

20
25



Northwest
Federal
Credit Union
Foundation
Impact Report

from the Chairman VP Foundation Director &

“ Twenty years ago, we built the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation on a simple yet powerful belief: investing in young people is the greatest gift we can give our community. What began as a vision has grown into something far greater than any of us imagined. As we close out 2025 — our 20th anniversary year — we reflect with full hearts and profound gratitude on the journey that brought us here and on you, our donors, volunteers, and partners, who made it all possible.

”

Since 2005, the Foundation has grown from an idea into a movement. We started with supporting a handful of local schools and have now expanded to support 40 schools and 9 nonprofit partners across our region. Our cumulative impact tells a story of sustained, compounding generosity: more than \$2.4 million in scholarships awarded to 474 students, thousands of children supported through food, hygiene, shoe, and coat drives, and a mentoring presence that now reaches students from elementary school through high school.

2025 Highlights Include:

Raised \$1,252,160 in monetary and in-kind donations

Awarded \$185,000 in scholarships to 38 deserving students

Launched The N.E.E.D.S. Project (Nurturing Education, Experiences, and Dreams for Students), that funded 25 life-changing initiatives

Collected 55K+ food items for weekend backpack programs, a 52.8% increase over 2024, ensuring students had nutritious meals beyond the school day

Provided 1,334 students with new athletic shoes and socks to start the school year strong

Provided 1,200 Thanksgiving meals to hundreds of D.C., Maryland, and Virginia families in partnership with Thompson Restaurants.

Distributed 30K+ hygiene items to under-resourced students, a 115.8% growth in our Clean & Dream collection drive

Distributed winter coats to 2,201 students in need — a 100% increase over 2024 — in partnership with Koons Tysons Toyota

Selected by George Mason University for the prestigious Video for Social Change program

Supported 20 Northwest employee mentors active at Dranesville Elementary and Herndon High School and launched a new program at James Madison High School, impacting 630 students

Recognized in publications across Prince William, Loudoun, and Fairfax Counties, Manassas City Public Schools, The Reston Letter, and LoudounNow

Collaborated with the Washington Commanders through Training Camp, Commanders Reads, Trick-or-Treat, and Shop with a Pro

As we celebrate this 20th anniversary, we are reminded that every coat distributed, scholarship awarded, meal provided, and mentoring session held represents a child who knows someone believes in them. That is the legacy we are building together.

We look to 2026 and the next chapter of the Foundation's story with deepened resolve, renewed energy, and immense gratitude for every person who has been part of this journey.

Thank you for making all of this possible.

Warm Regards,



Jeff Bentley
*Chairman and Northwest Federal
Credit Union President & CEO*



Taralyn Tharp Kohler
VP Foundation Director

The Foundation proudly celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2025. This milestone year was marked by reflection, celebration, and a renewed commitment to those it serves across the D.C. region.

The Foundation was born out of Northwest's vision to be more than a financial services organization and to leave a lasting impact on its community. What began as a desire to help has grown into a movement of members, employees, donors, and partners who have turned generosity



into opportunity for thousands of young people.

To commemorate its 20th year, the Foundation introduced The N.E.E.D.S. Project, a new initiative focused on meeting unmet needs

in local schools. In its inaugural year, the Foundation proudly funded 25 projects, from supplying basics to children in need, to creating meaningful educational opportunities.

As the Foundation turns the page on its 20th year, its focus shifts from celebrating a milestone to building upon it. With continued support from members, donors, and community partners, the Foundation is committed to ensuring that the impact of its first two decades becomes the groundwork for the decades ahead.

“Founded 21 years ago to support children through scholarships, the NWFCU Foundation has expanded its outreach to children in need and become the heart of Northwest. I’m honored by our past and excited for what’s ahead.”

–Juri Valdov
*Founder and Vice Chairman,
NWFCU Foundation*

OUR MISSION

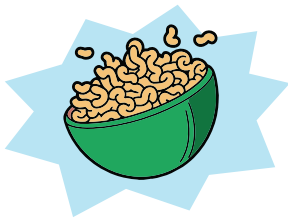
Our mission is to empower youth to achieve their goals by supporting their health, well-being, and education.





