



WELL, LOOK AT US MAKING FRIENDS. 🙌

For 25 years, GEF has been pretty good at hanging out with the people who already know us. But this year, we decided to branch out. Meet some new people. Expand the group chat.

So in September, we gave you a little incentive to come say hi: **gift cards**.



Target: Westley Berman
Trader Joe's: Sue Jean Bang
Heinen's: Gillian Mathews
Jewel-Osco: Tuyen Tran



But it was really about more than the gift cards. So many new people joined our corner of the D34 community last month — helping more families see, share and talk about what GEF makes possible in our schools.

Thanks to everyone who followed, liked, tagged and played along. Missed it? It's never too late to tell someone about GEF. We're happy to have you along.

We promise we're fun.

GRANTS IN ACTION



**YES, THEY GREW THAT LETTUCE...
IN THEIR CLASSROOM... ON A WALL.**

What if students didn't just learn how food gets from farm to table — what if they ran the farm themselves? And not just any farm. A hydroponic urban farm. Right inside their classroom.

Through a GEF-funded Entrepreneur Makerspace grant, students grow and harvest fresh greens right inside their school. Along the way, they're learning STEM, life science, sustainability, entrepreneurship and service — all through one hands-on experience.



And yes: they ate the lettuce they grew. As salad. And they actually liked it.

What they grow can also support student fundraising projects or be donated to the Northfield Township Food Pantry — taking a seed planted at school all the way to an impact in the community.

That's GEF innovation in action: taking learning off the page and putting it directly into students' hands.

[SEE MORE GEF GRANTS](#)

OKAY, NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN WHAT WE DO...

Yeah, we know. Your inbox is full. Your kids are selling things. Someone somewhere wants you to attend a fundraiser, a gala, build a basket or make a contribution.

And now GEF is asking, too. And we were just starting to become friends. But that's why we're going to be straight with you:

YEP. WE'RE ASKING.

But here's the why:

Families like yours chose D34 for a reason. **Great schools don't stay great by doing just what's required.** They stay great when educators have the resources to think bigger, try something new and create opportunities beyond what a traditional public school budget can provide.

For 25 years, your support has helped GEF invest **more than \$3 million in D34 schools** — turning everyday lessons into experiences students remember.

And we're not done yet. Our kids deserve this.

[DONATE TO GEF](#)

SO YOU KNOW WHAT'S MORE FUN THAN A PHONE-A-THON? NOT GETTING A PHONE-A-THON CALL.

Yes, our month-long Annual Fund Drive ends on November 3rd with an actual, old-school **Phone-a-Thon**.

Actual people. Actually calling your phone. We know... it's 2026- people still do that? So we're giving everyone an out: **SKIP THE CALL.**

Donate before Phone-a-Thon and we'll happily cross your name off the list.

You support innovative opportunities for D34 students. Your phone stays blissfully silent. **Everybody wins.**





[DONATE NOW + SKIP THE CALL](#)

AND WE'RE NOT JUST **INTERNET FRIENDS.**

This fall, GEF volunteers have been visiting D34 schools to meet educators, talk about what GEF can help make possible and encourage them to bring us their big ideas. Because we're not trying to catfish anyone over here. We want to be IRL friends, too.

After all, raising the money is only half the equation. We need our amazing educators dreaming up what to do with it. So we went. We reintroduced ourselves. We reminded them that we're here to support them as they create incredible opportunities for our kids.

We set the table. Now we can't wait to see what they bring to it.

Thank you to our volunteers and to the educators who welcomed us during an incredibly busy time of year.

Know a D34 educator with a big idea? Fall Grant Applications are open through October 21.

[LEARN MORE + APPLY FOR A GEF GRANT](#)



STILL GETTING TO KNOW US?

Fair.

We're celebrating **25 years of supporting innovation in District 34**, with a new look, a new website and a lot more stories to share.

Haven't checked out [GEF34.org](https://www.gef34.org) yet? Now's a good time.



And if you still haven't followed us on Facebook and Instagram after everything we've been through together in this newsletter...

Come on.

[VISIT GEF34.ORG](https://www.gef34.org)



[FOLLOW GEF ON FACEBOOK](#)



[FOLLOW GEF ON INSTAGRAM](#)

HEY, BUSINESSES. WANT IN?

Become a **2026–27 GEF Sponsor**.

GEF connects local businesses with the District 34 community while helping fund innovative opportunities for students across our schools. Sponsorships begin at **\$250**, with opportunities for increased visibility, recognition and community engagement at every level.



It's more than putting your logo on something. It's a chance to show local families that your business is invested in the community where they live, learn and grow.

Support local schools. Build local visibility. Make an impact.

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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IMPACT PARTNER (\$2,000)



INNOVATION PARTNER (\$1,000)



SOUND MIND
COUNSELING

COMMUNITY PARTNER (\$500)

Franczek

Trifecta Dance Collective/Dance & Music Academy

Runner's Republic



The Glenview Education Foundation is a volunteer-led organization of District 34 parents that has invested over \$3M in innovative, high-impact programs to enhance education in our schools. Learn more or get involved at gef34.org.

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