

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



northside
education
foundation

***FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025**



Lilia Gibson

President
NEF Board of Directors

Letter from the President

Thank you for taking the time to explore the Northside Education Foundation's Annual Report. I have the honor to serve as President of the Northside Education Foundation (NEF). The 2025 school year is the 30th Anniversary of the Foundation, and there is a feeling of determination that permeates our team as we are inspired by the unstoppable spirit of the students, staff, and teachers of the Northside Independent School District (NISD). Every accomplishment within these pages is powered by people like you, who believe in thriving classrooms and opening doors for every student in the Northside Independent School District.

Your generosity continues to drive innovation where it matters most. Whether you give time, talent, or resources, you help NEF respond to the evolving needs of public education with purpose and creativity. Our dedicated Board of Directors ensure every contribution sparks meaningful change, and it remains an honor to lead this work alongside such a committed community.

This year, your support turned inspiration into reality, investing over \$600,000 in programs that prepare students not just for the next grade level, but for life beyond school. Innovation flourished across our campuses, funding projects that build real-world competence: from student-run broadcast studios and visual learning tools for deaf and hard of hearing students, to Storywalk structures, 3D printers, and drones for advanced STEM learning. In addition, your generosity provided materials to build a tiny home for a homeless veteran and her family, offering students hands-on lessons in compassion and vocational skills.

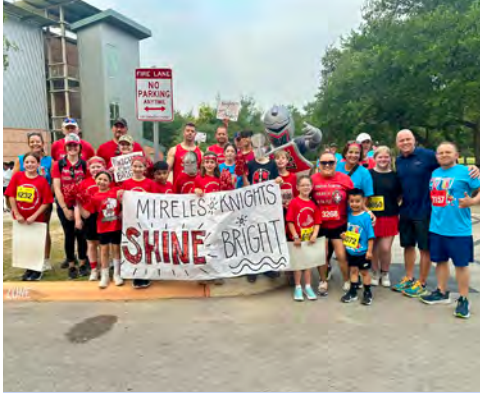
This year, we also refined our own direction to better reflect our future-focused commitment. We adopted an updated mission: to inspire community engagement and investment in educational opportunities that support the enrichment of students in Northside Independent School District. In addition, we introduced a new vision: a united community that thrives and acts with purpose to shape a better society. These guiding statements reflect our dedication to ensuring every student is supported and equipped to succeed long after they leave our hallways.

As we look ahead, one message is clear: together, we are unstoppable. With your continued partnership, NEF will remain focused on investing in opportunities that help every student grow, explore, and step confidently into their future.

Thank you for believing in what's possible and helping turn inspiration into reality for our students.

Sincerely,

Lilia Gibson,
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP
Northside Education Foundation Board President
NEF Unstoppable!



2025 Executive Committee



Lilia Gibson,
President
*Linebarger Goggan
Blair & Sampson, LLP*



Richard Delgado, Jr.,
President Elect
Boeing



Emily Persyn,
Treasurer, Past
President
*Equitable Financial
Advisors*



Jerry Lammers,
Secretary
Alamo Architects



Col. Larry Romo,
USAF, Ret.,
VP-Administration
USAF (Retired)



Melissa Jourdan,
VP-Development
*Joeris General
Contractors*



David Puente,
VP-Programs
Firstmark Credit Union



Ramiro Rabadan,
VP-Communications
Texas Lone Star Reps

2025 Directors



Keyhla Calderon-Lugo
Palo Alto College



Wade Cleary
*Cleary Zimmermann
Engineers*

2025 Directors *Continued*



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Yates Company



Tim Martin
*Bartlett Cocke
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John Muniz
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Cathy Naiser
*Naiser Reality,
KW City View*



Gabriela Rodriguez
*Garza Bomberger &
Associates*



Lauren Sharp
Guido Construction



Dr. Brian Woods
TASA

Directors Emeritus

George Block
Vaughn Bomberger
John Folks, Ed.D.
Dave Gannon
Merry Raba
Ed Rawlinson
Art Reyna

