



*A charitable non-profit established in 2015 to serve the Evansville, Indiana Tri-State area*

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FY 2024

*The mission of the Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Incorporated is to empower, inspire, and prepare the next generation of leaders, their families and the community through education, family advocacy, social justice, health & wellness, economic stability, mentoring, and scholarship.*

# To Our Community

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***"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."***

*George Washington Carver*



## Overview

The Pearls of Distinction Foundation was incorporated in 2015 under the laws of the State of Indiana as a charitable organization serving the Evansville, Indiana tri-state area.

Recognizing the need for funding options and the increased cost of higher education, the foundation raises funds for community service programs and scholarships for students pursuing a post-secondary education. In collaboration with Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Inc. has financed community service initiatives for educational enrichment, health promotion, family strengthening, and global impact.

## 2024 Strategic Highlights

In 2024, Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Inc. partnered with Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to execute meaningful programs of service in the Evansville Community. With the help of family and community friends, Pearls of Distinction . . .

- ◆ Funded the purchase of non-perishable meals and snacks for childhood hunger prevention;
- ◆ Funded scholarships to graduating high school students in pursuit of a secondary education;
- ◆ Funded a youth mentoring program designed for middle school students;
- ◆ Funded the annual "Breakfast with Santa" event which focused on early childhood literacy.

## “It’s A Vibe: Jazz and Art Showcase” – Featuring an Outdoor Cigar Lounge

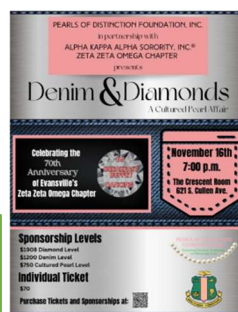


Pearls of Distinction hosted another “It’s a Vibe: Jazz and Art Showcase” fundraising event at Black owned and operated “7 Mile Lounge.” Patrons were treated to a sophisticated night of jazz music and artwork by Cordero Stith. New to the event was a cozy, relaxing and aromatic outdoor cigar lounge sponsored by entrepreneur Stefanie Finch Flemming.



## “Denim & Diamonds” – POD Annual Fundraiser

In November, Pearls of Distinction members once again held a wildly successful “Denim & Diamonds” fundraising event. Held at the Crescent Room, this year’s event recognized the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter of AKA, featured a 360 Photo Booth, hosted a “Best Dressed Contest” and included a meal catered by Smalbert’s Comfort Food.



## COMMUNITY CHIPP PROGRAM – for Childhood Hunger



Recognizing the increasing strain on family food budgets, Pearls of Distinction was delighted to help fund Alpha Kappa Alpha's "Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack" (CHIPP) program. POD funded nutritious, non-perishable meals and snacks for pre-school children at Carver Daycare to be consumed over long holiday weekends.



## MENTORING – Contribution to YWCA "Loving Me" Conference



Each year, young middle school girls look forward to the annual YWCA "Loving Me Girls Empowerment" Conference. The day-long event includes career fairs, positive affirmation sessions, and exposure to valuable life skills to prepare young girls for future success. This year, as it has done since 2018, Pearls of Distinction Foundation eagerly assisted in this event with a modest financial sponsorship.





## MENTORING - Support of “AKA’s Youth Leadership Institute”

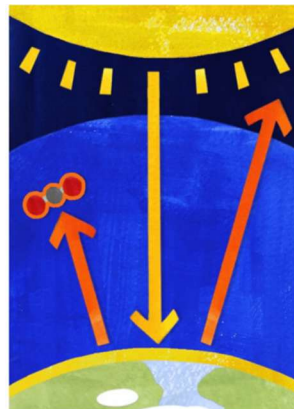
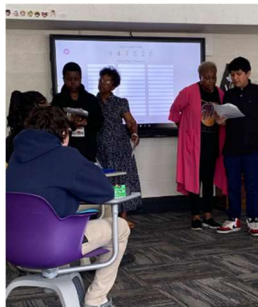
Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Inc., in collaboration with Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, continued its funding of the “Youth Leadership Institute for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year. This was a new mentoring program held at Washington Middle School beginning in the Fall of 2023.



The “Youth Leadership Institute” was designed to be a youth-led, interactive, leadership development program. It was designed to empower and engage young men and women ages 11-13.

The curriculum included leadership workshops on

- How to conduct a meeting;
- Assessment of personality traits;
- The legislative process;
- Information on current local, state, and national government leadership;
- Exploration of careers;
- Cultural and Environmental awareness.



## COMMUNITY - "Breakfast with Santa"



In collaboration with Zeta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Pearls of Distinction again funded "Breakfast with Santa." In the "magically" decorated recreation center of Zion Missionary Baptist Church, this annual event continued as a beloved tradition that has lasted for over 40 years. Children received, free of charge, a nourishing hot breakfast, a visit from Santa, and an age-appropriate toy. Students from the University of Southern Indiana manned crafts tables and AKA members served breakfast, distributed free books, and assisted Santa and Mrs. Claus.





