



Education Partnerships

USA Funds® is a nonprofit corporation that works to enhance postsecondary-education preparedness, access and success by providing and supporting financial and other valued services.

USA Funds marks 25th year of service to Arizona with student-aid research, scholarships

USA Funds recently kicked off the observance of its silver anniversary as Arizona's designated guarantor of federal student loans. In honor of this milestone, Arizona's guarantor joined in the release of research about the value of student aid to the state and an announcement of expanded scholarship support for Arizona residents.

Underwritten by USA Funds, the research report, "Investing in Arizona's Future," recommends that Arizona give a higher priority to financial aid to help low-income students pursue education or training after high school. Prepared by the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Higher Education Policy and by the Latina/o Policy Research Initiative at the University of Arizona, the report was released by the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education.

"Investing in Arizona's Future" concludes that enhancing the state's investment in access to postsecondary education and training will go a long way toward ensuring a stronger economic future for the state and its citizens. One of the report's key recommendations is to enhance the partnership between business, philanthropy, government, Native American tribes, and individual donors, to expand the funds available to assist low-income students in the state.

Consistent with that recommendation and in commemoration of its 25th anniversary of service as Arizona's student-loan guarantor, USA Funds announced

that it would more than double funding for new scholarships to Arizona residents. William Neale, chairman of USA Funds' board of trustees, announced that USA Funds will establish a special program, USA Funds Arizona Silver Anniversary Scholarships™, and commit \$500,000 for new scholarships to Arizona residents for the 2006-2007 academic year.

"Through this enhancement of our scholarship support, USA Funds hopes to help more Arizona students reap the benefits of higher education," Neale says.

Detailed information about USA Funds Arizona Silver Anniversary Scholarships will be distributed this fall to financial-aid professionals at all Arizona colleges, universities and career schools, and to high-school counselors throughout the state.

USA Funds trustees and staff members also visited Phoenix Children's Hospital to announce the award of a grant for educational equipment. Joined by Garfield, the popular comic-strip cat, the USA Funds contingent visited with patients and announced a donation of three educational mobile units specifically designed to help young patients stay on track with their schoolwork during their hospital stays.

The units will provide students with a private work space and dedicated areas for computers, books and related items. The carts will allow patients to have "virtual" visits with younger siblings and friends who are under the minimum age for hospital-visiting privileges.



Garfield visits patients at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Photo by Kerry Allan



Photo by Kerry Allan

William Neale, chairman of USA Funds' board of trustees, announces a special scholarship program to provide more Arizona students with access to higher education.

Grants Awarded by USA Funds Jan. 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005

Institute for Higher Education Policy
Washington, D.C.
Project Latino Student Access and Opportunity: A Status Report on Student Aid Awards and Needs
Geographic Scope National
Amount \$56,000

More than half of all Hispanic students enrolled in postsecondary-education institutions receive some form of financial assistance. USA Funds' grant supports a study about the aid received by Hispanics, and about the growing financial need that exists for this minority group.

Institute for Higher Education Policy
Washington, D.C.
Project "Investing in Mississippi's Future"
Geographic Scope Mississippi
Amount \$52,000

USA Funds' grant supports IHEP's work with the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to document the importance of investing in students early in the educational process.

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning
Jackson, Miss.
Project GEAR UP Mississippi
Geographic Scope Mississippi
Amount \$50,000

GEAR UP Mississippi is a five-year, federally supported program that started in 2002-2003 to promote preparation for, pursuit of and access to higher education for middle- and high-school students. Students in the program attend schools throughout the state with high populations of low-income pupils. USA Funds supports the public recognition of students successfully participating in the program.

Training Inc.
Indianapolis
Project USA Funds Bridge to Education Program
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$49,500

Training Inc. is a school-to-work transition program that provides career and life-skills training to disadvantaged women and men. The program equips individuals to become self-sufficient by preparing them to obtain full-time employment or to continue their education.

Girl Scouts of the Hoosier Capital Council Inc.
Indianapolis
Project Math-and-Science-Center Programs
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$15,000

A USA Funds grant supports Girl Scouts of the Hoosier Capital Council Inc.'s student scholarships and education programming at its math-and-science center. The Girl Scouts mission is "to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service so that they become happy and resourceful citizens."

