



# Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation 2022–2023 Annual Report

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## *Enhancing Opportunities*



## *Expanding Horizons*

## **Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation 2022–2023 Board Members**

Dr. Lia Belanger Book —President	Logan Grubb
Jennifer Kastelic—Vice President	Wendell Poppy
Marie Weber—Secretary	Dr. Robert Schultz
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Kathy Darowish	Dr. Judith Witmer
Jessica DeHart	Cathy Wreski
Christine Eberhard	Ethan Kurtz (student representative)
Jason Irvin	

### **Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023**

The Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation (LDFF) was established in 2006 and continues to expand its community recognition and involvement, sponsored programs, fundraising activities and funded projects. This report summarizes our achievements during the 2022/2023 school year.

### **Foundation Fundraising and Events**

Our fundraising activities are designed to broadly reach individuals in the Lower Dauphin community, as well as those outside of the community with an affiliation to or an interest in Lower Dauphin. Our list of donors and contributors is evidence that many individuals and businesses believe in our mission. We were thrilled to have a “return to normal” bringing back our Annual Falcon Fling in January, our Musical Dinner Theatre in March and our Golf Outing in May, thereby surpassing our 2022-2023 fundraising goals. The Foundation continues to gain recognition, strength and endorsement from our community to support our mission.

## Annual Campaign

The success of any educational foundation is based on the ability to raise funds from community members and individuals with a prior or current affiliation with the school. In a continuing effort to reach out to these individuals, educate them about LDFF, and gather contributions to support our mission, the Annual Campaign was held in the fall of 2022. A mailing was sent to potential donors in the middle of October, with a letter describing the Foundation and its mission, examples of grants awarded and a request for donations. A letter also went home with elementary students, describing past grants awarded to their school and promoting Falcon Foundation Camp to incoming sixth graders. The overall campaign continued to be a success for the LDFF raising almost \$4,500.

## Falcon Fling

The Falcon Fling returned to Hollywood Casino at Penn National Racetrack on January 28, 2023. The theme for our 13<sup>th</sup> annual signature event was *LDFF Rolls On, Upping the Ante for Innovative Educational Grants*. The evening's events included a wine and bourbon raffle, a silent auction and a jazz trio for entertainment. Main sponsors for the Fling this year included Capital Blue Cross, Professional Approach to Landscaping (PALS), Spring-Green and the Darwin Group. Dr. Lia Belanger Book, LDFF President, gave a wonderful presentation on the history and accomplishments of the foundation. Nearly 120 attendees and our corporate sponsors helped us to raise \$21,300. Join us next year on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at our new venue, the Hershey Lodge.

## Musical Dinner Theatre

Our 14th annual event supporting the arts at Lower Dauphin High School was held on March 3 in the high school cafeteria. Chartwells catered a delicious meal for the more than 250 attendees, prior to the Friday evening performance of *Annie*. This event was given new direction this year with online ticket sales, increased publicity and sponsorships, which allowed local senior community groups to attend for free. After donating 25% of the proceeds to the Lower Dauphin High School spring musical program, the event resulted in a profit of \$1,145.

## 15th Annual Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation Charity Golf Outing

Our golf outing was held on May 5 at Manada Golf Club in Grantville. We had a wonderful turnout and incredible support from the local community. Our costs were kept to a minimum thanks to sponsors like Rohrer, Johnson Controls, Mid Penn Bank, Capital Blue Cross and JLD Property Management Group, LLC (Jody Dimpsey-Reisinger). Eighty-six golfers played, participated in our raffles and contests and enjoyed lunch by R&K Subs. Attendees and volunteers enjoyed a delicious Cinco de Mayo-themed dinner, sponsored by The 1762 at the Warwick Hotel. With the help of our golfers and generous support from local businesses, the golf outing raised more than \$16,500. We are already looking forward to next year's outing on May 3, 2024 and hoping for another sunny day!

## Foundation Grants

LDFP solicited grant applications from Lower Dauphin faculty, staff, students and community members during two cycles this past year. Criteria for approval included consistency with LDFP's mission, the number of students impacted and the innovative aspects of the grant. Grant applications represented a broad range of ideas, applicants, students impacted and locations.

The Foundation is proud to have approved funding for the following:

### 1. **Cooking Club (Londonderry Elementary School)—\$496.12**

Chocolate dipped strawberries, banana snowmen, heart toast and winter mix are just some of the yummy foods Londonderry's Cooking Club whipped up. Twelve students from the autism support classrooms learned new skills. Grant funds were used to purchase a microwave, toaster oven, storage cart, blender and various cooking tools (spatulas, plates, bowls, measuring spoons, etc.). The Cooking Club provided the students with a chance to work on numerous skills including social, executive functioning, communication, fine motor and sensory. Plus, because students were involved in the food preparation, they were more willing to touch and taste *new* foods! The students and staff look forward to this activity every cycle and are excited to continue for many years to come.

