



CLC Foundation

2024 Annual Report

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

“Planting the Seeds For Growth”

On the cover:

- CLC students in the Early Childhood Education Program, 2024
- A student at the CLC Grows student-run farm stand
- A student at CLC Graduation, 2024

Inside:

- "Contact" (2002) by Robert Cooper, bronze and rainbow granite. Funded by the Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art (see photo on page 16).

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<i>Join us in transforming lives and creating life-changing opportunities for our community.</i>	



Seeds of Success

FY2023-2024 Impact at a Glance



Due to generous philanthropic support, the Foundation awarded over **\$1.26M** in student scholarships and emergency funds.



Donor funded student support increased over \$300,000, a **31% increase** over last academic year.



Over **1000+** students received scholarship and emergency funding to pursue their academic goals.



The graduation and transfer rates of our scholarship recipients **increased 11%** from 77% to 88%. Donors, you are empowering students to continue on their educational journey.



102 new donors chose to invest in students and the College of Lake County through the CLC Foundation.

A Message From Our Foundation Leadership

Dear Friends,

\$1.26M—that's the total of donor-funded scholarships and emergency funding granted last fiscal year, fueling the educational dreams of more than **1000** College of Lake County students. This represents a **31% year-over-year increase**, underscoring both the growing need and the trust our community places in the Foundation's mission.

Thanks to the steadfast support of our donors, volunteers and community partners, we continue to make a profound impact on the lives of CLC students and their families. By providing critical financial resources to students through scholarships, emergency assistance, and other life-changing programs, **together, we transform lives and strengthen our community.**

Over the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we realigned the Foundation's structure to enhance support and expertise, ensuring the team is well-equipped to fulfill its mission. Leading this team is Leigh Ann Jacobson, CFRE, as Executive Director and Chief Development Officer of the College of Lake County Foundation. Leigh Ann brings more than 25 years of experience in fund development and a deep commitment to advancing the mission of accessible education. As Chair of the Foundation board of directors, I am excited to partner with Leigh Ann and the Foundation team to advance our shared goals and continue **Planting the Seeds for Growth.**

The Foundation team and board are charting a bold course for the future—one guided by the College's priorities in equity in access and successes for students. **Together, we aim to expand access, increase support and ensure every student at CLC has the resources they need to succeed.**

You make this work possible. It's your generosity and continued commitment that ensures students can be their best and realize their potential. Thank you to all those who have partnered with us on this journey and we have strong momentum and invite those interested to join us in fulfilling our mission. **Together, we are making a difference, and together, we will continue to transform lives.**

With gratitude,

Renee Young

Renee Young
Chair, Board of Directors

Leigh Ann M. Jacobson

Leigh Ann M. Jacobson, CFRE
Executive Director
and Chief Development Officer



Mission in Motion: Leigh Ann Jacobson, Executive Director of the College of Lake County Foundation (left) pictured with Renee Young, Board Chair (right).

I am humbled to lead the Foundation board of directors as this is an inspired group of dedicated, caring volunteers all focused on making the Foundation the donors' trusted, first choice for educational giving that is reliable, responsive and relentless in meeting student needs and supporting the College's mission to deliver high quality, accessible and equitable learning opportunities. Thank you to the Board for your outstanding work and for continuing to strive to be better for all of our County neighbors.

— Renee Young, Chair, Board of Directors



Our Mission

"The College of Lake County Foundation inspires philanthropic giving to support student scholarships, college programs, and capital projects that create life-changing opportunities for Lake County residents."



I am honored to join the College of Lake County Foundation because I've seen firsthand how community colleges transform lives. My own family's trajectory changed when my father became the first in our family to graduate from a community college, inspiring generations of educational achievement. This role allows me to bring my passion for accessible education and 25 years of fund development expertise to a mission that resonates deeply with my personal and professional values. Together, we can bridge educational gaps and create impactful opportunities for all members of our community.

— Leigh Ann M. Jacobson, CFRE, Executive Director and Chief Development Officer

Alumni Impact

Michael Witt '78 – Sowing seeds of growth through the College and Career Navigator (CCN) Program



College of Lake County's College and Career Navigator team, Summer 2024.

Michael Witt, a proud graduate of Antioch High School and the College of Lake County (Class of 1978), exemplifies the profound impact our alumni can have on their communities. His generous funding and vision helped expand the College's outreach of its College and Career Navigator (CCN) program to Antioch and Lakes High Schools in District 117, making a lasting impact on the educational journeys of students in the program.

