



2024 IMPACT REPORT

\$1,148,951

Invested into Programs, Scholarships, and Grants benefiting students
Average of **\$141.95** per GIPS student

You are a part of our **SUCCESS**

Every year, your generosity makes a world of difference for our students at Grand Island Public Schools and to the GIPS Foundation. Remember that time a GIPS senior couldn't afford their cap and gown? Or when a middle schooler needed new sports shoes? Thanks to your support, we were there to help.

Your impact is truly immeasurable.

Every dollar, every gift, brings us closer to a brighter future for our students.

This year, your contributions went beyond emergency needs. You funded innovative classroom projects, life-changing scholarships, and essential student support programs. You're the reason a teacher can bring their creative lesson plans to life and a student can pursue their dreams beyond high school.

As we reflect on another year of growth and achievement, we're excited to share the full story. This report highlights the incredible work your support makes possible, from our inspiring Teacher of the Year program to the Scholarship program that supports bright futures for our students. You'll also discover the impact of our Legacy Grants, which foster compassion, the power of collective giving through the Staff Giving Campaign, and the success of our community events like Harvest and Legends & Legacies.

Please take a moment to explore this report. We invite you to discover the many ways your support has positively impacted our schools.

Thank you for being an essential part of the success of the GIPS Foundation.



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Kari Price, Finance & Operations Coordinator
Candi Wiemers, Programs & Marketing Coordinator
Abigayle Frazier-Hansen, Office Coordinator
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Grand Island Public Schools Foundation

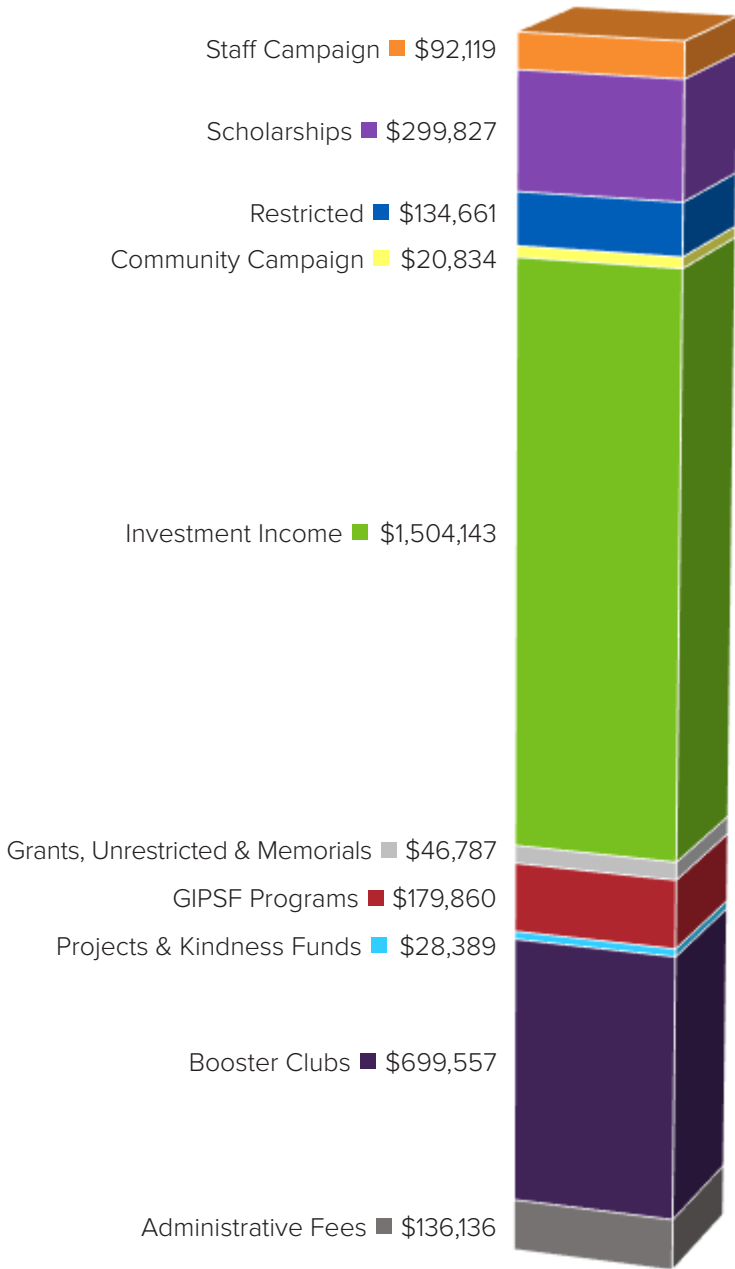
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Foundation Financials

