



YEAR IN
Review
2025-2026



who we are...

“

Blue Valley's reputation as an award-winning district didn't happen by accident. It is the result of strong schools, engaged families, dedicated educators, and a community that believes in investing in its future - and it sets our kids up for future success. As a local business owner and a parent of children educated in Blue Valley schools, I've seen firsthand the impact this commitment makes. **When it comes to giving my kids the best possible opportunities in life, investing my time and financial resources in Blue Valley is an easy and worthwhile choice. That's why Blue Valley.**

~ Patrick Wertzberger

Owner Farmers Insurance – The Wertzberger Agency
Past President Blue Valley Educational Foundation Board



surprise squad



BVEF awarded **\$402,495** in
Educational Excellence Grants in one day!

FIRST TIME IN
BVEF HISTORY
EVERY APPROVED
GRANT FUNDED

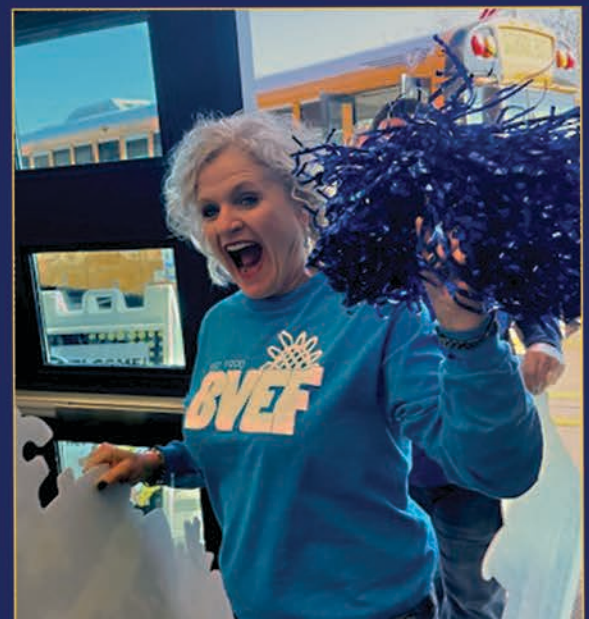
NUMBER
OF GRANTS
AWARDED
168

MAINSTREET
CREDIT UNION
EXCLUSIVE
SPONSOR OF
SURPRISE SQUAD



BVEF Surprise Squad grants included:

- \$65,430 to Sources of Strength and #GiveMe20
- \$5,359 to BV Food Pantry
- \$11,606 to Para-to-Special Education Teacher Tuition Assistance
- \$5,000 to Counselor Continued Education
- \$10,000 to Train the Trainer/Sources of Strength
- \$24,950 to Wilderness Science Center Sun/Rain Pavillion





what we do...

“

Because of BVEF's grant investment, our students were able to hear directly from a celebrated author, explore the creative process behind the books they love, and deepen their connection to reading and storytelling. The impact lasted well beyond the visit, as students continued discussing and reflecting on the experience days later.

~ Lisa Nocita
Teacher Librarian, NBCT
Prairie Star Middle School



celebrating teachers



2026 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND MASTER TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Funded by Commerce Bank

Created in 2004 to honor Dr. Benson,
Blue Valley Superintendent

\$1,250 per educator

Teacher of the Year Receipts

Kimberly Thompson
Blue Valley High School

Madison Cundiff
Lakewood Elementary School

Master Teacher of the Year Receipts

Heather Hall
Blue Valley West

Abby Buser
Harmony Elementary School



2026 INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR AWARDS

Funded by Ken Selzer and Deb Grimes

Honors Blue Valley educators who use innovative practices to ensure student success

\$1,250 per educator

Jeremy Mohn

Blue Valley Northwest High

Abby Jones

Mission Trail Elementary



2026 CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS AWARDS

Funded by the Neal and Angela Sharma Family

Honors educators who foster a transformative impact on their students' lives and bring kindness and compassion to the forefront in their classroom

\$2,500 per educator



Sara Byrd

Oak Hill Elementary

Sarah Babkin

Oxford Middle

Anna Porter

Blue Valley North High





mental health & wellness

WELLNESS WALK RIBBON CUTTING

In October, BVEF hosted a rededication for the Wellness Walk at the Wilderness Science Center after the completion of a \$5,000 update that included new signage and messaging with an expanded path.

IT STARTS WITH US

BV Well hosted a parent program during National Suicide Prevention Month in partnership with Blue Valley Father's Clubs to equip nearly 200 parents with resources and connection.



