

Brookline  
Education  
Foundation



# 2019 Annual Report

## Our Core Principles

- Teaching is a ***craft*** and teachers are ***professionals***
- We encourage the pursuit of ***excellence*** in the craft of teaching; students benefit from excellent teachers
- ***Every*** adult in a school is an ***educator***
- We spend money on ***people, programs, and ideas***
- We ***enhance*** district spending but should never be a substitute for it
- We focus on ***long-term***, not short-term, goals of education
- We are ***not*** political



### ***In This Report:***

- *We Fund Professional Development*
- *We Honor and Celebrate Teachers*
- *We Engage the School Community*
- *Our Governance*
- *Our Spending*
- *Our Donors – Thank you!*

## Message from Our Leadership



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our 2019 Annual Report, covering activities from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

What an exceptional year we had! The Brookline Education Foundation awarded a total of 40 Idea Lab, Teacher, and Collaborative Grants impacting more than 100 educators. We were thrilled that every school, including Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), received Idea Lab grants again this year, highlighting the creativity and imagination of Brookline educators.

We also awarded Systemwide Grants with districtwide impact, including a training for Educational Team Facilitators to improve parent meetings about student Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). This grant, funded by a generous gift from Denise Jefferson Casper and Marc N. Casper, has benefited every school in the District.

We held several community events throughout the year, including our 4<sup>th</sup> Margaret Metzger Fellowship evening, our Trivia Bee at the beautifully renovated Coolidge Corner School cafeteria, and Celebrating Teachers, where we honored Speech and Language pathologist Laura Vish from Runkle School, and Performing Arts teacher Mark VanDerzee from Brookline High School.

Last school year also saw the retirement of Vicki Milstein, beloved BEEP Principal and extraordinary BEF partner. A leader in her field, Vicki championed professional development for educators in the Public Schools of Brookline and beyond, and will be greatly missed.

Please take a look through this Annual Report—and check out our new website—to learn more about some of the amazing things Brookline educators are doing, thanks to your support.

*Emily Dolbear, President*

*Elizabeth Ascoli, Executive Director*



## We Fund Professional Development

Each year, the BEF awards grants to Brookline teachers, staff and administrators from preschool through grade 12. These grants help educators to deepen their learning and improve their work in the classroom. We fund four types of grants: Teacher, Collaborative, Idea Lab and Systemwide. Grants allow educators to develop leadership and other professional skills, to test innovative educational ideas, or to pursue a passion to share with their students.

### TEACHER GRANTS AWARDS UP TO \$2,500

**Matt Picard** (Baker)  
*Makerspace Training*

**Meredith Ritter** (Baker/Lawrence)  
*Art New England: Color Studio*

**Daniel Lipton** (Coolidge Corner School)  
*Mindfulness in the Classroom*

CHARLIE BAKER LEGACY AWARD:  
**Shephali Chokshi** and  
**Victoria Cavanaugh** (Coolidge Corner School)  
*Mathematicians Around the World: Exploring the Stories Behind the Solutions*



**Brianna O'Connell** and  
**Emily Redburn** (Heath)  
*Finland Education Conference*

**Richard Gorman** (Brookline High School)  
*Canadian Colleges Tour*

**Liz Cook** (Lincoln)  
*Visualizing and Verbalizing Workshop*

**Elizabeth Brennan** (Brookline High School)  
*Art New England: Mixed Media Monoprinting with Susan Rostow*

**Kaitlin Robinson** (Lawrence)  
*Northeast Conference of the Teaching of Foreign Languages*



**Chris Smith** (Pierce)  
*Beyond the South to the Land of Smiles and a Million Elephants*

**Michelle Gokarakonda** (Pierce)  
*Lindamood-Bell on Cloud Nine Math Professional Development Training*

**Laura London** (Pierce)  
*Landmark School Training: Teaching Students with Language Based Learning Disabilities & Developing Cardinality in Math*

**Dominique Herard** (Pierce)

*Exploring Language Education: Global and Local Perspectives Conference in Stockholm, Sweden*

*"My grant was both renewing and affirming. I was renewed by the chance to experience a different culture and professionally connect with educators from around the world. I was affirmed in my own personal and professional learning by having space and time to share my work with other educators and having them respond positively to that work."*