The CCN program provides students with a dedicated CLC point of contact while still in high school to guide them through essential steps such as exploring career options, understanding how to pay for college and, when it is time, applying to college. Meeting students where they are and providing this comprehensive support fosters a sense of belonging and preparedness that leads to a successful transition to college.

In 2021, Witt's funding enabled the appointment of the first full-time embedded CCN at Antioch and Lakes High Schools. During the 2024 fiscal year, the program delivered impactful outcomes: 95 graduates from the Class of 2023 enrolled at CLC in Fall 2023, with 80 of them continuing into Spring 2024, resulting in an 84% retention rate across both high schools.

Notably, this retention rate surpasses the overall retention rate of 80% for new CLC students during the same period, further underscoring the program's effectiveness in driving student success.

Witt's contributions, along with those of donors like him, have sown seeds of growth and opportunity for students that will flourish for years to come. Their commitment to empowering students and investing in education ensures brighter futures—not only for individual students but for entire communities. This lasting legacy inspires generational change and creates a foundation for ongoing success.

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Michael Witt, '78, College of Lake County alumnus



Scan the QR code, or visit the following link to hear Witt share his inspirational story: bit.ly/MichaelWitt_GivesBack

Nurturing Growth Through Early Education

The impact of the Schreiber Philanthropy grant on CLC's early childhood education program

Schreiber Philanthropy, a long-time supporter of the College of Lake County (CLC) Foundation, has a legacy of transforming lives through education. Known for its impactful funding initiatives, Schreiber Philanthropy has supported programs like the Student Emergency Fund, the Dream Big Scholarship Program, and scholarships for high-achieving honors students. Its contributions also include generously providing half of the funding for the Waukegan Campus playground project, which played a significant role in accelerating this cornerstone for the early childhood education programs.

In 2021, Schreiber Philanthropy expanded its support by funding CLC's Spanish-language Early Childhood Education (ECE) program. This groundbreaking initiative provides professional certification and development entirely in Spanish, addressing a critical gap in accessible education for both current and aspiring Spanish-speaking early childhood professionals. With a strong retention rate and a growing number of students achieving credentials, the program has transformed the lives of its participants, their families, and the broader community.

Planting Seeds of Growth

When CLC launched the ECE program, the response was overwhelming. "Our first informational meeting drew over 100 professionals, far more than we anticipated," says Marcela Calderon Durán, M.Ed., Early Childhood Spanish Instructor. "It was clear how much demand existed for a program like this. Many of the attendees said they had been waiting years—some even decades—for this opportunity."

The program initially offered state-required Level 2 certifications for early childhood professionals. However, it quickly grew to include pathways to associate degrees, professional certifications and preparation for state licensure.

By offering evening, weekend and online classes, the program accommodates adult learners balancing work, education and family responsibilities. Schreiber Philanthropy's funding eliminated financial barriers by covering tuition, textbooks and other essential resources, allowing students to focus on their studies and build a foundation for long-term success.

Transforming Lives and Communities

The ECE program has profoundly impacted its students, many of whom bring unique life stories and professional backgrounds. From former house cleaners to internationally trained lawyers and engineers, the program attracts a diverse cohort united by a shared commitment to education.

(More)



Marcela Calderon Durán, M.Ed., early childhood Spanish instructor, pictured at the CLC Lakeshore Campus, 2024.



Continued from Page 6

One student transitioned from cleaning houses to working in a local school district, thanks to the program's resources and encouragement. Another, a mother, proudly shared how her children look up to her as a role model, inspired by her pursuit of education.

"The program isn't just about academics—it's about building a sense of belonging," says Jennifer Cordova-Arteaga, Program Coordinator for Early Childhood Education. "Students feel valued, and that confidence ripples through their families and communities."

Guided by Representation and Mentorship

A key factor in the program's success is its culturally representative faculty. Many instructors are former CLC students who have advanced their careers and returned to teach. "Seeing themselves in their instructors makes a huge difference for our students," says Calderon Durán. One instructor, an alumnus of the program, began as a nanny and now teaches while pursuing a master's degree. Another, originally from Brazil, brings his diverse professional experience to inspire his students.

"Their stories motivate students to envision their own success," added Cordova-Arteaga.

A Legacy of Retention and Expansion

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program continues to demonstrate its impact through strong retention and achievement rates. Of the 79 students enrolled across Cohorts 1–3, 92% were retained, reflecting the program's effectiveness in supporting students through their academic journeys.

