



2023 Annual Report



UCS Foundation 2023 Annual Report

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A Message from our President

In reflecting on 2023 and looking forward to 2024, I am reminded of the literary giant Robert Louis Stevenson who said *"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."* It is easy to look at the immediate impact of the UCS Foundation's work such as: funding UCS Superintendent Scholarships to graduating seniors, providing scholarships and support for the UCS Pathways to Success, supporting Science Olympiad and other programs. Nothing demonstrates our commitment to "planting these seeds," as does our partnership with UCS and Connect Macomb to bring together the one-of-a-kind 6th Grade Career Focus Event. Bringing nearly 2000 sixth grade students to a formal lunch where they engage with a professional mentor and listen to an incredible speaker. These are but examples of seeds within the larger field being sowed. To our dedicated volunteer board, incredible UCS team of administrators, teachers, students, and the broader community of individual and corporate donors whose generosity makes all of this possible, do not lose sight of the harvests coming!

The seeds of generosity, of passion for a better future, of volunteerism, and, most importantly, of a caring community are already sprouting. Dr. Nicole Black, Vice President of Biomedical Fabrication at Desktop and Forbes 30 under 30 in Manufacturing and Industry, took days out of her leadership in cutting edge 3D printing of medical devices in Boston to pay back her UCS roots and inspire 2,000 students and 200 adults that they too can make an impact. Nicole is one of thousands of UCS success stories who continue to spread a passion for what they do and have an impact in their communities. Our impact today, the seeds we plant, will grow, germinate and spread with each year and each generation of UCS students and teachers.

In 2023, the UCS Foundation not only invested in the success of UCS teachers and students but also in the long term success and stability of our very own non-profit organization by completing a long term strategic plan. Our collaborative, guided process, establishes the blueprints for the success of the Foundation and in doing so, the long term commitment to the UCS students and teachers. The Strategic Plan is included in this report as an appendix.

In order to achieve our mission, the UCS Foundation will focus on four key strategic objectives: growing awareness, strengthening fundraising, building infrastructure, and expanding outreach.

On behalf of the UCS Foundation, thank you all for your continued support, dedication, and confidence in our foundation as we continue to support the incredible students and educators in Utica Community Schools.



Juli Sala,
UCS Foundation President

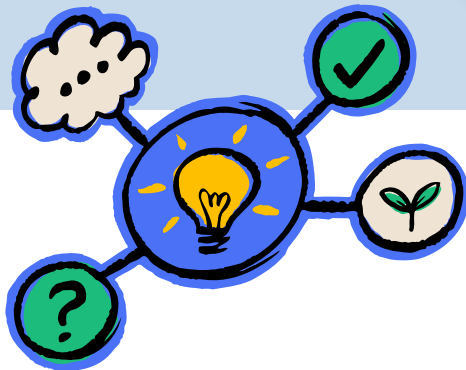
Mission Statement: The UCS Foundation, through partnerships with the community and the UCS district, encourages and supports educators and students to enhance educational experiences beyond what is possible with public funding.

Career Focus Event 2023

The 29th Career Focus Luncheon was hosted this past May 8th and 9th, 2023. The UCS Foundation, in conjunction with the Superintendent's office, was able to host this event for the 2,000 sixth and graders of UCS. Every UCS sixth grader, along with hundreds of business professionals, community representatives, teachers, media center specialists and principals gathered at the Palazzo Grande to collaborate about their futures.

Our keynote speaker for the 2023 event was UCS Graduate Dr. Nicole Black. She is the Vice President of Biomaterials and Innovation for Desktop Health. She currently leads a team at Desktop Health to bring the PhonoGraft device and other innovative medical devices to patients. Her accolades include being named to the prestigious Forbes 30 under 30 in Manufacturing and Industry, the Baxter Young Investigator, and the Collegiate Inventors Competition Winner. She was a wonderful presenter and was able to discuss complicated medical instruments and development with our students.

The Career Focus Luncheon for 2024 will be May 7th & May 8th. Our keynote speaker for 2024 will be released soon!



2023 Superintendent Scholarships

Since its inception, the Evening of Excellence has raised money to support the Superintendent Scholarships for deserving UCS seniors. Although we couldn't have our fundraising event, the UCS Foundation provided \$35,000 towards the Superintended Scholarships, nearing \$500,000 in total. The students who are selected embody the meaning of UCS Success by excelling in academics, displaying leadership qualities, serving the community, and overcoming personal challenges. We are proud to support higher educational opportunities for these outstanding students.



