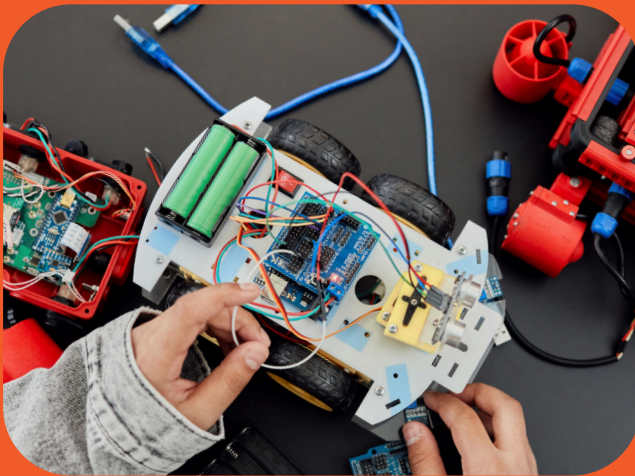


SKILLS FOR LIFE. BUILT IN GOOCHLAND.

2025-26 IMPACT REPORT



OCTOBER
2026



GoochlandEdu.org
questions@goochlandedu.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

When we think about what makes Goochland special, it's how we look out for each other — especially our kids. Every day at the Goochland Education Foundation, we're driven by one simple question: what do our children need to succeed in whatever path they choose?

This past year, that question guided everything we did. We've watched a shy preschooler light up as she carried home her first backpack full of books, ready to tackle kindergarten. We've seen fourth graders' eyes widen as they discovered their own town's history through stories that came alive before them. And we've been amazed by high schoolers making tough decisions through virtual reality, practicing for the real world in ways we never could have imagined.

Each of these moments connects to something bigger. We're not just funding random programs — we're building a journey for every child. From those early reading skills to creative problem-solving, from technical know-how to the grit they'll need when life gets tough, we're preparing them for whatever comes next.

What excites us most is how we've woven real-world readiness into everything we do. When local employers tell us they need people who can think critically, work together, adapt to change, and make ethical choices — well, those are exactly the skills we see our kids developing every single day.

When you support GEF, you're not just writing a check. You're investing in the young person who might one day run your business, lead your organization, or be your neighbor who steps up when the community needs help.

None of this magic happens without our incredible teachers who dare to dream big and then make it happen in their classrooms. It takes our dedicated volunteers, our passionate board members, and every single person who believes that investing in education means investing in our future. And increasingly, it takes businesses that understand something crucial: the employees you'll need tomorrow are sitting in our classrooms today.

If you're a business leader reading this — whether you're already our partner or thinking about it — know this: the talent that will drive our region's success is growing up right here. Help us nurture it.

We're grateful beyond words for every partnership, every donation, and every vote of confidence in our students. Together, we're proving something powerful: the skills our children need for life can be built right here, in the community that loves them.

Christina Griffith, Board President

Cyndy Brown, Chief Executive Officer

SKILLS FOR LIFE. BUILT IN GOOCHLAND.

PROGRAMS: SKILLS FOR LIFE IN ACTION

Every program below exists because of community investment in Goochland's students — and each one is how we build **Skills for Life**, right here in Goochland.

Literacy Initiatives



Strong readers become strong thinkers — and it starts early. From backpacks filled with books sent home with every preschooler, to phonics resources that build decoding skills in kindergarten through second grade, to the Junior Reading Olympians program that turns third graders into competitive, curious learners, GEF's literacy initiatives ensure every student arrives at fourth grade ready to read to learn — supporting 1,200 students across all three schools this year.

SKILLS BUILT

Knowledge Foundation

Communication

Hard Work & Resilience

Building Thinking Classrooms



Mathematics comes alive when students work together to analyze, connect, and solve real problems. Building Thinking Classrooms transforms traditional math instruction into a collaborative, student-centered experience that mirrors the dynamic problem-solving environments of today's workplaces — developing the critical thinkers and confident communicators that employers need. This year, more than 1,300 students across multiple classrooms experienced this approach firsthand.

SKILLS BUILT

Critical Thinking

Creative Problem Solving

Effective Collaboration

Makerspaces



In a Makerspace, every student is an inventor. Equipped with tools and materials that spark creativity, these hands-on STEAM environments challenge students to design, build, experiment, and iterate — practicing the same cycle of innovation that drives today's most dynamic industries. GEF has invested \$30,000 in Makerspaces across all three elementary schools, giving 1,200 students access to this transformative experience this year.

SKILLS BUILT

Technical Knowledge

Innovation

Creative Problem Solving

“The Goochland Education Foundation has supported our Drama Department for over fifteen years. This past year, a GEF Strategic Innovation Grant helped fund a NYC trip where theatre students workshopped with cast members from The Great Gatsby — and our students performed at the GEF Gala in an immersive murder mystery. Theatre goes beyond the stage, and I’m incredibly grateful to GEF for making these experiences possible.”

