



Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation
2023–2024
Annual Report

Enhancing Opportunities



Expanding Horizons

Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation 2023–2024 Board Members

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Kathy Darowish	Ethan Kurtz (student board member)
Jessica DeHart	Faith Fausnight (student representative)

Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

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 2023/2024 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 2023. 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 just over \$5,350.

Falcon Fling

The Falcon Fling was held for the first time at the Hershey Lodge. The theme for our 14th annual signature event was *Something New, Always Blue, Supporting the Falcons in All We Do!* The evening's events a silent auction, live band and honoree presentation. The main sponsor for the Fling this year was Capital Blue Cross. Nearly 120 attendees and our corporate sponsors helped us to raise \$15,700. Join us next year on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at the Hershey Lodge.

Musical Dinner Theatre

Our 15th annual event supporting the arts at Lower Dauphin High School was held on March 1, 2024 in the high school cafeteria. Chartwells catered a delicious meal for the more than 130 attendees, prior to the Friday evening performance of *Into the Woods*. After donating 25% of the proceeds to the Lower Dauphin High School spring musical program, the event resulted in a profit of \$918.06.

16th Annual Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation Charity Golf Outing

Our golf outing was held on May 3 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, Capital Blue Cross, The Hershey Company, Highmark Blue Shield, Londonderry Animal Hospital, Dan's Property Services and Smoker, Smith & Associates, PC. Fifty-nine golfers played, participated in our raffles and contests and enjoyed lunch by R&K Subs. Attendees and volunteers enjoyed a delicious 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 \$13,000. We are already looking forward to next year's outing on May 2, 2025 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. Lectores son Lideres (Readers are Leaders) Spanish Book Collection (Middle School) - \$504

English Language Learners and students can now build their Spanish language skills now that they have an extensive Spanish book collection at the Middle School thanks to a grant requested from Carolyn Leiberher and Carolyn Patt. Their goal is to make literacy accessible to all. There is now a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction in a variety of genres for the students to enjoy.

2. Makey Makey School Racer (Middle School)—\$758

Mrs. Kullman at the Middle School requested funds for a class set of Makey Makey, a coding device that can be used to turn a computer keyboard into anything. For example, bananas can be a keyboard with the use of Makey Makey. 6th grade USA students went into 8 elementary classrooms throughout the district and taught 4th graders how to use Makey Makey. This proved to be an incredible learning experience for all involved!

3. Indoor BocceBall Court (South Hanover) —\$965.35

South Hanover has a new indoor bocce court for use by students and staff thanks to an approved grant from Katie Garver and Monica Hockenbrock. Students have an opportunity to learn a new sport that can be played by individuals of all ages and abilities. They are excited to see the joy this sport brings to their classes and the inclusion it helps to promote within our district!

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. Falcon Nest, Emotional Support Room (Conewago)—\$998.92

The Emotional Support Classroom at Conewago looks a little different thanks to an approved grant request from teacher John Breining. The room is currently used to help emotional support students proactively regain composure on stressful days to continue learning. Students are able to relax and refocus to complete tasks at hand. The room has been an excellent addition to the team's toolbox when helping and managing different situations with their students. The staff is excited to continue to grow and add to the room for years to come for the benefit of all students at Conewago.

6. French Classroom Library (High School)—\$798

Students taking French at the Middle School and High School will now have access to a French Library for all levels to enjoy thanks to an approved grant request from Mrs. Klein. When students ask for MORE reading time, that's a win!

7. East Hanover Reads (East Hanover)—\$534

Thanks to an approved grant request by 2nd grade teacher Jen Solomon, the students enjoyed "School Days According to Humphrey" this past February. They began by holding an assembly to announce the book and even had a traveling hamster! To wrap up the event, grade levels traveled to various stations including team-building games in the gym, drawing Humphrey, bingo, small animal petting zoo, online Kahoot games and STEAM activities using robotics and coding.

8. Jenga Math (High School)—\$139.81

Students in Algebra classes at the high school are using Jenga Math blocks thanks to an approved grant from Amy Busher. Students are using the blocks to prepare for testing on inequalities and factoring. This provides students with a fun and engaging twist on learning math skills.

9. Guitars for Music Class (Middle School)—\$1490

General music classes at Lower Dauphin Middle School are now able to enjoy learning how to play the guitar on brand new guitars thanks to an approved grant from Christina Myers. The current guitar inventory (30) is more than 25 years old and some are broken and unsafe. LDFF was able to fund having 10 replaced for now and the hope is that the district will gradually replace the remaining instruments. More than 900 students will benefit from this program! Several students were so excited that they helped unpack and tune the new guitars in preparation for class use.

