

2023

Helping making college more affordable for families affected by workplace injuries

Annual Impact Report



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2023

On a **mission**

As we look back at 2023, we are extremely grateful for the support of our generous donors in helping change the lives of the families we assist. We are thankful for this sense of community in our industry and beyond, pulling together financially to make scholarships possible for such deserving families.

Fifteen years after we began our mission to help make college affordable for students affected by work injuries, we've granted an incredible 232 scholarships totaling \$3.7 million. This includes \$502,000 awarded to 16 new recipients in 2023. Thanks to the unwavering support of event sponsors and donors, we've been able to reach these families in need for a decade and a half.

Over 125 scholarship recipients have graduated since the SFM Foundation's inception in 2008, and we currently have 72 active scholarships.

In addition to awarding scholarship dollars, we provided student outreach by sending care packages before finals, offering additional dollars through our annual video contest, and providing a network for recipients and their families.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued generosity, and for being a part of the SFM Foundation family.

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Williams

President, SFM Foundation



Scholarship recipient Holly Johnson and her family

\$3.7

Million dollars awarded



232

Scholarships awarded

Holly

"When I was younger my stepdad got into a work accident. He fell down some stairs and wrecked his back, and a couple of years later he had a huge heart attack. Both of these events combined made him ineligible to work. I knew that I wanted to attend college, but the price of it was very scary to me. When I got blessed with this scholarship I was just beyond words. I can't imagine where my life would be now without it."



NEWS

Board Chair Steps Down After 15 Years

Fifteen years after co-founding the SFM Foundation, Dave Kaiser stepped down as board chair on Dec. 6, 2023. Taking over as board chair is Andy Gebhard, SFM's VP & Chief Communications Officer.

We thank Dave immensely for his vision, leadership and countless hours with the foundation over the last decade and a half. He took a single idea and turned it into a robust community that has made a real impact on the lives of students and families affected by tragic workplace accidents.

EVENTS

Fundraising Events

The SFM Foundation golf events are the primary source of fundraising for our scholarship fund, and 2023 was no exception. The Minnesota golf event has become one of the largest charity golf tournaments in the state. The Iowa golf outing is a newer event and continues to grow each year. Our 2023 golf events combined raised an astounding \$170,000 for our scholarship program.

Our fall events continue to add to our scholarship fund as well. The annual Minnesota fall fundraiser combined with the inaugural 2023 Iowa bowling event raised nearly \$33,000 for scholarships.

Thank you to all who supported our 2023 fundraising events. We hope to see you at our 2024 events!

HELP

With all the successes we celebrated in 2023, we continually aim to help more students and families affected by workplace tragedies each year. While inflation affects all of us, it has an even greater impact on scholarship recipients and their families. To increase funding as we support additional families each year, here are some ways you can help:

- Continue to contribute if you are a current sponsor or donor, and consider increasing your contribution
- Consider sponsoring an event if you haven't already, or help us recruit additional sponsors and donors
- Attend our fundraising events and invite others to join you
- Spread the word about our scholarship program and encourage students affected by workplace accidents to apply
- Share our social media messages to increase our visibility
- Include the SFM Foundation/Kids' Chance on your organization's philanthropy webpage, and consider making us your organization's charity of choice

Chance

"Everything can change in a matter of moments. My father fell and got a brain injury at work. He spent 13 days in intensive care before passing away. If it wasn't for the SFM Foundation giving me this scholarship, it would be very hard for me to pursue my goal of being a teacher. My mother is a single mother of three raising us all on her own, so this scholarship means the world to me and my family."



SFM Foundation scholarships are awarded regardless of which insurance company was involved in the workers' compensation claim. In fact, most scholarships have been awarded to the families of injured workers who are not insured by SFM. While SFM played a key role in the creation of the SFM Foundation and continues to be a valued sponsor of the organization, the program is designed to serve the entire community. Scholarship applicants are evaluated with no consideration for which insurance carrier was involved in the injury claim.

Thank **you**

We appreciate the generosity of our **SPONSORS**, who are the main source of funding for the scholarships we offer. The SFM Foundation awards scholarships to a growing number of applicants each year. Without our supporters, many of these families wouldn't get the help they need. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to our generous sponsors. Your support helps change lives.

The SFM Foundation is run entirely by SFM employees who **VOLUNTEER** their time to handle our day-to-day operations, provide outreach to scholarship recipients and their families, maintain our sponsor and donor relations, and plan and execute our fundraising events. They have passion for our cause and are the heart and soul of our organization. Without them, we would not be able to dedicate all of our proceeds to the students and families we serve, and we can't thank them enough for their time and talent.

Rachel

"While other kids my age were searching for colleges and looking for the next steps to take in their lives, I was wondering if my dad was going to make it out alive. When I was searching for scholarships in my area, I came across the SFM Foundation scholarship. Who knew that there was a scholarship so specific to my situation? I knew this was a sign I was meant to attend college. When I heard the news that I'd received the scholarship, I knew I had the ability to change the outcome of my life."



SFM FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

Linda Williams President
Lindsay Henningsgaard Executive Director
Debra Zorn Scholarship Director
Kim Thelen Event Director

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