Congratulations to the 2023 Superintendent Scholarship recipients.

2023 Golf Outing



Cherry Creek Golf Club - Shelby Township, Michigan

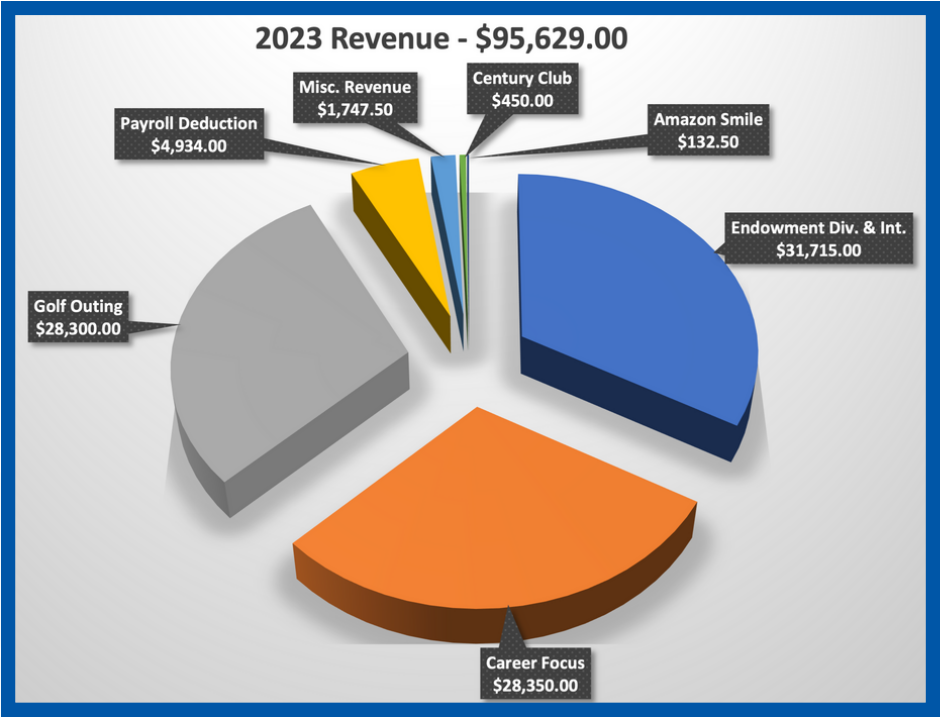
The Foundation is proud to announce the annual **UCSF Golf Outing** raised over 15K for Utica Community Schools in 2023.

The Foundation hosted its annual Golf Outing on September 25th, 2023. Held at Cherry Creek in Shelby Township, MI, the day allowed golfers, supporters, donors, and friends to enjoy 18 holes of championship play, lunch and dinner. Funds raised from this event support our mission! In total, nearly 90 golfers participated in the event and this annual tradition is enjoyed by all!

The 26th Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for September 17, 2024. We hope to see you there!



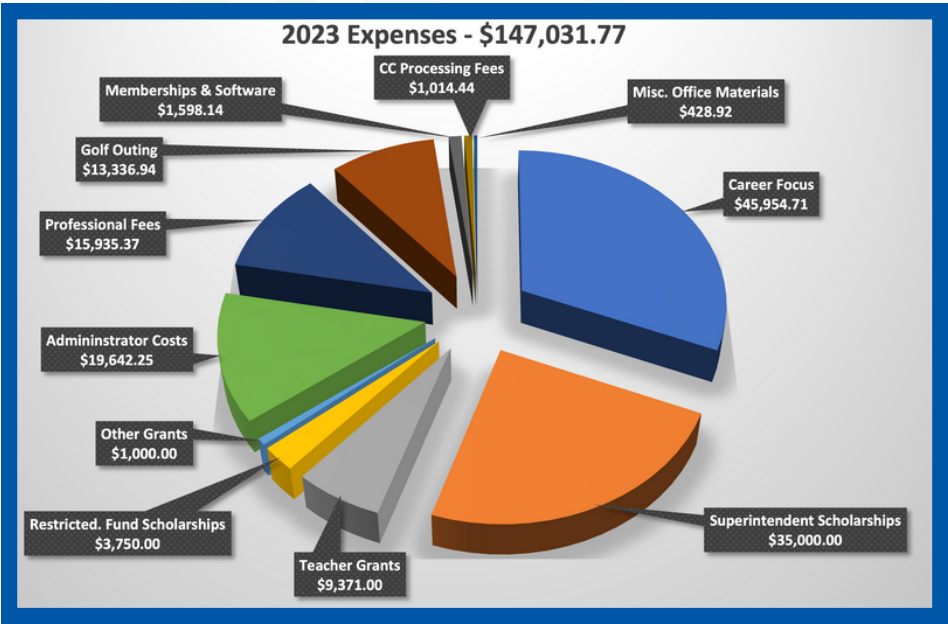
Financial Report



Although 2023 was not a fiscally successful year for the Foundation, our commitment to the mission remained steadfast by continuing to support the students and teachers of UCS.