726

PARENTS REGISTERED
FOR 25-26 BV WELL
PROGRAMS

92

PARENTS
CERTIFIED IN
YOUTH MHFA

1717

8TH GRADE
STUDENTS REACHED
BY #GIVEME20

14

MIDDLE & HIGH
SCHOOLS WITH
SOURCES OF
STRENGTH

“

Youth Mental Health First Aid armed me with info and resources I was not aware of and helped give me the confidence to start the hard conversation with a youth about their mental well being and meet them where they are with empathy.

~ Blue Valley Parent

2026 literacy grant HIGHLIGHT

DRAWING OUR STORIES: A GRAPHIC NOVEL EXPERIENCE WITH AUTHOR JERRY CRAFT

All Blue Valley Middle Schools | \$9,000

"This collaborative project brought graphic author Jerry Craft the opportunity to visit all nine district middle schools. More than 4,000 students participated in author presentations, interactive workshops, and student showcases."

BIOGRAPHY UPDATES

Blue Valley High School | \$1,494.31

"Many of the books in our biography collection are out of date or are of no interest to our students. Our goal is to have a more updated and relevant biography collection for students to use for both academic and personal reading selections."

KINDERGARTEN STORIES COME ALIVE

Aspen Grove Elementary | \$2,018.87

"Our students absolutely love using the Tonie boxes! They have quickly become a favorite part of our classroom routines. We have been able to incorporate them as a supplemental resource alongside our new Amplify reading curriculum, and many of the Tonies align perfectly with the themes we are exploring."

raffle FOR A reason

Funding 2026 literacy initiatives across the district!

From incredible getaways to a \$1991 cash prize (a nod to the year BVEF was founded), Raffle for a Reason brought all the fun in April. Eric Cohen (Blue Valley employee) was the big winner choosing the cash prize.

39

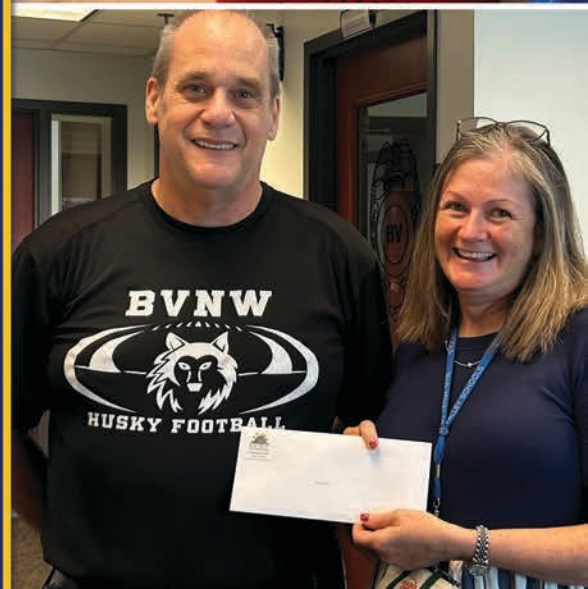
LITERACY GRANTS
FUNDED DISTRICT
WIDE

\$55,000

IN TOTAL GRANT
FUNDING FOR
LITERACY IN 2026

\$15,000

RAISED FROM
RAFFLE FOR A
REASON



“

Choosing Blue Valley has given me peace of mind, knowing my children are supported today and set up for long-term success. Experiencing both the classroom environment and the broader impact of community support has only strengthened that belief. I'm not only grateful to be part of Blue Valley, but I'm also confident it's one of the most impactful decisions we've ever made for our family, and one that will shape our children's futures for years to come.

~ Marilyn Winter
Blue Valley Parent, Blue Valley Educational Foundation Board

WHY?
Blue Valley



OUR THANKS TO OUR 2,049 DONORS WHO SUPPORTED BVEF THIS YEAR!

IN 2026 BVEF AWARDED
29 scholarships
TO GRADUATING SENIORS
TOTALING \$33,000

BVEF AWARDED MORE THAN
\$120,000
TO BLUE VALLEY SPECIAL
EDUCATION INITIATIVES,
INCLUDING \$10,000 FOR
BLUE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

\$60,000
RAISED THROUGH
BVSD
EMPLOYEE-GIVING
PROGRAM

IN THE SPRING OF 2026, BVEF HIT A LARGE
MILESTONE, AWARDING MORE THAN
\$10 MILLION
TO BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS SINCE INCEPTION.

