



THE JOB FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025



Spreading Warmth and Generosity This Holiday Season

This holiday season, Farmers State Bank, together with an anonymous donor, made a generous contribution to provide winter coats for 70 students in The Job Foundation program. This heartwarming tradition of alternating year coat donations has continued for six consecutive years, ensuring families feel valued and supported, thanks to these compassionate donors.

The spirit of giving didn't stop there! St. Stephen the Witness Catholic

Student Center and the Northeast Iowa Food Bank extended their kindness by donating Thanksgiving meals to every family in the program. Their generosity brought not just food but also a sense of togetherness and gratitude to the season.

Together, these acts of kindness reflect the incredible power of community and generosity. Thank you to everyone who made this holiday season brighter for so many families!



Farmers State Bank employees joined The Job Foundation in delivering the coats and meals to families, spreading smiles and holiday cheer.



Students and families stopped by The Job Foundation office to pick up their coats & snack packs to share in the joy of the season.



2024 School Year Program Numbers

Total amount students have earned in the 2024 school year:

\$6,139.79

Total amount students have saved in the 2024 school year:

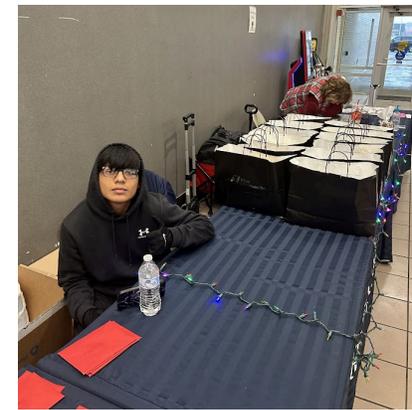
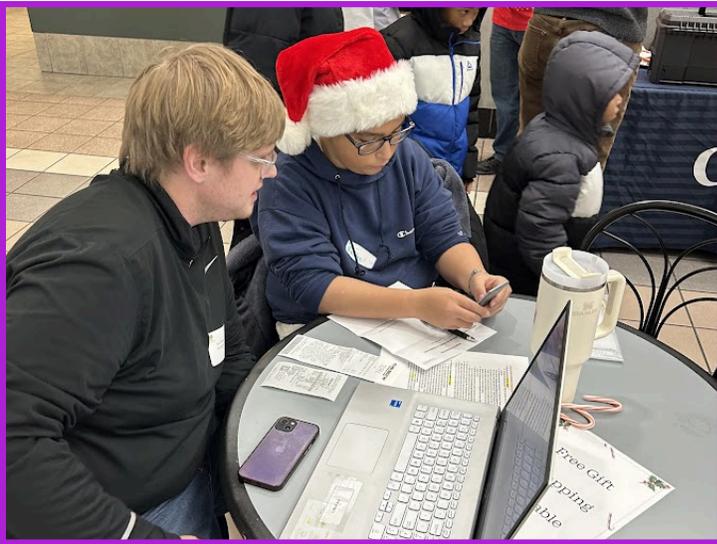
\$9,760.52

Percentage of students who have saved extra money:

48%

Amount of extra money saved:

\$967.04



___ smiling big with his shopping day goods



Keliah shopping for food, a collar, and other necessities for her new puppy!

___ generously bought candy canes to share with volunteers and TJF staff.



A Day of Cheerful Giving and Financial Growth

On December 20th of 2024, students had the chance to pick up some essential items and thoughtful last-minute Christmas gifts for their friends and family. The Job Foundation staff prepared festive "goodie bags" filled with practical items like Tide Pods and paper towels, alongside fun treats like popcorn (graciously donated by ___), stocking stuffers, and hot chocolate spoons. To make the season even brighter, parents received a gift card to help with holiday expenses, spreading joy and support to the entire family. The day began with students meeting volunteer bankers to balance their spending trackers. Equipped with their budgets and goodie bags, they headed out to shop for gifts and necessities, using their hard-earned savings. After wrapping up their shopping, students returned to reconcile their spending trackers and excitedly share stories about the treasures they found. This event beautifully combined the joy of the holiday season with practical financial lessons, leaving students with not only gifts but valuable money management experience.