Expanding Support for Students and Schools

In 2025, our school outreach more than doubled in support from 9 schools to 40 schools across 6 counties. Based on each school's specific needs, we partner with them through The N.E.E.D.S. Project or provide direct resources to students facing immediate challenges. Whether it is a weekend meal bag or a new winter coat, each resource removes a barrier between a child and their ability to learn. These supports include weekend meals, hygiene products, new athletic shoes and socks, and winter accessories. All items are collected through our quarterly drives and are generously donated by our members, community partners, and Northwest employees demonstrating a collective commitment to meeting students' basic needs so they can focus on learning.



Food for Kids

Meal bags for students facing food insecurity



Clean & Dream

Bags of love filled with wellness and hygiene products



Step Into Success

New pairs of shoes and socks for students starting the school year



Winter Warmth

Coats and warm winter accessories to under-resourced students



With this cold weather I am so happy to see all the coats and shoes walking into our school! We are over the moon, and we appreciate you taking us under your wing.



– Elisa Dcales
Parent Liaison at Gainesville Middle School



What makes the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation truly remarkable is not just what they give, but how they give. They listen. They ask what we need. They respond with empathy, innovation, and integrity. Though their reach spans more than 40 schools, they make each one of us feel like we are the center of their mission. For Dogwood, they have been nothing short of transformational.



– Kate Beckner
Principal at Dogwood Elementary School

OUR MISSION



Who We Serve

The Foundation serves communities throughout the DMV where Northwest has branch locations. We are proud to serve six counties and Washington, D.C., including:

Arlington County

- ◆ Aspire Afterschool Learning
- ◆ C.A.R.E.
- ◆ Casa Mariflor in Arlington
- ◆ Second Story Arlington

Fairfax County

- ◆ Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- ◆ Bryant High School
- ◆ Cornerstones Food Pantry
- ◆ Cunningham Elementary School
- ◆ Dogwood Elementary School
- ◆ Dranesville Elementary School
- ◆ Educate Fairfax
- ◆ Embry Rucker Community Shelter
- ◆ Helping Hungry Kids
- ◆ Herndon Elementary School
- ◆ Herndon High School
- ◆ Herndon Middle School

- ◆ Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center
- ◆ HopeLink Behavioral Health
- ◆ James Madison High School
- ◆ Laurel Learning Center
- ◆ London Towne Elementary School
- ◆ Marshall Road Elementary School
- ◆ McNair Elementary School
- ◆ NextStop Theatre Company
- ◆ South Lakes Food Pantry
- ◆ South Lakes High School
- ◆ Vienna Elementary School

Loudoun County

- ◆ Coleman Elementary School
- ◆ Dominion Trail Elementary School
- ◆ Forest Grove Elementary School
- ◆ Good Shepherd of Northern Virginia
- ◆ Guilford Elementary School
- ◆ LAWS

- ◆ Loudoun Education Foundation
- ◆ Leesburg Elementary School
- ◆ Seven Loaves Services
- ◆ Sterling Middle School
- ◆ Sully Elementary School

Montgomery County

- ◆ Stepping Stones Shelter
- ◆ Wheaton Woods Elementary School

Prince George’s County

- ◆ Earnie’s Plate

Prince William County

- ◆ Gainesville Middle School
- ◆ Jennie Dean Elementary School

Washington D.C.

- ◆ House of Ruth

THE N.E.E.D.S. PROJECT

The N.E.E.D.S. Project began with one simple but powerful question: What do you need? By listening directly to schools and educators, the Foundation created a model rooted in trust, creativity, and responsiveness, meeting unmet needs where they matter most. Born from a desire to empower schools to turn their ideas into action, The N.E.E.D.S. Project invests in solutions designed by those closest to students.

In 2025, the Foundation funded 25 school based projects, each demonstrating real, measurable impact. The following stories highlight just a few of the ways The N.E.E.D.S. Project is transforming learning communities and opening new doors for students.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

The Pioneer Path to Reading at Sterling Middle School

The N.E.E.D.

Sterling Middle School identified a need to increase student engagement in reading, strengthen literacy outcomes, and expand access to culturally responsive, appropriate books for all students.

