

ElkhartCares Charitable Giving Report

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2023–2025

2023

Library Grant:

- Supported the Summer Reading Program through the Elkhart Lake Public Library.
- Funded Milwaukee Zoo passes available for families to check out and enjoy free family outings.
- Partnered with the Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah School District to provide summer reading backpacks for students identified by teachers as needing additional literacy support.
- Incentivized literacy through grand prize drawings and surprise rewards for active readers.

Emergency Responders:

- Funded extraction and lifesaving tools for the Glenbeulah and Elkhart Lake Fire Departments.

Teacher & Classroom Support:

- Provided multiple teacher grants to support classroom initiatives and creative projects.
- Funded a teacher's request for novels in verse to nurture a love of poetry.
- Supplied math workbooks for a special education program aimed at building life and career skills.
- Provided handwriting development tools for kindergarten classrooms.
- Purchased ingredients and kitchen tools for OT-led cooking sessions serving students with diverse needs.
- Funded art display towers to showcase student artwork in public spaces.

Family Support:

- Provided a daycare scholarship to help parents return to work after financial hardship.
- Funded holiday gifts and winter clothing for children from low-income families.
- Supplied K–5 books for home reading aligned with school curriculum.
- Purchased backpacks and school supplies for students in need.
- Supplied clothing, hygiene items, and household essentials after a teacher identified a family in crisis.
- Covered car repairs and fuel for a working mother to ensure safe transportation for school and work.
- Funded art supplies for a student passionate about drawing but facing home instability.
- Supported a student athlete with sports gear including cleats and a uniform.
- Provided winter clothing for a student and their family members.

Student Enrichment:

- Funded transportation for the Buddy Program to Rocky Knoll for 7th-grade students.
- Stocked the school district's essentials closet with hygiene products, laundry supplies, and snacks.
- Supported the annual Veterans Day Luncheon, funding food, decorations, and recognition items for veterans. The event included student performances and meals prepared by culinary students.

2024**Family & Student Support:**

- Provided back-to-school clothing, supplies, and snacks for a student being raised by their grandmother.

- Funded utility support for a family struggling with winter heating bills.
- Covered car repairs for a family's unsafe vehicle.
- Purchased and delivered a washer and dryer so a student could have clean clothes for school.
- Provided holiday gifts and essentials for over two dozen students referred by school staff.

Library & Literacy Support:

- Continued the Library Grant, funding take-home books, summer reading supplies, and Milwaukee Zoo passes to promote family enrichment.

Teacher Partnerships:

- Provided clothing and laundry supplies for a student whose teacher had been personally washing their clothes.
- Covered the yearbook fee for a student who didn't want to miss out but couldn't afford it.
- Funded a positive behavior reward program, promoting kindness, responsibility, and respect through meaningful incentives.

Student Enrichment & Equity:

- Sponsored a folk fair field trip, covering meals for 28 students on free/reduced lunch and ensuring full access to the cultural experience.
- Provided a GED testing scholarship for a student unable to afford the cost of the exam.
- Funded a technical school scholarship to help a student pursue a skilled career path after high school.
- Supported the Veterans Day Luncheon again with funding for food, decor, and student engagement.
- Continued support for cooking therapy sessions for students with special needs.
- Purchased athletic gear for a student identified by a coach as in need.

- Provided meals for teachers working extended hours during parent-teacher conferences.
 - Covered school fees for a student active in football, baseball, forensics, art, and more—ensuring financial hardship didn't limit opportunity.
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2025 (So Far)

Essential Family Assistance:

- Provided fuel support for a grandmother raising her grandson so he could get to school safely.
- Continued funding for transportation, utilities, and household emergencies for families in need.

Student Support Grant

Purpose: To support a rural family facing significant financial barriers related to transportation and school-related costs.

Impact: This grant helped cover a range of school expenses, including band instrument rental, cheerleading and soccer participation fees, classroom and registration fees, and Chromebook access. The parents are deeply committed to their children's education but lacked the resources to fully support their involvement in these enrichment activities. ElkhartCares funding ensured these students could remain engaged and involved in both academics and extracurriculars.

Student Support Grant

Purpose: To assist a large family with six children, where both parents are working hard but continue to struggle financially.

Impact: This grant funded essential educational costs for multiple students, including Chromebook fees, classroom and registration fees, sports participation costs, agricultural studies fees, and art supplies. By covering these expenses, ElkhartCares helped alleviate financial pressure and ensured all six children had access to key learning resources and opportunities.

Student Support Grant

Purpose: To continue supporting a family navigating the loss of a parent, where a single mother is working to provide for her children.

Impact: Building on a previous ElkhartCares sports scholarship, this grant covered additional

needs such as sports fees and equipment, registration costs, art class enrollment, Chromebook fees, and participation in culinary and technology education courses. The support ensures continuity in enrichment and academic programs, helping the children stay engaged, inspired, and connected during a time of personal and financial hardship.

Career & College Readiness:

- Sponsored a college and career fair field trip, covering meals and transportation so every student could participate regardless of financial barriers.
- Funded a technical school scholarship to support a student pursuing a hands-on career path.

Classroom Enrichment:

- Purchased precision lab equipment for a chemistry unit on acid-base reactions, expanding hands-on learning for future science classes.
- Funded a tablet PC for a math teacher to enhance virtual learning and video-based instruction.

Student Support & Equity:

- Provided a grant for Odysseyware, enabling a student undergoing medical treatment to continue her education remotely and stay on track for graduation.
- Supplied teacher appreciation snacks as a gesture of thanks for their dedication. Sustenance for teachers during long days of teacher inservice, parent teacher conferences, and for Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Continued support for a college-credit yoga class promoting mental health and wellness—one of the most popular PE courses at the high school.
- Renewed the Library Grant with support for zoo passes, books, and summer learning incentives.

Scholarships:

- Funded technical and university scholarships, including tuition, school supplies, and housing for students continuing their education after high school.
- Awarded a bike scholarship so an 8th-grade student could participate in a 30-mile PE ride and enjoy safe, independent transportation beyond the unit: A family facing financial hardship, whose 8th grade child had never owned a bike, was about to miss a school biking unit—until a grant from ElkhartCares provided his very first bike and helmet. A caring teacher taught him to ride, and now he proudly bikes to school and around town—just like his peers.
- A rural family fighting to keep their children enrolled and involved in school activities received an ElkhartCares grant to cover school activity fees, transportation costs, and essential school supplies.
- A hardworking family of six striving to provide sports, art, and technology opportunities for their kids received an ElkhartCares grant to help cover extracurricular fees, equipment, and access to learning tools.
- A resilient mother, carrying on her children's dreams after the heartbreaking loss of their father, received an ElkhartCares grant to help keep them involved in sports, the arts, and other enriching experiences.