INVESTING IN IMPACT

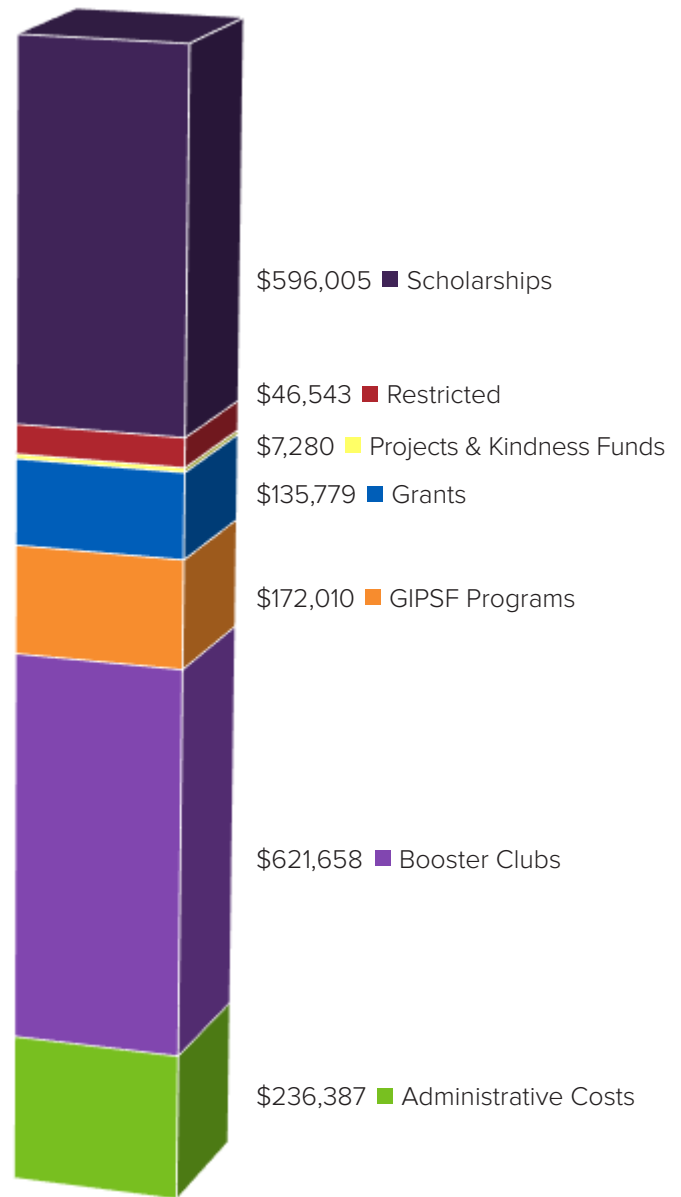
Where Donations Come From

Total Income: \$3,142,313



Where Donations Go

Total Expense: \$1,815,662



Fiscal Year 2024

Audited Financials:

September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

Charity Navigator



FOUR-STAR

Good at doing good!

We've earned a FOUR-STAR RATING from Charity Navigator



Impacting someone's life is an **INCREDIBLE FEELING**

Scholarships

Supporting students in achieving their dreams and goals

\$418,018 awarded to **99** Class of 2024 students. Since 2013, **\$188,615** has been granted for dual-credits since 2013. Our scholarship receptions provide a meaningful opportunity for students and donors to connect, encourage, and discuss their life ambitions. The impact of these donors is truly transformative.



Legacy Funds

Enduring gifts to ensure students have all the resources for success

\$59,571 awarded for **35** grants providing warm clothing, mental health counseling, school transportation, participation fees, sports equipment and more. The legacy created by these donors will continue to provide opportunities and compassion for students for years to come.



Classroom Grants

Empowering teachers to ignite innovative learning experiences

\$17,111 awarded benefiting 4,554 students.

Let Your Creativity Glow

Shoemaker Elementary kindergarten through fifth-grade students created a magical display this year (2024), transforming their school into an underwater utopia. Families were spellbound as they entered a world illuminated by seaweed, jellyfish, and scuba divers, their glow-in-the-dark creations casting a dramatic light from floor to ceiling.

The “Let Your Creativity Glow” project, a dazzling display of imagination, was funded by a Classroom Grant given by the GIPS Foundation. Working with these luminous materials was a challenge for many students, but ultimately unlocked a creativity they never knew they possessed.

The Foundation’s support allows students to express themselves with a newfound confidence and joy.

