




# 2022 Impact Report





## Mission & Vision

ACES's mission is to reduce the academic opportunity gap in the Twin Cities and improve the likelihood of success for students in underserved communities.

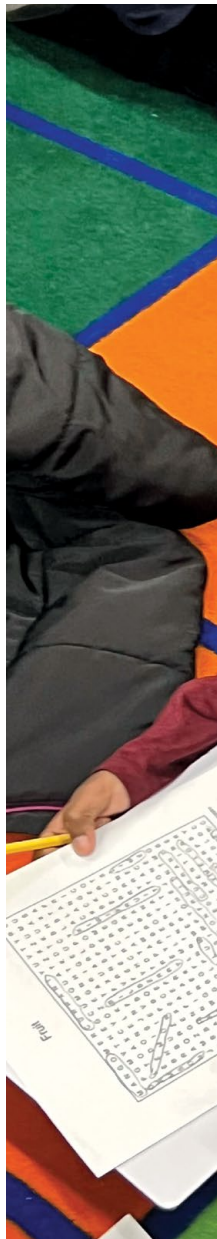
Our vision is that ACES students succeed in college and career, and become engaged citizens in safe and equitable communities.

## Executive Board

Carin Anderson, Chair — Minnesota Wild  
Mark Johnson, Vice Chair — Star  
Michael Cash, Treasurer — Cargill  
Ken Fairchild, Secretary — Medtronic  
Dr. Rajiv Shah, Life Director, Founder — MyMeds  
Dale Peterson, Life Director — PCM  
Dr. Bryan Bass — Concordia University  
Jaisa Engasser — Microsoft  
Katie Grindeland — Gradient Financial Group  
Jeff Hunsaker — Minnesota United FC  
Nikki Keirnes Scanlon — Olson Wealth Group  
Brad Melnick — Jory Capital  
Nancy O'Brien — Minnesota Twins  
Clifton Ross — Guardian Resources  
Derek Sharrer — St. Paul Saints  
Brett Taber — Minnesota Vikings  
Crystal Witherspoon — Community Volunteer

## Associate Board

Mark Magelssen, Chair — Anaplan  
Nicole Boehne — Deloitte  
Brooke Borrell — Bell Bank  
Antonio Elias — Minneapolis Public Schools  
Katie Feilen — Framework Events  
Maria Jollie — Esko  
Sierra Morris — Medtronic  
Josh Ruffin — Minnesota Twins  
Alison Spencer — Travel Beyond  
Nicki Urlaub — WESCO Distribution





## Director's Letter

Dear Friends,

From choosing a seat in the cafeteria to meeting new teachers, the first day of school always brings a mix of excitement and nerves. In 2021, back-to-school season held even greater significance. Students finally returned to school campuses — and our ACES team was eager to welcome them back to the classroom!

This year, ACES reestablished and expanded in-person programming at six partner schools in the Twin Cities. We adapted to changing needs and worked hard to center our students, families, and school partners. Though the path was not always smooth — with quarantines, the Omicron variant, and school staffing shortages — ACES doubled enrollment and delivered first-rate programming for 309 students across Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Our young learners have demonstrated incredible resilience and, as you will read in this report, we have already seen significant growth in our students' math outcomes and social-emotional development. **Your support of ACES makes this measurable, meaningful growth possible.**