*~ Dominique Herard, Pierce School*

**Bridget Baird-Francescone** and

**Kimberly Munroe** (Runkle)

*Universal Design for Learning Training through Online Course*

*For more information on all our grants, please visit our [website](#).*



ADAM RUSSELL GELFAND FELLOWSHIP:

**Mayra Hernandez** and

**Kenny Kozol** (Brookline High School)

*The African Essence in Cuban Music and Dance*

**Evan Mousseau** (Brookline High School)

*An Odyssey to Ancient Greece*

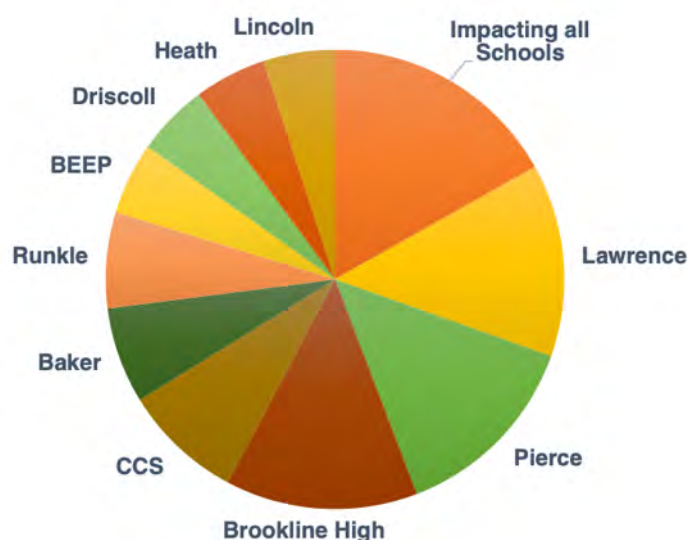
**Skye Shirley** (Brookline High School)

*The Society of Classical Studies Annual Conference*

**Ryan Keser** and **Greg Porter** (Lawrence)

*Disruptive Equity Education Project*

**BEF Grant committees selected 47 grants to fund in 2019 affecting every school.**



**By the Numbers**

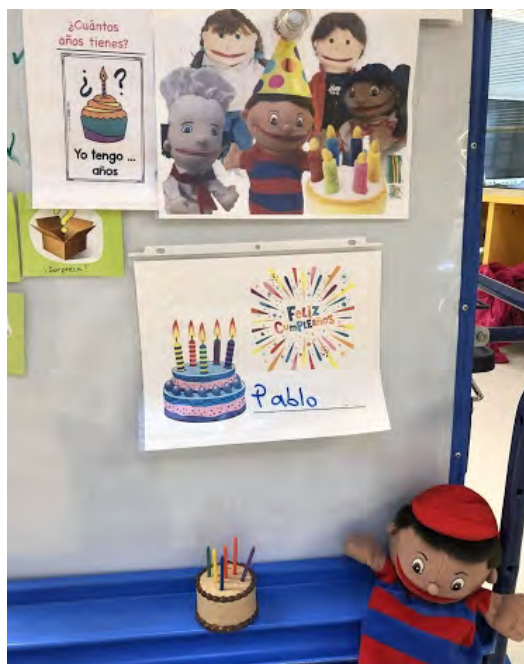
- **23** educators received Teacher Grants
- **60** educators participated in Collaborative Grants
- **7** Systemwide Grants supported educators and administrators throughout the district
- **Every Brookline School** was impacted by BEF grants.

## **COLLABORATIVE GRANTS AWARDS UP TO \$20,000**

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### **Diverse Learners, Diverse Libraries: American Library Association Annual Conference**

Kathleen Moriarty (Librarian, Lawrence), Bridget Knightly (Librarian, BHS), Shelley Mains (Librarian, BHS), Anne Reid (Librarian, Driscoll)



### **Fostering Spanish Language Comprehension and Literacy with Puppets: Puppet Showplace Workshop**

Kaitlin Robinson (Lawrence), Brigitte Valerio (Pierce), Leslie Prime (Pierce), Roxana Sandoval (Heath), Cara Whiting (Lincoln/Pierce) Ana Elkhessassi (CCS), Esperanza Villalonga (Baker)

