

Lutheran Elementary School Association MINISTRY REPORT 2020/2021

Dear Supporter,

Through all the uncertain times of this past year, God has continued to bless LESA and the staff, faculty, and students of the 30 Lutheran Elementary Schools we serve. Our students were able to attend school in person



(in most instances) all year. In addition to their normal classroom responsibilities, teachers had to implement numerous safety measures to protect students and other staff.

LESA was a recipient of a \$56,000 PPP Loan, which helped offset operational expenses. Our donors along with support from foundation funding, special events, and several meaningful estate gifts helped provide \$505,000 in need-based scholarships to 679 students.

This year LESA awarded 210 first-time scholarship awards. Fifty-five percent of all recipients were not Lutheran, which provides children of all faiths an excellent opportunity

to hear God's Word and His love for them.

Kudos to our staff, volunteers, and Board Members who worked hard on the "Cooking for Kids" virtual dinner auction in April, which raised over \$270,000 for scholarships and educational resources. It was our most successful fund-raiser to date! Thank you to all who participated and enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Tony Pietoso of Café Napoli. This event was a true blessing!

We could not meet in person last year for Brew in the Lou, which resulted in a 30% decrease in revenue. We pivoted with a

new product, the Brew in the Lou Passport, which enabled fans to sample their favorites at participating vendors throughout the year.

LESA still faces a challenging future as the Covid crisis continues to make fundraising difficult. We pray for your continued support of our important ministry in your annual giving and planned giving that will help leave a legacy for children attending Lutheran schools. Please keep LESA, its staff, the Board of Directors, school administrators and faculties, and students in your prayers. We hope in the new year we can share fellowship in person with our supporters at "Cooking for Kids" on April 9, 2022!

God's Blessings,

Marilyn Brickler

Immediate Past Chair

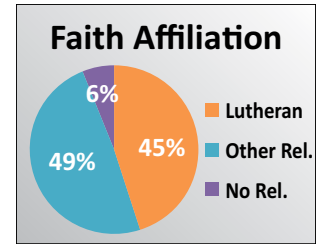
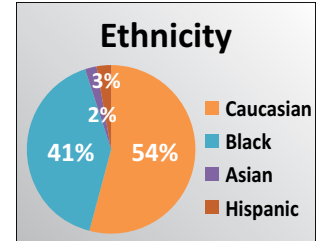
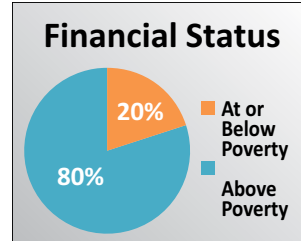
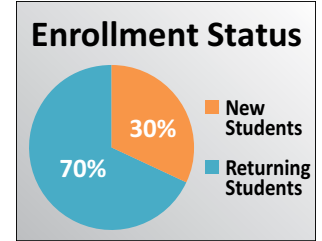
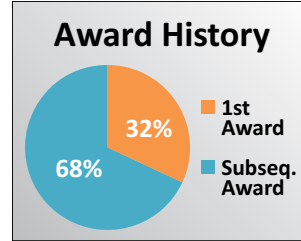


FAMILY AFFORDABILITY • EDUCATIONAL QUALITY • COLLABORATION
Serving Schools, Families and Communities

FACTS & FIGURES

BUILDING BLOCKS SCHOLARSHIPS

LESA's goal is to give meaningful financial aid to all who qualify and complete an application. The pandemic brought unexpected financial hardships to numerous families that desired a Christian education for their children. With a significant increase in LESA scholarship applications and the generosity of donors, LESA was able to serve 679 students which reflects approximately one-third of the need requested by their school administrators.



“The LESA community is a true blessing. LESA gives my family hope in knowing that there are good, caring individuals willing to bless people that are definitely in need.”

– 2020/2021 Recipient Family

2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Revenue:	Amount	% of Total Revenue
Individual/Business Contributions	226,114	17%
Grants & Foundation Support	106,500	8%
Special Events	413,171	32%
Membership Dues	31,266	2%
MO District & CFNA Tuition Assistance	53,500	4%
Gifts to LESA Endowments	439,943	33%
SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness	56,000	4%
Subtotal:	1,326,494	100%
Investment Income (S/T & Endowment)	199,088	
Endowment Distributions for Building Blocks Scholarships	310,000	
Endowment Distributions for Programs and Operations	138,000	
TOTAL:	1,973,582	

Expenses:	Amount	% of Total Revenue
Administration	9,165	3%
Building Blocks Scholarships	505,000	46%
MO District & CFNA Tuition Assistance	53,500	6%
Educational Resources & Other	385,204	34%
Fundraising & Special Events	113,638	11%
Subtotal:	1,066,507	100%
Allocations to Endowments	439,943	
Investment Income - Reinvested	199,088	
TOTAL:	1,705,538	



LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: BECAUSE TEACHING ACADEMICS IS NOT ENOUGH

The Summer 2021 Tokyo Olympics highlighted not only the physical strength and skills of the athletes, but also brought to light the need to care for mental health. When our darling of the gymnastics team, Simone Biles, bowed out stating emotional issues, it made a tremendous statement to the world: the mind is a powerful thing, and without health in this area, our body suffers.

Our schools are tasked to prepare students to succeed in life, not just to do well in school. Beyond academics, Lutheran schools spiritually care for students and share the message of life-saving grace. It's the basis of our mission.