Neil Burch, Goochland High School Drama Department



Virtual Reality & FloreoVR

The workplace of tomorrow is digital, immersive, and fast-changing — and GEF is making sure Goochland students are ready for it. Through Virtual Reality curriculum integration and FloreoVR, a research-based program now in its second year of funding, 1,300 students had access to real-world skill-building in safe, repeatable simulated environments — and successfully transferred those skills directly to real-world situations.

SKILLS BUILT

Technical Literacy

Adaptability

Innovation



Time Travel in Goochland

Launched in 2023 through a GEF Strategic Innovation Grant, Time Travel in Goochland takes fourth graders on immersive journeys through their county's history. This year, over 200 fourth graders explored pivotal moments from the Revolutionary War through the Civil Rights Movement, documenting their discoveries through photojournalism, digital storytelling, and podcasts — connecting deeply to the place they call home.

SKILLS BUILT

Personal Responsibility

Knowledge Application

Civic Responsibility



STEM in Nature

Goochland's own backyard is one of its greatest classrooms. Through two seasonal visits to Westview on the James and one to Luck Stone, students observe, measure, and investigate living ecosystems. Partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, they study watershed systems, plant riverbank grasses to prevent erosion, and discover how the natural world has shaped this region for centuries. This year, over 200 students made that journey from the classroom to the riverbank and back.

SKILLS BUILT

Critical Thinking

Adaptability

Civic Responsibility



GEF EdVentures

Learning doesn't stop at dismissal. In its inaugural year, GEF EdVentures welcomed 55 students across all three elementary schools into an after-school enrichment program offering academic support alongside STEAM activities, robotics, chess, public speaking, creative writing, and athletics — all for one inclusive weekly rate with no hidden fees. Licensed by the Virginia Department of Education, EdVentures provides a safe, nurturing environment where students build confidence and skills every day school is in session.

SKILLS BUILT

Academic Foundation

Exploration

Personal Responsibility

"This is my favorite part of the day—I don't want to leave."

Blakely, Second Grade Student, Randolph Elementary

"It's like school, but way more fun because we actually get to build stuff."

Kaylin, Fourth Grade Student, Goochland Elementary

From Innovation to Impact: Strategic Innovation Grants

Since 2017, GEF has funded more than 60 Strategic Innovation Grants — empowering Goochland teachers to transform bold ideas into real classroom experiences. This year, GEF awarded 10 grants totaling \$15,003 across every school in the district, supporting projects from kindergarteners discovering the joy of reading to high schoolers exploring professional theatre careers in New York City.

The best ideas don't end when the grant does. Many of the programs you've just read about — including Time Travel in Goochland, Makerspaces, and STEM in Nature — began as Strategic Innovation Grants before growing into permanent enrichment programs that serve students year after year.

"These projects represent the kind of creative, student-centered approaches that don't just enhance learning — they transform it."

Cyndy Brown, CEO

"From kindergarteners discovering the joy of reading to high schoolers exploring professional theatre careers, these projects demonstrate our commitment to nurturing creativity, critical thinking, and real-world skills. I'm grateful to the Goochland Education Foundation for their continued investment in our students' success."

Dr. Armstrong, Superintendent, GCPS

BUILDING GOOCHLAND'S FUTURE WORKFORCE — TOGETHER

Every program in this report exists because of community investment. But as the demands of the modern workplace evolve, so does GEF's approach to partnership. We're not just asking businesses to support education — we're inviting you to help shape the workforce your industry needs.

When you partner with GEF, you're investing in students who are already building the skills that matter most: critical thinking, collaboration, technical literacy, adaptability, and ethical decision-making. These aren't abstract goals. They're the outcomes we design for — and the qualities your next great hire is developing in a Goochland classroom right now.

The Return on Your Investment

For Your Business - Access to a pipeline of graduates with demonstrated skills in collaboration, problem-solving, digital literacy, and ethical decision-making — ready to contribute from day one, whether they enter the workforce directly, pursue technical training, or continue to higher education.

For Our Community - Economic vitality through workforce readiness and a culture of innovation that attracts families and businesses to Goochland County — making this an even stronger place to operate and grow.

For Students - Real-world experiences that translate classroom learning into career competencies, creating confident, capable future employees and leaders who are proud to call Goochland home.



Join Us

Every partnership is tailored to be meaningful for your business and impactful for our students. We'd love to talk about what that looks like for you.

When you invest in GEF, you're not just supporting students — you're building the skilled, ethical, adaptable workforce your industry needs.