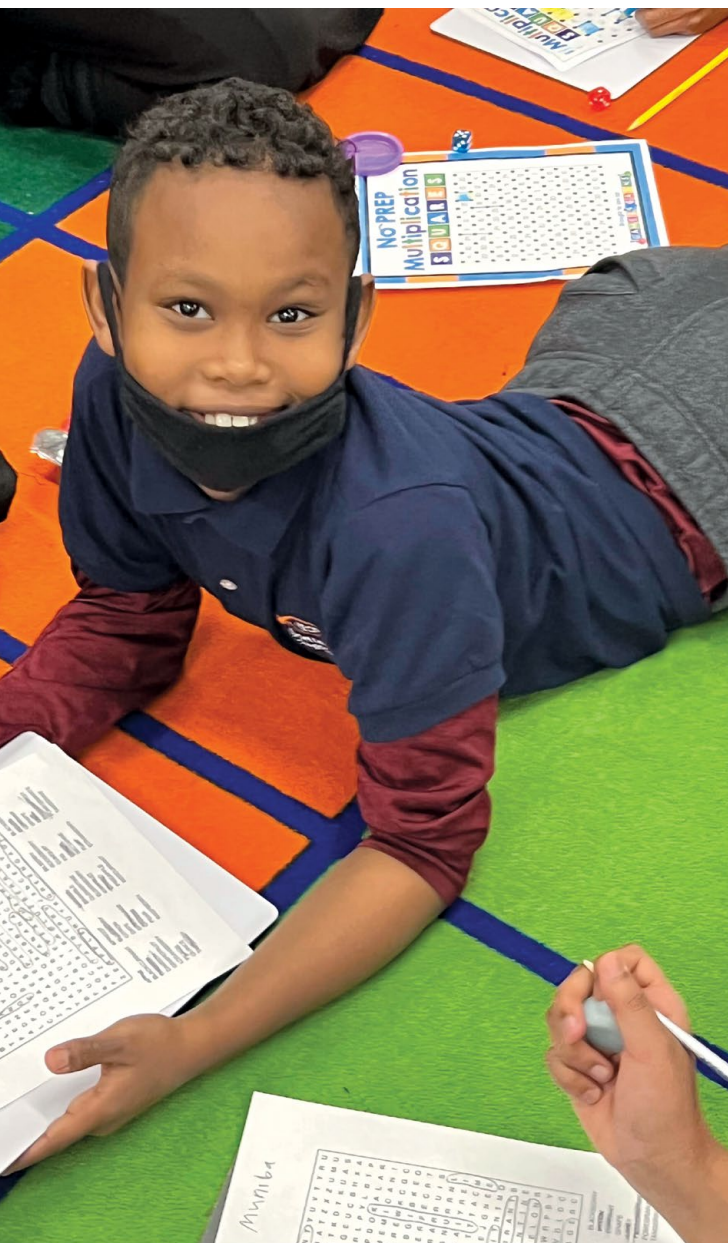
We also know there is more crucial work to do. Researchers estimate that, on average, the pandemic caused students to miss twice as much learning in math compared to reading. A nationwide study estimated that, from March 2020 to January 2021, low-income students and students of color missed up to twice as much learning as their white peers.<sup>1</sup>

With our specific focus on foundational math skills and presence in Minnesota's most historically marginalized communities, **ACES is centrally positioned to meet this moment.** As we enter the second year of an ambitious three-year strategic plan, we've added three new sites in the Twin Cities, we've established our first school partnership in Greater Minnesota, and we remain on track to quadruple student enrollment by 2024.

For 309 students entering the 2021-22 school year with heightened excitement and nerves, ACES provided avenues to engage with learning, important peer connection and positive adult role models, safe and supportive spaces, and so much more. Your support enabled ACES to touch each of those 309 lives — and thanks to you, that number continues to grow.

Forward,  
**Christina Saunders, Executive Director**

<sup>1</sup> Dorn, Emma, et al. "COVID-19 and learning loss—disparities grow and students need help." McKinsey & Company, December 8 (2020).



# 2021-22 Results

## Returning to the Classroom & Expanding Partnerships

After a year and a half of virtual programming, the ACES team enthusiastically returned to our classrooms in September 2021 – and we hit the ground running. Students need academic and social-emotional support more than ever, and ACES stepped up to the plate.

- We doubled the size of our program staff, hiring talented educators and youth work professionals.
- We reestablished programming at existing partner schools and added programming at two new sites: Academia Cesar Chavez in Saint Paul's East Side community and Stonebridge World School in South Minneapolis.
- We increased participation at each of our partner schools, doubling the number of students served to exceed pre-pandemic enrollment.