“We witnessed a remarkable transformation,” shared Rhonda Riha, a Social Emotional Creative Arts teacher. “We went from ‘I can’t do this’, to ‘I’m going to try this out’ and, ‘Look what I just created!’”



Teacher of the Year

Celebrating the dedicated champions that guide, motivate and inspire

442 teachers, staff and administrators were nominated. 1,600+ submissions were received. 6 awards were given. Every nomination received from parents, students, or colleagues was shared with the nominated staff member.

Scan for



Legends & Legacies

Celebration honoring our inspiring alumni and remarkable educators

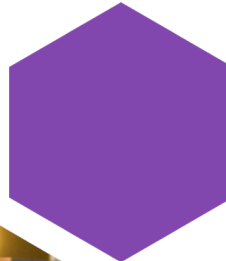
The Hall of Honor recognizes Grand Island Senior High School alumni who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the betterment of society. The Legendary Educator Awards celebrate the outstanding educators who have made a difference to the thousands of students who have attended Grand Island Public Schools. In 2024, we added three new distinguished alumni to the Hall of Honor and celebrated three Legendary Educators.



Harvest

Evening of joy, gratitude, celebrating success and raising funds

Our 3rd annual Harvest event was a resounding success, bringing together our community to raise vital funds for our schools. The evening was full of emotions ranging from the thrill of an exciting auction, the uplifting presentation of the Heart of the Foundation Award, to the elation of choosing a delectable dessert.

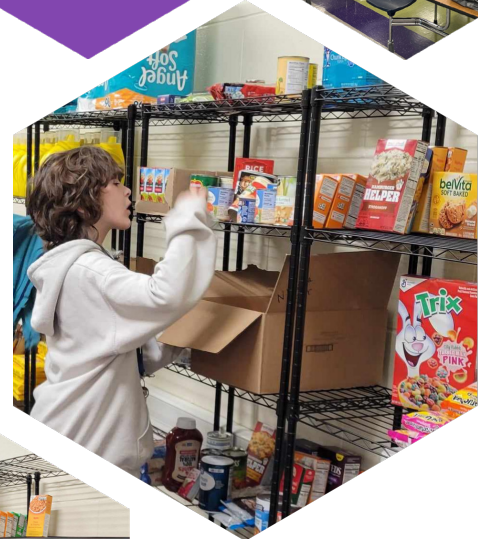


Be a part of our **COMPASSION**

Starr Stallion Sharing Stable

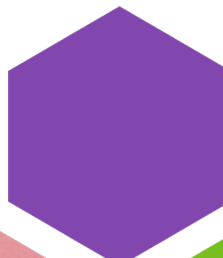
At Starr Elementary's 2024 fall parent-teacher conferences, families had a chance to pick out items from the Stallion Sharing Stable, a free sharing closet created in 2023 with the help of a Grand Island Public Schools Foundation Classroom Grant.

Nicki Nesvara, Starr Elementary School Social Worker, applied for the grant and received funding in fall 2023. The Stallion Sharing Stable offers basic necessities such as clothing, hygiene products, food items, and school supplies. By alleviating basic needs, the project aims to improve the overall educational experience and students' social-emotional learning and wellbeing.



Staff Campaign **Generosity of our staff is inspiring, unwavering, and extraordinary**

Our Staff Giving Campaign raised over \$91,000, demonstrating the dedication and commitment of our staff to our students' success. A significant highlight of the 2024 campaign was the heartfelt gesture from Cheryl and Douglas Jensen, who provided a \$5,000 challenge gift.



You are a part of their **EMPOWERMENT**

Walnut Middle School was awarded a Classroom Grant from the GIPS Foundation in the fall of 2023 to purchase new fitness equipment for the Junior Islander Power program. Eon Lemburg, former Social Studies teacher (current GISH Athletic Director) applied for the grant. He received more than \$2,300 to buy a trap bar, kettlebells, resistance bands, a slam ball, and a rowing machine to help students pursue a lifelong healthy lifestyle. With the addition of new and updated equipment, students will be able to learn and master different workouts that best suit their needs. This initiative is essential for fostering their overall well-being and success. All students in athletics, physical education, and health elective courses will use this equipment for years to come.

Eon Lemburg shared his thoughts on the grants offered by the GIPS Foundation: "Our kids deserve every opportunity regardless of price. The Foundation grants allow students to see that we are invested in them. That we are confident in their abilities and that we believe that every student is capable of success. The Foundation has been an extremely impactful organization that allows students the opportunity to be successful without fear of the financial cost."



Thank you for empowering **OUR STUDENTS**



Grand Island Public Schools Foundation

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