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE
CUMULATIVE AWARDS
TOTALLED
\$151,050.50

PRESENTED 30
\$100 gift cards
TO TEACHERS BEGINNING
THEIR CAREERS IN
BLUE VALLEY

\$68,000
RAISED THROUGH
PARENT MEMBERSHIP
CAMPAIGN

DONOR SUPPORT FUNDED A
\$25,000
SUN PAVILION FOR
OUTDOOR LEARNING AT THE
WILDERNESS SCIENCE CENTER

SINCE 2018, BV/WELL
HAS HOSTED
75
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
FOR MORE THAN 5,000
PARENTS

BVEF AWARDED **\$569,635.77** IN GRANTS,
SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS THIS YEAR!



support

“

Why Blue Valley is an easy answer for me. Our children received an outstanding education that prepared them for college and meaningful careers, and I valued the opportunity to support the dedicated administrators and staff who shaped their experience. **BVEF became a natural extension of that support through both giving and volunteering**, and today I am proud to continue that commitment as a Blue Valley employee. Public education is vital to strong communities, and I will never take for granted what it has meant to our family.

~ Jannie Cubbage
Academic Services - Blue Valley Schools District Office





gift giving

2025-2026 fiscal year*

\$50,000 & above

Keep the Spark Alive Foundation

\$30,000-\$49,999

Debbie and Tim Lang

\$10,000-\$29,999

AdventHealth
 Capitol Federal Foundation
 Clay Blair Family Foundation
 Dianne Shumaker
 Karen and Wes Dixon
 Dixon Family Foundation
 DLR Group
 Durham School Services, L.P.
 Farmers Insurance - The Wertzberger Agency
 Garmin International, Inc.
 JE Dunn Construction Co.
 Mainstreet Credit Union
 McCownGordon Construction
 Michael and Brandy Rea Family Foundation
 Midwest Advisors
 Netsmart
 Dorothy and Don Osborne
 Mindy and Tom Page
 Bob and Ann Regnier
 Jeff Robinson
 Ken Selzer and Deb Grimes
 Angela and Neal Sharma
 Emily and Josh West

\$5,000-\$9,999

Bank of Blue Valley
 BCI Mechanical, Inc.
 Frank and Kris Cappo
 Dr. Gillian Chapman and Dr. John Heim
 Christy and Mike LaHood Family
 Commerce Bank, N.A.
 Dr. Roy Moss Foundation
 Equity Bank
 First National Bank of Omaha
 Fore the Kids Foundation
 Mindy and Tom Herzog
 JC and Anne Hodgdon Charitable Fund of the GKCCF
 Kiewit Engineering Group Inc.
 Mathnasium of Blue Valley North & South
 Dr. Tonya Merrigan
 Carol and Brooks Sherman
 SPEAK UP Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

Average Joe Construction LLC
 Baron BMW Mini
 Blue Valley North PTO
 Centegix
 Central Bank of the Midwest
 Club SciKidz Kansas City
 Clune Family Foundation
 Kristine Galich
 imageQUEST
 KOMA Taekwondo+
 Logicalis, Inc.
 Major Saver
 McConnell & Associates
 Vickie and Thor Melicher
 Mike Dusselier Concrete Flatwork Co.
 Music House School
 OakStar Bank
 Olsson
 Open Future
 Peak Real Estate Partners
 Resurrection, A United Methodist Church
 RSVP Med Spa & Cosmetic Eye Institute
 Saint Luke's Health System
 Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc
 Straub Construction Company
 Sylvan Learning of Overland Park
 Synaptic Health Psychiatry
 The Cincinnati Insurance Companies
 Gretchen and Bryce Turnbull
 Zipco Restoration

*July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

\$1,000-\$2,499

House Law LLC
Gretchen and Chad Anderson
Annie E Casey Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
Becky Alfred Parent Coaching, LLC
Libby and Brad Bergman
Anne and Bill Blessing
Blue River Elementary PTO
Blue Valley Recreation
Blue Valley West PTO
Children's Mercy Kansas City
City of Overland Park
Colby Capital
Dr. Katie and Clint Collier
Delta Dental of Kansas
Fifth Third Bank
Freedom Interiors
Frontier Investment Banking Corp
Fry-Wagner Relocation & Logistics
Gilmore & Bell, PC
Gracie Barra Overland Park
Michael and Brenda Graham
Meredith Harold
HCA Midwest Health Menorah
Medical Center, Inc.
Molly and Andrew Hermreck
Hyper Energy Bar
Jodi Johnson
Johnson County Community College
Foundation
Johnson County Library
Kansas City Audio-Visual (KCAV)
KC Architects
KC CFO Services, LLC
Mary Kopecky