**77%**

of students showed  
math growth

**73%**

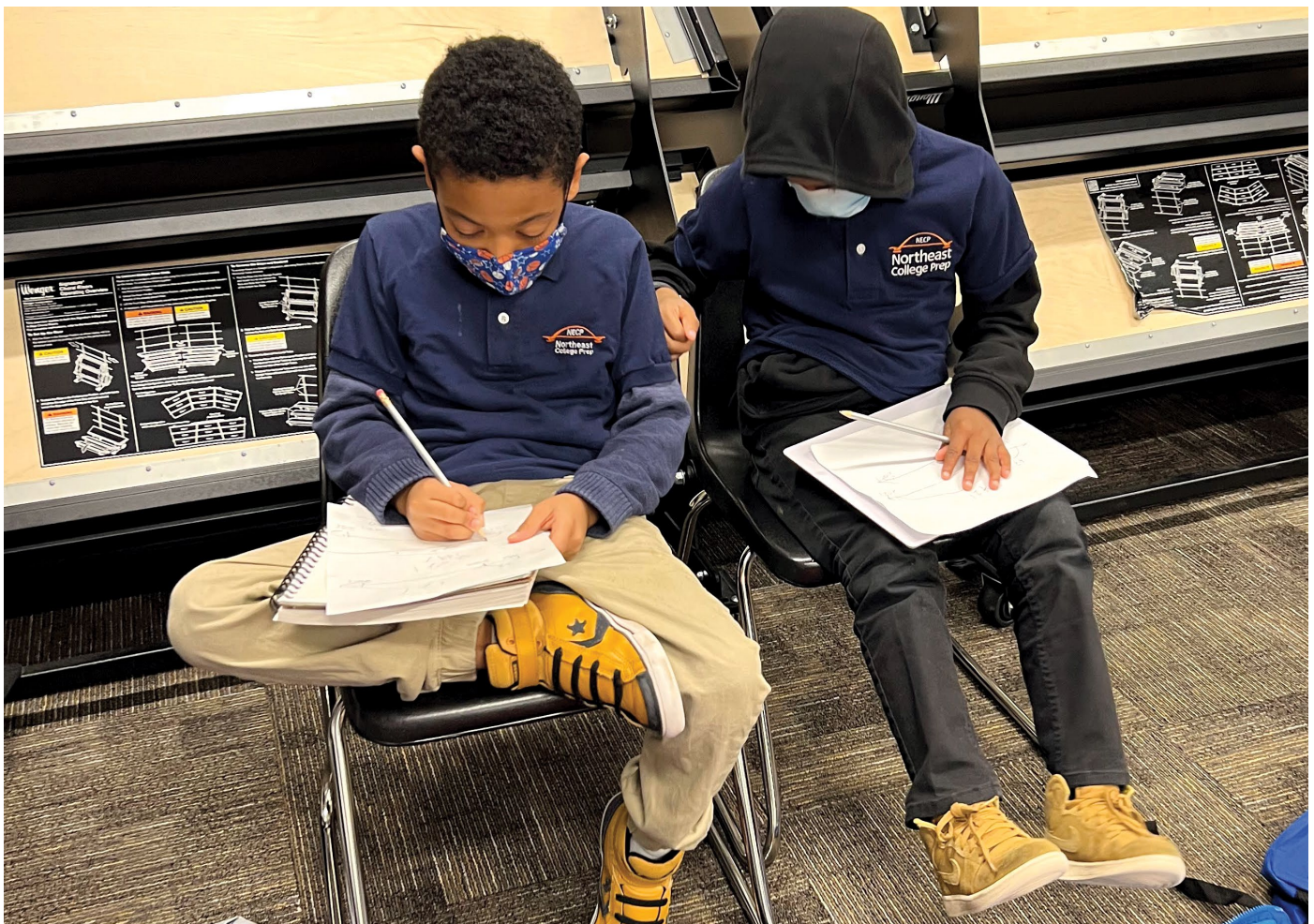
of students showed  
Social-Emotional  
Learning (SEL)  
growth

**99%**

of students met  
year-end SEL  
benchmarks

## Academic & Social-Emotional Growth

Students are working hard to rebound from pandemic missed learning — and year-end evaluation and family survey results show that ACES programming is making a meaningful, measurable difference.



**88%**

of students identify  
as Black, Indigenous,  
or People of Color  
(BIPOC)

**309**  
students  
served

**80%**

of students qualify  
for Free and  
Reduced-Price Lunch  
(FRPL)



## Expanded Summer Programming

Thanks to a new partnership with Minneapolis-based nonprofit Great MN Schools, ACES expanded summer programming to reach nearly one hundred middle schoolers at two new partner schools. For six weeks this summer, ACES staff worked side-by-side with classroom teachers, delivering daily math and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) instruction at Hiawatha College Prep — Northrop in Minneapolis and New Millennium Academy in Brooklyn Center. Through sports-themed curriculum units, hands-on projects, and experiential learning opportunities, ACES helped reinforce school-year learning and prepare students for a strong start to the 2022-23 year.



# 100%

of families report that ACES programming was beneficial for their students

## The average ACES student...

attended **70%** more classroom sessions and received **33%** more hours of targeted skill building compared to in-person programming in 2019.