By the end of the 2023–2024 academic year, 48 of the retained students had earned Level 2 certifications, with 25 students still progressing toward completion. Additionally, 23 students earned Level 2 Infant/Toddler certifications during the reporting period.

Calderon Durán emphasized the importance of partnerships with four-year institutions, enabling students to seamlessly transition to bachelor's degree programs and professional licensure. "We're also exploring pathways for students to become early childhood business owners and community leaders," she shared.

(More)

Continued from page 7

Graduates are already filling critical roles such as substitute teachers, teacher assistants and program coordinators in school districts across Lake County. Some are in pursuit of master's degrees, aiming to return to CLC as instructors or leaders in their fields. These milestones underscore the program's ability to prepare students for leadership roles and contribute meaningfully to the early childhood education workforce. Schreiber Philanthropy's support has been pivotal in making these achievements possible.

Rooted in Community, Blooming into the Future

The ECE program exemplifies the theme of this year's CLC Foundation Annual Report: growth. It has transformed lives, empowered families and strengthened the community, fostering generational change.

"When you provide access to people who've never had it, they don't just walk through the door—they run," says Calderon Durán. "The Schreiber Philanthropy grant opened that door, and our students are proving their success is unstoppable."

As the program continues to thrive, it stands as a testament to the power of education to cultivate resilience, nurture opportunity and plant the seeds for a thriving community for years to come. --

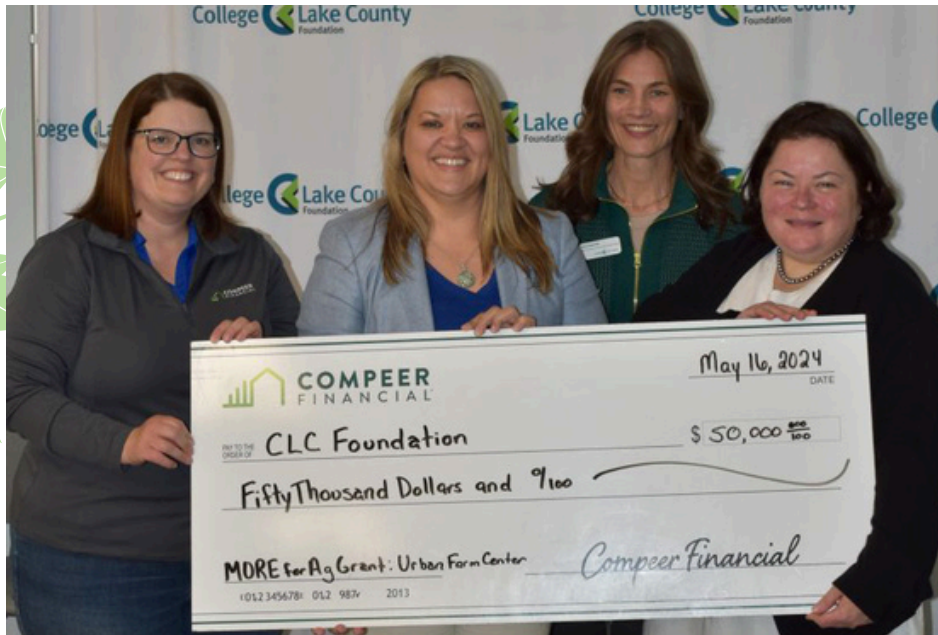


Early childhood education course onsite at the CLC Grayslake Campus, 2024.



Corporate Generosity

Compeer Financial's grant cultivates Urban Farm Center's growth



From left: Sarah Hoerner, lending specialist, Compeer Financial; Karen Schieler, manager of corporate giving, Compeer Financial; Eliza Fournier, urban farm director, College of Lake County; and Renee Young, chair, CLC Foundation Board of Directors.

Compeer Financial is shaping the future of local food systems, sustainability and workforce development through its support of the College of Lake County (CLC) Grows initiative. Funded in part by a \$50,000 MORE for Agriculture Grant from Compeer Financial's Fund for Rural America, this initiative is rebuilding the infrastructure for local food systems. The grant supports agricultural-based educational partnerships and curriculum development, making CLC Grows a vital driver of local food security, economic opportunity and sustainability.