### 2. **Falcon PRIDE Feast (Middle School)—\$250**

Lower Dauphin teaches students characteristics of PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Excellence) starting in kindergarten. In the middle school, at the end of every marking period, staff from each team selected one student who displayed each of the PRIDE traits. A Falcon PRIDE Feast was held after school once per marking period to acknowledge these students. During the feast, students and their families were invited to attend and share in the recognition of the student, enjoy appetizers/desserts and participate in

activities/games. The grant funded supplies and materials for the 192 students awarded during the 22/23 school year.

**3. Free Voluntary Reading Library for Foreign Language Learning (High School)—\$665.52**

Actual quote from student: "I can't wait for tomorrow, it's reading day!" Thanks to the Free Voluntary Reading Library for Foreign Language Learning, students in Spanish classes are making cultural connections while discovering new vocabulary. More than 150 high school students are able to select books at their level of language learning that are interesting and comprehensible. When the timer goes off, the teacher has to actually encourage students to stop reading and put their books back. What a wonderful resource to grow foreign language skills!

**4. Indoor Bocce Court (Middle School)—\$817.53**

This grant request stemmed from the high school's indoor Bocce team that participates in the Special Olympics. The middle school health and physical education team wanted a Bocce court for their Life Skills students to use during class, with the hope of those students and their peers joining them to play after school. This project enables the Life Skills students to learn a new game in PE, as well as get to know other students in an after school setting, working together and fostering new relationships.

**5. Youth and Government (High School)—\$1,000**

Not all grant requests come from teachers or our community--sometimes they come from students themselves! Elizabeth Fredrick (LD HS student) requested a grant to help Youth and Government attend three events this school year: Elections Convention (Springfield Township HS), Pre-Legislative Session (CD HS) and the Model Convention (Capitol Building). The club teaches its student members how to be effective communicators and thinkers. They also learn how our government works and gain a better understanding of our democratic process in an impactful way. Multiple members of the LD delegation were recognized for their excellence. The students were very grateful to the faculty advisors who gave their time to the program this year.

**6. One Book, One School (Nye Elementary)—\$482.30**

Nye Elementary finished up their One Book, One School initiative in February. Thanks to a grant from LDFF, each student, teacher and staff member received a copy of *Mysteries According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney and a calendar of events was created. They had guest readers including LD district administrators and Hershey Bears hockey players and even a hamster that traveled from class to class! The kids got excited about reading and were able to share a common experience across grade levels. This fun activity created a sense of unity between the students, staff and families throughout the entire month.

**7. Outdoor Learning Environment (High School)—\$1,234.97**

This spring, Science National Honor Society (SNHS), Art National Honor Society and Product Design/Manufacturing students worked together to create an outdoor classroom for the High School. Six picnic tables were built and painted by students. The tables are centrally located under a pavilion in the middle of the SNHS garden. Students created stone paths

and a stone border which are visually pleasing and require very little maintenance. The garden also contains raised beds to grow vegetables. These beds have been filled with soil and are ready for vegetable planting. Over the summer students will harvest the vegetables and donate them to the Hummelstown Food Bank. The outdoor classroom is available for all teachers to use. *Note: the pavilion itself was previously built by an LD student with the help of a grant from LDFF.*

**8. Coffee Cart (South Hanover)—\$531.84**

South Hanover Elementary has a Coffee Cart program for learning support students that processes orders for the building staff. The students take turns running the different stations of making coffee, hot chocolate and tea as well as delivering the beverages. They worked on matching skills to ensure orders were correct. The students fine-tuned their math skills and their social skills while processing orders and taking payments. At the end of the day, they did a journal entry about what they did well as a team and where they could improve for next time. This is a wonderful experience that will continue for years to come for learning support students.

**9. Pickleball (East Hanover)—\$731.31**

Pickleball is a game that is becoming increasingly popular across the United States and can be played at any age which makes it a great game to learn for lifelong fitness. This grant funded Pickleball paddles, nets and balls for use by fourth and fifth grade students at East Hanover Elementary. Eventually, these materials will be shared by fifth grade students at all LD elementary schools. The program and equipment used in PE class exposes students to a game that they can play with family or others in the community. This is yet another program that gives kids an option for putting down screens/devices and being physically active instead!