### **Mathematical Mindset School Initiative**

Jodie Waldesbuhl (English Language Learner, Lincoln), Hilory Paster (Math Specialist, Lincoln), Malia Scott (Specialist, Lincoln), Kathleen Hubbard (Math Coordinator, K-9)

### **SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) New Leaders Training, K-8**

Julie Boss (Math Specialist, District), Hilory Paster (Math Specialist, Lincoln)

### **Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Coaching Institute, Year 2**

Sarah Maxwell (Literacy Coach, Lincoln) Terese Clarke (Lincoln), Jill Demsey (Lawrence), Kristin Gray (District), Rachel Hayashi (Heath/Runkle), Shoshana Jacobs (Runkle), Lynni Nordheim (CCS), Caitlin Paget (CCS)

### **Pierce Equity Action Team (PEAT) and Leadership Training**

Dominique Herard (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Alison Hansel (Math Specialist), Laura Lechner (Literacy Specialist), Kim Barnum (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Jamie Yadoff (7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts), Kat Gramigna (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Anne Sheridan (Music), Mary Damore (Nurse), Tara Anyaosah (Nurse), Dawn Galolo (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math), Emily Thomas (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies), Laura West (Kindergarten)

### **American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) 2018 National Conference**

Erica Landry (Runkle), Lauren Tavares (Runkle), Susan Flegenheimer (Lawrence), Jill Arnold (Pierce), Erica Melmed (Baker), Julie Dananberg (Pierce), Lisa Anne Guerra (Heath), Alison Pomper (CCS), Carolyn Ketterer (Lincoln), Andrea Schuettler (BEEP Lynch), Holly Polgreen (BEEP Lynch/Putterham), Kathy Righi (Lynch), Jillian Raffle (BEEP Beacon/Runkle), Russell Morin (Lawrence), Erica Mahoney (CCS), Cassie Rubinstein (BHS), Alissa Parker (Runkle/Lincoln/BHS), Jackie Rossey (Driscoll), Nicole Poirier (Lawrence/ Runkle/Lincoln/BHS/BEEP), Rebecca Lember (BEEP Putterham), Jackie Hung (Baker), Laura Kessel (District), Emily Frank (District)

## SYSTEMWIDE GRANTS

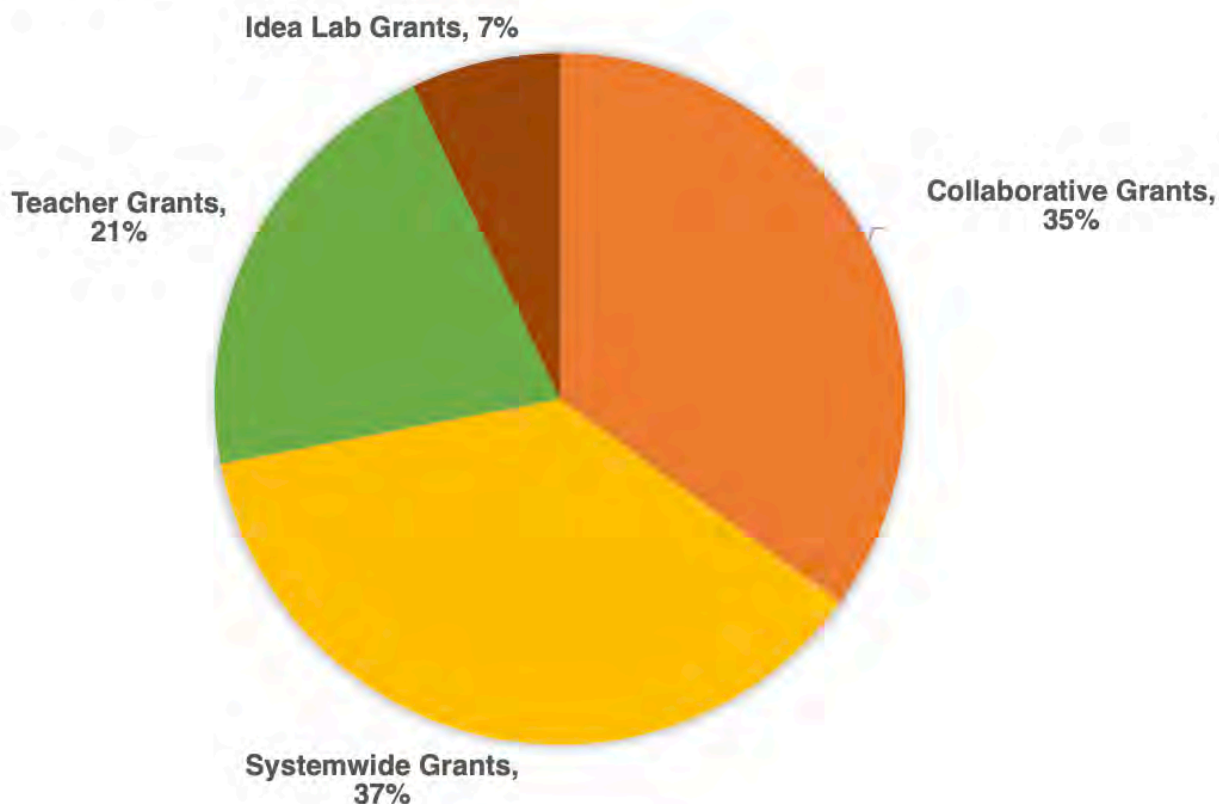
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*Designed to support growth and innovation in the Brookline school system as a whole, these grants are developed in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools and the Office of Teaching and Learning.*

