Lutheran Elementary School Association Serving Lutheran Elementary

Schools, Families & Communities

ministry report



Blessings from the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA)

LESA was truly blessed this fiscal year with opportunities to enhance some of its core programming and to offer a new program to students attending its 30-member elementary schools. All LESA programs and services are funded by the generous gifts given by donors, event guests and its partner foundations. We are grateful for these financial gifts that make it possible for LESA to provide resources to our member schools as they minister to the students and families whom God has entrusted their care.

Marilyn K. Brickler, Board Chair

By God's grace, LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship Fund (BBSF) provided need-based scholarships to 543 students this school year. The scholarships totaled \$454,353, the largest in LESA's history. In December 2018, LESA began an initiative to give member schools access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) resources to assist schools in including STEM instruction as part of their core curriculum in kindergarten through grade four classrooms. Financial support for the STEM initiative caame from private companies, foundations, individual donors and LESA. LESA continued its support for school administrators and teachers through professional development programs, curriculum guide development and school counseling support.

Resource development is critical to LESA's ability to sustain and grow its programs and services. Dollars and percentages are important tools to measure LESA's ability to carry out its mission. While metrics help us measure outcomes, what they cannot measure is the impact that mission will have on the students, teachers and administrations that LESA serves. Only God can measure that. We are confident, however, that as God blesses LESA, He will also bless the lives of those we serve.

Yours in Christ,

Marilyn K. Brickler

Marilyn K. Brickler, Chair



Building Blocks Scholarships Help Build Christian Leaders!

Thanks to our generous donors, the Building Blocks Scholarship Fund has provided tuition assistance to 3,345 individual students in its 15-year history with \$5,047,838 awarded in tuition assistance. Our families, schools, board of directors and staff praise God for the gifts from our ministry partners that make Lutheran education possible for these students!

LESA Revenue and Expenses 2018/2019 Fiscal Year

LOIO/ LOI/ HIJOUUTCUI		
		% of Total
Revenue	Amount	Revenue
Individual & Business Contributions	\$183,860	
Grants & Foundations		
Special Events		
Membership Dues		
Gifts to LESA Endowments		
Subtotal		
Investment Income (S/T &		
Endowment Investments)		
LESA Endowment Distributions for		
2018/2019 Building Blocks Scholarships		
LESA Endowment Distributions for		
2018/2019 Programs & Operations	114,494	
Total		
		% of Total
Expenses	Amount	Expenses
Administration	\$25,779	
	,	

\$25,779	
140,859	
\$1,050,631	100%
140,000	
\$1,534,104	

Who are the students served by LESA's Building Blocks Scholarship program? 2018/2019 Fiscal Year

Household Socioeconomic Status

Students in households with incomes below
the federal poverty level
Students in households with incomes above
the federal poverty level
Attend Lutheran Schools
Urban settings15%
Suburban or rural settings
Ethnicity
African American
Asian
Caucasian
Hispanic
Faith Affiliation
Lutheran
Other faith denominations
No faith home



LESA provides financial resources for children in need to obtain a Lutheran Christian education in the metropolitan St. Louis area. We promote and advocate for efforts to improve the sustainability and quality of Lutheran Christian schools.

FAMILY AFFORDABILITY – EDUCATIONAL QUALITY – COLLABORATION –

Founder's Society of LESA

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We would like to acknowledge our 2018-2019 donors by listing their names below. Thank you for making a lasting impact in the lives of children. If your name is missing, please contact us at 314-200-0797.

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You too can be a blessing to the children LESA serves through a simple gift that can make a big difference. By including a witness to faith and support for the Lord's work in your estate plan, you honor God, who created, redeemed and sustains our

lives and also bless our children and our children's children. LESA's estate planning partner, the LCMS Foundation, can help you develop a plan that allows you to share your blessings with your family and with the ministries dear to your heart, often with tax benefits for those you leave behind. This service is offered at no cost to you, and the process is confidential and tailored to your family's needs.

Gifts

Dierberg, Mr. & Mrs. F. Roger

Endowments may also be established to benefit LESA. Currently, the Lutheran Legacy Foundation is offering a \$5,000 match for the first \$20,000 gifted to open an endowment, and Youthbridge Foundation is offering a 25% match on new deposits.

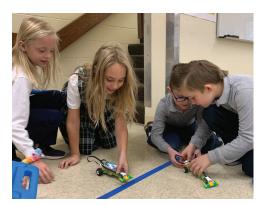
To learn more about a legacy gift and become a member of the Heritage Club call 314-200-0797 or visit LESAstl.org

Programs to Ignite Young Minds

We are pleased to announce that LESA is expanding the LEGO education library in 2019/20 to Early Childhood with LEGO Coding Express and STEAM Park kits, and to grades 5-8 with



LEGO's newest robotics program, SPIKE Prime and the popular EV3/Mindstorms kits. In all, 84 robotics kits will be available to loan to schools on a rotating basis. These programs will provide STEM learning for ages 2-14.



Early in 2019, LESA introduced a LEGO education lending library for students in our 30 LESA-member Lutheran schools to help them learn robotics, coding and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) skills. LESA purchased LEGO Education instructional kits designed to bring STEM programing to support schools in their efforts to increase STEM as part of the core curriculum. Kindergarten-4th grade students were introduced to LEGO WeDo kits.

This year's highlights include 3,548 hours of STEM learning for 473 students via the LEGO instructional kits provided by LESA. Additionally, 29 teachers received 203 hour of STEM training in LEGO education.

Thanks to grants from the Employees Community Fund of The Boeing Company, STEM2U Youth Programs, the Emerson Charitable Trust, the Wayne C. Kaufmann Charitable Trust and other individuals interested in supporting elementary STEM learning, this program was made possible. Further funding and underwriting opportunities are available.



Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education create critical thinkers, increase science literacy and enable the next generation of innovators. Innovation leads

to economic growth. "Innovation and science literacy depend on a solid knowledge base in the STEM study areas. Since most jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science, it is necessary to begin training our students in these skills at an early age to prepare them to be our future innovators and workforce," said Sue Nahmensen, CEO of LESA.



Fundraising **Activities**

Give a card that gives back. Purchase vour Christmas cards now through LESA.

Artwork is designed by students Florissant of Lutheran



Artist: Arielle, Salem Lutheran School in

elementary schools. Each pack of 10 cards with envelopes is \$10. Purchase by calling 314-200-0797 or LESAstl.org.

"Cooking for Kids" **Dinner** Auction April 18, 2020 Featuring Guest Chef Tony Pietoso and



"Brew in the Lou... and Fine Wine Too" October 10, 2020,

Francis Park Featuring tastings of St. Louis' best beer, wine, spirits, coffee, great food,

Board of Directors



live entertainment, craft vendors and exhibits. Sponsorships available.





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