Lutheran schools also help students develop social and emotional skills that will enable them to work with others and achieve their potential. In 2019, Forbes Magazine identified emotional intelligence as the #1 job skill for the future.

Emotional intelligence is the ability to understand and express our own emotions and understand someone else's emotions. In the past year,



LESA teachers have learned about Social-Emotional Learning and the skills of empathy, self-control, integrity, embracing

diversity, and grit.

One of our professional development speakers, Dr. Thomas Hoerr, shared this statement with our educators: *Who you are is more important than what you know.* This means students having a secure self-view. We need to be intentional in teaching students how to be caring, disciplined, honest, accepting, and resilient. Students need to develop skills in both social-emotional learning and academics to become understanding and respectful as well as skilled and

productive. In a world where the only constant is change, learning these skills prepares students for success.

For Lutheran schools, the statement, "who you are is more important than what you know" has deeper meaning. We teach "who you are" is a forgiven, loved, and accepted child of God. This gospel message is taught alongside the law, to develop future citizens of heaven.

Amidst the ongoing challenges of routines and schedules students crave in order to be successful, please keep our LESA educators lifted in prayer this school year as they address not only academic needs, but care for students' emotional and spiritual needs. School ministry is not an easy calling. Give thanks to those that have answered the call to help students grow in grace, knowledge, and wisdom in Christ.



TESTIMONIALS

“Zechariah is the last grandchild to complete elementary school from Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary school. A success story that would not have taken place had it not been for all the financial support our family received from LESA Christian education makes a great difference in a society that seems to be headed in the wrong direction. I wanted my grandchildren to know God and be grounded in Christian values...your generosity kept the door open. I am eternally grateful for all you have helped our family accomplish in providing quality Christian education for our next generation. You made the difference.”

– 2020/2021 Recipient Family



“We just wanted to say thank you so much for your generosity. Daniel and I appreciate the scholarship that you provided to him so he can continue with his faith-based education.

It is important to us that he learns about God’s love and is surrounded by Christian role models.”

– 2020/2021 Recipient Family

“As a Christian parent, I get so much joy watching her knowledge of God grow and am thrilled that she is learning Bible verses for use in her own life. We feel so blessed to have her there (at Salem) and with this scholarship we are able to send her for another year.”

– 2020/2021 Recipient Family

VISION
An academically excellent Lutheran Christian education is a realistic choice for all children.

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



FUNDING THE MISSION

SAVE THE DATE...

“Cooking for Kids” 18th Annual Tribute Dinner Auction

LESA’s largest annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The event features a three-course dinner, open bar, live and silent auctions, and a student scholarship appeal. A Student Christian Leader and Heritage Club Honoree will be recognized.



Brew in the Lou & Fine Wine Too



Save the Date—October 8, 2022 @ Francis Park featuring tastings of St. Louis’ best beer, wine, spirits, coffee, and great food, with live

entertainment, craft vendors and exhibits.

Give a card that gives back

Purchase your Christmas or Birthday Cards now through LESA. Artwork is designed by students in Lutheran elementary schools. Each pack of 10 cards with envelopes is \$10. Purchase by calling 314-200-0797 or LESAstl.org.



How Will Your Gifts From God Be Used After Your Gone?



Estate planning is part of life. Directions for legal matters that need to be in place when you are called home to heaven are part of your plan, but your plan is for so much more than the end of your life on earth! An estate plan is an opportunity to use God’s gifts well, to continue the reflection of Jesus and his gifts to us, long after the Lord has called you to rest in him. Through your estate plan, you may give gifts to the family you love and friends you cherish, and you can also leave



gifts to the ministries you care about. Don’t let fear of death get in the way of planning on how God’s gifts to you in this life will be used after you are gone. Help give the gift of Lutheran education to children for years to come by making a gift to LESA in your estate plan. Please contact our office to learn more about leaving a legacy gift in your estate plan and becoming a member of LESA’s Heritage Club by calling 314.200.0797 or visit LESAstl.org.

Lutheran Legacy and the Youthbridge Foundation are offering matches on new named endowments.

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OUR IMPACT



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Faculty members received 1,986 HOURS of professional development in 5 events
- 79% of educators stated the LESA educator professional development is beneficial to them in their school ministry

REACH

- 2 schools as educational partners
- 5 early childhood center partners
- 37 accredited schools & affiliate Members

STEM LEARNING

- 21 hours of teacher training in Lego Education.
- 160 Students completed 677 Hours of STEM Learning in Lego Education.

“These scholarships provide a LIFETIME of benefits for the children who are being blessed by them. Thank you from the bottom of my grateful heart.”

- BBSF Recipient Family

received a total of \$505,000 in Building Blocks Scholarships

STUDENTS

- 761 Students in 5 schools received 2,057 hours of counseling through \$10,587 in LESA grants
- 679 Students

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Gerber, Chair Emeritus
Ann Anderson
Jacquelyn Branney, Secretary
Marilyn Brickler, Immediate Past Chair
Rev. Alan Erdman, Vice-President
Dennis Kemper, Chair
Carla Kirby
Wendy Morris, Advisory Director
Paul Niewald
Daniel Quinn, Treasurer
Dr. Melissa Sandfort, Advisory Director
Jeff Schmitt
Kip Starnes
Alan Vogt
Jerry Wollenburg

**To date,
\$6 Million AWARDED TO
3,882 STUDENTS.**

  @LESASTL



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