEF Executive Director Susan Tideman. "New this year, BVEF funded \$342,000 for the Blue Valley Food Pantry which opened in spring 2023, as well as \$28,000 in special funding from our Women's Giving Circle philanthropy, plus additional grants of \$37,000 to supplement suicide prevention and mental wellness

programs, and \$70,500 to fund our Career Ready education programs."

BVEF empowers teachers to go beyond traditional classroom limits which enables students to innovate, lead, and learn for a successful future. For more than 33 years, the Foundation has supported Blue Valley schools with over \$8.3 million in grants, scholarships, and special programs.

To the right are examples of the variety of grants which were funded this year. **For a full list of grants, visit our website at FundBV.org.**



Let's Have Fun Learning Spanish

Number of students impacted: 416

School: Sunset Ridge Elementary

Author: Laura Cordoba Dominguez

\$2,636

"Most of the Spanish books I have in my class are not tied to the current curriculum or include only one paragraph in Spanish per page, which is too difficult for students to comprehend. The books I have requested include a one-phrase or a three-word sentence, so students will be able to comprehend and recognize the reading book when someone reads to them or when they read to themselves. They will also learn more about the culture from authentic books, and I would like to integrate student center activities allowing students to use the language learned and create, build, and use tools allowing them to have real-world experiences."

Bio-Blogging Into the Future

Number of students impacted: 150

School: BV Northwest High School

Author: Jeremy Mohn

\$360

"Funding this grant would allow me to upgrade the usability and appearance of my WordPress blogs for AP Biology and Introduction to Healthcare Sciences at BVNW. Over the last 13 years, over 650 students have written over 1,300 public blog posts about biological topics of interest to them. In that time, the blog has gained hundreds of followers and positively impacted the spread of biological knowledge among speakers of English worldwide. The purchase of two years of Premium hosting for these blogs would allow me to significantly upgrade the appearance and usability of the websites, which would improve the user experience on both laptop and mobile devices."