## Our Scholarship Recipients

With proceeds from our 2023 and 2024 fundraising efforts, Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Inc. awarded the following scholarships to deserving high school seniors:

- **Sabrina Chen - \$1000**

Harrison High School Class of 2024

Attending the University of Southern Indiana



- **Ma'Khya Robertson - \$1000**

Harrison High School Class of 2024

Attending Tennessee State University

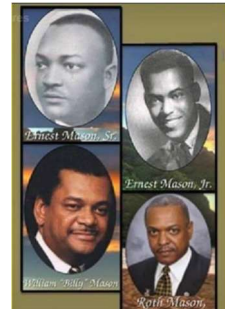


- ❖ **Mason Brothers Scholarship**

- **Nanase Gore - \$1000**

North High School Class of 2024

Attending Indiana University



- ❖ **Joy Mays Memorial Scholarship  
(\$500 Renewable)**

- **Emma Sanfilippo- \$1000**

Castle High School Class of 2024

Attending Purdue University



## We Appreciate Our 2024 Sponsors & Donors

### Up to \$99

Robert Chester, Sandlot Construction, Lana Burton, Dr. Antoinette Caldwell, Marcia Ballard, Debra Baltzell, Andrea Kneubuhler, Frankye Calloway, Janice Bryant, Anna Kelley, Kimberly Cobb, Lois White, Linda Williams, Frances Locket, Shearlyn Fields, Dr. Xavia Burton, Leslie Jackson, Allison Jackson, Jonelle Johnson-Boone, Gwen Fisher-Anderson, Cora Hall, Dr. Denise Johnson-Kincaid, Krista Fleming, Aariah Leary, Davida Johnson, Danyelle Granger, Deborah Sebree-Tapp, Alexa Ferguson, Alethea Hunter-Harris, Connie Baltzell, Rachel Mayes, Erika Taylor JD, Darla Stevens, Alisha Hopson, Roshell Baaree.



### \$100 - \$249

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ◆ Eula Williams                         | ◆ YWCA                                |
| ◆ Vicki White                           | ◆ Memorial CDC                        |
| ◆ David Granholm                        | ◆ Evansville Alumni Chapter of KAψ    |
| ◆ Deborah Raspberry                     | ◆ Droste's                            |
| ◆ Stefanie Finch Fleming                | ◆ Ahead of the Rest Patio Furnishings |
| ◆ Vision Care Center, LLC               | ◆ Jennifer Douglas                    |
| ◆ Romain Cross Pointe Auto Park         | ◆ Dawn & Joe Smith                    |
| ◆ EnviroKinetics, Inc.                  | ◆ Dr. Frances Dumas-Hines             |
| ◆ Sterling Men's Club                   | ◆ Dr. Arlicia Biggers-Dotson          |
| ◆ Earsie Kelley                         | ◆ Debra Mosley                        |
| ◆ Marcus Hester – Blackbaud Giving Fund |                                       |

### \$250 - \$499

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ◆ Maurice Brunson – St. Farm            | ◆ Roth Mason – Mason Bros. Memorial Chapel |
| ◆ Stacia Osborne – Osborne Funeral Home | ◆ Dr. Pamela Hopson                        |

### \$500 - \$999

- ◆ Grace & Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- ◆ EVSC Foundation, Inc.
- ◆ Group Donation from select ZZΩ members

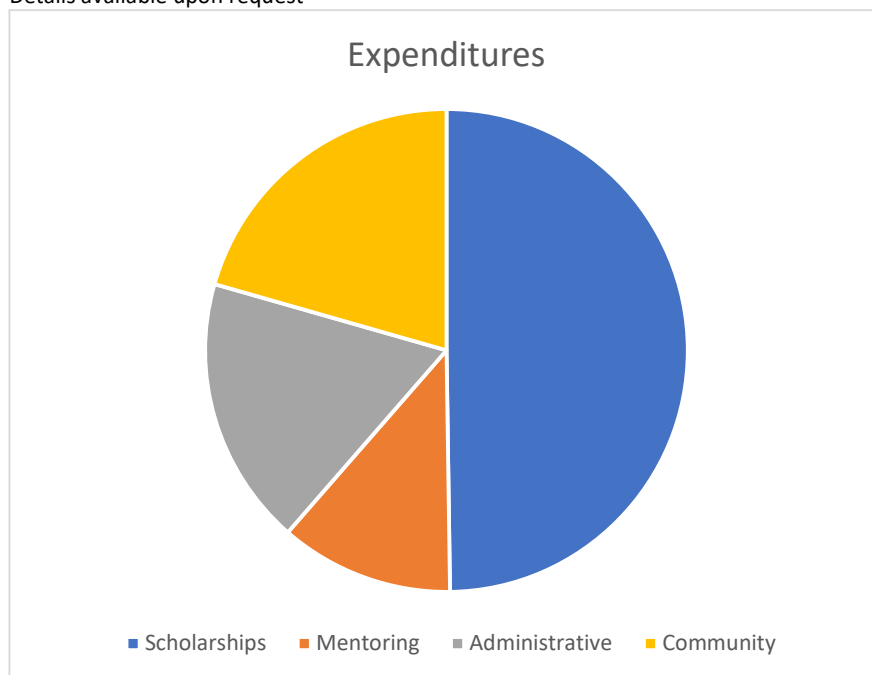
### \$1000 and Over

- ◆ Kenny Kent Lexus Toyota



# Financial Highlights

Details available upon request



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Jennifer Douglas

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## Contact Us

Pearls of Distinction Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 174 – Evansville, Indiana 47702-0174

[Pearlsofdistinctioninc@gmail.com](mailto:Pearlsofdistinctioninc@gmail.com)

[www.pearlsofdistinctionfoundation.org](http://www.pearlsofdistinctionfoundation.org)