In recognition of our financial hardships, the UCS Foundation will focus keenly on our strategic objects of growing awareness, building infrastructure, expanding outreach, and ultimately strengthening fundraising so that we may continue to support our mission, in alignment with our core values for many years to come.

We encourage and welcome the community to support the UCS Foundation with your Time, Talents, and Treasure by visiting our website at UCSFoundation.org



UCS Foundation Board & Staff



Executive Board



Juli Sala
PRESIDENT



Sherman Abdo
VICE PRESIDENT



Tom Lietz
EXECUTIVE BOARD TRUSTEE



Patty Lopez
TREASURER



Stacy Zarko
SECRETARY

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Brent Bohlinger



Ron Chriss



Susan Rosso



Ray Lope



Nate Tallman



David Klida



Michael Nowicki



Dan Wesner



Bob Van Camp

Paul Alandt
(not pictured)



Mr. Robert S. Monroe
UCS Superintendent



Dr. Steven Meyer
Liaison for the
Board of Education



Chelsie Nobar
Marketing Specialist

Thank You To Our Sponsors

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who choose to donate to the UCS Foundation. None of this would be possible without your dedicated support.



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UCS Teachers and Staff Thank You!

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Mark Bienkowski
Heather Blum
Nancy Brunetz
Veleta Carpenter
Nina Carver- Hardiewich
Kim Charland
Susan Clark
Morgan Cloyd
Diana Coles
Kenneth Cucchi
Cheryl Cunningham
Diane Dotson
Renee Fiema
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Shelly Semrau
Marcella Spalding
Shannon Spisak
Renee Tekely
Kristina Tepper
Justin Washington
Melisa Watson
Eric Weaver
Christine Wilson
Jacqueline Zawierucha


Thank You to many more who have made donations

Thank You To The District

A sincere thank you to Superintendent, Mr. Robert Monroe, and his entire office. The foundation cannot thrive without the partnership gained through these relationships.

Thank you to the teachers, principals, administrative staff, volunteers and community members who support the foundation's mission and vision.

We are grateful to be a part of this community effort, and for each and every one of you. The UCSF board and staff members thank you.



APPENDIX A

UCS Foundation Strategic Plan



Strategic Plan

2024 - 2029

www.ucsfoundation.org



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A Message From the Board of Trustees

Welcome to the UCS Foundation Strategic Plan.

This document represents the commitment of the UCS Foundation Board of Trustees, in partnership with Utica Community Schools, to secure the long-term success of the UCS Foundation, and in doing so, the continued success of the educators and students we support.

The strategic planning process brought a renewed sense of community, dedication, and purpose within our Board of Trustees and reinvigorated our commitment to empower and impact this community.

We recognize that this strategic plan is only the first step in a long journey we embark on; but we are more confident than ever that with the help of our community and partners, we will succeed in our mission.

We encourage you to reach out and join us in this endeavor, by visiting our website at www.ucsfoundation.org or emailing us at mail@ucsfoundation.org.

Sincerely, thank you!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Board

Sherman AbdoPresident
Juli SalaVice President
Patty LopezTreasurer
Robert Van Camp.....Secretary
Michael Nowicki.....Immediate Past President

