



SYF Friends and Partners,

As the leaves turn to beautiful shades of SYF orange and we welcome the fall season, I'm filled with excitement for our 33 academies and 277 teachers as they settle into the new school year. I want to express my deep appreciation for the generosity of our partners, whose support helps us fulfill our mission. It's been rewarding to see the impact of these partnerships—whether through Simon Property Group's regional fundraising events across the country, the Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre's inaugural Playbook Project, Citizens Energy Group's Community Resource Day, or the awarding of capacity-building grants to teachers in our network.

SYF means graduation, and together we are changing lives, one graduate at a time. In this newsletter, you will learn more about the significant role our partners play in helping students thrive in the classroom and prepare for their futures—whether that's college, the workforce, an apprenticeship, or enlistment. Looking ahead, the future is bright as we prepare to launch our new strategic plan in 2025 with the goal of helping even more students graduate.

Thank you for your continued investment in SYF's mission. Your support changes lives.

With appreciation,

Handwritten signature of Andrea Neely in blue ink.

Andrea Neely, President and CEO, Simon Youth Foundation

SYF Welcomes a New Team Member: Raven Harvey

SYF is pleased to introduce Raven Harvey as SYF's new Coordinator of Administration, Program Services. Raven brings valuable experience from her work with the Indiana Department of Child Services and Beckman Coulter Diagnostics. In her new role, she will help manage SYF programs, scholarships, and partner relationships, while also serving as a liaison between the Foundation and Academy staff and students.



Partner Spotlight: Citizens Energy Group & Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre

A Partnership in Action: Citizens Energy Group Community Resource Day



SYF partner Citizens Energy Group held its second annual Community Resource Day on October 5, an event aimed at providing critical support and resources to the community. As a vendor, SYF connected with over 300 attendees, sharing information about the foundation, academies, and scholarship programs. This event exemplifies how partnerships effectively enhance our community outreach efforts.



SYF's Jessica Lowery, Jeffrey Harrison, President of Citizens Energy Group, and SYF's Tim Clark

The Arts in Focus: Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre Collaboration

SYF partnered with Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre to bring two events to students and alumni as part of the Playbook Project. We were honored to collaborate on this year's inaugural back-to-school art exhibit, where students had the opportunity to display and sell their artwork. In addition to the art exhibit, SYF academies students attended the play, "What



the Constitution Means to Me,” based on Heidi Schreck’s true story. For many students, this was their first experience with live theater, and it left a lasting impact. This play aligns with SYF’s Close Up experiential trip. Find out more about Close Up [here](#). SYF looks to continue partnering with the Phoenix Theatre Cultural Centre to provide unique experiences to students and alumni.



Proud SYA Alumni displays his artwork



Principal Robert Moses, SYA Alumni, Photography Teacher Ron Hanson



Academy students attend the play, "What the Constitution Means to Me."

Celebrating Excellence: Three SYF Partnering Districts Recognized

SYF celebrates three districts from our network that were recognized at the 2024 Educational Excellence Awards Gala, hosted by the Indiana Department of Education. These educators inspire change and ignite students' imaginations daily. We extend our congratulations to Options Schools for Excellence in Community Collaboration and to MSD Lawrence Township and MSD Washington Township for Excellence in Student-Centered Support. MSD Washington Township's Simon Youth True North Academy is the newest SYF partner welcomed to our network this school year.



Options Schools



MSD Lawrence Township



MSD Washington Township

Scholarship Applications Now Open for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Applications are now open for SYF's three scholarship programs! Since the scholarship program began in 2000, SYF has awarded over \$1.8 million to students pursuing their educational dreams. Shari Simon Greenberg Community Scholarships are open to high school seniors living in a Simon Mall community. Greg Saunders Legacy Scholarships are available to dependents of Simon Property Group employees. Simon Youth Academy Scholarships are available to graduating seniors from the 33 Simon Youth Academies across the country. Applications are due by February 14, 2025, with award notifications in May and June 2025. For more information, visit [here](#).



