

National Recognition for FAFSA Fest

When we organized our first three FAFSA Fest events in 2015 we never would have expected to share a stage at the National College Access Network's annual conference as one of five cities being recognized for excellence and innovation in FAFSA completion initiatives. We are so thankful for the amazing support of our volunteers and supporters that made this award possible!

The FAFSA is a federal form that all students must complete to receive financial aid. During the 2018-19 school year we estimate that 47% of all students who completed FAFSAs in city and charter schools did so with assistance from REF and FAFSA Fest.

What does this mean for city students? Greater access to financial aid, a greater likelihood of college enrollment, and a chance to pursue the dream of higher education.



Thanks to our generous supporters!

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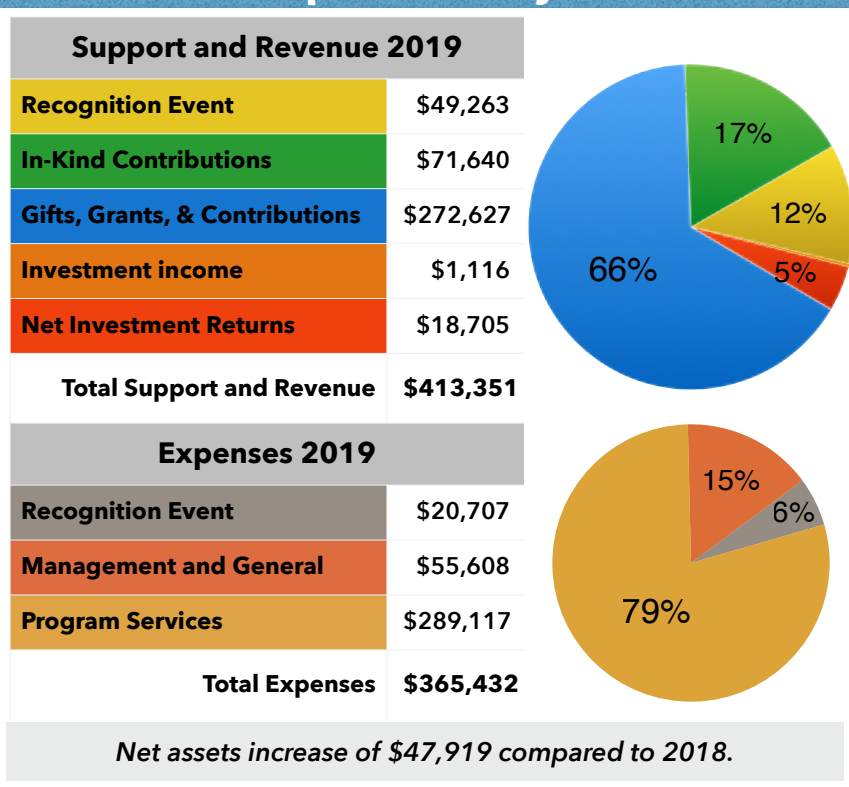
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Please accept our apologies if we
made a mistake Let us know and
we will correct our records

3,000 Instruments and Counting!

Music has always been at the heart of what we do at REF and we're so excited that we've collected our 3,000th instrument on behalf of city students. When we started our Spring for Music program, the limited number of instruments available meant that not every student who wanted to play had access to an instrument. Now, students have access to the instrument of their choice thanks to our instrument donors!

Revenue and Expense Analysis 2019



A full copy of our latest financial report is available from the New York Attorney General's Charities Registry online at www.charitiesnys.com or 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005 or (212) 416-8401.



A member of the Atom Bots LEGO League robotics team at School #17 shows off their robot. The Atom Bots are funded through the Dr. Walter Cooper Fund.



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Rochester Education Foundation
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Every child deserves a great education.



REF ANNUAL REPORT 2019

School #17 student Zaya proudly displays her certificate indicating that she read 1,000 books during the 2018-19 school year. Zaya's classroom received books thanks to REF.

Dear friends,

As we look back at 2019, most of us have an image of a more normal time - and that was certainly the case for us at Rochester Education Foundation. And while many of us might think of "normal" as "ordinary" we have slightly different expectations. In a normal year we meet incredible students who, thanks to your support, achieve extraordinary things.

We saw extraordinary in Zaya (above) who read 1,000 books during the 2018-19 school year thanks to the support we were able to provide to her through our literacy program.

For the students we help complete college financial aid forms through FAFSA Fest, we see extraordinary in their drive and determination to be the first in their family to attend college and hear it when they tell us "I couldn't do this without you."

We saw extraordinary in the face of Douglas (pictured inside) when we gave him a brand new viola to take his musical development to the next level. (And anyone who has seen and heard Douglas play truly knows what extraordinary sounds like!)

Our students deserve extraordinary opportunities because every child has the ability to be extraordinary within them. As we face a challenging 2020-21 school year, we will need your support more than ever to ensure that is still possible for our students.

We are so thankful for your generosity and that of all our donors who have helped provide extraordinary opportunities for the city students we serve. We hope we can count on you again this year!

Stuart Hencke
Executive Director

Robert Neale
Board Chairperson