### 2021-22 Partner Schools

#### Minneapolis

- Hiawatha College Prep — Kingfield
- Northeast College Prep
- Stonebridge World School

#### Saint Paul

- Academia Cesar Chavez
- Global Arts Plus
- Parkway Montessori Middle School

#### Summer Program

- Hiawatha College Prep — Northrop (Minneapolis)
- New Millennium Academy (Brooklyn Center)



# 100%

of families say they are likely to re-enroll their student in ACES



## Once-In-A-Lifetime Experiential Learning Opportunities

In February, ACES students from Northeast College Prep bundled up and boarded a bus bound for Lake Minnetonka — ready for their very first ice fishing experience! Guided by our friends and expert anglers at Rapala, students learned how to use an auger, set up a “tip-up”, and caught sunnies, crappies, and even a few bass! Making the day extra special, ACES athlete ambassador and Minnesota Wild defenseman Matt Dumba joined us for fishing and a subzero game of touch football.

Partnerships with community leaders like Rapala and Minnesota’s professional sports teams make ACES’s once-in-a-lifetime experiential learning opportunities possible. Paired with classroom curriculum, these unique field trips bring learning to life and build important community connection.



**85%**  
of enrolled students said  
they would recommend  
ACES to a friend

### Additional 2021-22 Experiential Learning Highlights:

- Bowling with St. Paul Saints baseball players, thanks to partnership and support from Treasure Island Resort & Casino
- Cheering for the Minnesota Wild from an Xcel Energy Center Suite hosted by Wild defenseman Matt Dumba and winger Mats Zuccarello — especially meaningful after completing an ACES curriculum unit on stadium architecture
- Watching the Minnesota Timberwolves, Twins, United FC, and St. Paul Saints in action with the return to live sporting events



## Back-To-School Community Cleanup

Eager to put ACES values into action, the Associate Board organized and hosted ACES's first Back-To-School Community Cleanup! More than 30 volunteers spent a Friday afternoon at Global Arts Plus, an ACES partner school in Saint Paul, helping prepare the campus for students' return.

Volunteers swept and dusted hallways and stairwells, washed windows and scrubbed bathroom tile, cleaned up around the school yard and neighboring park, and more. The Associate Board was joined by a fantastic group of volunteers from ACES community partner NBC Sports Next / SportsEngine and two athlete ambassadors from Minnesota United FC, forward Tani Oluwaseyi and midfielder Aziel Jackson.

By the time volunteers were finished, the campus was sparkling and ready for the first day of school! We can't thank the Associate Board, SportsEngine, and MNUFC enough for their hard work. This team truly cleaned up!