- Math Content Support for Kindergarten through Grade 5
- Restorative Justice Pilot at Brookline High School
- Educational Team Facilitators Training for IEP Meetings
- Leadership Team Retreats
- New and Interim Principal/Administrator Mentoring Program
- Making Informed and Intentional Instructional Decisions, Year 2
- Senior Leadership Professional Development Grant

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### OUR SPENDING BY GRANT TYPE





## **IDEA LAB GRANTS**

### **Nina Bishop** (District Performing Arts/Strings)

Worked toward equity for orchestra students by providing private lessons, 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, who otherwise lack access.

### **Jillian Coggeshall** (Lawrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Created STEM kits for all 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms, and another kit for morning breakfast students.

### **Benjamin Conlon** (Pierce, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Guided 4<sup>th</sup> graders to design and build a Rube Goldberg machine that corrects papers.

### **Leslie Fagen** (Lawrence/Pierce, K-8, ECS)

Purchased Spheros robots to teach coding and collaboration to 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Lawrence & Pierce.

### **Jo-Ann Faulk** (BEEP, Pre-K, Preschool & RISE)

Brought Puddlestomers nature program to BEEP's Beacon site.

### **John Ferguson** (All K-8, Instrumental Music)

Commissioned a Brookline school alumnus to compose a musical piece for current Orchestra students to play.

### **Emily Filippone** (BEEP at Lynch, Pre-K)

Funded a trip to the MFA for her Lynch BEEP students and developed artist unit.

### **David Fleming** (Heath, 6/7 Grade, Social Studies)

Purchased equipment to have students produce short podcasts in Social Studies and enter work in NYT Student Podcast Challenge.

### **Joseph Iadarola** (Driscoll, K-8 Grade, Physical Education)

Purchased "smart" basketballs and soccer balls to engage students and measure results via an application on a smartphone.

### **Linda Kelly** (BHS, Psychologist)

Created executive function tool boxes for the Pathways students at BHS.

### **Melissa Lyons** (BEEP at Driscoll, PreK)

Engaged a Drumlin Farm Naturalist to present their *Hatch the Chicks* program.

### **Sue Peligian** (Baker, K-8 ECS Support Specialist)

Purchased a 3-D printer for collaborative use at Baker.

### **Lauren Tavares** (Runkle, Speech and Language/Guidance)

Provided sensory boxes to all 4<sup>th</sup> Grade classrooms to normalize the special education experience.

### **Kyle Tompkins** (Driscoll/CCS ECS Support Specialist, K-8 Grade)

Created STEAM project kits for grades 1-4 and ultimately created a library for teachers to check out kits.

### **Meghan Walsh** (Runkle, 1-3 Special Education)

Utilized STEM educational tools with the RISE (Reaching for Independence in Structured Education) students.