**10. Hummelstown Summer Recreation (Hummelstown Borough)—\$1,000**

LDFF has supported this five-week camp for several years. The program is a recreation, learning and fitness camp for students who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. Attending ensures that the children socialize with other kids their age, work on projects together and form friendships. This camp also provides daily structure, which attendees may not otherwise have in the summer months. The camp coordinator used our grant to help fund their Snapology activity which focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts. This year's camp benefitted nearly 70 students.

**11. Outdoor Education/Recreation (Price Building)—\$1,440**

The Price School is a full-time emotional support program consisting of one middle school room with 6 students and one high school room with 12 students for a total of 18 students in the 22/23 school year. The students participate in weekly outdoor and recreational activities providing a therapeutic outlet as well as valuable life experiences. This grant funded a new outdoor basketball hoop and fishing supplies. Basketball is a great outlet for the students to get physical exercise. When playing together they practice teamwork and social skills such as fair play, sportsmanship and following rules. When the students go

fishing, they learn about the freshwater ecosystems that fish inhabit as well as conservation, but most importantly, they unplug from technology.

**12. Instruments for All (district-wide)—\$1,000**

Music is a way to synchronize with others, to heal from trauma, to learn leadership skills, to cooperate and collaborate with others, to hold one's self accountable and to understand the importance of being a part of something larger than one's self. Lower Dauphin is fortunate to have not only a general music program, but band and orchestra programs as well. These ensembles provide high quality, life-changing musical instruction for students. This grant supports the refurbishing and upkeep of donated and existing instruments for the elementary music program so that all students have the opportunity to play.

**13. Robotics for STEM (Middle School)—\$799.90**

This grant helped to expand the minds of STEM students in the HS and the MS. Funds were used to purchase Lego Spike Prime kits which provided students of all abilities with the opportunity to problem-solve. Students were able to design and build an original robot or use one of the step-by-step robots designed by Lego. After building the robot, students were required to write original code to direct the robot to complete specific tasks. Other options were to upload code from Lego and conduct an error analysis. The two additional kits provided by this grant helped meet the goal of having every 7th grader use technology, engineering and mathematics to solve real-world problems.

**14. Soft Starts (Nye Elementary School)—\$996.79**

The second grade students at Nye Elementary began their days with Soft Starts--using STEM bins purchased with a grant from LDFF. The STEM activities were a huge success and were a stress-free and enjoyable way to begin each day. Quote from second grader: "I love STEM because you can build, create and do much more!" Soft Starts promotes collaboration, peer learning and social interaction--opportunities that young learners need frequently to thrive socially. Students took pride in their creations and showed enthusiasm to share their process, ideas and final products. They interacted across social groups, stepped outside their comfort zones, cheered each other on and complemented outside of the box thinking, creating a greater sense of classroom community. Students who otherwise struggle with academics and social interactions were given a place to shine.

**15. Guest Artist Orchestra (High School and Middle School)—\$2,000**

"I learned that just because you may not want music to be your whole career, doesn't mean that you can't still have it in your life." This statement, made by a student after spending time with the 9th Street Quartet, was one of many comments made by the HS and MS students who were able to take part in the visit funded by an LDFF grant. The talented musical group visited the HS and the MS on February 16 and not only performed at both schools, but held Q&A sessions as well as masterclasses and lessons helping numerous students improve their skills. This was an amazing opportunity that created an invaluable experience with an incredible impact!

**16. Secret Stories Phonics Resource (Nye Elementary School)—\$156.5**

Want to know a secret? First grade students at Nye Elementary certainly do. Room 101 students learned "secrets" that are actually phonics rules helping them to increase their reading and writing skills. As they learned a new secret, they added each to the folders created for them by their teacher and listed words that utilized that particular phonics skill. At the end of the year, they took their Secret Story folders home as a reference and a reminder of the fun they had while learning.

**17. 2nd Grade STEAM Day (Elementary Schools)—\$839.54**

Second grade students from most LD elementary schools gathered outside at Conewago on May 17, to put skills they've learned in class to practice. The event consisted of five stations—one for each discipline: science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. All of the activities were hands-on, and allowed students to use problem solving and critical thinking skills to design, apply, create, construct and synthesize the cross-curricular concepts they were learning in class. Throughout the activities, students collaborated and communicated with each other for a deeper learning experience. High school and parent volunteers were on hand to assist with the stations. Feedback was positive and the second grade staff are looking to hold the event again next school year.