Scholarship America
St. Peter, Minn.
Project Disaster Relief
Geographic Scope National
Amount \$15,000

USA Funds provided additional funding to Scholarship America, the nation's largest private-sector scholarship and education-support organization, for scholarships for students affected by disasters. In total, USA Funds' \$545,000 grant to Scholarship America assisted low-income students at 43 postsecondary institutions in disaster areas in six states affected by hurricanes in 2004.

YouthTrac Foundation Inc.
Adelphi, Md.
Project YouthTrac Program
Geographic Scope Maryland
Amount \$6,200

The YouthTrac Foundation provides opportunities in education and sports to underprivileged youth in Maryland. USA Funds' grant supports the purchase of supplies and program materials for YouthTrac's college-preparatory program.

American Council on Education Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity
Washington, D.C.
Project "Educating All of One Nation" National Diversity Conference 2005
Geographic Scope National
Amount \$5,000

The American Council on Education's Center for Advancement of Racial and Ethnic Equity addresses declining rates of minority participation in higher education. The "Educating All of One Nation" conference brings together professionals from higher education, grades kindergarten through 12, and the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors to help institutions develop comprehensive plans for minority achievement.

Massachusetts Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Boston
Project College Goal Sunday 2005
Geographic Scope Massachusetts
Amount \$5,000

USA Funds sponsored College Goal Sunday 2005 in Massachusetts. The event provided help for parents and students in completing the financial-aid form required for federal financial aid, as well as for many state and institutional student-aid programs.

Jones High School
Orlando, Fla.
Project Learning Communities Coalition College Tour
Geographic Scope Florida
Amount \$3,500

The Jones High School Learning Communities Coalition provides students who exhibit strong academic potential the opportunity to participate in a college tour.

Rebuilding Together
Indianapolis
Project Christmas in April
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$3,000

The mission of Rebuilding Together is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring that low-income homeowners — particularly those who are elderly and disabled, and families with children — live in warmth, safety and independence. USA Funds employees volunteered their time to renovate a home on Indianapolis' east side.

The Latino Institute Inc.
Newark, N.J.
Project National Latino Education Summit 2005
Geographic Scope National
Amount \$2,500

The Latino Institute Inc. works to bridge the Latino community and the educational, governmental, social and economic institutions of society. USA Funds is a co-sponsor of the organization's National Latino Education Summit. The event is a showcase of the latest research on issues affecting the education of Latinos in the United States.

Dance Kaleidoscope
Indianapolis
Project Kaleidoscope of Dance XI
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$2,000

USA Funds sponsors this fund-raising gala in support of Dance Kaleidoscope's efforts, which include the use of contemporary dance as an educational tool. The program teaches self-esteem, self-confidence, creative problem solving, initiative, setting and achieving goals, and creative thinking.

Rocky Mountain Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Aberdeen, S.D.
Project Corporate-Support Agreement
Geographic Scope Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming
Amount \$2,000

USA Funds provides corporate support to RMAFAA, an organization that promotes the professional preparation, leadership development, effectiveness and mutual support of those involved in student financial-aid administration.

Jameson Camp
Indianapolis
Project Jameson Camp Lead Sponsorship
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$1,250

This USA Funds grant supports Jameson Camp's year-round program, which provides a safe and accepting environment to Indianapolis-area children with behavioral, social and economic challenges. The program teaches cooperation with and appreciation for others and helps participants learn about themselves.

Charter School Association of Indiana
Indianapolis
Project Fifth-Annual Charter School Conference
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$1,500

USA Funds serves as a co-sponsor of this event featuring presentations from national and local experts on charter schools, autonomous public schools of choice. The speakers discuss preparing charter schools for future growth.

American Cancer Society Great Lakes Division Inc.
Indianapolis
Project 2005 "Strutting With Style" Fashion Show
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$1,000

The American Cancer Society is a voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. The annual "Strutting With Style" fashion show includes a silent auction, dinner and spring-fashion show to raise funds for breast-cancer research, education and quality-of-life programs in Central Indiana.

Hamilton Southeastern Schools Foundation
Fishers, Ind.
Project An Evening With Myles Brand, National Collegiate Athletic Association President
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$1,000

USA Funds' sponsorship of this event helped raise funds for scholarships for Hamilton Southeastern Schools students.