Student Spending Behaviors

Needs: 24%

Wants: 49%

Gifts: 27%

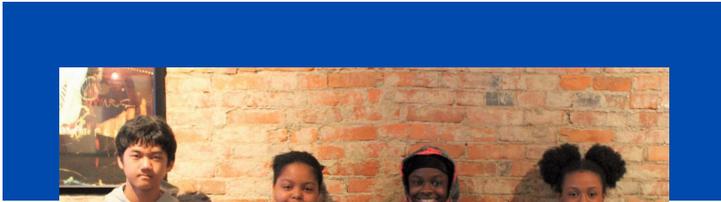
Amount Donated: \$308.70



Building Futures, Inspiring Dreams: Meet a Few of TJF's Students

Like many others in the Waterloo community and The Job Foundation's program, these students have faced the challenges of growing up in families impacted by the persistent cycle of poverty. Yet, with the support of The Job Foundation, they are gaining the tools and opportunities to envision a brighter future.

Discover their dreams and the plans they are eager to put into action, fueled by the financial knowledge and skills they've developed.



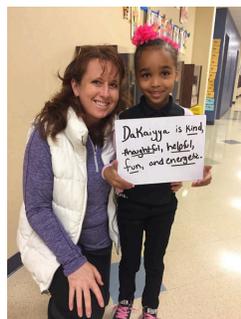
Pictured above is Alex, his first year in TJF. Alex is a 9th grader at Waterloo East High, who dreams of going pro in soccer but also knows the importance of a backup plan inspired by Courtney's lessons. He aims to become a real estate agent and own his first apartment after graduation. Along the way, Alex has learned the importance of building and managing credit, essential steps toward achieving his goals.



Navaeh, a 12th grader at Waterloo West, has been part of The Job Foundation since 1st grade. This spring, she graduates with plans to study business at Hawkeye Community College and later pursue her passion at La' James International College. Her ultimate goal is to open her own cosmetology business! Through The Job Foundation, Navaeh has gained essential financial skills like saving, budgeting, and managing money, giving her the confidence to turn her dreams into reality.