Education Advisory Committee

Dr. John M. Craft
Trustee Dr. Karla Duran*
Elected by NISD Board of Trustees
Principal Gracie Espinosa
Principal Dr. Mark Lopez
Principal Margaret Bray

How to become a NEF Board member:

- Contribute to Board diversity (ethnicity, gender, profession, education).
- Develop contacts with an extensive network of people interested in preserving quality public education in NISD.
- Donate time, energy, expertise, and sometimes funds. No fees required to join.
- Volunteer prior to serving on the Board.
- Board members are not required to live in NISD or have children in NISD.

What is expected of NEF Board members:

- Don't miss more than three meetings.
- Serve a three-year term.
- Serve on a minimum of one committee at all times during service.
- Grow endowment annually.



NEF GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to the support of our sponsors and donors, NEF Grants are able to help numerous Northside ISD teachers and students. See the impact made in the 2024-2025 school year.



363K
GRANTS AWARDED



97
SCHOOLS
EFFECTED



250
GRANT
WINNERS



84,625
ESTIMATED STUDENTS IMPACTED

NEF Designated Funds and Grants

Reminding employees they do not have to be teachers to apply for grants, NEF seeks funds from all NISD faculty and staff during its Annual Giving Campaign and, in return, awards grants throughout the school year.

Grants are read and scored by a committee of NEF Board members, NISD administrators, and community and business volunteers. The NISD Grants & Recognitions Department provides training on how to apply for and win a NEF grant.

In addition, NISD is able to use NEF’s tax-exempt status to apply for other grants that are not open to public school districts without NEF’s 501 c-3 authority. Designated or restricted donations to NEF are designed to be exclusively donor-driven. In each, IRS rules limit the use of funds to the specific goals of the donor.

The Foundation has 22 designated funds. NEF applies interest earned to funds of \$10,000 or more, commensurate with NEF’s endowment performance.

Designated Funds to Beneficial Programs in 2024-2025

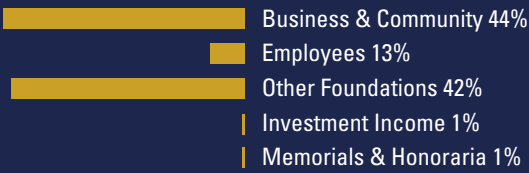
**Fiscal Year September 2024 to August 2025*

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Buck’s Jay Opportunity Grants | \$15,971.28 |
| Business Careers HS Scholarship Program (NSITE) | \$64,733.09 |
| Catherine Young Memorial Scholarship | \$12,521.25 |
| Covington’s Promise | \$2,900.00 |
| Emily Persyn, Equitable Financial Advisors | \$4,433.33 |
| Fernandez Family Shaping the Future Fund | \$1,400.00 |
| Harlan Lady Hawk Soccer Program Fund | \$10,743.59 |
| Jack C. Jordan PTA Penny Drive/Scholarship Fund | \$101,971 |
| Jennifer Patlovany Memorial Fund | \$18,230.63 |
| Jimmy Davenport Memorial Scholarship | \$375.00 |
| Julie Jamamil Memorial Scholarship | \$4,168.69 |
| Kelly Smith Scholarship Fund | \$5,250.00 |
| The Melva Matkin PTA Scholarship | \$500 |
| NISD Board Scholarship | \$12,500.00 |
| NISD Museum Association Fund | \$33,157.96 |
| NISD Fine Arts Los Leones Fund | \$11,946.01 |
| Olivia Lopez Ramirez Memorial Scholarship Fund | \$6,375.00 |
| Roxanne Wernli-Brown Scholarship | \$4,000 |
| Solar Car Races & Science Bowl Fund | \$100,123.65 |
| SPC Dane R. Balcon Memorial Scholarship | \$200.00 |
| Dr. Winn Murnin Scholarship for Murnin ES | \$45,317.78 |
| Xavier Michael Cardenas Memorial Fund | \$575.00 |

