



ETHS  
FOUNDATION



# BUILT FOR BELONGING

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT - FY 2026

# ETHS: WHERE PLACE BECOMES POSSIBILITY

It has long been said that Evanston Township High School is the largest high school under one roof, with miles of hallways, thousands of students, and seemingly endless opportunities.

In a building this big, finding where you belong can make all the difference.

For senior **Adaoma Uduko**, a sense of community at ETHS has developed through time, exploration, and trial and error. “I think putting myself out there and trying different things has been so important for me,” Adaoma says. “I’ve had a great experience and gained a sense of community by pursuing the academic and non-academic things that interest me.”

Adaoma is active in HOSA (Future Health Professionals) and Biology Club and is a member of the back-to-back IHSA regional champion ETHS Girls Flag Football team. Through HOSA, Adaoma had the opportunity to cast an arm with a family medicine physician and explore heart imaging with a cardiologist, connecting with fellow students who share her interest in medical careers. In Biology Club and through her AP Chemistry and AP Biology courses, she discovered that science interested her in ways she had not expected.

Her curiosity eventually led to one of the most defining experiences of her time at ETHS: the iKIT Internship and Job Shadow Program, supported in part by the ETHS Foundation.

During spring break of her junior year, Adaoma shadowed healthcare professionals at Evanston Hospital. Initially interested in pharmacy, her experience in an operating room transformed her view. As she watched surgeons, technicians, anesthesiologists, and nurses work together as a team, she saw the human side of medicine and realized she wanted more patient interaction in her future career.

“Without the program, I would have missed out on seeing what interested me as early as I did,” Adaoma reflects.

Now, as the ETHS Foundation Board Student Representative, Adaoma has a unique perspective on the opportunities that have shaped her high school experience. She has not only benefited from experiences made possible through Foundation support, but is now helping other students understand how philanthropy can expand what is possible for every Wildkit.



# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



## KEN & NANCY ARLEN

### It all began at ETHS.

As members of the Class of 1971, Ken Arlen and Nancy Ricker spent countless hours in the arts wing, seated side by side in ensemble rehearsals. They shared a passion for music, but not many conversations. Neither imagined they were laying the foundation for a lifetime together.

While their story would come together later, music remained a defining part of both Ken and Nancy's ETHS experiences. Ken performed with the ETHS band and orchestra spending his unscheduled time

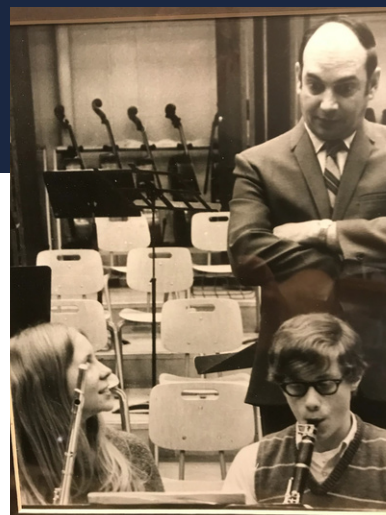
practicing clarinet in the music practice rooms. Nancy also performed with the ETHS band and orchestra and with Spirit of Soul, an influential interracial student soul choir led by Avon Gillespie.

"We were challenged at ETHS to be our best selves," Nancy said. "And to grow in community with others."

Years later, when their own children attended ETHS, they watched that same philosophy come to life again. Their son discovered a love of academics and their daughter found her place in the arts. Both were encouraged to explore their unique interests and talents.

"You want each person to discover what they're passionate about," Ken says. "We are excited to support the Music Technology Studio because it will give all students, regardless of their musical background, access to production tools that will enable them to compose, record and create original music. Our hope is it will ultimately provide an opportunity for these students to develop the confidence that they are, in fact, creators!"

That belief is what inspired the Arlens to make a transformational commitment to the Evanston to Everywhere Capital Campaign.



Ken and Nancy in their ETHS woodwind ensemble.

Their gift will create the Arlen Music Technology Studio, a space designed to make music creation more accessible than ever before. The space will open doors for every student, from first-time creators to experienced musicians, helping Wildkits take risks and discover their unique talents. Their investment extends beyond today's students. Along with their campaign gift, Ken and Nancy have included the ETHS Foundation in their estate plans, ensuring future generations of Wildkits will continue to benefit from the school that shaped every member of their family.