SKILLS FOR LIFE. BUILT IN GOOCHLAND.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thanks to a strong year-end financial position, the Goochland Education Foundation is able to fund an expanded slate of programs — and we're just getting started.

Our core offerings remain strong, and this year we're launching several new initiatives designed to deepen learning and open more doors for students across the district.

Literacy remains at the heart of our work. We continue to back teachers who bring evidence-based and experimental approaches into their classrooms, with the training, materials, and support they need to make those methods work in meaningful, measurable ways. Alongside literacy, new programs are focusing on STEM exploration, social-emotional learning, and hands-on enrichment that complements classroom instruction and engages every kind of learner.

Our annual gala — our flagship fundraiser — was another sellout and brought in record support from our generous community. The evening did more than raise essential funds; it shone a light on the Foundation's work and the needs of our students. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and helped make it happen.

Thanks to donor generosity and careful stewardship of operating expenses, the Foundation enters this fiscal year ready to meet students' immediate needs while building toward lasting, sustainable impact. We are grateful for your continued support.

"The relationship between GEF and GCPS has been instrumental in providing quality outdoor education experiences for our students. This collaboration has allowed numerous students to have experiences that would not happen otherwise."

Krissy Lull, Byrd Elementary School

The Outdoor Learning Experiences have been one of my favorite parts of fifth grade. We have been able to explore and learn things outside that make me remember what we do!

Lillian, Fifth Grade Student, Byrd Elementary

SKILLS FOR LIFE. BUILT IN GOOCHLAND.

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

The financials reflect revenue and expenses from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

REVENUE*
\$725,550

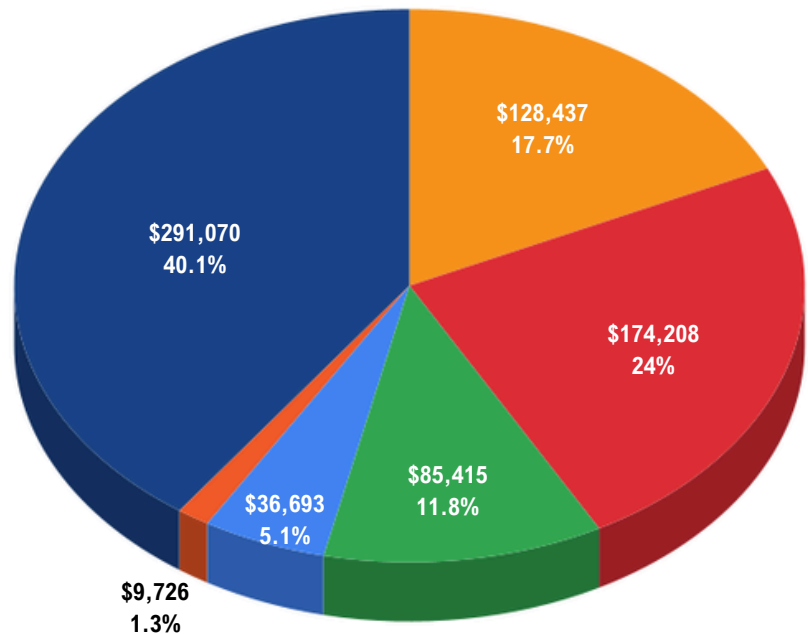
FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF JUNE 30, 2026

Net Assets:

Without Donor Restrictions: \$66,131

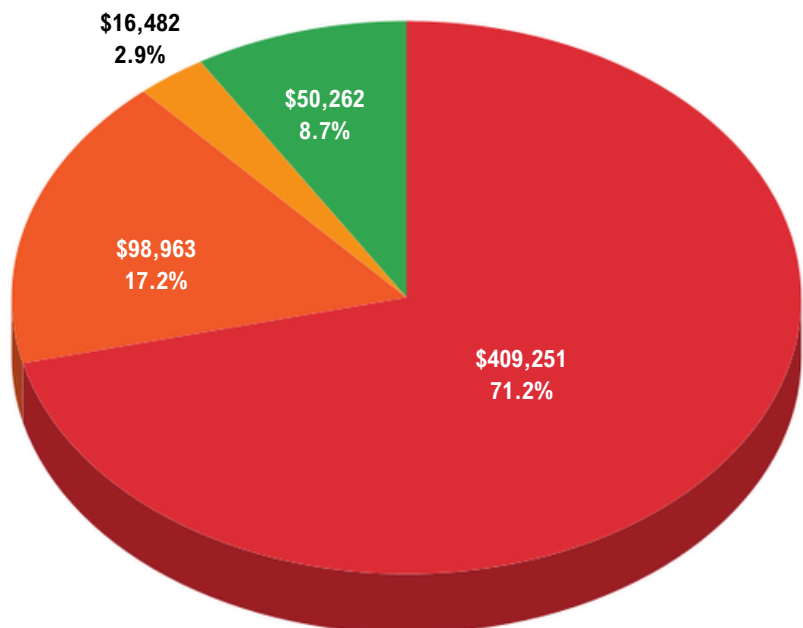
With Donor Restrictions: \$271,583

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: \$337,714



Corporations & Foundations Earned Revenue Fundraising Events Individuals
Investment Income Held-over Restricted Funds

