

Historical Highlights

Past & Present	2005	1995
Program Results		
Number of participating schools	18	9
Number of applicants	151	56
Percent of applicants interviewed	45%	25%
Yearly scholarships awarded	\$30,000	\$3,000
Number of volunteers	53	11

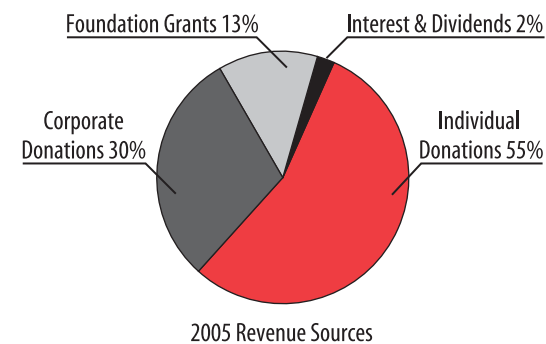
Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	12/31/05	12/31/04
Assets		
Cash, savings and investments	\$77,667	\$60,901
Pledges Receivable	43,050	25,082
Total Assets	\$120,717	\$85,983

Liabilities		
Scholarships Payable	\$36,504	\$37,004
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	84,213	48,979
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$120,717	\$85,983

Statement of Activities	2005	2004
Support & Revenue		
Contributions and Grants	\$62,197	\$35,621
Interest and Dividends	1,538	574
Other	0	0
Total Support and Revenue	\$63,735	\$36,195

Expenses		
Program	\$25,711	\$22,386
Fundraising	1,292	6,526
Administrative	1,998	1,231
Total Expenses	\$29,001	\$30,143
Surplus (deficit)	\$34,734	\$6,052



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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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

According to the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University, there are 2,000 high schools that lose more than 40% of their students before graduation day. Additional support is required at more than 11,300 schools designated "in need of improvement" by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Although these statistics may seem overwhelming, there is hope. Non profit educational organizations like **Education First**, now in our tenth year, are starting to make consistent, long term impacts on the successful graduation rates of high school students striving for higher education.

Thanks to the support of our donors, in '05 we were able to award:

- Six \$4,000 Primary Scholarships
- Six \$1,000 Honorable Mention Awards

Additional highlights include:

- Committed over \$175,000 in scholarships to date
- Assisted over 80 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

2004–2005 Participating High Schools



EDUCATION first 4701 SW Admiral Way #149 | Seattle, WA 98116
 PHONE/FAX 509.356.1739 | EMAIL info@educationfirst.org
 WEB www.educationfirst.org

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Our 2005 Scholarship Recipients (\$4,000)



Seattle
Mahogany Villars
 Cleveland High School
 Western Washington University

"My major challenge in High School was being surrounded by peers that were not motivated to go to college. However, I turned that challenge into my own advantage, by seeking available scholarships and creating a plan unique to me and my long term educational goals. What drives me today is the opportunity to one day go back and speak to the students of my High School, telling them if I can succeed, so can you."



Portland
Meron Foto
 Roosevelt High School
 University of Portland

"Although my classes in Eritea [Africa] had been taught in English, the way people spoke in America was very different, and I had a difficult time comprehending. Soon I found a solution — reading books! I started reading books with my teacher's help. As a result, my English skills began improving very fast. Today, I am a member of the National Honor Society, thanks to their help."



San Francisco
Almaz Nigusse
 Balboa High School
 Sonoma State University

"I will be the first person in my family to go to college and will have more options in my life compared to Africa where I grew up. In America, I know I can earn a college degree, and it will make a difference in my life. I also want to give back to my community by volunteering with other immigrant youth who are in need and encourage them to attend college."



Los Angeles
Gladys Mireles
 Manual Arts High School
 University of California Berkeley

"There are those who say, 'Oh no, school is not for me,' but in my case, school is the only thing that will take me where I want to go. Realizing that college can take me places, keeps me from giving up no matter how difficult the challenge."



Denver
Meghan Hartvigson
 North High School
 Adams State College

"My major strength is that I seize opportunities. I am not one to sit and watch the world continue without me. I have spoken at higher education presentations and have volunteered with younger students. I love to interact with and lead diverse groups, challenging my own boundaries."



Austin
Carolotta Hamilton
 Regan High School
 University of Texas

"The thing I wish to achieve with a college education is to have a well equipped job and to do something that I love to do rather than settle for less in a job that doesn't require a college education."

Honorable Mention Award Recipients (\$1,000)

Seattle
 Abu-Munye Abdulkadir
Portland
 Kathy Elijah

San Francisco
 Lorenzo Bell
Los Angeles
 Ernie Dominguez

Denver
 Keith Valentine
Austin
 Stacy Guerra

Past Scholars – Where are they now?

// I am doing well. I finished school on June 12, 2006. Actually Smith Glover, an **Education First** volunteer was at the ceremony that day. As for now, I am working for a company that imports and is a distributor of high tech accessories. I will be applying to Law School in the future; however, I am trying to help out my husband financially since he is a student/employee himself. As for my six year old daughter she is well and going to school. //
 — **Rosalia Morales**, 2001 Los Angeles Scholar

// I am doing well. I graduated from University of Washington with B.S in Chemical Engineering. Now, I am working company named Lafarge North America as a process Engineer. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you from **Education First** for giving the guidance and financial support to reach my education goals. Without the help from people like you I will not be here today. Once again, thank you very much. //
 — **Hassan Abdifatah**, 2000 Seattle Scholar

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Associates & Students (\$10 – \$99)

Michael Adams
 Anonymous (3)

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 Bob Anderson
 Louis & Bernadette Angrand
 Zachary Aron
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 Melba Bartels
 Ilona Basovskaya & Yury Kofman
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