Graphic Arts Product Design

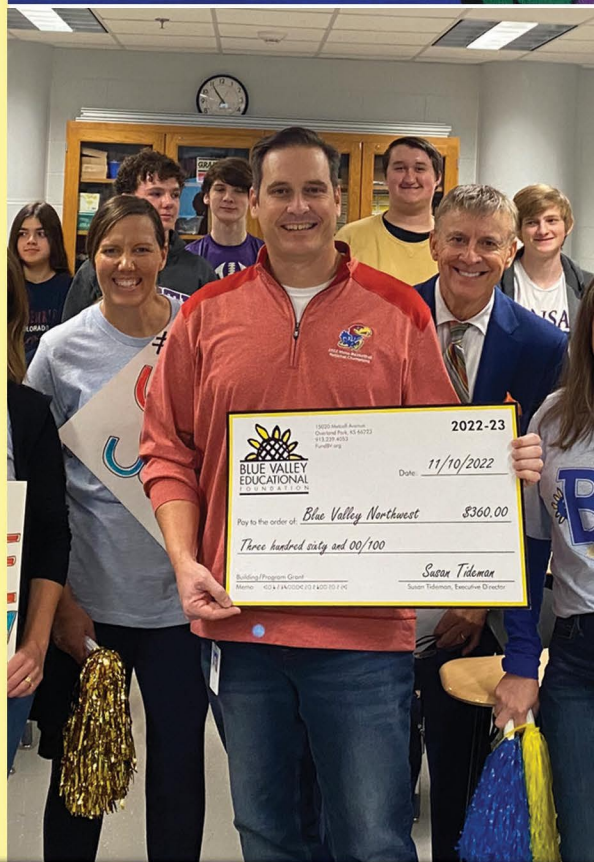
Number of students impacted: 1,500

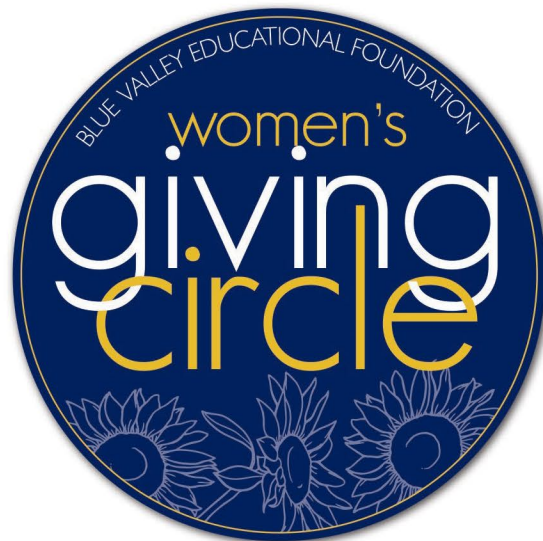
School: All Nine BV Middle Schools

Author: Tara Barnes

\$8,764

"The Blue Valley middle school art teachers have been striving to bring real-world learning experiences and career exploration into the art rooms as much as possible. Recently, middle school art classrooms received iPads with access to several drawing programs including the Cricut app. The drawing apps and the Cricut app marry well together as they can give the artist the capability to step into the realm of final product rather than just design only or prototype. This opportunity for real-world learning can show students how artists and designers go from concept to finished product and how additional marketing elements like branding these products can generate sales in the marketplace."





More Than a Party with a Purpose

BVEF's Women's Giving Circle launched in October of 2021 and since that time has awarded more than \$76,000 in grants!

This participatory philanthropy offers Blue Valley area women of all ages a chance to come together and decide collectively how their donated funds will be spent. It's an evening of networking in a happy hour environment where three grant proposals from educators or a team of educators are presented, and a \$15,000 grant is awarded to one of them before the evening is over.

In its first two years, WGC donors have funded an aquaponic greenhouse, animation software for all middle schools, a relaxation garden, a girls' garage, an automotive studio, and a high school art gallery!



If you would like to attend the next Women's Giving Circle events, mark your calendars for the following evenings.

FALL 2023 WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Thursday, October 19, 2023

University of Kansas-Edwards Campus
BEST Conference Center & Lobby

SPRING 2024 WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Johnson County Community College
Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art Atrium

New Blue Valley Auto Tech Studio Space Wins \$15K Grant

Source: Blue Valley Post, author Lucie Krisman

A new Blue Valley program giving students hands-on work experience in different trades has received a financial boost. On April 20, 2023, members of Blue Valley Educational Foundation's Women's Giving Circle voted to award Blue Valley Academy, the district's high school for at-risk students, \$15,000 in grant funding to help build an interactive space called Studio 151. The studio will serve as a space for students who want to pick up skills in auto mechanics, construction, and other trade fields.

The grant will pay for new equipment

- The project was proposed by Blue Valley Academy Principal Scott Kreshel, counselor Jennifer Freestone and teachers Kalee Brown, Anthony Burdick and Mark Berger.
- The grant will fund special equipment for the new 5,000-square-foot studio — including a car lift, construction equipment and some maker spaces.
- Courses in the new Studio 151 space will start up this fall for 10th through 12th graders.
- "We are projected to have over half of our total enrollment participating in this program at our school just next year in three months," Brown said. "We want to get kids in that space, and we want them to have authentic experiences."

The proposal won the foundation's "Women's Giving Circle"

- The foundation's Women's Giving Circle event awards \$15,000 grant to different school programs two times a year.
- Members of the Blue Valley Educational Foundation hear from school faculty wanting to implement something new in a specific school, building level or district wide.
- The money comes from donations pooled by attendees of the Women's Giving Circle.
- "I strongly believe that we as parents, professionals and members of the community, need to get involved to further improve our schools and maximize opportunities for our students, our faculty and staff," said BVEF membership co-chair Fariha Shafi.

The foundation will also fund a new art gallery

- While the Studio 151 proposal garnered the most votes at the WGC event, an anonymous donor also put forward another \$15,000 for a new art gallery at Blue Valley North High School.
- The gallery will display student artwork and will host themed art shows.
- BV North teacher Tom Holland, who proposed the idea alongside Diana Manglos, said the new gallery would provide visibility to student art that's often overlooked.
- "Athletes have stadiums and they have gyms, musicians and thespians have stages and auditoriums, but right now our art students just have a hallway," Holland said. "We're trying to change that. We want to elevate the arts, to give them a space to be recognized."



