

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%
Yearly scholarships awarded	\$21,000	\$3,000
Number of volunteers	60	11

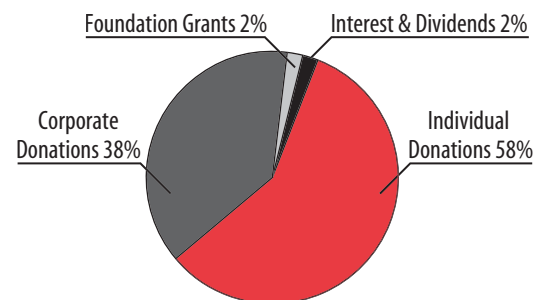
Financial Information

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



2004 Revenue Sources

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 assist in breaking generational poverty. To promote our 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.

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 WEB www.educationfirst.org

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.



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 Honorable 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

2003–2004 Participating High Schools



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Our 2004 Scholarship Recipients



Seattle

Minh Tanh Khuu

Chief Sealth High School
Shoreline Community College

As a recent immigrant from Vietnam, Minh writes, "I have a problem with language. . . English language is like a Chinese chess game, which has too many options for moving, and if I make a wrong move, I would ruin my game. My dad used to say 'learning is a never ending game' and it's true, learning helps you have great knowledge, and if you stop, you're left behind." Minh aspires to be a pharmacist so she can help others ease their pain.



Portland

Galaye Ali

Jefferson High School
Portland Community College

"Coming to the United States was a challenge for me because I was not accustomed to the language and culture. . . the school system in the U.S. is completely different than my country of Oromia. I have gained much hope and self-confidence from the achievement I have made in school — as a refugee and participant in the **Food Works! Team**. It is certain that the self-confidence I have gained will help me to achieve my goal. . . I want to make life better for me and my large family."



San Francisco

Khristy Wright

Balboa High School
San Francisco State University

"Throughout my life, I have been faced with many obstacles that have made it challenging to pursue my education. Though obstacles appear to stand in my way, I have learned to stay strong and use my stumbling blocks as stepping-stones. . . I am the type of person that does not like to give up without a fight."



Los Angeles

Janil Alvarez

Garfield High School
Cal Poly Pomona

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



Denver

Fawn Ortiz

Jefferson High School
Regis 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 be done and I won't stop until I do it. Even though I sometimes think I'm different from the average eighteen year old, I think it's a good different."



Austin

Raquel Torres

Johnston High School
Austin Community 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 writes, "Regardless of my injury, I showed up everyday for two weeks [to dance camp] and did what the other girls did. The co-captain told me she was proud of me for showing up everyday, and that it really showed my determination to dance."

\$250 Honorable Mention Award Recipients

Seattle

Dianna De La Torre
Ciera Aleshia Graham
Portland
Zekia Ahmed
Andrew Cox

San Francisco

Pamela Rios
Angel Rodriguez
Los Angeles
Brenda Curriel
Massiel Vasquez

Denver

Liliana Diaz
Alejandra Reyes
Austin
Courtney Crayton
Rachel Myers

Past Scholars – Where are they now?

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

After getting three associates degrees, and about to transfer over to the university, September 11th hit and, well, like many Americans I made the transition from student to soldier. I know that without the catalyst of my high school advisor, my fantastic parents, and **Education First**, I wouldn't have even considered going to college. There are a lot of soldiers who think school is not an option. I try to tell as many people I can that college is an option and that it is an investment — one that no one can ever take away. Please know that **Education First** is establishing the vision in many who didn't think the possibilities would exist. //

— **Jessica Acosta**, 1998 Scholar

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Charlie Bognanni
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