

# Jackson Heights Educational Foundation

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*Established to Support and Strengthen USD 335*

## ***What exactly is the Jackson Heights Educational Foundation?***

The Jackson Heights Educational Foundation (JHEF) is a charitable, non-profit organization created in 2008 to strengthen educational opportunities for students and patrons of USD #335. The Foundation is designated as a 501(c)3 organization so all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. It is eligible to receive private, state and federal grants.

## ***Is the Foundation a branch of the Board of Education?***

No. The Foundation is a private entity, independent of the USD #335 Board of Education and the school district. The Foundation is governed by official bylaws and a nine-member board of community volunteers. While the Foundation solicits input from district educators and administrators, the district and its Board of Education have no fiscal or regulatory authority over it.

## ***Why does Jackson Heights need a Foundation?***

School districts have traditionally relied upon two sources of funding: tax dollars distributed through the state funding formula and tax dollars supplied by local property taxes. These funds, however, cover only the basic costs of educating today's youth. Foundations provide another avenue of revenue for educational programs and student enrichment. The concept of foundation support was once limited to colleges and private schools, but now most successful K-12 school districts have turned to community-organized foundations for supplemental funding.

## ***How will contributions to the Foundation be used?***

Contributions will be used for a variety of purposes consistent with the JHEF mission. The Foundation's Board of Directors is responsible for all funding decisions. They work with educators and district administration in acknowledging classroom and program needs. For instance, in the short time since its existence, the Foundation has supported improvements to the music department, library and elementary literacy programs. The first student scholarship for post-secondary education was awarded in 2009 and will be a continued endeavor. Grant awards solicited through the Foundation are usually for specific program advancement.

### ***Can I ask that my donation be given to a specific cause?***

Yes. Donations can be designated per the donor's request. The JHEF Board, however, asks that donors wishing to contribute restricted gifts contact the Foundation in advance to ensure that programs matching the donor's request are available and within the boundaries of the Foundation's mission.

### ***What types of gifts do you accept?***

The Foundation accepts direct donations (cash, check), memorial designations, and special gifts such as scholarships to honor family members or teachers. The Foundation also accepts planned gifts (trusts, annuities, wills, bequests, life insurance) and corporate matching gifts – those made by corporations as a result of an employer/employee contribution.

### ***Who is on the Foundation Board?***

Max Lierz, President  
LeRoy Rieschick, Vice President  
David Allen, Treasurer  
Kimberly Kennedy, Secretary  
Opal Featherston  
Ron Parrett  
Karen Rodvelt  
Jim Schumann  
Kenneth Slocum

Peggy Hill serves as Executive Director, but is not a voting member.

### ***How do I make contact or find out more?***

The Foundation has a location on the Jackson Heights Web site ... [www.jhcobras.net](http://www.jhcobras.net) (go to the Community heading). There is also an e-mail address [jhef@jhcobras.net](mailto:jhef@jhcobras.net) for correspondence. The mailing address is 12692 266<sup>th</sup> Rd., Holton, Kansas 66436, or feel free to contact any of the board members.