PHOTO CREDIT: BLUE VALLEY POST



PHOTO CREDIT: BLUE VALLEY POST



BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Rock, Roll, & Raise Funds!

Battle of the Bands 2023 was a huge success, raising \$74,000 to support BV's Performing Arts programs and grants. This annual adult night out features bands made up of BV parents, teachers, and staff who perform live sets and compete for bragging rights as champion! The winning band received a \$1,000 grant they awarded to the school of their choice, and this year's winners were

Wednesdays at Herman's.

Besides featuring live music, a wine and whiskey pull, food, and a robust silent auction, the night is such a success because of the BVIP Ambassador group who competes to sell tickets, garner auction items, and secure corporate sponsorships.

Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors:

AdventHealth	JE Dunn Construction
Arvest Bank	Christy & Mike LaHood
Bank of Blue Valley	McCownGordon
Baron BMW	Meyer Music
CBIZ	Midwest Trust/FCI Advisors
Cornerstone Bank	Elin & Tim Murphy
DLR Group	NDB Payment Solutions
Equity Bank	Brooks & Carol Sherman
Farmers Insurance-Wertzberger Agency	Sunflower Bank
First Option Bank	Total Lending Concepts
FNBO	UMB
Fry-Wagner	Vandelay Industries
Quentin & Samantha Hammontree	Whataburger

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Battle of the Bands 2024

February 24 from 6:30 - 11 p.m. at RC's in Martin City!





The weather may not have cooperated, but that didn't stop Night of Lights from taking place! Each spring, our community comes together to enjoy an evening of student musical performances, food trucks, yard games, robotics demonstrations, a high school art show, multi-cultural activities, inflatables, facepainting and more! Although the rain came, it didn't dampen spirits and all activities moved inside in 2023, except for the fireworks. Kids enjoyed fidget spinners and BVEF raised more than \$32,000 for teacher grants and district-wide initiatives!

Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors:

AdventHealth
Bank of Blue Valley
Baron BMW
Bordner Home Improvement
BV Well
Candid KC
Carney Queens
Farmers Insurance-
Wertzberger Agency
First Option Bank
FNBO
Garmin

JE Dunn Construction
KOMA
Mainstreet Credit Union
Mathnasium
Midwest Trust/FCI Advisors
Music House
435 Plumbing
Slumber Glamp
Sunflower Bank
Whataburger
Westlake ACE Hardware





Best of Blue Valley HOMEGROWN HEROES

Community Breakfast

Homegrown Heroes was the theme for the 2022 annual Community Breakfast and what a morning it was! This signature event raised \$340,000! Attendees enjoyed a special presentation by Blue Valley Northwest Alum Arash Ferdowsi, founder of Dropbox, who made a \$500,000 donation - the largest in Foundation history. Rounding out the morning was a Hall of Fame presentation made to all Homegrown Heroes, those BV alums who work for the school district; a roundtable address with Nick Haines; and upcoming initiatives from Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan to kick off the new year.

Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors:

AdventHealth	JE Dunn Construction
Bank of Blue Valley	Keep the Spark Alive
Baron BMW	Mainstreet Credit Union
Capitol Federal Foundation	McCownGordon Construction
Durham School Services	Menorah Medical Center
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	Dr. Tonya Merrigan
Garmin	Midwest Trust/FCI Advisors
Hollis + Miller	Resurrection, a United Methodist Church
Holmes Murphy	SPEAK UP Foundation





2023 Education Awards

The Dr. David Benson Teacher of the Year Award was created in 2004 to honor retiring Blue Valley Superintendent Dr. Benson. The awards were expanded in 2010 to include the Master Teacher of the Year finalists. Since 2005, these awards of \$1,250 each have been generously funded by Commerce Bank.