Lawrence A. and Joan S. Weiner
Foundation
Leawood Elementary School PTO
Season and James Lentz
Geoffrey Ley
Patricia Logan
Mazuma Credit Union
MC Electric, Inc.
McVicker Family Giving Fund
Merrill Companies, LLC
Meyer Music
Overland Park Chamber of
Commerce
Elizabeth Parks
Andrew Perkins
PGAV Architects
Brenda Pozek
Prairie Star Elementary School PTO
Rachel Rubin
Robert Runser
Arlene and Terry Slocum
Snapology of Johnson County -
Overland Park
Stilwell Elementary PTO
Sunset Ridge Elementary PTO
Synetic Technologies, Inc.
Temp-Con, LLC
The Wordshop
Thomas McGee Group
Susan and Curt Tideman
Universal Construction Company Inc.
Validity Screening Solutions
WaterOne of Johnson County
Gary Young

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

2025-2026 Partners in Education businesses provided \$33,556 in support. We are extremely proud to partner with these outstanding community businesses and grateful for their support.

Club SciKidz	Meyer Music	Snapology of Johnson County -
Gracie Barra of	Music House School	Overland Park
Overland Park	Open Future	Sylvan Learning of Overland Park
Hyper Energy Bar	RSVP Med Spa &	Synaptic Health Psychiatry
KO Martial Arts	Cosmetic Eye Institute	The Wordshop
Mathnasium		

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

SPONSORS 2025

at \$5,000 level and above

Keep the Spark Alive Foundation
Dianne Shumaker
SPEAK UP Foundation
AdventHealth
Midwest Advisors
Bob and Ann Regnier
Capital Federal Foundation
JE Dunn Construction Co.
McCownGordon Construction
Bank of Blue Valley
BCI Mechanical, Inc.
Dr. Gillian Chapman
Durham School Services, L.P.
Hollis + Miller Architects
Holmes Murphy & Associates
Kiewit
Dr. Tonya Merrigan
Dr. Roy Moss Foundation
Netsmart

BATTLE OF THE BANDS SPONSORS 2026

at \$1,000 level and above

Riverstone Valley
Jeff Crump & Jill Thomson
DLR Group
FNBO
JE Dunn
Brooks & Carol Sherman
BOK Financial
Garmin
McCownGordon Construction
Peak Real Estate Partners
Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce
Farmers Insurance — The Wertzberger
Agency
Mike and Christy LaHood
Baron BMW
Becky Alfred Parent Coaching, LLC
Central Bank of the Midwest
Cincinnati Financial Corporation
Equity Bank
Fifth Third
House Law LLC
KC CFO Services
MC Electric
OakStar Bank
The Perkins Family
Sylvan Learning
Synetic Technologies



events

“

When we decided to expand our business into the heart of Blue Valley, it wasn't just about location, it was about community. Blue Valley is where families put down roots and excellence is the expectation, and our schools reflect that. As a parent, I've seen what a Blue Valley education means for my own family. As a business leader, I knew investing here meant investing in a community shaped by some of the best public schools in the country.

That's why BVEF matters to me and the Bank. Our annual support allows our schools to go beyond the basics—funding innovative programs and teachers and giving every student the chance to discover what they're capable of.

Supporting BVEF isn't just writing a check, it's investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators, and our community's workforce.

~ Charles R. Wooten, Jr.
EVP, Regional Bank President, OakStar Bank
Blue Valley Parent





COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

August 28, 2025

Purpose: Funds raised support our Excellence in Education teacher grants, district-wide initiatives and programming

This annual event gathers local business leaders, district educators, staff, parents, students, and all who are interested in supporting the Foundation and BV schools at the beginning of each school year.

BVEF Hall of Fame Inductee: Clay Blair

SAVE THE DATE: 2027 Community Breakfast
Tuesday, September 14
Overland Park Convention Center

800+
ATTENDEES

\$443,490
RAISED



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

February 20, 2026

Purpose: To support performing arts programs and district-wide grants

This annual event is an over-21 adult night out with live music, dancing, food, drinks, games of chance, wine/bourbon pull and silent auction

Best of Blue Valley Bands Winner: Pepper Sprouts

Pepper Sprouts chose Mission Trail Elementary to receive their \$1,000 grant from Baron BMW

The BVIP Ambassadors secured sponsorships, auction items, wine/bourbon pull items, and ticket sales, raising \$47,000- a new high!