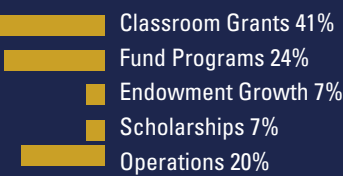
| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Total 22 Designated Funds | \$457,393.26 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|

In 2025, the NEF assets, managed by Michael Clark, Aspect Wealth Management, increased from \$6.8M to \$7.3M

Where donations come from:



What NEF donations go to:



NEF at a Glance:

| | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Raised | \$1.1M | \$1.2M |
| Assets | \$6.8M | \$7.3M |
| NEF Grants Awarded | \$370K | \$366K |
| Other Awarded | \$308K | \$265K |

| NEF Fundraisers | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Gala | \$190,104 | \$206,994 |
| Annual Giving Campaign | \$102,108 | \$122,770 |
| 5K Run/Walk (FunRun) | \$46,046 | \$63,995 |
| Theme Park Discounted Tickets Program | \$592 | \$0 |
| Golf Tournament | \$70,740 | \$78,906 |
| Sporting Clay Shooting Tournament | \$54,862 | \$48,814 |
| Giving Tuesday | \$0 | \$503 |
| Plaza of Influence Pavers | \$12,897 | \$13,444 |
| Total | \$477,349 | \$535,426 |

Memorials, Honoraria, Bequests, and Grants

Each year, parents and grandparents, business and community partners, individual supporters, and many others choose public school excellence to be the focus of their charitable contributions. NEF often receives gifts and other legacy-giving to acknowledge a loved one, colleague, or significant event.

2024-2025 Memorials include: *(September 2024 to August 2025)*

Dave Gannon in memory of Pattie Webster, former principal of Helotes Elementary. Carol Burket in memory of James L. Burket, Pat Henderson, Ruth McKay and Evangeline Riojas. Pat Davenport in memory of Bonnie Pollard, Geraldine Scarborough & Leeroy Bitzkie for the Jimmy Davenport Scholarship fund. Ed Rawlinson, Cheryl Sharp, Mark Richardson, Adele S. Myers, Fred Kight, Laura Montemayor, Elizabeth Straight, Nancy Diane Stewart, Ellen Sutton, Oval E. Myers, The Shakti Foundation and Jean James in memory of school namesake Virginia Myers.

2024-2025 Honorariums include: *(September 2024 to August 2025)*

Dave Gannon in honor of Patti Sanchez's over 30 years of service to NISD. Dave Gannon in honor of Samantha Noriega, 5th grade teacher at Mead Elementary, in honor of her being named Teacher of the Year for the 2024-25 school year. Dave Gannon in honor of Cynthia Elizondo being named the Helotes Elementary Teacher of the Year. Dave Gannon in honor of Ylisa De Los Santos for Burke Elementary's victory in Final Four Reading Challenge. Dave Gannon in honor and recognition of Michele Braendle, STEM Teacher at Helotes Elementary.

Technical Expertise & Service or Support Personnel of Record

Auditor & Tax Preparer - Joe Hernandez, Akin Doherty Klein & Feuge

Financial Advisor - Michael Clark, Aspect Wealth Management

Bankers - Cassy Ford, Jefferson Bank; Brianda Garza, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union

Erica Sustayta, CPA, LLC

NEF Director - Teri Diaz

NISD Partnerships Staff - Norma Rabago, Alan Sale, Lindsey Rivas, Vince Lutzenberger,

Maxine Bratton, Xander Salazar

NISD Budget & Finance Office

NISD Communications & Marketing Office

NISD Grants & Recognitions Office

NISD Fine Arts Department



Kris Trejo
Holmes High School
Class of 1997

San Antonio native Kris Trejo has devoted 27 years to Northside ISD, rising from a summer job moving textbooks to Assistant Superintendent for Technology Services. Along the way, he advanced through eight roles, including Director of Technology Acquisitions and Executive Director of Technology Services. Kris earned his bachelor's from the University of the Incarnate Word and a master's from Tarleton State while working full-time. A committed mentor inducted into the NSITE Mentor Hall of Fame, he's active in state and national education technology groups. Kris credits his greatest inspiration and support to his wife and three children.