The Innovative Educator of the Year Award was created with BVEF by BV North High School parents and BVEF Hall of Fame winners Ken Selzer and Deb Grimes to honor classroom educators using innovative and creative teaching practices. In 2014, the \$2,500 award was expanded to honor two recipients.

Dr. Benson Teachers of the Year

- Brandon Hawks — BVSW
- Katie Karst — OTE

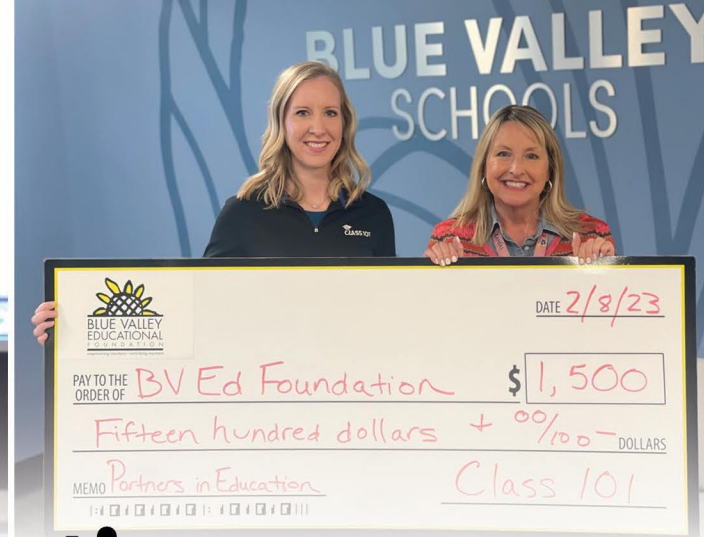
Innovative Educators of the Year

- Chris Ollig — BVN
- Kelley Tuel — CAPS

Master Teachers of the Year

- Matt Christensen — BVSW
- Misty Dimitt — LVE



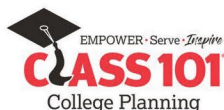


Partners in Education

BVEF loves to support not only our educators, but also community businesses! Our popular Partners in Education program provides local businesses the opportunity to invest in our schools and market directly to 34,000 BV families with our unique e-blast system. These Partners receive benefits associated with BVEF's signature events in addition to reaching a specific audience!

Thanks to our newest Partners in Education this year! They are: Challenge Island, Class 101 College Advisors, First Option Bank, Slumber Glamp, and Van Wyhe Photography

We are extremely proud to partner with these outstanding community businesses and grateful for their support! The following are 2022-23 BVEF Partners in Education:



Is your business a good fit for our Partners in Education program? Want more information? Contact Lisa Austin at 913-239-4109 for details.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

Celebrating Milestones with Major Saver

BVEF relies on strong community partners to ensure we continue to provide education opportunities beyond expectations. One of these partners is Major Saver.

This year BVEF and Major Saver celebrated a 20-year partnership, and we are incredibly grateful for their generosity. These popular cards offer discounts to multiple area restaurants and businesses, with half of the funds raised going back to participating schools to fund worthy initiatives for staff and students.

To date, this valuable partnership with Major Saver has raised more than \$1 million for BV schools! Thank you, Major Saver and thanks to all participating schools for your support!





\$100,000-\$249,999

G3
SPEAKUP Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Ferdowsi Family Fund
JE Dunn Construction
Major Saver

\$10,000-\$49,999

AdventHealth
Bank of Blue Valley
Capitol Federal Foundation
Dixon Family Foundation
Midwest Trust/FCI Advisors
First National Bank of Omaha
Garmin International, Inc.
HeadsUP for PCS Foundation
Keep the Spark Alive Foundation
Mainstreet Credit Union
McCownGordon Construction
Menorah Medical Center, Inc.
Richard and Amara Napper
Michael & Brandy Rea Family
Foundation
Regnier Family Foundation
Scheels
Sunflower Bank, NA
Variety KC

\$5,000-\$9,999

Ash Grove Charitable Foundation
Brett and Sarah Baker
Burns & McDonnell Foundation
Frank and Kris Cappel
Commerce Bank, N.A.
Durham School Services, L.P.
Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation
Fore the Kids Foundation
Ron and Karen Gier
The Hellas Group
Holmes Murphy & Associates
KO Martial Arts
Mathnasium of Blue Valley North
& South
Dr. Tonya Merrigan
Olsson
O'Neill Family Foundation
Resurrection, A United Methodist
Church
Royals Charities, Inc.