The Plan

The N.E.E.D.S. Project addressed this need by providing a book vending machine stocked with books as an incentive for reading. The machine offers students a fun, accessible way to earn and select books, while encouraging positive interactions among students and teachers and supporting the school's broader literacy goals.

The Impact

The project has contributed to meaningful academic and cultural outcomes. Measures of Academic Progress reading scores increased by 7 percentile points from fall to winter 2025–2026. Within 4 months, 142 students redeemed books and more than 100 teachers participated in recognizing students through the token system. The machine serves the entire school community of 884 students and 120 staff members and increases access to books in both English and Spanish, fostering greater student engagement, teacher involvement, and a stronger culture of reading.



Falcons Always Show at Forest Grove Elementary

The N.E.E.D.

Forest Grove Elementary, a Title I school where approximately 60% of students come from under-resourced backgrounds, faced a significant challenge with chronic absenteeism. The absenteeism rate stood at 26.1%, signaling academic risk and increased likelihood of student disengagement and poor long-term outcomes.

The Plan

To address this challenge, Forest Grove partnered with the NWFCU Foundation to implement an attendance incentive program designed to encourage consistent attendance and readiness to learn. With Foundation support, the school provided practical tools and incentives such as alarm clocks, thermometers, and attendance awards to remove barriers and reinforce positive attendance habits.

The Impact

The program set a goal of reducing chronic absenteeism by 15%. Through implementation of the initiative, supported by NWFCU Foundation funding, the school has already made significant progress. Chronic absenteeism has decreased by 7.7 percentage points, dropping from 26.1% to 18.4% during the 2025–2026 school year.

Vienna Elementary i.Lab

The N.E.E.D.

Vienna Elementary identified a need to ensure all students — including a large population of students with intellectual disabilities who benefit most from hands-on, multisensory learning experiences — have opportunities to engage with artificial intelligence and advanced robotics technology. Their dream was to create a STEM Lab, a one-of-a-kind space designed to inspire innovation and hands-on learning.

The Plan

Introducing Cubelet technology at Vienna Elementary was a game-changer for both students and educators providing accessible, engaging learning experiences

that demystify artificial intelligence, machine learning, and generative AI through active play, collaboration, and coding. This innovative tool empowers students to think critically, work collaboratively, and develop a deeper understanding of STEM and AI concepts.

The Impact

The project reached 100% of the student body, benefiting all 360 students through weekly engagement with advanced STEM tools such as Ozobots, drones, Microbits, and Cubelets. Students demonstrated increased technology literacy and confidence, shifting from passive users to active creators who understand how AI systems function.

The hands-on, flexible design of the program supported diverse learning needs and enabled students with intellectual disabilities to fully participate alongside their peers. These moments reflect a significant mindset shift: students no longer view artificial intelligence as “magic,” but as an accessible system they can understand and build.

The initiative received district and regional recognition through FCPS News, NBC Washington, and Fox5 DC, validating its effectiveness. It has also sparked plans to expand the Vienna.i.Lab into a larger innovation center serving students across the district, and it all was inspired by The N.E.E.D.S. Project.

The NWFCU Foundation has provided dedicated employee mentors to Dranesville Elementary School, reflecting a 20-year commitment to the power of consistent, caring relationships. Foundation mentors meet one-on-one with students each week, offering encouragement, stability,

and a trusted adult presence that helps students build confidence, strengthen social-emotional skills, and feel supported both in and out of the classroom.

This commitment extends to Herndon High School, where mentors continue working with students as they navigate

critical academic and life transitions. Across both schools, mentorship is intentionally designed to be sustained and relationship driven, underscoring the Foundation's belief that long term impact is built through consistency, trust, and meaningful connection.

MENTORSHIP

Since 2006



“ Through the Foundation’s mentoring program, Joseph serves as a dedicated volunteer mentor at Dranesville Elementary School. Representing the Foundation, he meets regularly with his mentee, Pablo, providing consistent encouragement, guidance, and support. He has developed a strong relationship with Pablo, thoughtfully balancing emotional support with skill-building to help him grow in both confidence and academic success. Mentors like Joseph are the heart of our work — strengthening student confidence, connection, and opportunity. Thank you, Joseph, for making a lasting difference.