Administrator

Chelsie Nobar

Ex-Officio Members

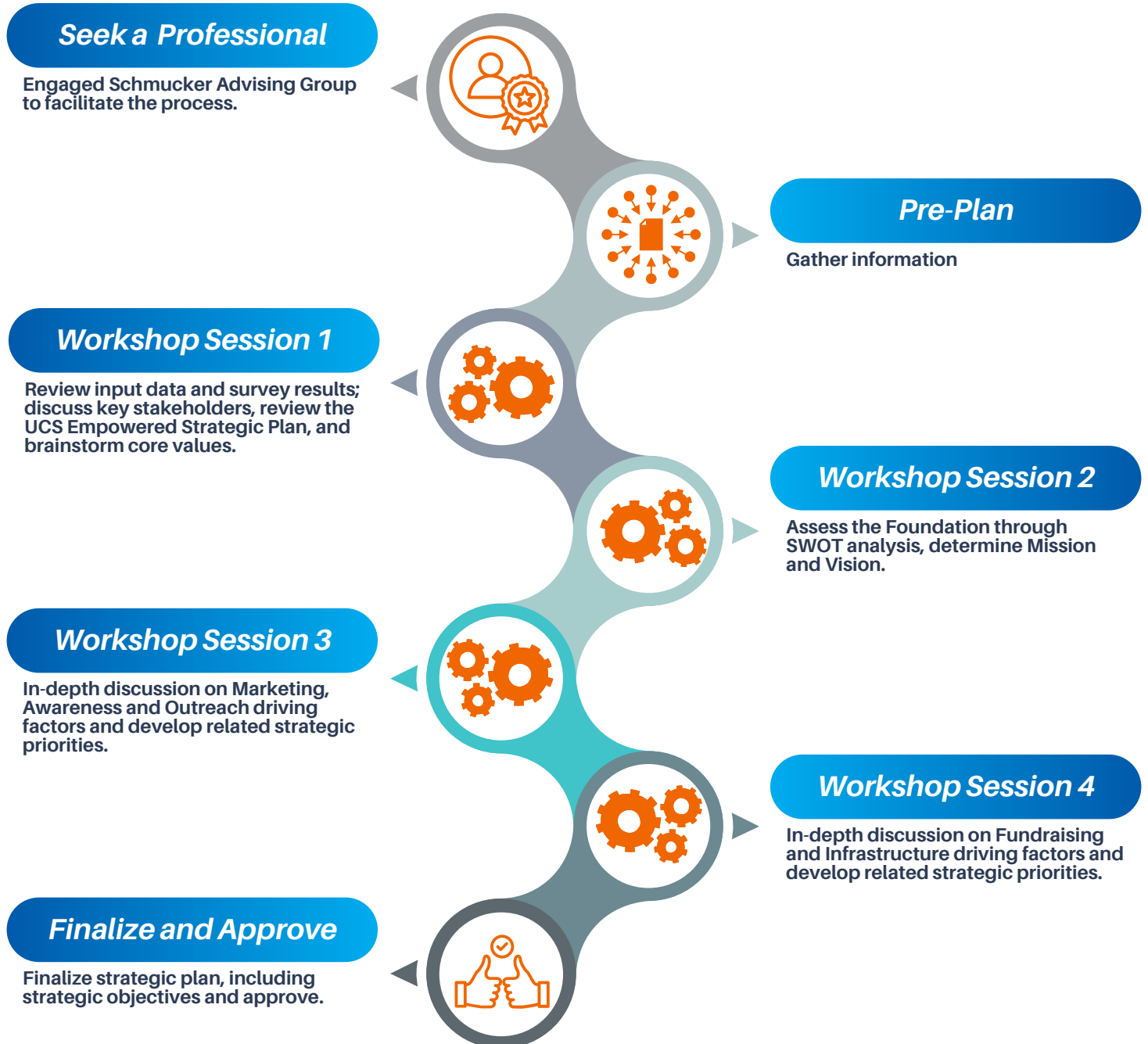
Robert Monroe.....Superintendent
Steven Meyer, Ph.D.....UCS Board of Education Trustee

Trustees

Brent BohlingerTrustee
Ron Chriss.....Trustee
Les Gilbert.....Trustee
David Klida.....Trustee
Tom Lietz.....Trustee
Ray Lope.....Trustee
Susan Rosso.....Trustee
Nate Tallman.....Trustee
Dan Wesner.....Trustee
Stacy Ziarko.....Trustee



The Strategic Plan Process



Mission, Vision, and Core Values



MISSION

What is the UCS Foundation's purpose?

The UCS Foundation, through partnerships with the community and the UCS district, encourages and supports educators and students to enhance educational experiences beyond what is possible with public funding.



VISION

Where is the UCS Foundation headed and what will it look like?

The UCS Foundation will be the model for education foundations in the State of Michigan recognized for the funds raised, assets built, partnerships formed, programs delivered, grants awarded, and the impact realized.



CORE VALUES

Who is the UCS Foundation at its core?

Student Success

From the beginning, the Foundation has been driven to advance student success. We continue to hold this as a primary goal and endeavor to contribute to their success through our programs and grants.