**PILLAR OF
TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Honest, Loyal, Credible



Melissa Vela Williamson
John Jay High School
Class of 1998

Melissa Vela-Williamson, a San Antonio native, is a respected public relations strategist known for leading with dignity and empowerment. After attending schools in both Southwest ISD and Northside ISD, a supportive English teacher at Pease Middle School inspired her to embrace challenges and excel, eventually taking all honors courses at Jay High School. The first in her family to graduate from college, she earned degrees from St. Mary's University and UTSA. Today, as the chief communication architect of MVW Communications, Melissa is an accredited, award-winning leader whose work, writing, and mentorship connect diverse audiences to opportunities and ensure people feel seen, heard, and valued.

PILLAR OF RESPECT

Courteous, Intuitive, Unbiased



Dr. Darnell Smith
Taft High School
Class of 2002

Dr. Darnell J. Smith, a proud San Antonio native and Northside ISD graduate, built his foundation at Adams Hill, Rayburn, and Taft, where he embraced values of discipline, hard work, and purpose. A standout linebacker at Taft, he helped lead the Raiders to the 2001 Class 5A State Championship and went on to play football at Oklahoma State University, earning Academic All-Big 12 and Academic All-American honors. After transitioning into athletics administration, he held roles with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee before becoming the inaugural athletics director at Texas A&M—San Antonio. A “40 Under 40” honoree, he earned his doctorate in 2025 and continues to champion leadership on and off the field.

PILLAR OF RESPONSIBILITY
Diligent, Conscientious, Stalwart



Amanda Gonzalez
Construction Careers Academy
Class of 2013

Amanda Gonzalez, a lifelong San Antonian and proud Northside ISD graduate, has been a trailblazer from the start. As part of Warren High School’s inaugural Construction Careers Academy class, she earned the program’s first MVP award and the title of Miss CCA. She later completed a construction science degree at Texas A&M and an MBA from UTSA. Joining SpawGlass in 2017, Amanda became the company’s first female Superintendent II and now serves as a Project Manager, leading major projects with a focus on teamwork and respect. A dedicated mentor, she actively supports CCA students and champions women pursuing careers in construction.

PILLAR OF FAIRNESS
Equitable, Open, Reasonable



Dr. Akshay Thusu
Health Careers High School
Class of 2006

Dr. Akshay Thusu, raised in Mumbai and inspired by his parents' community service, has devoted his life to compassion and care. After moving to Texas in 2003, he excelled academically — graduating from Health Careers High School, UTSA, and the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry. A champion for underserved communities, he has provided free dental care to thousands through Texas Mission of Mercy, Dentistry from the Heart, and refugee clinics, while also advocating for expanded access to oral health. A committed mentor and recognized leader, Dr. Thusu embodies the belief that caring for others is not just a profession, but a way of life.

PILLAR OF CARING

Compassionate, Empathetic, Unselfish



Kimberly Solis
O'Connor High School
Class of 2001

Kimberly Harle Solis, a proud San Antonio native and O'Connor High School alum, has dedicated her life to public service and education. Her civic engagement began early — she won the eighth-grade essay contest that named O'Connor High School after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Kimberly earned degrees in advertising and history from UT Austin, completed international studies in Spain, and later attended an executive program at the Harvard Kennedy School. Today, she serves as Chief Communications and External Affairs Officer for Endeavors and has held leadership roles with H-E-B, Whataburger, and NASA. A committed community leader and "40 Under 40" honoree, she continues a three-generation Northside legacy.