*The idea completed: Rube Goldberg Machine built by Pierce 4<sup>th</sup> graders with teacher Ben Conlon.*



## Early Education Funds

*Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the BEF was able to support all Brookline Early Education Program classrooms with two special funds.*

*The **BEEP Opportunity Fund** supported weekly music and dance program in all BEEP classrooms, as well as field trips to area museums and other local destinations.*

*The **Vicki C. Milstein Early Education Fund** supports preschool and kindergarten teachers through the BEF's Teacher, Collaborative and Idea La Grant programs.*



*BEEP class visits the Museum of Fine Arts thanks to an Idea Lab grant.*

## FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS:

"I was thrilled with this workshop and so grateful to the BEF for making this possible. This workshop made a difference for me as a teacher and I can see the results in students, especially those who have continued to be a puzzle for many years. I am so grateful to work in Brookline and have these amazing opportunities through the BEF to explore professional development in ways that are creative, spark curiosity, and provide inspiring and supremely useful ways of teaching."

*~ Liz Cook, Lincoln School, on Visualizing and Verbalizing Workshop*

"I use the training that I received, in some form or another, literally every day. I believe that my students have greatly benefited from the strategies I took away from the course."

*~ Laura London, Pierce School, on Landmark School Outreach Training*

*"This was a transformational learning experience for both of us. We are extremely grateful to the BEF for their consideration and funding. This type of professional development is critical to grow our understanding of these critical components of the educational system as well as approaches to bringing about real and substantive change."*

*~ Ryan Keser and Greg Porter, Lawrence School on DEEP (Disruptive Equity Education Project).*

## We Honor and Celebrate Teachers



### Margaret Metzger Fellowship

**Sophie Gorlin** (BHS, English), **Cathy Fischer-Mueller** (CCS, Social Studies), **Isabella Delatorre** (CCS, Spanish), **Shelley Mains** (BHS, Librarian), **Melissa London** (Pierce, Science), **Chari Dalsheim** (Heath School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), and **John Andrews**, Coach.

In 2014, the BEF established a fellowship program to honor Margaret Metzger, who taught English at BHS for more than 40 years, influencing thousands of students and educators through her teaching, writing and mentoring.

Since 2014, this program has been a highlight of the BEF program calendar. Past Fellows say it is often a highlight of their teaching careers as well. Each year, six selected Fellows meet for a week during the summer with Coach John Andrews, BHS English Department Chair, to work on personal essays about teaching. The essays were presented to the public at a special event in the Fall.

### The BEF Recognizes Educators

- *Ernest R. Caverly Award*
- *Robert I. Sperber Award for Administrative Leadership*
- *Charlie Baker Legacy Award*
- *Adam Russell Gelfand Fellowship*
- *Catalyst Innovation Award*

“For the last 15 years, some of the most important professional development I've experienced was made possible by the BEF. The BEF nourishes teachers.”

~ John Andrews, BHS English Department Chair

*You can watch the  
Margaret Metzger  
Presentations and Caverly  
speeches on our YouTube  
channel.*



## Ernest R. Caverly Awards 2019

Mark VanDerzee

Laura Vish



**Ernest R. Caverly Award** for Excellence in Teaching were presented to **Laura Vish**, Runkle Speech and Language pathologist and **Mark VanDerzee**, BHS Performing Arts. They were honored at *Celebrating Teachers* in May. Each gave a thoughtful, inspiring speech about their unique path to careers in education. With over 200 people in attendance, we were also pleased to recognize all BEF grant and award recipients at this special event.



**Adam Russell Gelfand Fellowship** recipients **Kenny Kozol**, K-12 Performing Arts Curriculum Coordinator, and **Mayra Hernandez**, BHS dance teacher, for their “African Essence in Cuban Music” Teacher Grant.



The Idea Lab **Catalyst Innovation Award** went to **Jillian Starr-Coggeshall** at Lawrence School for STEM kits for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and breakfast students.



The **Charlie Baker Legacy Award** recipients were **Shephali Chokshi**, Math Coach, and **Victoria Cavanaugh**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, at the Coolidge Corner School, for their “Mathematicians Around the World” Teacher Grant.