– Melinda Ryan
School Counselor at Dranesville Elementary School

I love this mentorship program. I meet with my 9-year-old, fourth-grade mentee every Tuesday at lunch, and it’s been incredible to watch her open up over the past few months. As a former Herndon Elementary student who once had a mentor myself, I hope I’m having the same lasting impact on her.

– Leilani Tizon
Community Events Specialist at Northwest Federal Credit Union





TEAMWORK

In Action



Northwest and the Washington Commanders

In 2025, Northwest expanded its collaboration with the Washington Commanders to create meaningful, joy-filled experiences for students across our communities. Through Training Camp, Commanders Read, Trick or Treat, and Shop with a Pro events, more than 400 students from partner Title I schools participated in programs that combined mentorship, inspiration, and memorable engagement.

A highlight of this collaboration was the Commanders Read program with Dranesville Elementary School. Students heard directly from Commanders legends alongside Northwest President & CEO Jeff Bentley, reinforcing the importance of literacy and goal setting. Motivated by these powerful messages, participating students went on to read an impressive 3,009 books, demonstrating the lasting impact of encouragement and access to positive role models.





& Contributions

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Employee engagement continues to be a powerful force behind the Foundation's work. Northwest empowers employees with 24 hours of paid volunteer time each year, enabling them to actively support the communities we serve. Through a wide range of hands-on and mission-driven opportunities, employees bring compassion, leadership, and creativity to the Foundation's programs.

Throughout 2025, employees contributed their time and talents in meaningful ways. They helped assemble weekend food bags to address food insecurity, packaged hygiene kits for students

and families, and sorted coats and cold weather accessories to ensure individuals were prepared for the colder months. Employees also supported students directly by distributing shoes at Dranesville Elementary School's Resource Night and delivering essential items to schools across our communities.

Behind the scenes, employees played a critical role in shaping the Foundation's future by evaluating scholarship applications and serving on both the Scholarship, Field Trip, The N.E.E.D.S. Project, and 20th Anniversary Committees. Their dedication also extended to signature events, including

volunteering at the Foundation's annual golf tournament, which helps fund key initiatives.

Creativity and encouragement were another hallmark of engagement. Building on a program introduced in 2024, employees continued making handwritten encouragement cards in 2025. These thoughtful messages were shared with under-resourced students through outreach drives, offering motivation, kindness, and a personal connection that resonated deeply with recipients.



This scholarship gave me the time back from applying to other scholarships in order to focus more on what I really wanted out of school – community and creativity, which I was able to pursue through entrepreneurship.

– Aaditya K.
Scholarship Recipient

Receiving this scholarship has made a meaningful difference in my college experience. It relieved financial stress for myself and my parents and has allowed me to focus fully on my academics, creative work, and community involvement. Despite some health struggles in the fall, with this support, I completed my first semester with a 4.0 GPA, which strengthened my confidence and motivation.



– Maura P.
Scholarship Recipient



The Aspire Higher Scholarship Program is a cornerstone initiative that provides financial support to students pursuing higher education. Since its inception in 2005, the program has demonstrated sustained and compounding impact, awarding more than \$2.4 million in scholarships to 474 students. Scholarships are awarded through a competitive application process and reviewed by a dedicated committee of Northwest employee volunteers, ensuring thoughtful stewardship and meaningful investment in student success.

ASPIRE HIGHER

Scholarship Program

LEADERSHIP

& Board of Directors



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Taralyn Tharp Kohler
VP Foundation Director



Advisory Board

In 2025, the Foundation's Advisory Board assisted in amplifying our work in the business community.

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Drive for the Driven Golf Tournament

Our Drive for the Driven Golf Tournament was a record breaking success, raising more than \$222,000 to support our mission. Stonewall Golf Course set the stage for a day filled with strong drives, friendly competition, and a shared commitment to giving back. We were proud to have Northwest Financial Advisors alongside Koons Tysons Toyota as Presenting Co-Sponsors, whose support helped keep this event on course. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, golfers, and partners whose generosity made this tournament a true win. This event proves that when the business community tees up together, the impact goes well beyond the fairway.