College of Lake County operates three farms—Greenbelt Farm, Grayslake/Campus Farm, and the upcoming Urban Farm Center—collectively known as CLC Grows. This initiative integrates into the local food system, producing fresh, locally grown food, providing hands-on agricultural education and supporting the community with

sustainable produce. Once operational, the Urban Farm Center will expand these efforts, creating a space to deepen community engagement and sustainable farming practices. Supported by Compeer Financial's grant, these farms strengthen local food infrastructure and ensure access to nutritious food.

"College of Lake County is bringing an innovative approach to urban agriculture education," said Karen Schieler, manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial. "CLC is deeply dedicated to education, community and local agriculture, aligning perfectly with the Fund for Rural America's grant objectives. The Urban Farm Center offers a hands-on learning experience, and we are enthusiastic about its future."

(More)



Urban Farm Center rendering by Demonica Kemper Architects.

Continued from page 9

Mike Friend, known as “Farmer Mike,” is the lab coordinator at Greenbelt Farm. “I’m responsible for planting the plants, growing them, harvesting them, selling them, and teaching other people to do that,” he explained. With a degree in psychology, Friend initially thought he would become a counselor. However, his desire to do something good for the planet led him to Greenbelt Farm, where he found the perfect balance between helping people and fostering environmental stewardship.

This place lets me do both,” he said. “It also helps people discover things they love.”

The Urban Farm Center, set to break ground in summer 2025, will build on these successes, creating more opportunities for education and collaboration. It will connect students, residents and organizations, fostering shared responsibility for sustainable food systems. This unified effort strengthens the local economy and reinforces the pride residents feel in contributing to a thriving local food network.

Thanks to Compeer Financial’s generous support, CLC is fostering a new generation of agricultural leaders, promoting environmental stewardship and creating an inclusive hub where local resources and expertise converge. --



Mike Friend, known as “Farmer Mike,” at the CLC Grayslake Campus Farm. The 1.25-acre sustainable farm is nestled within Greenbelt Forest Preserve in North Chicago.

Scan the QR code, or
visit the following link to
learn more about
CLC Grows:
bit.ly/CLCGrows



Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position: Comparative for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2024*

	FY2024	FY2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,706,962	\$3,864,118
Pledges Receivable, net	\$687,480	\$477,445
Prepaid Expense	\$132	\$125
Endowment/Investments	\$7,161,790	\$6,535,831
Total Assets	\$10,556,364	\$10,877,519
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$588,954	\$614,730
Deferred Revenue	\$24,300	\$2,500
Total Liabilities	\$613,254	\$617,230
Net Assets:		
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Purpose restrictions	\$5,820,946	\$6,559,995
Perpetual in nature	\$2,786,381	\$2,501,176
	\$8,607,327	\$9,061,171
Total Net Assets	\$9,943,110	\$10,260,289
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,556,364	\$10,877,519

*This annual report (pages 11-12) includes financial information audited by Crowe LLP to ensure accuracy and compliance with applicable standards.



Financial Information

Statement of Activities: Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Contributions and gifts	\$158,618	\$3,287,567	\$3,446,185
Gross special events revenue	\$126,823	-	\$126,823
Less: cost of direct benefits to donors	(\$31,209)	-	(\$31,209)
Net special events revenue	\$95,614	-	\$95,614
Donated services	\$590,412	-	\$590,412
Other noncash donations/Gift-in-kind	\$69,969	-	\$69,969
Net assets released from restrictions	\$3,959,118	(\$3,959,118)	-
Total Public Support	\$4,873,731	(\$671,551)	\$4,202,180
OTHER INCOME			
Investment income/Endowment Earnings	\$377,136	\$217,707	\$594,843
Total other income	\$377,136	\$217,707	\$594,843
Total public support and revenue	\$5,250,867	(453,844)	\$4,797,023
EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Grants and scholarships awarded	\$4,309,763	-	\$4,309,763
Noncash donations:			
College of Lake County	\$47,469	-	\$47,469
Contractual Services	\$13,700	-	\$13,700
Supporting services:			
Management and general	\$731,964	-	\$731,964
Fundraising	\$12,306	-	\$12,306
Total Expenses	\$5,115,202	-	\$5,115,202
Change in net assets before other item	\$135,665	(\$453,844)	(\$318,179)
OTHER ITEM			
Change in donor designation	\$1,000	-	\$1,000
Change in net assets	\$135,665	(\$453,844)	(\$317,179)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,199,118	\$9,061,171	\$10,260,289
Net assets at end of year	\$1,335,783	\$8,607,327	\$9,943,110

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(FY2023-2024)

OFFICERS

Chair

Renee Young*

W. W. Grainger, Inc. (retired)

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Abbott Laboratories (retired)

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Legat Architects

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Vice President, Business Services and Finance CFO

College of Lake County

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Abbey Family Foundation

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Baxter International, Inc.