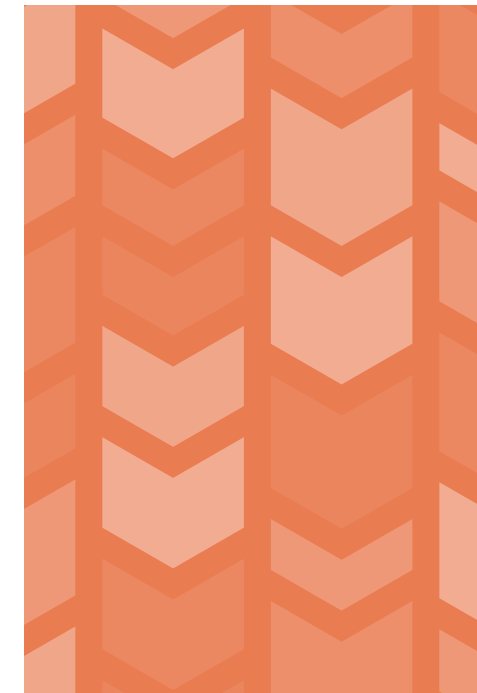


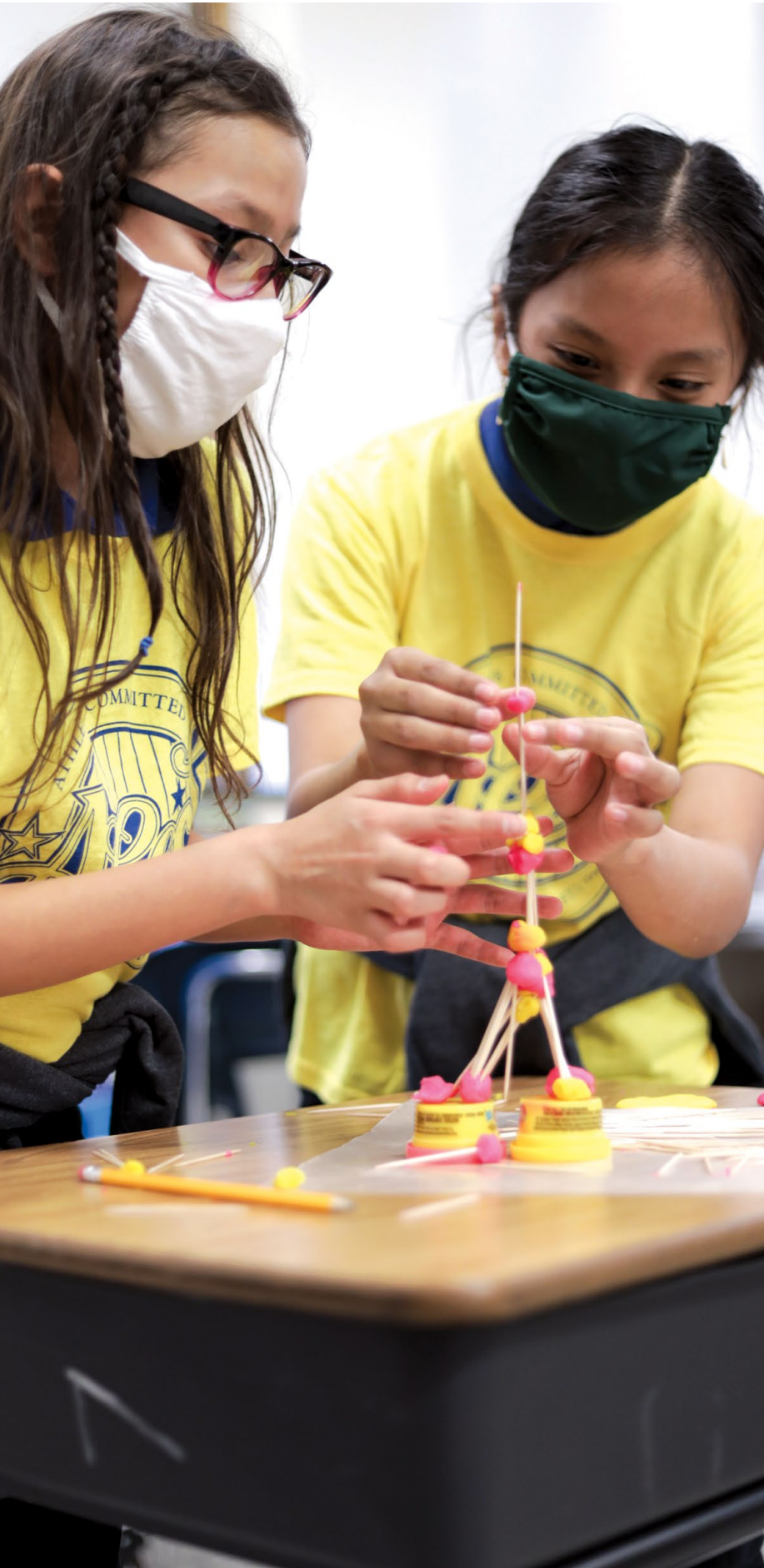


## Financials

Total Revenue: .....	\$1,420,798
Foundations: .....	\$480,867
Individual Donations: .....	\$379,166
Events: .....	\$378,735
Earned Income: .....	\$64,673
In-Kind Revenue: .....	\$117,357

**70%**  
of functional expenses go directly toward  
ACES program delivery







## All-Star Evening

After a two-year hiatus, Minnesota's business, philanthropic, and community leaders came together on May 12th to support ACES students at the 2022 All-Star Evening — and it was the largest, most successful event in ACES history! Highlights from the evening include moving performances from internationally acclaimed singer Jearlyn Steele and seeing our students introduce and present the 2022 ACES Locked In Award to Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan C. Page.

The All-Star Evening was a powerful opportunity to reconnect with longstanding partners and to introduce ACES to new supporters. For the first time, General Admission and Young Professional ticket options made the event inclusive and accessible to a broader audience. As we continue to expand our reach and deepen our impact, ACES is proud and grateful to have such a strong, growing team stepping up to support our students.

**36%**  
of gifts were from  
first-time donors

**54%**  
of sponsors were  
first-time supporters





## Supporters

Thank you for leaving it all on the field for our Minnesota students!