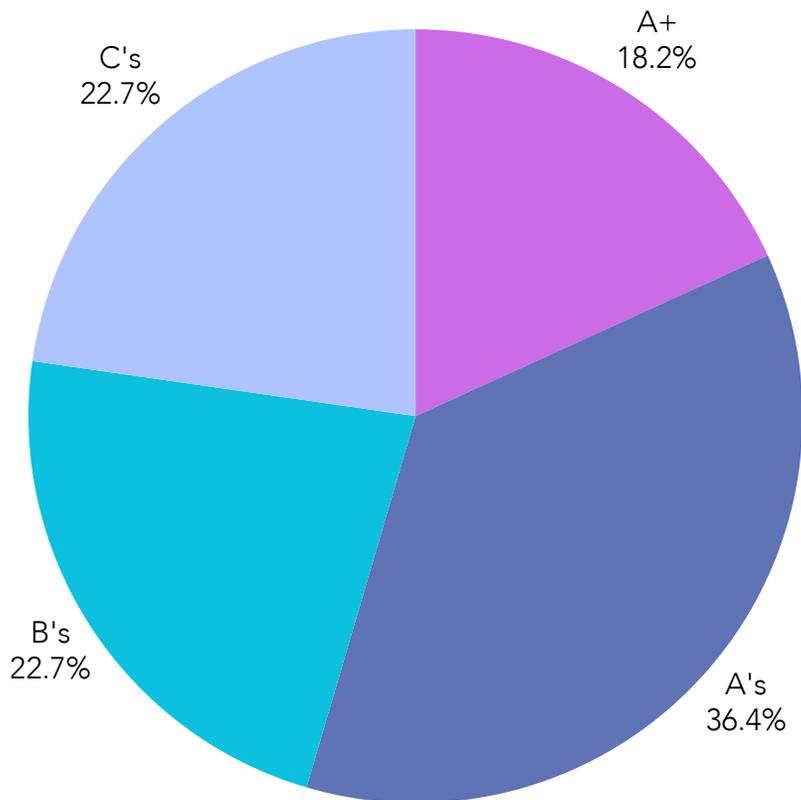


Say hello to Staats Gabriel! Staats is a 12th grader attending Waterloo West and has been in The Job Foundation's program since 3rd grade. This spring, Staats will graduate with a plan to pursue a career in construction! When asked about the most valuable lesson he's gained from TJF, Staats shared, "Building my savings and learning how to track my money have been the most important lessons."



Meet Dakaiyya, an eighth grade student at Waterloo West. Dakaiyya has been a participant in The Job Foundation's program since first grade. Through these lessons, she has developed aspirations for attending college and pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse. Dakaiyya also dreams of owning her own home, an ambition she believes is attainable due to the financial literacy skills she has gained through this program.

Test Scores and Celebrations



You're invited!



*Senior
Celebration*

Join us as we honor
The Job Foundation's
2025 graduating class.

**Thursday, May 1
5 p.m.**

**Waterloo Center for the Arts
225 Commercial Street**

All friends of The Job
Foundation are welcome
to attend
this inspiring event!





Dear Friends,

The Job Foundation would like to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to you, our amazing donors. Your generosity and belief in this mission makes everything we do possible.

Because of you, lives in our community are being transformed. Your support provides vital resources, opens doors to opportunities, and creates brighter futures for those TJF serves. Every gift you give sends a message of hope, care, and empowerment.

Thank you for being an essential part of the TJF community and for making such a meaningful impact. We are honored to partner with you in this important work!

With Gratitude,
Daekota Knott
Development Director

Thank you 



Thank You to the 2024 Donors

Every dollar you give makes a difference to The Job Foundation, a 501(C)3 nonprofit that depends on donations for its operating budget. We appreciate everyone who gave during calendar year 2023, and we list them here in recognition of their support.

Businesses

- A&D Gutters
- Cedar Falls Construction Company, INC
- Community Bank and Trust
- Duroe Family Foundation
- Edward Jones
- Farmers State Bank
-  Financial Resource Advisors
- Golf Lab - Cedar Falls
- Hurts Donut
- HyVee
- Jack Henry & Associates
- Jiva Salon Spa
- John Deere
- Lincoln Savings Bank
- Quint Cities Restoration
- R&N Investment Properties
- Singlespeed Brewing
- Stifel Financial Corp
- Thrivent Choice

Grants

- Black Hawk Gaming Association
- Board of Supervisors
- Cedar Valley United Way
- Community Foundation of Northeast IA
- John Deere
- Max and Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation
- National Christian Foundation
- Otto Schoitz Foundation
- Pauline R. Barrett Charitable Foundation
- R.J. McElroy Trust
- Teen Trust
- TruStage
- Van G. Miller Family Charitable Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation

Service Organizations

- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Cedar Valley Sertoma
- First Reformed Church
- Harbor of Refuge, International
- Kiwanis Club of Cedar Falls Rough Risers
- Nazareth Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Quota Club
- Westminster Presbyterian Church



Pictured above are Cyd Mchone and Daekota Knott accepting a check from RSM employees in Cedar Rapids. Each year, RSM locations across the country select two organizations to support, and this year, The Job Foundation was honored to be one of them. Thanks to their generosity and hard work, The Job Foundation received an incredible gift of over \$14,000!