PILLAR OF CITIZENSHIP

Law Abiding, Judicious, Responsive



Shannon Smith Van Zandt, Ph.D., a proud Northside ISD alum, discovered her love of learning at Boone, Rudder, and Marshall, where she graduated in the top ten and served as student body president. Inspired by her scientist parents, her passion for science fairs led her to Texas A&M University, where she earned degrees in environmental design and urban planning, followed by a doctorate in city and regional planning from UNC—Chapel Hill. For more than 20 years, she has been a professor and leader at Texas A&M, directing the Center for Housing & Urban Development, advancing research on disaster impacts, championing affordable housing, and mentoring future planners.

Dr. Shannon Van Zandt
Marshall High School
Class of 1989

PILLAR OF LEARNING



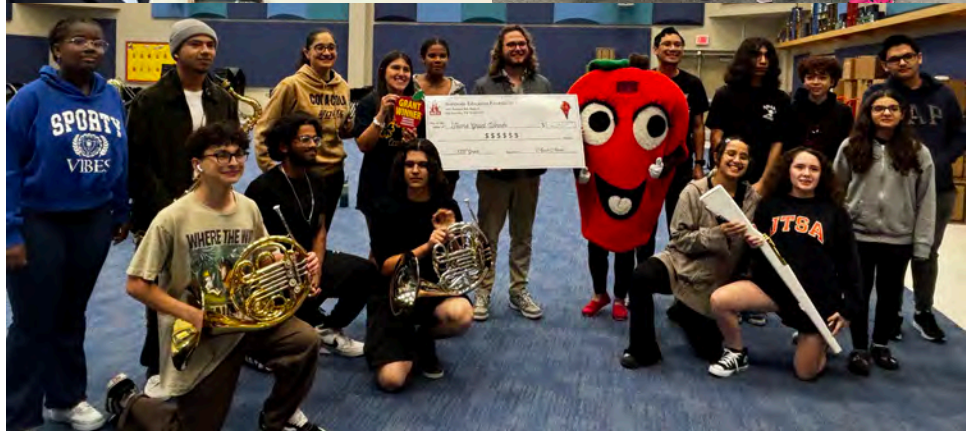
Thank you, 2024-2025 Generous Donors!

The Northside Education Foundation's Board of Directors and the staff and students of Northside ISD extend their gratitude for gifts to NEF from the following donors.

*Does not include 2,076 NEF Annual Giving Campaign donors who gave \$122,770 and the 2,901 United Way Combined School District Charitable Campaign donors who gave \$161,088

