



ELL Foundation, Inc.

2020 Annual Report

P.O. Box 19975, Cincinnati, OH 45219

<https://www.ellfoundationcinci.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ELLFoundationCinci/>



ELL Foundation, Inc.

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2020 ELL Foundation Recognition Breakfast



ELL Foundation, Inc.

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the English Language Learning Foundation, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our students and to our important charitable organization. Our mission of **helping English learners to become successful in their academic lives while fostering their cultural identities** would not be possible without your support and the support from caring individuals just like you throughout Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

As with other non-profit organizations, our Foundation - and the students we serve - encountered unprecedented challenges during 2020. Fortunately, we were able to hold our traditional Recognition Breakfast at Northern Kentucky University just before Covid 19 restrictions compelled an end to large in-personal gatherings.

At that breakfast, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to award \$24,500 in scholarships - our highest amount ever - to 35 students attending Cincinnati State and Community College, Eastern Kentucky University, Mount St. Joseph University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, and UC Blue Ash.

As Covid cases and restrictions continued in 2020, our Board's focus turned to planning for a successful 2021 fundraising campaign by transforming our recognition event to a virtual experience.

The ELL Foundation remains committed to serving local English learners so they can achieve their own American Dream and serve in their communities as role models. Many of our inspiring students have overcome serious barriers to achieve academically. Give today to support college scholarships, emergency grants, and extracurricular experiences for local English learners. Our students have worked hard to pursue their education, and they deserve our support now more than ever!

Sincerely,

Keith W. Lanser, MA
Board President
klanser@ellfoundationcinci.org



*ELL Board President
Keith Lanser*



ELL Foundation, Inc.

Student Stories

2020 College Student of the Year: Ndieme Ngom

ELL Scholarship Winner Strives to "Serve Children of the World"

Ndieme Ngom, the ELL Foundation's 2020 College Student of the Year, is passionate about the importance of high quality early education -- and the value that exposing young children to diverse cultures can play in their development.

"It gives them the opportunity to see how each person in the whole world is different and how appreciating differences gives opportunities for growth in understanding and empathy," she said.



Ndieme Ngom dreams of developing her own school to fully meet children's needs

Inspired by the example of her mother, a teacher who emigrated from Senegal in West Africa to the U.S., as well as her own experience as the parent of small children, Ndieme graduated from Cincinnati State in December 2020 with an associate's degree in early education. During her time there, she impressed school instructional staff and administrators by earning high grades and excelling in campus leadership activities.

With the help of her ELL Foundation Scholarship, she enrolled in Northern Kentucky University, where Ndieme is now pursuing her bachelor's degree in organizational leadership with a focus in educational studies.

Her ultimate dream?

"The end goal is give me the skills to open up my own school, and to be able to network with the people I need to be successful," she said.

Ndieme believes her own life experiences in persevering when challenges arise will be an asset in her career.

"Children deserve a role model who will understand the daily hardships they may face and someone who can personally relate," she said. "I work hard to model that success for my children and my family while serving the children of the world."



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Student Stories

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2020 High School Student of the Year: Paul Aulis

ELL Scholar Overcomes Health, Pandemic Challenges

A brush with a serious and potentially fatal disease turned around Paul Aulis's life at a young age.

Before he got sick, Paul admits, he fit the typical profile of a misbehaving teen. "Fights in school were frequent, and getting kicked out of school for talking back to my teacher was an everyday thing," he said.

Then, one day, Paul wasn't able to catch his breath. His face went pale. His lips turned purple. He was rushed to the hospital and eventually was diagnosed with Kawasaki Disease, which causes swelling in the arteries and primarily affects children.

He recovered but was not the same.

"Before, I would always say 'I'll do it tomorrow' or 'I'll try better next time,' but now I have realized maybe I won't have a 'next time' or another opportunity to do my very best," he recalled.