2024 graduates receiving scholarships

2024 SYF National Educator Conference Goes Virtual

The 2024 SYF National Educator Conference will take place on October 24, 2024. While this year's event will be held virtually, it will still provide educators with opportunities to network, share best practices, and continue supporting the alternative education student population. A highlight of the conference is the keynote address from Coach Ronnie Harvey, Chief Academic Officer for the Calcasieu Parish School Board. In addition, a general session will cover "Navigating Challenging Conversations" from the Close Up Foundation and breakout sessions will focus on promising practices from SYF academies across the country. During the conference, SYF will also announce the 2024 Administrator and Teacher of the Year. Naming the SYF Administrator and Teacher of the Year is the culmination of a 9-month process to find the best of the best in the Academies. Our current Administrator of the Year is Niki Ross of Simon Youth Academy at Phoenix High School and Simon Youth Academy at Sugarloaf Mills in Gwinnett County, Georgia. Our Teacher of the Year is Todd Grimes of the Simon Youth Academy at Greenfield Central in Greenfield, Indiana. Both are pictured below with Andrea Neely, President, and CEO. In the lead-up to the conference, educators have been actively raising funds for Circle of Hope, securing nearly \$10,000 toward the \$12,000 goal. These donations provide essential resources and opportunities for students and teachers. Together, we are making a profound impact – every donation helps pave the way for a brighter tomorrow, ensuring that every student has the chance to thrive and succeed.



Student Spotlight: Ellie Miller



Meet Ellie Miller, a senior at Simon Youth Academy at Options Noblesville. After facing challenges and being credit deficient, Ellie found a supportive environment at Simon Youth Academy. She's now thriving and working with SYF on her senior project, assisting with social media for the Program Services team. Ellie is looking forward to studying economics and finance at Ball State University after graduation.

Over \$1 Million Raised for SYF Through Regional Events

This year, Simon Property Group colleagues nationwide came together for 10 regional events, raising critical funds to support SYF. From baseball to horse racing, these fun events brought people together while raising over \$1 million to support academies, students, and teachers. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of Simon Property Group employees and supporters who have made such a profound impact on the lives of students across the country. SYF is excited to build on this momentum next year and continue working with SPG colleagues to make a lasting difference for students and their communities.



Northeast Team at NY Citi Field's Mets game



SYF's Andrea Neely and the West Team at Del Mar



Mid-Atlantic Team with Andrea Neely



SPG Orlando Team and Sponsors

Summer Events Surpass Fundraising Goals

SYF summer events, Tees for Education and Founders Celebration, have surpassed their fundraising goals, raising \$570,000! These funds will help students achieve their high school diplomas, further their education through scholarship programs, and support teachers with capacity-building grants. Over 400 attendees participated in the weekend, which is a record attendance number! Without the generous support of event sponsors like IU Health, Citizens Energy Group, PNC Bank, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, and Benchmark Contract Furniture, among others, SYF would not have been able to exceed the fundraising goals.



Tees For Education, Pebble Brook Golf Course



Founders Celebration, Victory Podium at IMS

Exciting Launch: 2024 Employee Contribution Campaign



SYF's Alexia Evans and Jessica Lowery with Cutie



Cutie greets Simon employees during ECC Kickoff



Lunch and Learn featuring SYA at Avon



SYA at Avon students Kaleigh and Ashton with Cutie and Academy leader Kellie Rodkey

SYF launched the 2024 Employee Contribution Campaign on October 1, which runs until December 31. With a goal of raising \$450,000 invites Simon Property Group

colleagues to come together in support of SYF's mission to help students graduate from high school. SYF will share personal stories from the students whose lives have been impacted by employee contributions. This year's executive co-chairs, Brian McDade and Lee Sterling, along with 10 regional champions, are leading the charge. This is an incredible opportunity for everyone to see the true impact of their contributions and how together we are changing lives.

SYF 2025 Summer Events



Save The Dates!

July 25, 2025

Tees for Education

Pebble Brook Golf Course

Noblesville, IN



July 26, 2025

Founders Celebration

Brickyard 400 @ Indianapolis Motor

Speedway

Indianapolis, IN



Simon Youth Foundation (SYF), a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Indianapolis, is committed to helping students graduate. SYF believes that all youth, no matter their personal circumstances, should have the opportunity to pursue their dreams through education.

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Learn more about [SYF Staff](#) and
[our mission](#) at syf.org.

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