10. Art Club (Middle School)—\$500

Art Club provided the opportunity to learn more about art to over forty students. Students were able to create homemade salt dough ornaments for a women and childrens' shelter in Lancaster, as well as help create set displays for the school musical, a natural tie dye lesson, screen printing and painting birdhouses for the spring project. Middle school students do not have art every year, so this club provided an opportunity for those students interested in art to engage in their interests. Multiple students have already asked if they will hold an art club again next year!

11. Fifty Nifty Reading Program (All Elementary Schools)—\$1,339.54

An approved grant request from Jenna Spinogatti, Reading Specialist at East Hanover, resulted in the purchase of multisensory materials for all five Lower Dauphin Elementary Schools. The multisensory materials are based on the recommendations from the book, 50 Nifty Activities for 5 Components and 3 Tiers of Reading Instruction by Judith Dodson. These materials have and will continue to provide all teachers with more opportunities to incorporate multisensory materials into reading instruction, which will create critical neural pathways for students Reading Brains!

12. Future Nurses Club (High School) —\$386.66

2023-2024 was the inaugural year for the Lower Dauphin High School Future Nurses Club founded by Mary Smith, RN. MEd (club co-advisor). The club met twice a month and focused on learning skills and concepts in healthcare fields, experienced health-related field trips and served the community through a blood drive, encouragement baskets and a blanket project for Ronald McDonald House. At the start, there were 40 students and they did not have enough equipment to practice taking vital signs. An approved grant from the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation provided 10 blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes and pulse oximeters enabling more students to get the practice they needed. Club members are excited to continue learning and serving in their community and we were excited to help on this path of pursuing a career in healthcare.

13. 2nd Grade STEAM Day (District wide)—\$694.69

2nd Grade STEAM Day was a success! Thanks to a repeat grant request from teachers Shannon Ziegler, Kristy Streckewald and Stacy Kreitzer, this event was held at Conewago Elementary School on May 14, with all 5 elementary schools participating. 2nd graders enjoyed stations representing all aspects of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). What a great hands on, outdoor learning experience for our students!.

14. Best Buddies Field Day (High School)—\$750

Thanks to an approved grant from the Falcon Foundation, Mandi Mease, Trish Moody, Karee Robinson and the executive board, which consists of six high school seniors, hosted a successful field day event on May 7 for students in life skills and autistic support. There were over 150 participants and volunteers. Activities included crafts, a bounce house, fitness activities, pet therapy and free play activities. What a great example of how inclusion lives here!

LDFF Scholarship Award, May 2024

For the third 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, Ethan Kurtz and Marina Weidman.



Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) grants during the 2023-2024 School Year

Through the EITC program, LDFF received a total of \$14,500 this school year. Special thanks to Mid Penn Bank, Weis Markets, Avalon Insurance, and The Hershey Company 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 6th through 8th 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.

Budget Information¹

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Financial Results		Assets as of June 30, 2024	
Total Revenue*	\$93,077	Checking Account	\$56,524.73
Total Expenditures*	\$70,530	Reserves and Investments	\$292,766
Net Revenue for 2023-2024	\$22,547	Total Assets	\$459,080

*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.

LAH, donations from online campaign—Assisted five community members in need \$49,521
Mid Penn Bank, Avalon/Capital Blue Cross and Weis—EITC \$14,500
3rd Grade Falcons Read! \$12,500

Restricted Funds for Specific Programs Balance, as of 6/30/24

LAH, EITC and CC Accounts	\$13,304.60
LDFF Scholarship Fund	\$0

Administrative Expenses for the Foundation for 202232024 were \$13,250.

¹Subject to change pending accountant’s review.

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.

Commented [FF1]: This is always included until report finalized and numbers approved after accountants compilation. So, once board approves report at Sept meeting, it can be posted to website, but will need updated with footnote approved and changes made (if any) in January after meeting with accountants.

How to Support the Lower Dauphin Falcon Foundation

Future Events

Annual Giving Campaign—October 2024

15th Annual Falcon Fling (Signature Winter Event)—February 15, 2025

16th Annual Dinner Theatre—February 28, 2025

17th Annual LDFF Golf Outing—May 2, 2025

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

Mailing address:

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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.