Paul became a scholar-athlete and student ambassador at his high school, DePaul Cristo Rey, while working 30 hours a week at his family's restaurant. He was announced as the High School Student of the Year at the ELL Foundation's Recognition Breakfast in February 2020 and was confident of his ability to succeed in college.

Then the pandemic forced most universities convert classes to virtual learning, including the University of Cincinnati, where Paul enrolled, throwing him another curve.

"I found it difficult having my first year of experience of college during the pandemic. It was really hard for me because I'm a hands-on person and like to ask questions," he said, adding that it was frustrating because of the delay in getting answers online. Making friends was also difficult. Still, Paul persevered. He was able to complete his classes in business marketing, communications and finance.

Although he has not yet selected a major, he wants a career he finds personally satisfying and also helps his parents. "I continue to work hard despite anything that has happened," he said.



Paul Aulis's work ethic helped him overcome challenges

Thank you for supporting our student leaders!



ELL Foundation, Inc.

Strategic Plan 2022

Goal 1: Enhance Scholarships and Educational Programs

- The NKU/ ELL Foundation Academic Scholarship Program continued to offer up to 5 students each academic year an annual scholarship of \$2,000 (or \$8,000 over four years per student)! All on the funds for this scholarship are provided by Northern Kentucky University.
- The ELL Foundation offered a record \$24,500 in college scholarships to 35 local English learners.
- We received 85 applications for our college scholarship program.
- A \$500 Emergency Tuition Grant was awarded to a local college student.

Goal 2: Enhance Strategic Management Processes & Procedures

- The ELL Foundation completed its annual review of our mission, vision, and core values at the Annual Board Retreat, and planned for the successful onboarding of new board members.
- We welcomed two new Board members, Mentalla Ismail and Samuel Rowe.
- We updated our bylaws to better reflect the responsibilities of our Executive Team.
- The ELL Foundation secured 100% board member contributions.



Attendees and scholarship recipients eye the assortment of baskets donated for the silent action at the 2020 ELL Foundation Recognition Breakfast



Strategic Plan 2022

Goal 3: Become Visible in Community/ Share Success Stories

- We promoted our college scholarship program through our Annual Recognition Breakfast and through electronic communications throughout the pandemic.
- Our Facebook page followers increased from 213 to 254 (+19%) our Facebook page likes increased from 209 to 247 (+18%) in 2020.
- We developed and implemented a plan to increase website posts focusing on news and cultural traditions