### \$100,000+

Cargill

### \$50,000+

Otto Bremer Trust

Dale & Jeri Peterson

### \$25,000+

4 Cornerstones Foundation / Jory Capital

Greater Twin Cities United Way

Cal & Kris Robertson

Rajiv & Rajni Shah

Alan & Melissa Spaulding

### \$10,000+

Architect Mechanical

Canadian Pacific

Steve & Susie Fritze

Bob Gardner & Mary Jo Stocco

Hardenbergh Foundation

Huelsmann Foundation

Mark & Kara Johnson

Jack & Anne Kennefick

McNeely Foundation

Minnesota Twins

Minnesota Vikings

Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs

Paddock Family Foundation

Bill & Lori Peterson

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

Roberta Saunders

Smikis Foundation

Star Exhibits

Treasure Island Resort & Casino

David & Maria Wight

Andrea & Steve Yoch

Youthprise

### \$5,000+

Atomic Data

The DGS Foundation

Edina Rotary Foundation

Jaisa & Charlie Engasser

Ken Fairchild

Joy & James Hereford

Jeff & Susan Hunsaker

Josephine Lawrence Hopkins Foundation

Bob Klefsaas

Mairs and Power, Inc.

Eli & Leah Maloley

March Family Foundation

Minnesota United FC

Patrick & Patricia Niccum

SportsDigita

St. Paul Saints Baseball Club

Meg Walters & Per Hong

Crystal & Kamau Witherspoon

Dianna Zuendel

### \$2,500+

All Star Financial

Becky Anderson

Carin & Brent Anderson

Bell State Bank and Trust

Bernstein

Carol Bierbrauer

Michael & Amy Cash

Alex Clark

Dan Cohen

Sarah & Rob Cooley

Kathryn Cunningham

Davis & Bobsey Fansler

John & Jean Geisler

Conor & Quannah Green

Guardian Resources

The Head Family Foundation

InterMed Consultants

Bob & Linda Klas

Julia & David Klema

John Liddicoat

Joy Lindsay & Roy Martin

Brad & Susie Melnick

Messerli Kramer Foundation

Minneapolis Kiwanis Foundation

Minnesota Wild

NBC Sports Next / SportsEngine

Darryle Owens

The Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation

Joan Rex

Kenneth Rich

Rokos Advisors

Carolyn Sakstrup

John & Mary Saunders

Andrew & Cassidy Steiner

Tradition Family Foundation

Twin Cities Orthopedics

Amy von Walter

### \$1,000+

Sara Ahluwalia

Alerus Financial

Corey & Teri Anderson

Scott & Kristi Anderson

Katherine Applebaum

Roxane & Tim Becken

Jack & Mary Bert

Whitney Blasko

Boulay Financial Advisors

Jeff Busch

Business Impact Group  
Michael Calawerts  
Caribou Coffee  
Mark & Marilou Cheple  
Claudia & Michael Cuddyer  
John Curry  
Andrew Dayton  
Benita Dieperink  
Katie Donohue  
Kevin Ellich  
Will Engasser  
Irv Fish  
Thomas Foley  
Alison Ford  
Marc & Annie Gensler  
Dan & Megan Goodrich  
Gradient Financial  
Group, LLC  
Cindy & Jerry Gray  
Joel & Dianna Grebenick  
Katie & John Grindeland  
Dionne Gumbs  
Mary Hackel  
Gail Hartman  
Shamara Henry  
Per Hong  
Ted & Molly Irgens  
Tony Jurek  
David Knoblauch & Suzie  
Woodrich  
Cassandra Lall  
Dave & Lynn Latzke  
Robin Lod  
Lauren Lund & Jeremy  
Robbins  
Matt Marakovitz

Bill & Michelle Mathis  
Medica  
Microsoft  
Mille Lacs Corporate  
Ventures  
Thomas Morrow  
National Philanthropic  
Trust  
Stewart Nigg  
Philip & Connie Paquette  
Marion Parke  
Quannah Parker-McGowan  
Steve & Sue Peltzman  
Dick & Nancy Perrine  
Dana Peterson  
Tracy Peterson & Matt  
Goetsch  
Oliver Phan  
Wendy Rogers  
Anne Sample  
Nikki & Matt Scanlon  
Spencer Family Foundation  
John & Janet Thames  
Jon & Lea Theobald  
Andrew Turner  
United Health Group  
Syd Williams  
Hunter Wright  
Frank Zink  
Greg & Susan Zoidis