PAR-TEE



with Purpose

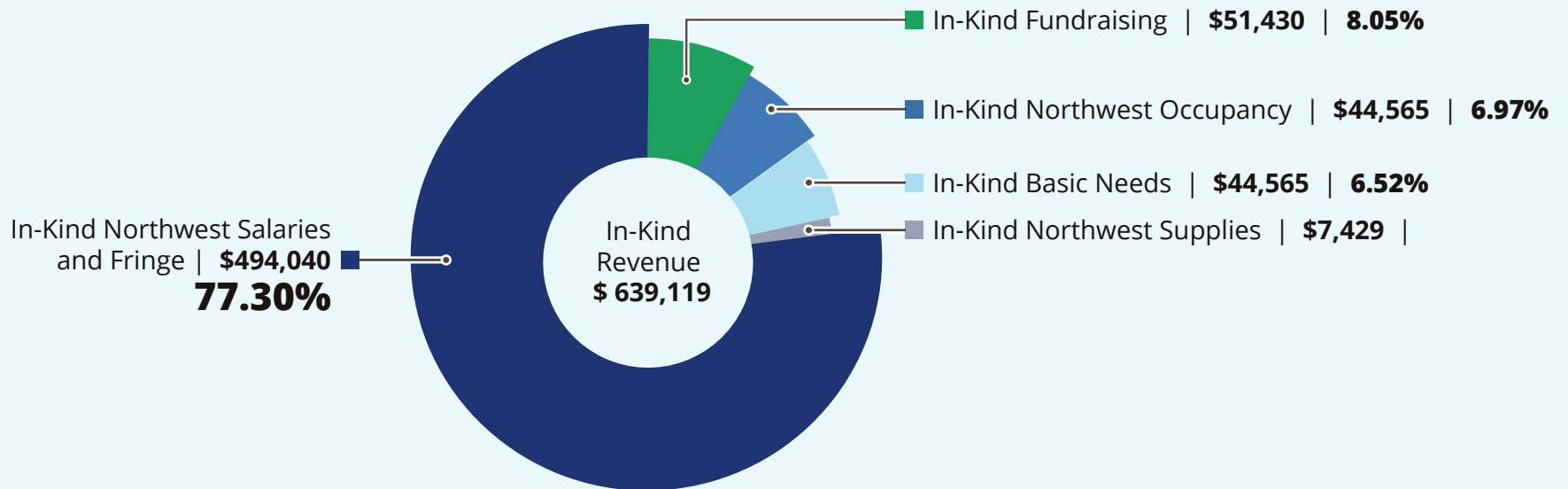
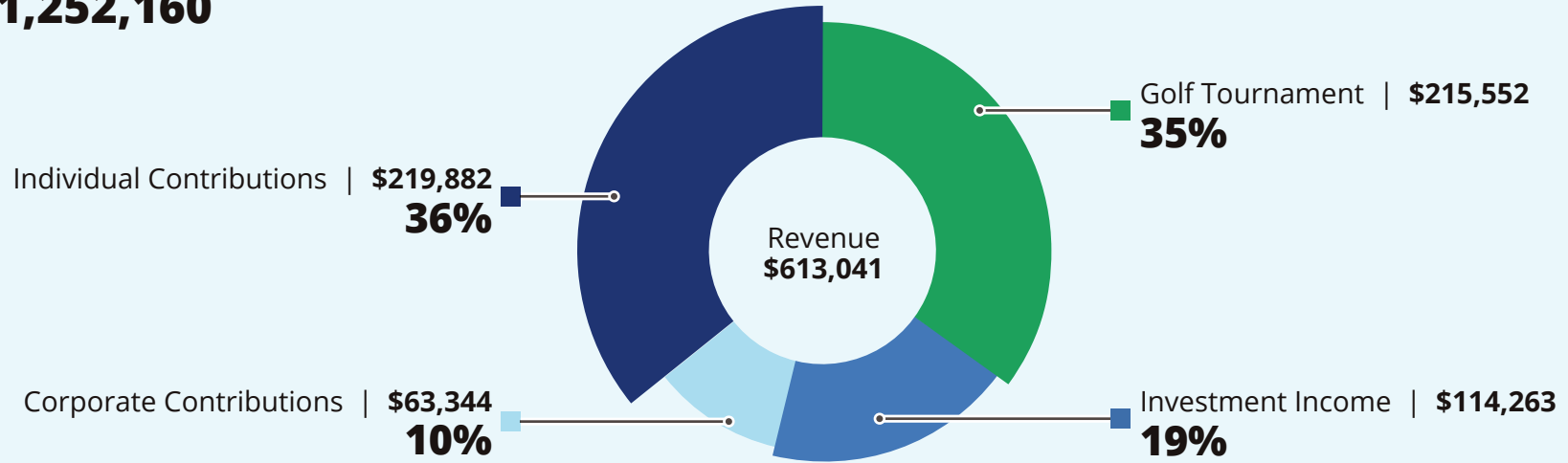
“ Koons Tysons Toyota is thrilled to partner with the NWFCU Foundation – an organization that shares our deep commitment to supporting youth in our community. Beyond sponsoring the Drive for the Driven Golf Tournament and Winter Warmth Collection Drive distributing 2,200 coats, we were honored to work together to host 150 Boys & Girls Club elementary students and their families for a special Thanksgiving celebration. Seeing each guest leave with a warm winter coat, full hearts, and joyful memories was a powerful reminder of what’s possible when organizations come together to give back.