## We Engage the School Community

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee

Fifth graders from around Brookline came together for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Spelling Bee in March.

Free and open to all 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Brookline Public Schools, the Bee is a treasured community tradition.

Generous support from **David and Cydney Martel**, as well as **Dr. Sally Roth**, **Dr. Meredith Saillant**, **Dr. Shari Lisann**, and **Dr. John Ficarella** help make this event possible.



**Lieutenant Jennifer Paster, Officer Katie McCabe, and Deputy Superintendent Nicole Gittens** served as Judges for the event. The winner was **Owen Bergstein** from Pierce (center), with runners-up **Lilah Friedland** from Pierce and **Lara Grossman** from Lincoln. Congratulations to all our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade spellers!

This year's winning word was: **supercilious**

### The Gift of Music

In 2018, the BEF gave a "Gift of Music" to the Performing Arts Department as part of its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gift to the District. Under the leadership of **Kenny Kozol**, K-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Brookline students worked with internationally renowned composer, conductor, and Brookline resident **Jim Papoulis**.

In the program's second year, Papoulis ran student workshops to create a song for each K-5 elementary General Music class. These songs will become part of Brookline's K-5 Performing Arts repertoire and curriculum.

You can watch the performance of "**Let Us Rise as A People**" performed at the all-town Choral Concert supported by the town-wide String Orchestra.

Click the image below:





## Team Brookline



Thanks to our amazing Team Brookline runners, Chima Ikonne, Nathaniel Garcia, Kelly Quaye, Chris Weeks and Jeremy Paquin (L to R), raised over \$40,000 for the programs of the BEF! We so appreciate your dedication and hard work. **Thank you Chima, Nate, Kelly, Chris and Jeremy!**



### SPOTLIGHT ON:

### Special Education Grants

Thanks to a generous gift from **Denise Jefferson Casper** and **Marc N. Casper**, the Brookline Education Foundation has been able to fund grants for K-8 Special Education teachers to receive professional development in their fields. While most of the grants are taking place in 2019-2020, the BEF funded one Systemwide Grant for the 2018-2019 school year. This grant brought specialist Ellen Waldorf to train all Educational Team Facilitators at every school to help improve Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings with parents. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to expand our collaboration with Special Education teachers and look forward to an ongoing partnership in support of Brookline's Special Education students.

**Feedback from participants:** *"It was a great professional development opportunity to work together on our facilitation skills. Thank you!" "Ellen was a terrific presenter. I appreciated how she pushed us out of our comfort zone and got us to think more deeply about engaging in those meetings, not just checking items off the agenda."*

## Our Governance

### Board of Directors 2019

Emily Dolbear, *President*  
Jennifer Rothstein, *Secretary*  
Belinda Hsu, *Treasurer*  
Greg Lawrence, *Vice President, Fundraising*  
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Kristan Singleton  
Karen Stern  
Kate Thibault  
Lisa Ting  
Karyn Wang  
Kate Weeks  
Diane Pokorny Wilson

Barbara Scotto, *School Committee Liaison*

### Staff

Elizabeth Ascoli, *Executive Director*  
Brenda Sullivan, *Associate Director*  
Linda Okun, *Office Administrator, Volunteer*

*Thank you for your service!*



### Our Mission

*The Brookline Education Foundation (BEF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Brookline's commitment to excellence in public education.*

*The BEF raises private funds to support innovative teaching, administrative leadership, professional development, and community participation in our schools.*