*July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

\$2,500-\$4,999

All Point Transportation, Inc.
 AT&T
 Baron BMW Mini
 Blue Valley Community Council, Inc.
 Blue Valley Recreation Commission
 Blue Valley West PTO
 Children's Mercy
 CommunityAmerica Credit Union
 DLR Group
 Equity Bank
 First Option Bank
 Freedom Interiors
 ImageQUEST
 Johnson County Community College
 Foundation
 KC Architects
 Meyer Music Inc.
 Music House LLC
 Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
 Patsy Huggins Petzold Foundation
 David J Roberts
 Saint Luke's Health System
 Ken and Deb Selzer
 Carol and Brooks Sherman
 Spencer Fane LLP
 Sylvan Learning Center
 Tortoise Advisors
 The Stanley M Truhlsen Family
 Foundation, Inc
 UMB Bank
 VLDforBVSD
 Lawrence A. & Joan S. Weiner
 Foundation
 Wertzberger Agency - Farmers
 Insurance
 Josh and Emily West
 Whataburger
 Gabriel Van Wyhe Photography

\$1,000-\$2,499

Alpine AG Soultions LLC
 Arvest Bank
 ATHCO
 BAC Musical Instruments, LLC
 BCI Mechanical, Inc
 Blue River Elementary PTO
 Blue Valley Dermatology LLC
 Blue Valley High School PTO
 Blue Valley North Booster Club
 Blue Valley Southwest PTO
 BlueCross Blue Shield of K.C
 Bordner Home Improvement
 Cindy and Stan Bowling
 Katie and Nick Bruels
 Don and Mary Bush
 Jamie and Clif Carney
 Megan B. Castanien
 CBIZ, Inc.
 Central Bank of the Midwest
 Challenge Island Johnson County
 City of Overland Park
 Bradley Clauser
 College Readiness, LLC (Class 101)
 Dr. Katie and Clint Collier
 Country Club Bank
 Creative Planning
 Delta Dental of Kansas
 Frontier Investment Banking Corp
 Fry-Wagner Relocation & Logistics
 Justin Geddie
 Jennifer Gerlach
 Gilmore & Bell, P.C.
 Gracie Berra Overland Park
 Rev Adam and LaVon Hamilton
 Henderson Engineers, Inc.
 Johnson County Mental Health
 Kansas City Audio-Visual
 Christy and Mike LaHood

Lakewood Middle School PTO
 Leawood Elementary School PTO
 Season and James Lentz
 Geoffrey Ley
 Liberty View Elementary PTO
 Kristan Manselle
 Mazuma
 Merrill Companies, LLC
 Mission Trail Elementary PTO
 Multistudio
 Tim Murphy
 NBD Payment Solutions
 Lisa and Torre Nigro
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 Ryan Parks
 Prairie Star Middle School PTO
 Radcliff Financial Group LLC
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 Robert Runser
 Andy Sears
 Slumber Glamp
 Stand Up Blue Valley
 Stifel Nicholas & Company, Inc
 Stilwell Elementary School PTO
 Surency Life and Health
 Thomas McGee, L.C.
 Tim Thompson
 Curt and Susan Tideman
 Transamerica
 Validity Screening Solutions
 WaterOne of Johnson County
 Hedda Winetroub





Mental Health & Wellness

The district is committed to supporting mental health and wellness at every stage in school and life. Blue Valley offers a comprehensive and effective K-12 mental health and wellness curriculum, and the district recognizes the need to continue this important work.



Happy 5th Birthday! **BV Well** is a parent group powered by BVEF that works to support and educate parents and caregivers as they navigate mental health and wellness with their families. Since 2018, BVEF has awarded \$40,545 in programming to this important initiative. Upcoming events, speakers, and resources can be found at Fundbv.org/BVWell.