HomeBase Youth Services
Phoenix
Project HomeBase Youth Services Transitional Living Program
Geographic Scope Arizona
Amount \$1,000

USA Funds supports HomeBase Youth Services' facility that provides homeless youth with a safe, family-like environment in which to live for up to two years.

Training Inc.
Indianapolis
Project "Celebrating 25 Years of Success" Luncheon
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$500

Training Inc.'s fund-raising luncheon highlights its work to provide low-income individuals with career and life-skills training.

Hawaii Association for College Admission Counseling
Honolulu
Project National College Fair
Geographic Scope Hawaii
Amount \$450

USA Funds supports the purchase of volunteer shirts for the National College Fair in Hawaii. At the event, students can meet with admission representatives from a variety of postsecondary institutions to discuss course offerings, admission and financial-aid requirements, and information about the college-selection process.

United Way, Hamilton County Office
Noblesville, Ind.
Project Hamilton County 2005 Campaign Celebration
Geographic Scope Indiana
Amount \$290

USA Funds recognizes the efforts of the successful 2005 campaign for United Way of Central Indiana, Hamilton County. The campaign raised more than \$2 million for services to assist those in the county, including \$23,038 from contributions by USA Funds employees.

USA Funds vice president's leadership benefits thousands of Indianapolis youth



Photo by Sharron Spence

As USA Funds' vice president, customer relations, Denise Feser is committed to ensuring that USA Funds' customers receive the best education-loan service. Equally strong is her dedication to work that addresses the needs of disadvantaged youth in Indianapolis.

Feser has been a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis board for a decade, serving the last two years as its president. During her tenure with the organization, she's served on several committees — both formal and ad hoc — and chaired the group responsible for ensuring the quality of clubs' programming.

She leads overall planning and fund-raising efforts for BGCI. Feser has led initiatives that helped ensure a link between the board, the clubs and the members. Additionally, she takes part in BGCI conferences and training sessions.

"I absolutely believe in the mission of the organization," Feser says, "and I believe it makes a difference in the lives of children. Members spend time with adults who are trained not only in working with children but also in helping them to become productive citizens."

Her extensive work with BGCI has led USA Funds President and CEO Carl Dalstrom to jokingly refer to the volunteer work as her "second full-time job."

"It's amazing how much time and energy she devotes to this organization," says Mark Branch, BGCI executive director.



Photo by Sharron Spence

At a recent BGCI board meeting, Feser learns from outstanding club members and staff about their experiences with the organization.

Founded in 1893, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis encourages young people age 5-18, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to become productive, responsible and caring citizens. The organization offers programs that address the following areas:

- Character and leadership development.
- Education and career development.
- Health and life skills.
- The arts.
- Sports, fitness and recreation.

Feser says she's proud of BGCI's accomplishments during her time on its board. As an example, she points to initiatives that have helped members who attend Indianapolis Public Schools to improve their scores on statewide academic-progress tests.

Seven BGCI locations offer USA Funds-supported ScholarShop programs. An initiative of Scholarship America, ScholarShop is a curriculum and multimedia resource center that motivates and prepares youth to achieve their potential. USA Funds supports ScholarShop in six states, including sites at Boys & Girls Clubs locations in Arizona, Florida and Nevada in addition to Indiana.

Indianapolis is not the only city whose Boys & Girls Clubs organization has benefited from Feser's involvement. At a conference, Feser mentioned the early-awareness program USA Funds Unlock the Future® to a representative of an Orlando club. At the Orlando representative's request, USA Funds' customer-relations manager for Florida, Vicky Keller, began presenting the program to Orlando Boys & Girls Clubs youth and their parents on a regular basis.

Feser says, "I just really believe in doing things for kids. If we don't provide recreational activities, after-school programs and mentoring, they will end up in activities that aren't productive — like gang activities and being on the street. And kids are our future." ■



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF INDIANAPOLIS

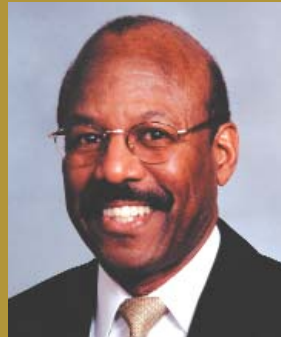
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"It is important to our patients to stay connected with their classmates regardless of whether they are in the hospital for one day or for several months," says Robert Meyer, president and CEO of Phoenix Children's Hospital. "This partnership with USA Funds will enable the teachers in the schools to help our patients stay on track with their education."