Individuals

- David & Jeanne Allbaugh
- Patricia Arenholz
-  Rachael Bair
- Ed & Sally Baker
- Mark & Peggy Baldwin
- Stephen & Martha Bartenhagen
- Emsad Begic
-  Linda & Denny Bowman
- Maxx Bradley
- Michael & Nancy Brannon
-  Daniel Breitbach
- Bob & Patrice Brock
- Donna & Gary Brown
- Luke & Meghan Budke
- Karl Bultsma
- Charlotte & William Hinson Charitable Foundation
- Alan & Phyllis Charlson
- Peggy Dandy
- Brad & Teresa DeHoff
- Candace Diercks
- Barb Ericson
- Louis & Susan Fettekether
-  Fogdall Family Fund
- Craig & Francene Folkerts
- Larry & Sandy Fox
- Russell & Kathy Franke
- Ida Frey
- Gallagher Family Foundation
- Jean Gardner
- Teresa Gavin
- Matthew & Elke Gerdes
- Keith & Linda Graber
- Jacob & Nicole Hackman
- Jeff & Mary Margaret Halverson
- Robert & Joanne Hansen
-  Leonard and Maureen Hanson
- David & Dianne Happel
- Jim and Keely Harken
-  Steve Hartman
- Nick & Glenda Hellenthal
-  Dick & Karen Hensley
-  Ana Hernandez
-  Steven & Mary Hinderhofer
- Brent & Lynnette Hintz
- Greg & Anne Hoekstra
- Brooke Hottle
- Mike & Liza Hulme

- Dorothy Hundley
- Lauren Husmann
- Tara Kabance
- Bill & Janet Kahler
- Heidi Keehner
- Adam Kimball
- Kittrell Family Fund
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- Justin & Emily Knott
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- Robert & Louise Krogh
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- Jennifer and Brad Lee
- Larry & Tracy Long
- Audrey Lukasak
- Craig & Nancy Mahood
- Erick & Anne Mandt
- Brett Manternach
- Sam Mauro
- John & Diane McCarty
- Mark & Stephanie McCombs
- Dawn McMahan
- Monte Meyer
- Matthew Meyers
- Cathie Mieke
- Mary Miller
- Brad & Sara Miller
- Dan & Linda Mixdorf
- Nancy Mohlis
- Penney Morse
- Philip Nash
- Mary Nedoba
- Allan Nelson
- Wesley & Linda Newgard
- Enrique & Martha Ochoa
- Vic & Mary Ochoa
- Jack Oleson
- P. Lee & Barbara J. Miller
- John & Laura Petersen
- Nicholas Pfeiffer
- Carissa Post
- Elaine Prail
- Greg Raecker
- Patty & David Rausa
- Keith & Mary Reeves
- Mark & Deb Rhoades
- Bob Robinson
-  Katie & Jonathan Rogers
- Kathy & Mark Sanborn
- Kevin & Janet Sanders

- Sara F. Miller Family Fund
- Angela Saunders
- Deborah Schroeder
- Craig Schmadeke
- Steven and Lisa Sesterhenn
- Arlo & Susan Sime
- David & Kellie Smith
- Sonja Steege
- Adrian Talbot
- Luther Thoresen
- Kay & Rich Thuesen
- Mark & Becky Tink
- Patricia Tometich
- Carol Toppin
- Jordan & Alex Tranbarger
- Kara Ungs
- Georgia Vajpeyi
- Randy & Jennifer Van Gent
- Scott & Jodi Van Sickle
- Christine Vent
- Vickie Trent & Byron Mather
- David & Anabeth Voigts
- Voorhees Family Foundation
- Monique Walters
- Hank & Lorene Wellnitz
- Chuck & Connie White
- Dick & Pat Williams
- Nell Wilson
-  Tricia Wisniewski
- Dave & Mary Wisniewski
- Joanne Wolfe
- Andrew Zwicky

What do the owls mean?

The owls indicate members of the Wise Owl Monthly Donor Club, supporters who have thoughtfully incorporated giving to The Job Foundation into their monthly budgets.

Scan this code to donate today, either one time or recurring donations.

Thank you!



It's our goal to include everyone. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know. Email daekota@thejobfoundation.org or call her at 319-823-1033.