Inspiration

We are driven by our passion for our students, their educators, and this community. We will encourage others to invest their time, talents and resources in the education of UCS students.

Well-Being

We will give time and attention to developing financial, social, physical, developmental, psychological and emotional wellness to enable our foundation, our board, our donors, our district, our students and teachers, and our relationships to thrive.

Stewardship

We value the resources that are contributed to the Foundation and will responsibly use them to increase what the District can do for its students through innovation and strategy.

Engagement

We will actively involve the community – educators, businesses, residents, parents and alumni – to fully engage with the UCS district.

Equity

Each UCS student deserves to have the best learning environment and tools to foster dynamic, creative learning opportunities that vary based on individual student needs.



Strategic Objectives

Our strategic plan will focus on four main objectives.

1

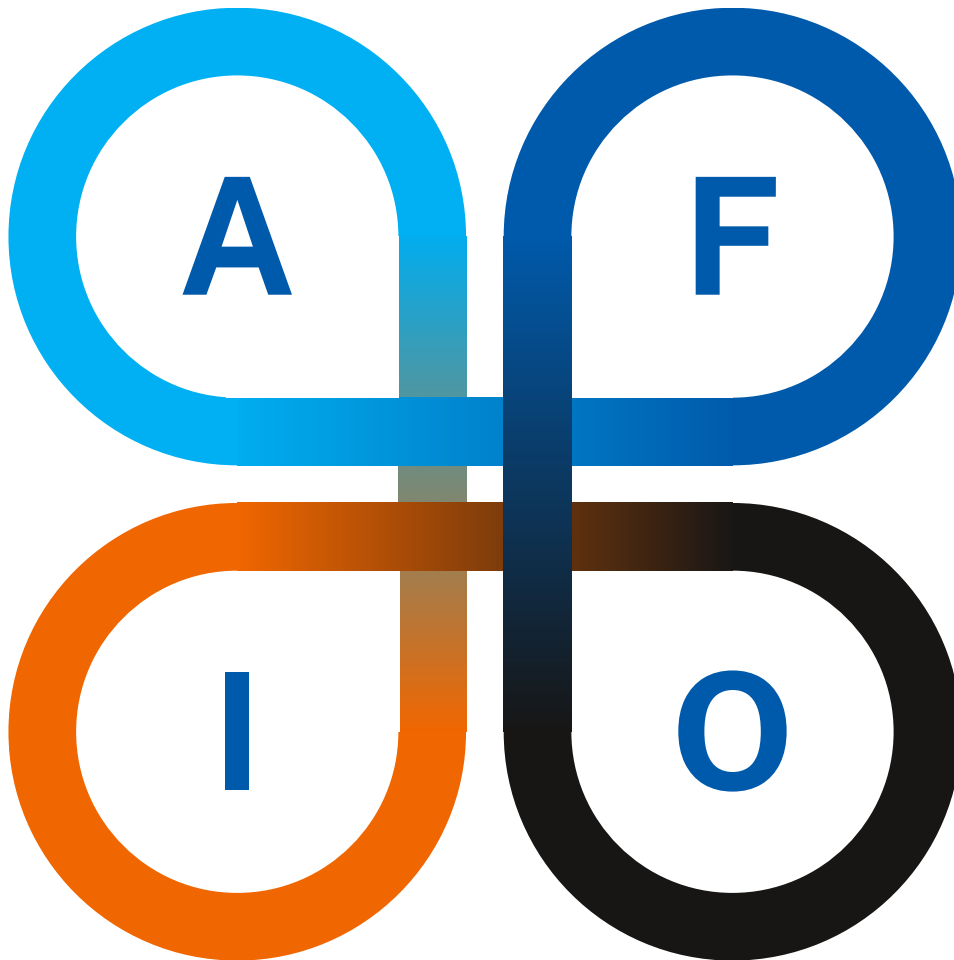
grow Awareness

UCS Foundation will establish and promote its brand through comprehensive marketing to engage with key stakeholders (staff, families, community, business, alumni, etc.) to ensure they understand the Foundation's purpose.

2

strengthen Fundraising

Create an annual campaign to raise a minimum of \$500,000 per year through targeted and general donations.



4

build Infrastructure

Develop efficient infrastructure pillars to achieve our mission and vision.

3

expand Outreach

Engage parents, UCS staff, businesses and alumni to share their time, treasure and talents in support of UCSF.



Thank You



www.ucsfoundation.org
email@ucsfoundation.org