**\$500+**

Anonymous  
Charles & Karen Aaron  
Ameriprise Financial  
Services, Inc.  
Travis Anderson

Jenna Anderson  
Sharon Barker  
Bryan & Katherine Bass  
Susan Bass Roberts &  
Chris Roberts  
Blake Berquist & Andrea  
Larson  
Amy Bisbee  
Brooke & Justin Borrell  
David Bowlin  
Bill Brown & Stephanie Rich  
Lola & Jamie Burns  
Cigna  
Anne-Marie Cookson  
Krystan & Mark Coyle  
Jim & Lynne Crist  
Donald & Karen DeGenaro  
Rajeev Dholakia  
Adriana Diplacio  
James Farrell  
Dave Faust  
J. Alex Frank  
Laurent Frecon  
Mike Gibbons  
Gray Family  
Charitable Fund  
Barbara & Frank Hallowell  
Randy & Kathy Handel  
Charles & Shawn Hipp  
Louisa Jaehn  
Elizabeth & Erik Jensen  
Tom Johnson  
Rita Kalan  
James & Stephanie Kent  
Laurie Klepinger  
Anna Kruse

Nate Kruse  
JJ Kuhn  
Chris Lambert  
Julianne & Bryan Lind  
Rachael Loney  
Dave & Jill Magelssen  
Mark & Jessica Magelssen  
Lisa & Dan Mauer  
Tracy Miller  
Aleksa Montpetit  
Bennett Morgan  
Steve Morris  
Nancy O'Brien  
Nick Olson  
Mary Patnode  
Chi Pham  
Mark Rosen  
Jenna Rosenberg  
Sarah Roths  
Terry Ryan  
Sambatek, Inc.  
Barbara Sawdy  
Craig Schmidtke  
Krista Schnelle  
Bill & Carin Simpson  
Matthew Sobieski  
Jorie Soskin  
Jess Stone  
Jasmine Brett Stringer  
Jonathan Tolins  
Twin Cities Dunkers  
Rapala USA  
Laura Watts  
Cheryl Winston  
Lesley Woodbury



## Under \$500

Joyce & David Abramson  
Brown Advisory  
Erica Ahlgren  
Reid Anderson  
Brenda Arnold  
Rhoda Au  
Daniel Augustine & LeAnn Hutchinson  
Abigail Ball  
Jean Baron  
Lacie Baumgartner  
Pam & Dave Quirk Becker  
Claudia Bell  
Sarah Bell  
Michael Birch  
Rhiannon Blackdeer de Prado  
Nicole Boehne  
Brooks Borrell  
Kari & Jeff Bowers  
Casey Boxall  
Nikko Boxall  
Irene Boysen  
Melissa Buffalo  
Mary Burke  
Linda Burton  
Brandon Butler

Whitney Byers  
Dominique Byrd  
Sean Carnahan  
Christine Carr  
Miranda Childers  
Katie Christensen  
Jacki Christopher  
Eddie & Airika Coblentz  
Samantha Coffin  
Ashley Conrad  
Amy Conwell  
Patrick Cox  
Joanne Cullen  
Tina Davis  
Margaret Day  
Shauna Dee  
Nidhish Dehru  
Peter DeMaio  
Patricia Dennis  
Jemal Dents  
Laura Dey  
Angela Dillon  
Jeanne Dingman  
Annie Dittberner  
Steve Dittes  
Emily Dolegiewicz  
Beth Dorsey  
Christopher Dotson

Justin Dworak  
Jennifer Dybsky  
Annie Eckhoff  
Clare Eisenberg  
Molly Ekstrand  
Antonio Elias  
Julie Ellison  
Randy Evans  
Mercedes Falcon  
Stephanie Falk  
Jesse & Melissa Farrell  
Sara Fehresti  
Katie Feilen  
Molly Flynn  
Jeff Foley  
Michael Foley  
Pat & Sandra Foley  
William Foley  
Charlotte Frank  
Rebecca Freeman  
Amy Friebe  
Adam Garen  
Jenny Glock  
Jay Gorsegner  
Christy Grady Murray  
Tom Graves  
Erin Green  
Dionne Griffin