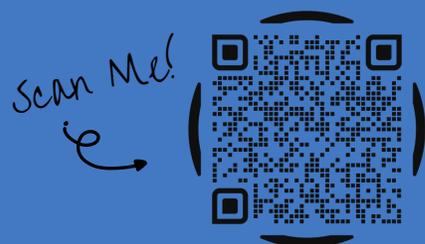


To Our Generous Volunteers:

Some say, "it takes a village", little did we know that this past year that was so true...although in Iowa I would say it's a small town!

THANK YOU to our 150 different volunteers who helped us over the past year in so many ways! From helping with our financial lessons on a weekly basis, to providing desserts for events, we are so grateful to our mentors and our volunteers who help us to fulfill our mission here in the Cedar Valley. To succeed it takes all of us and we thank you for being a part of TJF this past year and look forward to working with you all this next year as we strive to help our 126 students (from 66 families) achieve financial success!

Gratefully Yours,
Seth Stearns
Program Director



Interested in volunteering or becoming a mentor? Scan the QR code above for more info!

Thank You to Our Standout 2024 Volunteers

Andrew Anang
Michael Barrett
Samantha Barrett
Daniel Breitbach
Bob Brock
Mike Brost
Donna Brown
Ben Bullerman
Karl Bultsma
Ruth Cole
Jason Conder
Jennifer Conder
Ryan Cose
Mackenzie Curtis
Jocelyn Decker
Cade Demro
Jenn Diehl
Candy Diercks
Mariam Elsayed
Barb Ericson
Jim Fogdall
Elke Gerdes
Trey Germain
Isabella Graber
Chris Gruhn
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Jenna Hammitt
Leonard Hanson
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John Harris
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Matt Henson
Ana Hernandez
Greg Hoekstra
Mike Hoffman
Michael Huisman
Matt Johnson
Cathy Ketton
Branden Kimmich
Kelly Kimmich
Katie King
Beth Kirkevole
Maurice Kuubata

Branden Kimmich
Elijah Lee
Jennifer Lee
Craig Mahood
Shanterra Martin
Rick Maynard
Diane McCarty
Stephanie McCombs
Lynne McDonald
Anne Mershon
Matt Meyers
Marissa Miller
Sara Miller
Dan Mixdorf
Lizzy Oloughlin
Beth Paulson
Maddie Peterson
Nick Pfeiffer
Courtney Post
Bonnie Pruckler
Rose Quirk
Jim Ralston
David Riley
Jon Robertson
Sam Rohrssen
Angela Saunders
Bobbi Jo Schaffnit
Craig Schmadeke
Kelly Schmitz
Lorrin Schofield
Juzaya Scott
Pat Sears
Rachael Sears
Songseng Sinantha
Mark Speckerman
Shayla Stevenson
David Surdam
Karmin Teague
Thalia Torres
Kelsey Umthun
Kara Ungs
Brian Varney
Juan Villa

Jessica Vrioni
Allison Walz
Anthony Watson
Angela Weekley
Elise Wehr
Michelle Wehr
Tara Witham



Mentor Luke takes a trip to Hanson's Dairy Farm with mentees Jaylen and Josiah



Volunteer and board member Craig helps middle schoolers spend their Job Bucks



Table leader Matt helps at a weekly middle school lesson



Volunteer banker ___ helps balance a spending tracker at one of the shopping days

It's our goal to include everyone. If your name has been inadvertently omitted, please let us know. Email seth@thejobfoundation.org or call her at 319-823-1030.



4600 University Avenue Ste. 1
Cedar Falls, IA 50613



Join Our Mission and Donate Today!

The simple truth is, at The Job Foundation everything we do is because of our supporters. It is your kindness that a child living in poverty will gain financial awareness that will end the cycle of generational poverty.

Every dollar counts!



Ways To Give:



Call Development Director
Daekota Knott at
(319) 823-1033



The Job Foundation
P.O. Box 1141
Cedar Falls, IA



Click the "Donate"
Button at
www.thejobfoundation.org/donate

Scan Me!



OR Scan the QR
Code Provided
Above to
Donate Online!