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Ops, Wiss, Janney, Elstner
Associates, Inc.

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Northeastern Illinois University

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Elizabeth K. Miller Law Offices

Mike Trimble*

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Paul Diamond*

Diamond Residential Mortgage Corp.

Val Munchez-van der Wagt*

VM Insurance Consulting

Sam Valenti*

Freight Train Studios, LLC

Dave Galla*

R.J. Galla Company, Inc.

Tiffany Peppers, Immediate Past Chair*

JIC Community Development Corp.

Ester Viti

Viti Financial Services

Julia Guiney

Adventure Mattress LLC

Christopher Piazzi

Mundelein Community Bank

Robert R. Worobow

RRW & Associates

Judith A. Haga

R. Lee Piekarz

City of Hope Chicago

Jannes E. Zobus

Legislative Assistant (retired)

Holly Kerr*

Roy G. Kerr Foundation (retired)

Joanna Rolek

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President

College of Lake County

Ali O'Brien, EdD.

*Vice President, Community and
Workforce Partnerships*
College of Lake County

Kristen Jones, EdD.

Vice President, Education
College of Lake County

Leigh Ann M. Jacobson, CFRE

Executive Director and Chief Development Officer
College of Lake County Foundation

Faculty Liaison

Derek Leiter, PharmD

College of Lake County

Board of Trustees Liaison

Secretary of the Board

Paul Virgilio

*Denotes College of Lake County Alumni.

CLC Foundation Team

Grateful for your support



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Community Giving
Manager

LAURA GERGELY

Director of Development

LEIGH ANN JACOBSON, CFRE

Executive Director and Chief
Development Officer

KERILYN MERRITT

Marketing and
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JANET PADDOCK

Prospect Research
Coordinator

ALMA TRUJILLO

Development Services
Manager

CYNTHIA WISBEY

Assistant to the
Executive Director



From left: Laura Gergely, Alma Trujillo, Janet Paddock, Leigh Ann Jacobson, Cynthia Wisbey, Kerilyn Merritt and Cynthia Gentleman.

Together, we transform lives.

Partners In Giving

Join us in transforming lives and creating life-changing opportunities for our community

Ways to Give

Donate online, by phone, or by mail.

Secure donations can be made by visiting clcillinois.edu/foundation or calling (847) 543-2091. Checks made payable to the CLC Foundation can be sent to 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL 60030.

Make a planned gift. The College of Lake County honors individuals who include the College of Lake County Foundation in a will or trust, helping to ensure the legacy of our scholarship programs. Contact Executive Director and Chief Development Officer Leigh Ann Jacobson, CFRE, for more information at (847) 543-2640 or ljacobson3@clcillinois.edu.

Make a corporate gift or sponsor our scholarship golf classic. Invest in our CLC Foundation Scholarship and Grants Fund, and promote your company to Lake County communities. Contact Community Giving Manager Cynthia Gentleman at (847) 543-2400 or cgentleman@clcillinois.edu.

Give through a donor advised fund.

Donors recommending grants from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) are limited by IRS guidelines for benefits they may receive in exchange for the gift. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of your gift.

Make a gift of stocks, bonds or mutual funds. By making a gift of appreciated assets, such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds, your contribution is tax-deductible. Stock gifts are accepted by the Foundation and valued at the closing price on the day received. Please notify the College of Lake County Foundation at foundation@clcillinois.edu when making a stock gift so we can allocate the stock sale proceeds to the proper fund according to your wishes.

Donate equipment and supplies.

Making a gift in-kind supporting the academic experience, a non-cash donation, is the charitable giving of goods and/or services. You can donate a gift for educational purposes that advances our mission. Examples include:

- Musical or lab equipment
- Technical machinery
- Automotive equipment

Scan the QR code below
or visit: www.clcillinois.edu/give



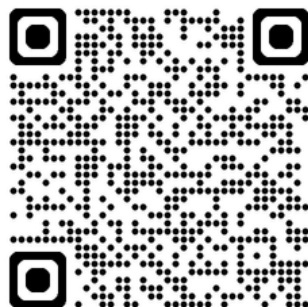
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