Diane & David Grigal  
Matthew Grigal  
Elizabeth Gustafson  
Liz Haakenson  
Alicia Hager  
Stacey Hardin  
Ramona Harristhal  
Russell Hastings  
Eva Haupt  
Lucy & Jeff Heegaard  
Kathleen Held  
Maria Hemsley  
Joe Hjerpe  
Luke Hofstad  
Bailey Hoins  
Eric Howard  
David & Jeri Huart  
Elizabeth Hudson  
Bryan & Nadine Huisman  
William Iwaskewycz  
Kyle Johnson  
Johnathan Johnson  
Stacy Johnstone  
Maria Jollie  
Tom Jollie  
Lana Jones  
Philip Kaleewoun  
Jasen Kapoun

## What ACES Students are Saying...

“I liked coming to ACES because I can express my personality more and the teachers are always fun. I will come back next year because of the cool projects.”

“I want to do more fractions!”



“I’ll come back to ACES next year because ACES is fun and it helps me increase my math skills.”

“ACES is fun and it’s great to learn. The teachers are the best.”

Michael Kappel	Elizabeth Miskavige	Leanna Povlinski	Alison Spencer
Roberta Kettlewell	Blaire Molitor	Molly Presley	David St. Peter
Susie Kuller	Donna Moores	Adam Pribyl	Dean & Stacy Stambaugh
La Doña Cervecería	Corissa Moos	Elizabeth Pritchard	Marybeth Steiner
Rachel LaBerge	Sierra Morris	Chuck Riesterer	Jack Suesse
Daniel Lane	Jeff Mutschler	Nancy Riesterer	Ashley Sullivan
Maren Lapham	Cory Myhran	Krista & Derek Rivard	Jeremy Sutherland
Brett Lawrence	Brad Nelson	Michael Roane	Alexis Swanson
Amy Lee	Adam Neuger	Sonya Roberts	Erin Symalla
Zachary Lockner	News Corp	Eloisa Robison	Colin Taft
Sara Lohrman	Seema Oberoi	Heidi Roebuck	Roger Taylor
Brian Lucius	John O'Keefe	Kristin Rortvedt	Tom Tessman
David Maas	Kat O'Leary	James Roths	Tony T'Kach
Simon Mackenzie	Matt Olson	Josh & Natalie Ruffin	Paul Tommerdahl
Matt Mangold	Joe Orlando	Mallory Russell	Sarah Trachet
Alison Mantz	David Osteraas	Alyssa Saunders	Nicki & Chris Urlaub
John Manuel	Terrie O'Sullivan	Laura Scheper	Susan Vikse
Stephen Marien	Emilia Pasalic	Jo Seddon	Naomi Villebrun
Tiffany Marx	Ameet Patel	Jatin Setia	Maxwell Walker
Tom Mattison	Michelle Patzlaff	Sushila Shah	Larry Weathers
Catherine & Dan Maun	Holly Penticoff	Derek Sharrer	Meagan Weber
Aly May	Maddy & Justin Persuitti	Garrick Shurts	Houston White
Patrick McCarthy	Tom Pitzl	Amy Smith	Sara White
Bruce McNeill	Stephen Pleasants	Samantha Solberg	Bethany Whitehead
Medtronic	Sam Pohlrad	Gayle Solheim	Don Yee Yick
Metro Sales Inc.	Pohlrad Family Foundation	James & Antoinette Somerville	Alex & Joan Yue
Katie Mild	Kenny Poole	Rick & Stephanie Soskin	Rebecca Zadroga

## What ACES Parents and Families are Saying...

“My daughter has always been anxious and never wants to be involved in extracurriculars. I encouraged her to give ACES a try and after the first day she was hooked. She made great friends. Now she wants to get there early each day!”

“The experiences that ACES has provided for my son have helped him develop into an incredible young man.”

“ACES has been a safety net for our family. It's something my daughter looks forward to, even when school isn't going well. She loves seeing the ACES staff and her peers, and it motivates her to go to school each morning.”



## ACES Staff

Christina Saunders, Executive Director

Taylor Anderson, Development & Communications Manager

Misha Evertz, Evaluation Manager

Anny Vang, Finance & Administration Manager

Miles Anderson, Site Coordinator

Alexa Lehman, Site Coordinator

Marie Regala, Site Coordinator

Sara Schmidt, Site Coordinator

Claire Williams, Site Coordinator

Varo Zembryki, Site Coordinator

Kala Horgan, Curriculum Associate



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[www.aces4kids.org](http://www.aces4kids.org)

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