SAVE THE DATE: 2027 Battle of the Bands
Friday, March 5
Fiorella's in Overland Park

175
AUCTION PACKAGES
- MOST IN EVENT HISTORY

\$106,500
RAISED

WOMEN'S GIVING CIRCLE

October 16, 2025 and April 16, 2026

Purpose: Women of Blue Valley come together twice a year for a party with a purpose. These inspiring gatherings, sponsored by JE Dunn, brought connection, celebration, and awards of \$10,000 grants to one of three educators whose grant proposal wins the most votes that evening

Fall Grant Winner: Robotics Expansion
Blue Valley Northwest
Cameron Hora, Biology Teacher

Spring Grant Winner: Blue Valley Publishing
Blue Valley North
Abby Cornelius and Kate Pommerenke
Library Media Specialists

SAVE THE DATES: Fall 2026 Women's Giving Circle
November 12
Netsmart in Overland Park

Spring 2027 Women's Giving Circle
April 22
Meadowbrook Club House - Rosewood
Room in Prairie Village

14

GRANTS AWARDED
SINCE 2021

\$151,050.50

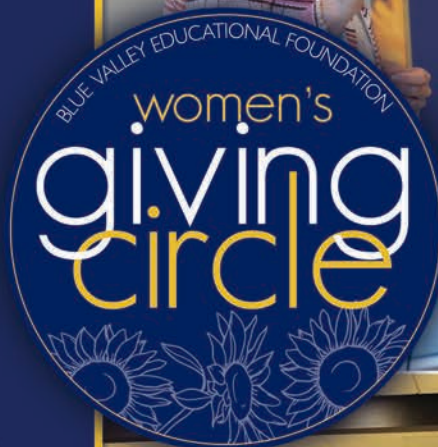
RAISED FOR WGC
GRANTS SINCE 2021

“

As a past BVEF Board President and one of the founders of the Women's Giving Circle, it's been incredibly rewarding to see what can happen when women come together around a shared purpose. A \$100 gift, combined with the generosity of other members, becomes a powerful investment in Blue Valley students, teachers, and schools, showing the lasting impact of collective giving.

~ Christy LaHood

Past President, Blue Valley Educational Foundation Board,
Blue Valley Parent





DONOR & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECEPTION

April 28, 2026

The Blue Valley Educational Foundation's annual Donor & Volunteer Recognition Reception brings together the generous donors and dedicated volunteers who make our mission possible. The evening is an opportunity to personally thank our supporters, recognize donors who have reached new milestone giving levels, welcome new members of the Silver Society for their endowed gifts, and honor our Volunteer of the Year.

Guests also hear highlights of the Foundation's impact and future priorities from BVEF leadership. Special thanks to DLR Group and McCownGordon for underwriting this event each year, allowing us to fully celebrate the individuals and organizations whose generosity enriches educational excellence in Blue Valley.

congratulations
Jannie Cullage
2026 volunteer of the year

Since 2006, the Foundation recognizes someone who goes above and beyond expectations as the Volunteer of the Year, and this year is no different. Whether she is welcoming guests at registration for the Community Breakfast, greeting attendees and managing check-in at Battle of the Bands, or helping ensure our Surprise Squad celebrations end with a gracious gathering, Jannie shows up with a smile and a servant's heart. In addition to giving so generously of her time, Jannie is also a committed financial supporter of BVEF through our employee giving campaign and Women's Giving Circle. We are incredibly grateful for her years of dedication and the spirit of hospitality she brings to BVEF.



meet the bvef board...

Sara Holmes, President
McCownGordon Construction

Amy Moss, President-Elect
Community Volunteer and TCJ Consulting

Michael Graham, Secretary
Commerce Bank

Molly Hermreck, Treasurer
JE Dunn Construction

Emily West, Immediate Past President
Midwest Advisors

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. David Benson, Blue Valley Board of Education

Dr. Gillian Chapman, Blue Valley Schools

Carrie Myers, Blue Valley Education Association

Board Members

Becky Alfred, Becky Alfred Parent Coaching LLC

Kristin Bechard, Stowers Institute

Mike Fahey, Modus Architecture

Season Lentz, Community Volunteer

Stephanie Meyer, Leawood Chamber of Commerce

Leah Mountain-Neece, AdventHealth

Shelly Nielsen, Blue Valley Schools

Adam Pfautsch, CBIZ

Brenda Pozek, WellSky

Patrick Wertzberger, Farmers Insurance —
The Wertzberger Agency

Marilyn Winter, Cincinnati Insurance

Julia Woods, Saint Luke's South

Mike Yeggy, Peak Real Estate Partners



blue valley educational foundation

Susan Tideman
Executive Director

Lisa Austin
Communications Manager

Christy LaHood
Business Manager

Liz Webb
Project & Event Manager

Abby Yeagle
Program & Development Manager

Interested in learning more or helping support BVEF? Visit FundBV.org
15020 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66223 | 913-239-4053

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 at bvef@bluevalleyk12.org so corrections can be made. Thank you.

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