– Beth Kerr
Koons Tysons Toyota



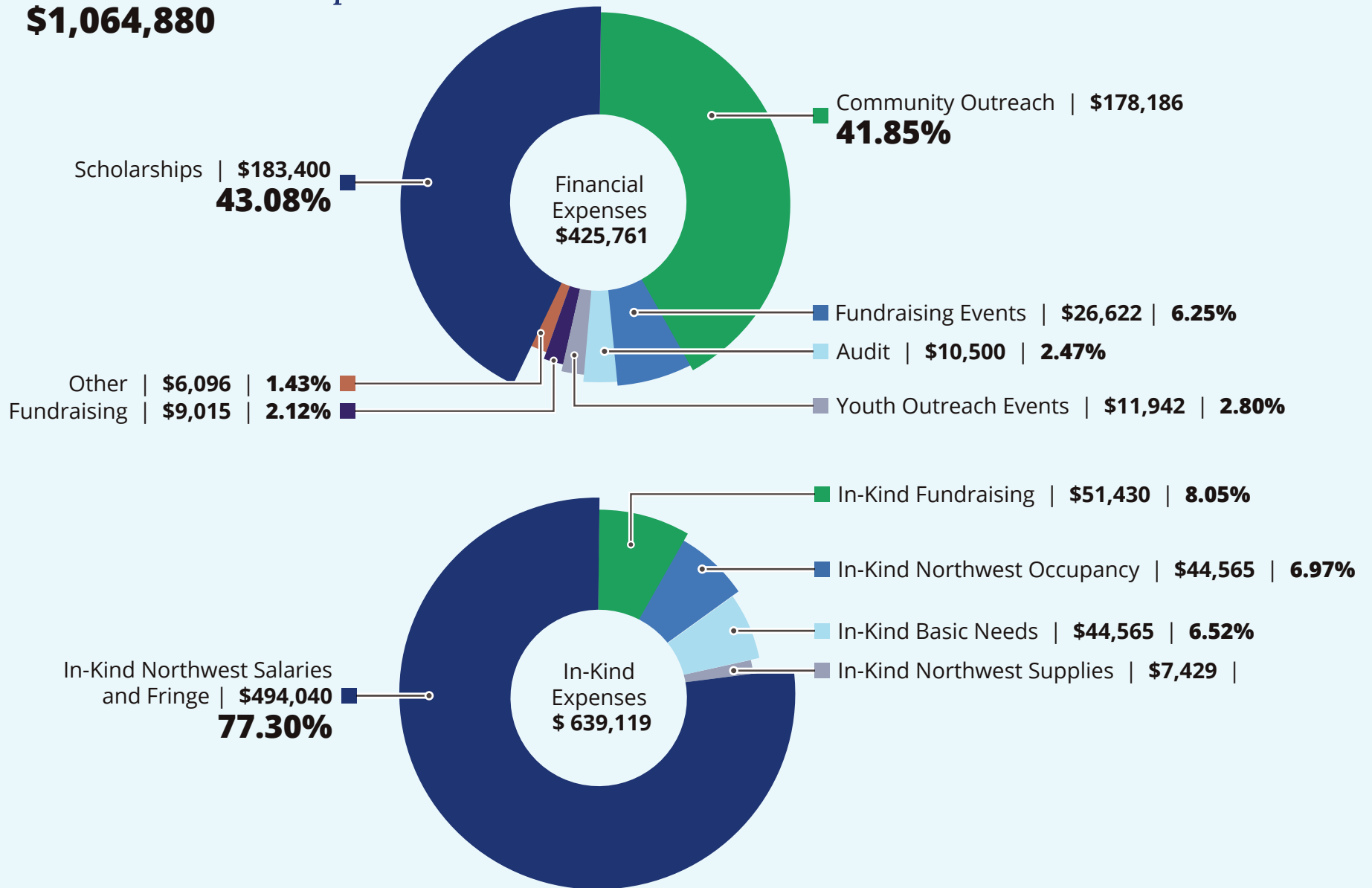
Statement

FY 2025 Total Revenue
\$1,252,160



The Foundation is proud that nearly 100% of all charitable contributions are applied directly to mission-driven programs and activities, made possible by Northwest Federal Credit Union's investment in the Foundation's operating and administrative expenses.

FY 2025 Total Expenses \$1,064,880





DONORS

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Memorials & Tributes:

In Honor of:

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Florence Brickhouse
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Prince Mason
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Northwest Federal Credit Union

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\$20,000+

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Koons Tysons Toyota
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Elizabeth Bainbridge

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Joyce Bolton

David Bowman

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BVTI



Our annual Runathon was made even more special thanks to NWFCU Foundation. Their support provided students in need with brand-new running shoes – boosting confidence and making a fun day unforgettable.