EXPENSES*
\$574,958



*includes restricted revenue and expenses

Programs Management & General Development Fundraising Events

AN EVENING BUILT IN GOOCHLAND

This year's gala wasn't just a fundraiser for student programs — it was a showcase of them.

On March 20, 2026, Dover Hall came alive with Goochland's most anticipated evening of the year. Guests stepped into a sold-out masquerade ball murder mystery — and the talent bringing it to life was homegrown.

The GHS Drama Department, directed by Neil Burch with costumes designed by Ashley Hyer, performed an immersive whodunit that had guests guessing all evening. Desserts were crafted by Culinary Arts students under Chef Bill Erlenbach. And the beautiful event branding — from signage to the program cover — was created by Melissa Day's Graphic Design students through Market Up, Goochland High School's student-run marketing program.



THREE SETS OF CAREER-READY SKILLS. ONE UNFORGETTABLE EVENING.

\$85,000

raised to support educational opportunities for students throughout Goochland County Public Schools.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor **HHHunt** and our 47 generous sponsors whose support made this evening — and the work of GEF — possible.



"This evening was a powerful reminder of what makes Goochland so special. When our community comes together around education, the impact is truly extraordinary. Every dollar raised goes directly toward giving our students the opportunities they deserve, and tonight's generosity will be felt in Goochland County classrooms for years to come."

Cyndy Brown, CEO

OUR MISSION & VISION

MISSION

To secure funding to support innovative learning opportunities for Goochland County Public School students.

VISION

Providing or expanding on innovative, visionary educational experiences designed to enrich and maximize the learning potential of Goochland County Public School students.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

71 volunteers. One remarkable community.

John Aaron	Tom DeWeerd	Michael Kelly	Barbara Schultz
Angela Allen	Ryan Emmons	Adam Kemp	Jay Shively
Manuel Alvarez	Aynsley Fisher	Kelley Kemp	Bruce Silverman
Zheni Avram	Larry Frank	Joy Kline	Geoff Simril
Jim Barden	Sally Graham	Sarah LaFond	Linda Sims
Oren Barnes	David Greenberg	Robin Lind	Justin Sledd
Shelby Boardman	Vassi Griffis	Michelle Maxwell	Bill Souders
Cyndy Brown	Christina Griffith	BJ McGee	Bob Stokes
Joe Brown	Adeeb Hamzey	Tara McGee	Cassie Strong
Neil Burch	Tandra Harris	Chris McIntosh	Holly Swift
Richard Carchman	Robin Hillman	Addie Miller	Carol Taylor
Eric Carlson	Lisa Hobbs	Meredith Moses	Linda Taylor
Karyl Cook	Delbert Horn	Jennifer Ott	Marc Warner
Rich Costanzo	Karen Horn	Arlen Penfield	Betty Whiteside
Mark Covey	Lynn Ivey	Pam Pope	Scott Williams
Tracy Cronin	Ann Kelly	Lisbeth Poulos	Betsy Woolf
Dianne Dementi	Kevin Kelly	Laura Salon	Stephanie Wyche
Wayne Dementi	Kristen Kelley	Rich Salon	

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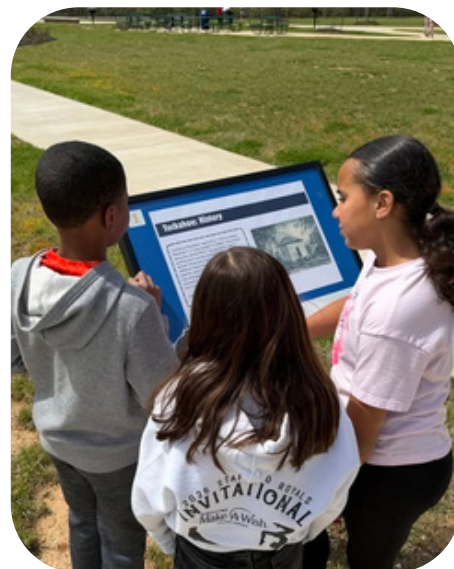
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Kristin Payne, Site Director

Morgan Wimbush, Site Director

Diane Bennet, Administrative Assistant

Cindy Brown, Communications Specialist



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Ready to invest in Goochland's future?
GoochlandEdu.org/donate



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