**18. Libros para todos (Books for All) (High School)—approx. \$500**

New places, new food, new school system, and, of course, a new language can make leaving your home to migrate to a new country a challenging endeavor. This project assisted native Spanish speakers in the acculturation process by providing access to Spanish language fiction and non-fiction reading materials. Grant funds were used to purchase these materials to add to the current reading selections available to all students. Student input was solicited to provide a range of genres and authors of interest. While these materials will provide native language support to English learners, they can also be accessed by any student at the high school.

**LDFP Scholarship Award, May 2023**

For the second year, we offered a scholarship program to benefit a graduating senior with the intent to further their education in the fall. This year, we added an additional scholarship enabling us to award two seniors. Applicants had to demonstrate a commitment to community service, portray characteristics of the LD Alma Mater and have maintained a 3.0 or better GPA throughout high school. We received several applications and after careful review and deliberation, the \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors, Hannah McConnell and Mikayla Shutt.





### **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) grants during the 2022-2023 School Year**

Through the EITC program, LDFF received a total of \$13,000 this school year. Special thanks to Mid Penn Bank, Weis Markets and Avalon Insurance/Capital Blue Cross for their generous support which will be used to fund EITC-approved programs including the Falcon Foundation Camp, a 3-week summer camp for Lower Dauphin Middle School students. The Falcon Foundation Camp provides incoming 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with several options to expand their knowledge or skills with classes geared towards science, art, math and more during a less busy time of year. Other EITC-funded projects include the “2<sup>nd</sup> Grade STEAM Day,” “Instruments for All” which is district-wide and “Guest Artist Orchestra” held at the MS and HS.

## Budget Information

2022-2023 Fiscal Year Financial Results		Assets as of June 30, 2023	
Total Revenue*	\$83,612.25	Checking Account	\$107,939.41
Total Expenditures*	\$57,265.81	Reserves and Investments	\$273,100.54
Net Revenue for 2022-2023	\$26,346.44	Total Assets	\$378,539.95

\*Includes LDFF Direct Revenues and Expenses—does not include designated funds for specific programs such as Field House, Lend A Hand (LAH), Cooper’s Classroom (CC), EITC, etc.

*Please see revenue details below.*

<i>LDFF Scholarship</i>	\$200
<i>Ronald Lee Stammel Scholarship (Jean Stammel memorial funds)</i>	\$5,000
<i>Rebecca Kline—CC, Middle School</i>	\$100
<i>Lauren Cacciamani—Falcon Food Packs and CC, South Hanover</i>	\$10,000
<i>LAH, donations from online campaign—Assisted five community members in need</i>	\$58,873.83
<i>Mid Penn Bank, Avalon/Capital Blue Cross and Weis—EITC</i>	\$10,400
<i>PPL Empowering Educators Grant, Dr. Kirman</i>	\$1,000

### **Restricted Funds for Specific Programs Balance, as of 6/30/23**

LAH, EITC and CC Accounts	\$19,587.45
LDFF Scholarship Fund	\$0
Ronald Lee Stammel Scholarship	\$1,000

**Administrative Expenses for the Foundation for 2022-2023 were \$9,000.**

## Generous Donor Support for the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation

LDFF acknowledges and thanks many individuals and companies for their generous support of our fundraising efforts, including the annual Giving Campaign, Falcon Fling, Musical Dinner Theatre and Golf Outing. Donations of money, time, talent, goods and in-kind gifts are all greatly appreciated. Many of our donors and businesses contributed on more than one occasion and in various ways.

## How to Support the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation

### Future Events

Annual Giving Campaign—October 2023

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Falcon Fling (Signature Winter Event)—February 10, 2024

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Theatre—March 1, 2024

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Ldff Golf Outing—May 3, 2024

### EITC Program

As a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization, Ldff has opportunities for businesses to donate to the Foundation and receive tax credit. The following are the approved innovative educational programs designated for these funds: robotics; specialized instruction/instructors; summer programs (ESL, reading enrichment, summer camp, etc.); and internet-based and distance learning technologies.

### Volunteer

Ldff is always in need of energetic, enthusiastic individuals who are dedicated to the Lower Dauphin community. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, we have numerous committees and we welcome your help. Please contact us for more information.

### Donate\*

There are multiple ways to donate to the Foundation:

- General Contributions
- Project Specific or Donor-Directed Contributions
- Contributions in honor or memoriam
- Business participation in the EITC program

## To Learn More, Volunteer, Donate or Contact Us

Please visit our **website** at [LDFalconFoundation.org](http://LDFalconFoundation.org)

### **Mailing address:**

Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation  
291 East Main Street  
Hummelstown, PA 17036

**Call:** (223) 270-5419

\*The official registration and financial information of Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.