– Marshall Road Elementary

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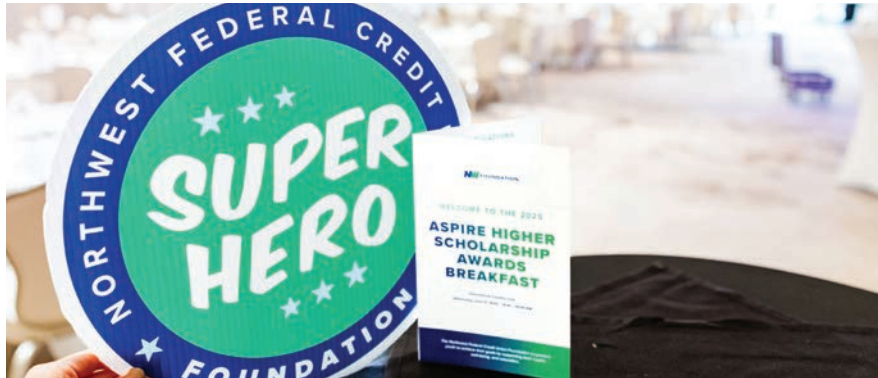
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Another dream of attending college came true through the Aspire Higher Scholarship Program. Dionardo F. shared his heartfelt gratitude for the support.

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Because of 1,330 pairs of shoes donated in 2025, educators reported that more students were able to fully participate in gym class and start the year with confidence.



A smile says it all. A Northwest volunteer presented this student with new shoes during Back-to-School Night.



In one of the coldest winters in years, warm coats helped 2,200 students stay in school, out of the cold and ready to learn.

DONORS



Northwest employees volunteered their time to create encouragement cards for students across the 40 schools we serve.



Some Dogwood Elementary students had a once-in-a-lifetime shopping experience with Commanders players Deebo Samuels and Jeremy Reaves.



Hard work pays off! A top reader at Dranesville Elementary enjoyed selecting a book from the school's new vending machine as a reward for their dedication to reading.

