Annual Report 2004

Organizational Profile

Founded in 1995 by a group of recent college graduates, Education First is a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships to low income youth. The founders of Education First believe that higher education can help break generational poverty. To promote the mission, we provide both financial and mentoring support to students. Education First targets students who have overcome significant life challenges and are seldom recognized for their achievements.

2005–2006 Education First Board of Directors

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Volunteers

Carla Acord
Anand Kishore
Keith Carrato
Trish Cartier
Claire Carter
Chi-Wen Chan
Saffron Chan
Tracy Chang
Agnieszka Dalal
Teresa Ersfeld
Aileen Fung
Kristen Fischer
Sahayda Gore
Karl Hessler
Mike Ha
Curt Humes
Purna Khil

2003–2004 Participating High Schools

Seattle
Chief Sealth
Cleveland
Rainier Beach

Portland
Jefferson
Marshall
Roosevelt

San Francisco
Balboa
Mission
Thurgood Marshall

Los Angeles
Garfield
Jefferson
Manual Arts

Denver
Jefferson
North

Austin
Johnston
Reagan
Travis

Volunteers

Corporate Donations 33%
Individual Donations 53%
2004 Revenue Sources

Foundation Grants 9%
Interest & Dividends 2%

Education First is dedicated to providing need-based college scholarships to exceptional seniors attending high schools with historically low percentages of college applicants.

By rewarding students with strength of character, a commitment to learning, and a vision for their future, our aim is to invest in individuals who will positively affect their communities.

Drew Zwiebel
President

Annual Report 2004

Historical Highlights

Past & Present 2004 1995
Program Results
Number of participating schools 18 9
Number of applicants 172 56
Percent of applicants interviewed 30% 25%
Funds scholarships awarded $21,000 $3,000
Number of volunteers 60 11

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position 12/31/04 12/31/03
Assets
Cash, savings and investments $60,901 $61,167
Pledges Receivable 25,082 18,763
Total Assets $85,983 $79,930

Liabilities
Scholarships Payable $37,004 $34,504
Net Assets
Unrestricted 48,979 45,426
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $85,983 $79,930

Statement of Activities 2004 2003
Support & Revenue
Contributions and Grants $35,621 $28,606
Interest and Dividends 574 438
Other 0 5,400
Total Support and Revenue $36,195 $34,444

Expenses
Program $22,386 $22,185
Fundraising 6,526 335
Administrative 1,231 1,178
Total Expenses $30,143 $23,698
Surplus (deficit) $6,052 $10,746

President’s Letter

It’s a daunting challenge to keep more kids in school and encourage their academic advancement these days. However, for nearly nine years Education First has been doing its part to assist underserved high school students obtain increasingly important college degrees. Thanks to the support of our donors, we were able to award:
• Six $3,000 Primary Scholarships
• Twelve $250 Honourable Mention Awards

Additional highlights include:
• Committed over $115,000 in scholarships to date
• Assisted nearly 70 students with their college tuition since inception
• Continue to operate with no paid staff

On behalf of all the members of Education First, I thank you for your support and belief in higher education.

Drew Zwiebel
President

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EMAIL info@educationfirst.org
WEB www.educationfirst.org
We recognize the following organizations whose services keep our administrative expenses low.

**Past Scholars — Where are they now?**

I am currently stationed in Iraq as a combat medic. I have served in the U.S. Army for 10 years and have deployed to Iraq twice. I am currently stationed in Baghdad, Iraq serving the last of my 4 year obligation.

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Jessica Acosta, 1998 Scholar

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Our 2004 Scholarship Recipients

**Seattle**

- **Favre Ortiz**, Newport High School, City University

  “I know the future is based on the actions you take today. In order to make a better tomorrow, next week, next month you must start at the present moment. I’m the type of person that feels there is always something to do and I won’t stop until I do. Even though I sometimes think I’m different from the average eighteen-year-old, I think it’s a good different.”

---

**Denver**

- **Sara Parra-Torres**, Johnston High School, Austin College

  Although she was involved in a car accident and had severe hip and neck injuries earlier that summer, Raquel shows her dedication to dance and work. Regardless of injury, she showed up everyday for two weeks (no dance camps) and did all the other girls did. The co-captain told me she was proud of me for showing up everyday and that it really showed her determination to dance.

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**Austin**

- **Zekia Ahmed**, Andrew Cox

  I am currently stationed in Iraq serving the last of my 4 year obligation.

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**San Francisco**

- **Atlanta Onyeke**, Garfield High School, Seattle Central

  “Throughout my life, I have faced many obstacles that have made it a challenge to pursue my education. Though obstacles appear to stand in my way, I have learned to stay strong and carry my stumbling blocks as stepping stones. I am the type of person that does not give up without a fight.”

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**Los Angeles**

- **Lori Alvarez**, Garfield High School, Cal Poly Pomona

  “Coming from a low-income family in the heart of LA has been hard, but I am a determined learner who doesn’t give up even when I am going to lose the fight. In school, I am a very strong leader — one who loves to ask questions and knows her right from wrong.”

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**2004 Education First Donors**

**Sponsors ($100 – $249)**

- works! Team.

**Donation Matches**

- Don & MaryAnn Moore Bishop-Brogden Associates, Inc.

**In-Kind Donations**

- Microsoft Corporation

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