More than five decades after they first crossed paths in the arts wing, the Arlens are creating a space where future students will discover who they are, find where they belong, and begin stories of their own.

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**ETHS**  
FOUNDATION

# FUNDING IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Grants to ETHS in FY 2026

\$9M

EVANSTON  
EVERYWHERE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS



\$205,900

STUDENT  
ASSISTANCE

\$124,270

SCHOLARSHIPS  
& AWARDS

\$72,391

CURRICULUM  
GRANTS

\$163,260

ATHLETICS

\$43,600

MUSIC PROGRAM  
SUPPORT &  
SCHOLARSHIPS



\$17,600

PROM  
SCHOLARSHIPS



## FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

### Revenues, Gains and Other Support Contributions

#### Contributions (Total Contributions & E2E Campaign)

WILD for ETHS Benefit

Contributions In-Kind

Investment Income (Scholarship funds)

#### Total Revenue

#### Expenses

Grants & Scholarships to ETHS

Supporting Services Management & General

Fundraising Expenses

#### Total Expenses

#### Change in Net Assets

Net Assets, Beginning of Year

Net Assets, End of Year

### Amount (\$)

\$6,156,644

\$142,848

\$405,875

\$1,082,612

\$7,787,979

\$9,579,682

\$580,680

\$254,518

\$10,414,880

\$(2,626,901)

\$17,296,621

\$14,669,720

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 Tara Weintraub  
 Adam L. Weiss  
 Rick Weissbourd  
 Tonneshia Wellington  
 Scott West  
 Kristine Westerberg  
 Robert and Pamela Wham  
 Jeffrey Whitehead  
 Carolyn Whittle  
 Eric and Lois Wickstrom  
 Payson and Linda Wild  
 Celia and Stanley Wilk  
 Reid S. Willis  
 Jeremy and Jane Wilson  
 Philip D. Wingeier-Rayo  
 Benjamin and Donna Wolf  
 Carol and Jonathan Wolff  
 Frank and Elaine Wrenick  
 Lisa Yang and Timothy Newbold





ETHS  
FOUNDATION

1600 Dodge Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201



## MISSION & VISION

The Foundation raises funds to enhance educational opportunities for all ETHS students beyond conventional public funding. We support equity and excellence through innovative learning spaces, curriculum resources, and student assistance.

Your generosity provides critical funding that invests in student capabilities and their future possibilities

## DEAR ETHS FOUNDATION FRIENDS

On behalf of the ETHS Foundation and our Board of Directors, we are proud to share our Annual Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2026.

This year marked another important chapter in the Foundation's work to expand opportunity for every Wildkit. Together, we continued building momentum for **Evanston to Everywhere: The Campaign for ETHS**. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the campaign has now raised more than \$29 million toward its transformational vision for ETHS.

This fall, we will celebrate a major milestone in the campaign with the grand opening of a new Studio Theatre, the dedication of the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for the Performing Arts, the unveiling of the Lewis-Sebring Gallery, and the opening of the Arlen Music Technology Studio.

These spaces represent incredible investment in ETHS and a significant step forward in the campaign, but our work is far from over. Over the next three years, we will continue transforming career, performing, and visual arts spaces, ensuring that every Wildkit has access to learning environments that inspire creativity, innovation, and opportunity.

This report tells the story of a Wildkit community that believes deeply in public education and in the promise of every student. It is the story of students like Adaoma, whose experiences in Foundation-funded spaces and programs sparked a passion for her future. It is also the story of donors like Ken and Nancy Arlen, who chose to honor the impact ETHS had on their own lives by creating opportunities for the next generation of Wildkits.

Whether you made your first gift, renewed your annual support, volunteered, or championed our campaign, you have helped shape a stronger future for ETHS.

Thank you for believing in our students, our educators, and the limitless possibilities that begin here.

With gratitude,

Jeff Hammock, Parent '21, '22, '25  
Chief Advancement Officer  
D202 and the ETHS Foundation

Sheau-ming Ross, Parent '24, '27, '30  
Board Chair  
ETHS Foundation