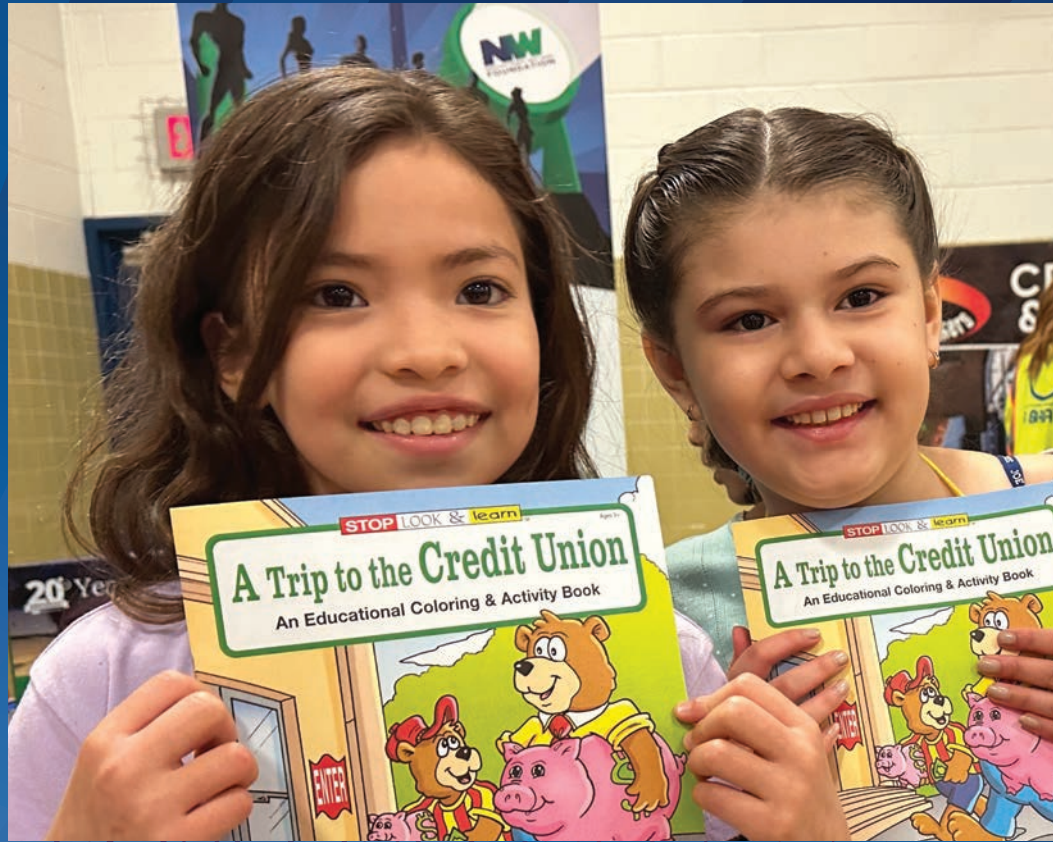
Michael Velasquez
Nestor F. Villanueva
Krista Vroman
Trina Wahezi
Corbin Wahl
Pauline Walker
Walmart
Ella Warner
Danielle M. Washington
Jerilynn Waszkiewicz
Deloris Watson
Richard West
Richard Westlake
Joanna L. Wilbur
Lena Williams
William Wilson
Kelly A. Winsheimer
Robin Wolczanski
Nancy Wolford
Christine Wood
Mary Wood
Thomas Woolridge
Alvin Wright
Laura Zirkle

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NoVA Weekend Warriors |
Meg Donnelly

NOVA Wild Zoo
Pev's Paintball Park
Placemakr Marymount Ballston
Pupatella Pizza
Raising Cane's
River Creek Club
Ruth's Chris
Scout & Molly's Boutique
StarKist
Stonewall Golf Course
Taralyn Kohler
Thompson Restaurants
Thrivent
Tiki Thai
Tin Cup Fund
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Topgolf
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Washington Commanders
Wawa
Weird Brothers
Williams Gap Vineyard



Community Outreach Collections

Support the Foundation and the youth we serve by hosting a collection of our items from one or more of our quarterly drives:

FEBRUARY – MARCH

Food for Kids
Hunger Heroes
Unite

APRIL – MAY

Clean & Dream
Youth Hygiene
Bags

JULY – AUGUST

Step into Success
Back-to-School
Shoes & Socks

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

Winter Warmth
Wrapping Kids
with Confidence

Special Events

[Drive for the Driven Golf Tournament](#)

Come tee off with us to support the NWFCU Foundation's mission. Your foursome or sponsorship helps fund programs like the Aspire Higher Scholarship Program, empowering young scholars to pursue their college dreams.



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