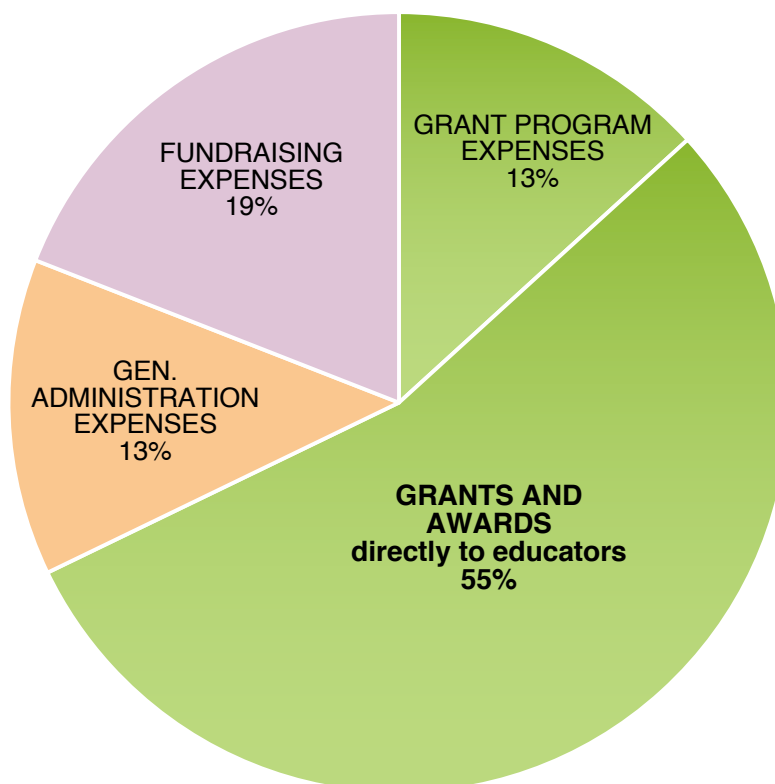
## Board of Overseers

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Margaret Talmers  
Deanne Urmey

## Our Spending Fiscal Year 2019\*



**Over \$280,000** was spent on programs and awards directly benefiting the educators and administrators of Brookline.

\* From 2019 audited financial statements

*Thank You to Our Generous Donors!*

In this fiscal year, the BEF raised over \$585,000 in charitable contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations. We are grateful for every dollar and in-kind donation, which shows your appreciation for Brookline teachers, and directly impacts students and learning in Brookline Public Schools, pre-K through grade 12.

## Green Apple Society

*Founded in 2005, the Green Apple Society is a diverse group of donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Brookline Education Foundation. Their extraordinary generosity strengthens the BEF's ability to support outstanding teaching, innovative curriculum, administrative leadership, and major educational initiatives, which enhance the learning experience of Brookline students.*

**\$25,000 and above**

Anonymous  
Denise Jefferson Casper  
Marc N. Casper

**\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Anonymous  
Max and Lorayne Cooper Foundation  
Marilyn and WyndSOR DePetro on behalf of the  
Emily Hall TremainE Foundation, Inc.  
Kochi Family Foundation  
Andrew and Susie Tapley

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Philip Dean Anderson and Sophie Broderick  
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Karyn Wang and Perry Stoll  
Wellness in Motion  
Peter and Kendra Wilde  
Ann Starnbach Wise & Adam Wise  
James and Melissa Wright  
Marc and Sarah Zimman  
Robert and Molly Zuker

*"I've experienced such growth as an educator, largely through BEF funded work like the Margaret Metzger fellowship and my study of and travel through Greece earlier this year. I am lucky to teach in a community that values and supports its educators."*

**~ Evan Mousseau, BHS English**

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

### \$500 - \$999

Tony and Deborah Abner  
Rebecca Adler  
Maurice Ahearn  
Anonymous  
Evan Appelbaum and Dana Greene  
Peter and Lucy Ascoli  
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Craig and Sylvia Hammond  
Steve Herscovici and Tracy Bare  
John F. Hodgman and Adele Pike  
Alexander P. Jaques and Jessica Shattuck

*"Whenever someone in the Performing Arts department has a success with the BEF, I feel like a proud parent. When I myself have had a success, it helps build me as an educator and life-long learner! It is so wonderful when the value of Performing Arts on our students' education is recognized and appreciated."*

**~ Kenny Kozol, Performing Arts/Curriculum Coordinator**

Marc and Sharon Jones  
Jeff Karp and Jessica Simonetti  
Dru Krishnan and Dascha Weir  
Alan and Judith Leichtner  
John Liang and Phoebe Hyde  
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## Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

### \$500 - \$999 continued

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Robert and Jodi Sokoloff  
Michael and Emily Speicher  
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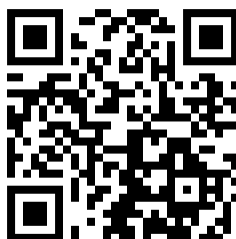
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