The carts' exteriors will bear the likenesses of Garfield characters. Garfield's creator, Jim Davis, is donating the artwork. The educational carts are scheduled to be delivered to the hospital in September. ■

Download a copy of 'Investing in Arizona's Future' from www.usafunds.org/news/upd/ArizonasFutureMarch2005.pdf on the USA Funds Web site.

Harnessing the power of private-sector support



By Clifford L. Stanley, President, Scholarship America

College doesn't happen by chance; we have to make chances happen. It takes all of us — public and private organizations and individuals — to help students achieve their postsecondary dreams. For eight years Scholarship America and a wide range of partners have joined together to draw attention to this sentiment.

National Scholarship Month, recognized each May through local and national events promoted by Scholarship America, aims to raise awareness of the need for increased private-sector support of scholarships for postsecondary education, and to celebrate the current level of support for private scholarships. Among those joining the call to action are National Scholarship Month presenting sponsor AXA and supporting sponsor USA Funds.

The importance of private-sector support for higher education is clear. These private dollars can have a huge impact on students' post-high-school plans — particularly for those with the greatest financial need.

With federal and state budgets stretched tight, college aid available from those sources

often is not enough to cover many of the college costs that students incur. Even with federal- and state-funded financial support and institutional aid, the average student is left with a \$2,400 gap to fill each year to pay for postsecondary training.

Perhaps it's no surprise, then, that, since 1990, the United States' college-participation rate has dropped from the highest in the world to 13th among developed nations.

Scholarship America is the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship and educational-support organization. We hear from thousands of students for whom private dollars for education have made a difference. They tell us that their scholarships helped pay for their books when they didn't have other funds. They tell us that the funding ensured that they didn't have to take those jobs that would have left little time for study. They tell us scholarships made a real difference in their lives.

Private aid also gives students more flexibility — permitting

them to attend the schools that they believe are the best fit for them, not simply the only schools they can afford. Moreover, the role of the private sector as an innovator in student financing is critical. From support for foster children, to aid to students with unusual skills or experiences, private-sector support often helps those who otherwise might slip through the cracks of government- and institutional-aid programs.

The gap in lifetime earnings between individuals with high-school diplomas and those with bachelor's degrees or higher exceeds \$1 million, further underscoring the importance of ensuring that financial needs for postsecondary training are met. The government can do only so much to bridge the gap; the people have the power to do more.

The Institute for Higher Education Policy has completed a

study that will provide further evidence of the importance of private-sector support for higher education. The results of this work — the first national study of its kind — will be announced during a special event in

Washington, D.C., that helps kick off National Scholarship Month.

Other events to mark National Scholarship Month are scheduled throughout the nation during the coming weeks. Also part of the activities is a fund drive, "A Dollar a Day in May," which encourages individuals to give a dollar each day and corporations to donate funds in increments of \$31 this month to support postsecondary education. To make a donation, visit Scholarship America's Web site, www.scholarshipamerica.org.

National Scholarship Month is a celebration and a reminder to all of us that private funds are critical in ensuring that students don't have to rely on chance in pursuing their educational dreams. Individuals and corporations have the power to help make college affordable for all deserving students. National Scholarship Month is about harnessing that power.

To learn how you can get involved in National Scholarship Month, visit www.nationalscholarshipmonth.org. ■



Highlighted Events — National Scholarship Month

- **May 3 and 4: Reception and news conference**, Washington, D.C.
- **May 4: Friends of Iowa Dollars for Scholars Recognition**, Waukon, Iowa.
- **May 10: Hoosier Heroes Celebration**, Indianapolis.
- **May 21-28: World Journal Art for Scholarships Exhibition**, Whitestone, N.Y.

Additional grassroots events across the nation will mark National Scholarship Month. For more information, or to add your event to the National Scholarship Month calendar, visit www.nationalscholarshipmonth.org.