Goal 4: Become financially sustainable

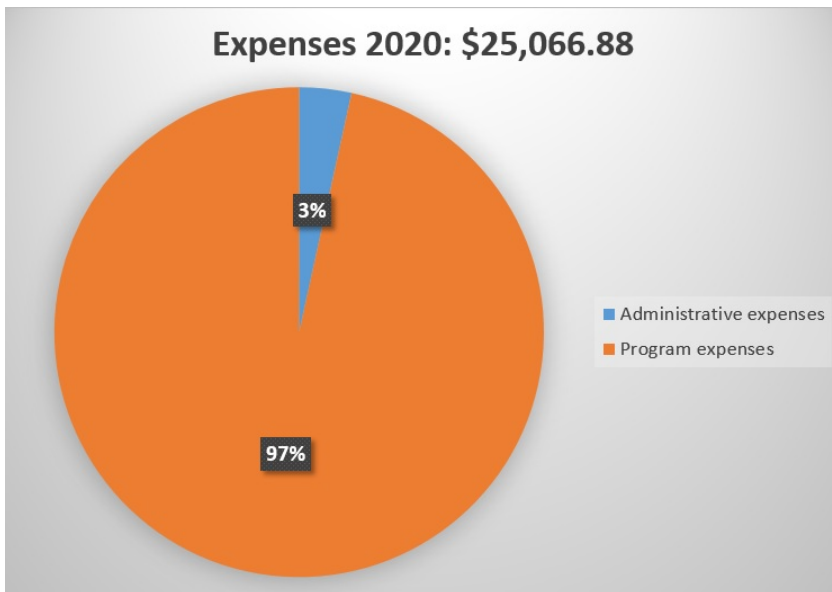
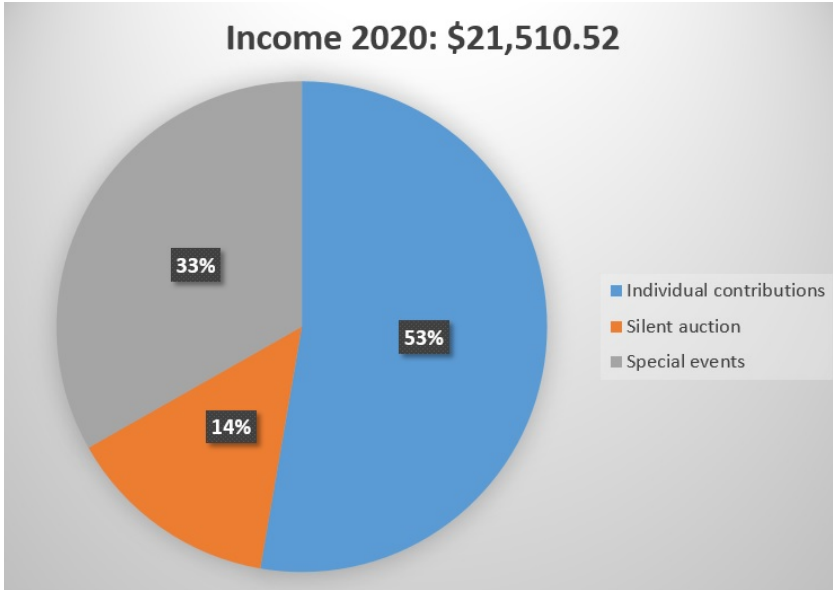
- Raised \$26,795 in Recognition Breakfast total income, just under the goal of \$27,000.
- % of expenses spent on ELL Foundation programs: 84% (unchanged)
- % of expenses spent on administrative fees and fundraising: 16% (unchanged)
- Total assets: \$52,411.19 (+4.7%)
- Total revenue : \$21,510.52
- Total expenses: \$25,066.88
- Net income: \$(3,556.36)



ELL Foundation Founder and President Emeritus Sister Margarita Brewer, left, and Vice President Rosa Maria Moreno congratulate a scholarship recipient at the 2020 ELL Foundation Recognition Breakfast



Financials





Ways to Give

1. Volunteer with the ELL Foundation.

- Do you have a special talent or skill that you could share with the Foundation? Consider volunteering with our Foundation.
- We are always looking for people to help with: volunteering on our Recognition Breakfast Planning Committee, coordinating educational experiences for local ELL students, and hosting fundraisers throughout the year.
- If you are interested in volunteering with the ELL Foundation, please contact klanser@ellfoundationcinci.org.

2. Donate to the ELL Foundation.

- Consider making a one time, recurring, or memorial donation of any denomination online:
<http://www.ellfoundationcinci.org/support-us.html>
- Checks can be mailed to: P.O. Box 19975, Cincinnati, OH 45219.
- Consider hosting a fundraiser on Facebook for your birthday benefiting the ELL Foundation!



ELL Foundation, Inc.

Thank You, Donors!

Because the ELL Foundation has no paid staff, we rely on the time, talent, and treasures of our volunteers and donors. We appreciate the contribution of each and every donor. Thank you!

Richard and Virginia Adams
Awaken at Aiken
Erin Bass
S. Ruth Bockkenstette
S. Margarita Brewer Michael
and Kathleen Brogan
Gini Browsh
Leo Calderon
Catholic Charities of
Southwestern Ohio
Esther Claros Berlioz
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and Community College
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Barbara and Charles Glueck

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Kimberly Scranage
Jorge Seda
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Sisters of the Precious
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Anthony Stieritz
Natasha Taylor
UC- International
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Laura Woniger
YMCA of Greater
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