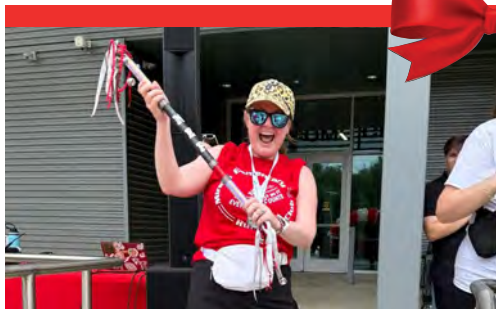
| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7 to 7 Dental & Orthodontics | CGC General Contractors, Inc | Fred Kight |
| Adele S. Myers | Cheddar Up | Garza Architects |
| AdTalem Global Education | Cheryl Sharp | Garza Bomberger & Associates |
| Airrostri Rehab Centers | Chesney Morales Partners, Inc. | Gillette Air Conditioning |
| Alamo Architects | Chris Schultz | Glen & Anne Lincoln |
| Alamo Colleges District | Cleary Zimmermann Engineers | Harvest Future Financial |
| American Heart Association | Clifton Douglas | Hector Lujan |
| Andretti Indoor Karting & Games San Antonio | Combs Consulting Group | High School Achievement / Jostens |
| Anthony Mitchell | Companion Insurance | Hilley & Solis Law |
| Automated Logic | Cosper and Associates Inc. | Hilltop Securities |
| Bain Medina Bain, Inc. | CRI Electric, Inc. | Hollon+Cannon Group, LLC |
| Baird Public Finance | D.L. Bandy Constructors, Inc. | Hometown Ticketing, Inc. |
| Bartlett Cocke General Contractors | Danielle Edwards | Horace Mann Laque Insurance Agency |
| Beckwith Electronic Engineering Company | Dave Gannon | Horace Mann - Larry Blanco |
| Billy Laque | DBR Engineering Consultants | Huckabee & Associates, Inc. |
| BLCCS, LLC | Denalyn Allen | IES Commercial, Inc. |
| Booz Allen Hamilton | Diversey, Inc. (TASKI) | Imagine Pediatric Dentistry & Ortho |
| Brad Graves | Ed Rawlinson | Infinity MEP+S Consultants |
| Camp Gladiator | Edwards Aquifer Authority | Intech Southwest Svs. |
| Carol Burket | Elizabeth Straight | J. Alfredo & Beth Duarte |
| Caroline Wernli | Ellen Sutton | Jacob Arocha |
| Cathy Naiser | EMA Engineering & Consulting | James E. Irvine, Trustee |
| Cavender Cares | Emily Persyn | James Payne |
| Central Electric | Equitable Advisors | James Young |
| CFZ Group | Exit Premier Realty | Jean James |
| | F.A. Nunnelly | Jefferson Bank |
| | Firstmark Credit Union | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Jessica Bernal | Oak Farms Dairy | State Farm of Kevin McStravic |
| JLA Communications | One Month MD | Stephanie Arocha |
| Joeris General Contractors | Oval E. Myers | Steve Persyn Engineering |
| Kaarsen Noonan Rittimann Garcia | Owens Law Firm | Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. |
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| Kris Trejo | Paul Gambill | Texas A&M San Antonio |
| Laura Montemayor | PBK Architects | Texas Lone Star Reps |
| Leann Trejo | Peggy Carnahan | The Dulce Vida |
| Leon Springs Gas LLC | Pflugler Architects | The H.D. Sanchez Law Firm, PLLC |
| LifeTouch | Proficient Benefit Solutions | The Honorable Lawrence Romo |
| Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP | R-S-C-R, Inc., Consulting Engineers | The Morgen Family Foundation |
| M.A.N.S. Distributors, Inc. | R.E.C. Industries, Inc. | The Shakti Foundation |
| M'Lissa Chumbley | Raba Kistner, Inc. | Trade Management |
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| Middle School Matchup San Antonio | San Antonio Industrial Supply | Wallis Engineering |
| Monica Fernandez | San Antonio Orthodontics | Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle & Robinson PC |
| Moy Tarin Ramirez Engineers, LLC | Sarah M. Becher | WellMed |
| Nancy Diane Stewart | Satterfield & Pontikes | William Cleary |
| National University System | Sea World | Winstead PC Attorneys |
| Native Plan Society of Texas | Shawn Kaarsen | WJHW, Inc. |
| Next Level Urgent Care | Silver Eagle Beverages | |
| Nina De La Torre | Sinclair Broadcast Group | |
| Northside AFT | SKYE MEP | |
| Northwest Vista College | Southern Tire Mart, LLC | |
| | SpawGlass | |
| | Stantec Consulting Services Inc. | |



Make a Decision Today to Create a Better Tomorrow

Create a better tomorrow by including the Northside Education Foundation in your will today. Consider a planned gift to the Foundation and help continue our work in the future. Your gift will help prepare our next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers and inspire answers to tomorrow's biggest challenges. Call 210-397-8599 for more information.





Bookmark nisd.net/nef for latest news and information

Follow us



DONT MISS OUR REMAINING SY 25-26 NEF EVENTS



NEF CLAY SHOOT & CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT ***February 4, 2026***

Presented by KCI Technologies
San Antonio National Shooting Complex



NEF "FORE" EDUCATION GOLF TOURNAMENT ***March 23, 2026***

Presented by JLA Communication
Dominion Country Club



2026 NEF 5K Run/Walk ***May 2, 2026***

Northwest Vista College



Northside Education Foundation
6632 Bandera Rd., Bldg. A
San Antonio, TX 78238
nisd.net/nef

210.397.8599

*501(c)(3) #74-2591569

**Tax exempt nonprofit providing
support for Northside ISD*