SOURCES
OF STRENGTH

The **Sources of Strength** program strives to connect teens with trusted adults and trained peers to break codes of silence with at-risk students. Keep the Spark Alive and SPEAK UP Foundations continue to fund social and emotional wellness and suicide prevention programs, which is in all BV middle and high schools. Their generous support truly makes a difference in the lives of our most precious commodity – our students.



The **#GiveMe20** workshops were developed to provide teens with tools and resources to get them through dark moments. These LifeBoxes are filled with activities and mementos to remind them that they are loved, and that life is worth living. These materials are funded by BVEF and Keep the Spark Alive Foundation and more than \$24,500 has been awarded to all middle and high schools for Sources of Strength and the #GiveMe20 initiatives.



2023-2024 Board of Directors

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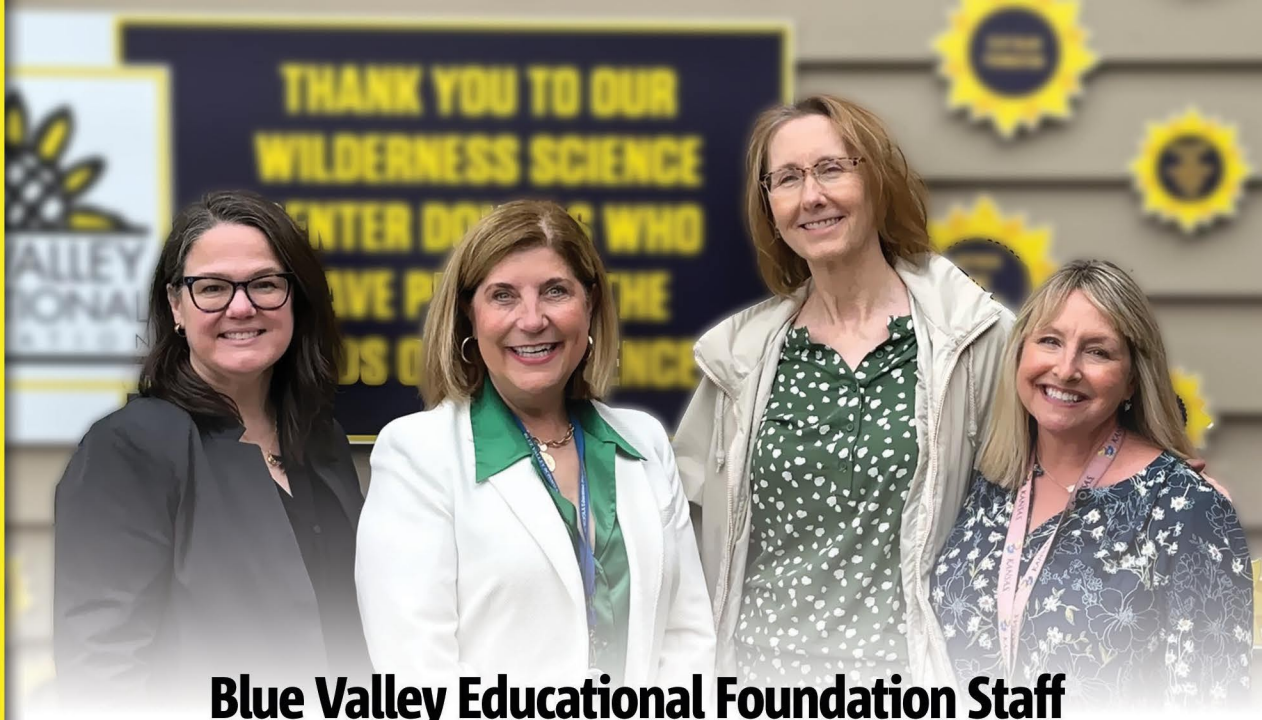
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All efforts have been made to make this report as accurate as possible. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apology and notify the Foundation office at bvef@bluevalleyk12.org so corrections can be made. Thank you.

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