

Our mission is to provide exceptional one-on-one tutoring for students from economically disadvantaged families, to allow them to maximize their learning potential and to confidently pursue their educational and personal goals.

SHOULDERS TO STAND ON FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO REACH THE STARS

AN INTERVIEW WITH GUS (AKA: ALISHA'S DAD)

The Life Tools Foundation Director of Development, Aryn Brault, had the opportunity to meet with Gus, the father of Alisha, a student the LTF has been tutoring for about a year, to learn from his perspective how the one-on-one tutoring has made a difference for his daughter.

Alisha came to the Foundation as a third-grade student who was not reading at all. Her father had recognized the struggles his daughter was facing and wanted to step in to help. He loves his daughter very much and he understood the importance of education and the value that tutoring could have in his daughter's life. Cindi, the LTF tutor who was matched with Alisha, was a life-changer.

Aryn: Cindi shared with us that Alisha has made significant progress toward reaching her goals, is coming up to grade-level proficiency, and is taking control of her life.

Gus: Cindi has most definitely had a positive effect on Alisha and her progress. Alisha enjoys the tutoring! It's great, and I am glad you guys have this program. We love the Foundation because Alisha needs the extra help, and she is doing much better. It's baby steps, but it is also helping me to understand how I can help and work with her too.

Aryn: Cindi also mentioned that Alisha has made considerable steps forward, not only in her academics, but she has

seen Alisha become more confident and less frustrated with school.

Gus: I completely agree, and I think she hit it right on the nose! If Alisha hadn't started working with Cindi, I think she would be acting up more in school because she was far behind, and kids who are far behind typically act out in school.

Aryn: What would you tell others about the Life Tools Foundation and the work that they do?

Gus: I feel like you go the extra mile to keep us going, and I really want to

thank the organization for that. I have already recommended the Foundation to friends, and they have started tutoring their children as well.

Thank you, Gus, for sharing your first-hand perspective on how the LTF tutoring has impacted your daughter's academic success and her confidence. We are blessed to be able to help families like Alisha's to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. With the help of our hero donors, we can continue to do just that. Together, we can help students like Alisha find their place in the world and create a strong community.



Alisha pictured with Cindi, her LTF tutor

EMPOWER TUTORING PROGRAM AT THE APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Starting this fall, the Foundation is pleased to announce that we are beginning a partnership with the Appleton Public Library to provide our tutoring services to students right at the library.

The Empower Tutoring library program will help to close the educational gaps that exist for the students we serve. By closing these gaps, we will provide opportunities for all within the community to succeed and achieve.

As a result of the pandemic, students have been challenged on multiple levels, including the one-on-one time lost with their teachers. The Life Tools Foundation tutors create a relationship with the students and provide a customized teaching approach focused on the student and his/her specific needs. This allows for greater growth in the classroom, and an opportunity to close the gap that has widened over the last year of the pandemic. Providing a hand up to students struggling academically will help them now and in the future as their confidence builds.

Sonja Rusch, School Age Librarian at the Appleton Public Library, shared her thoughts on the new program, "We are thrilled to offer tutoring services to our student patrons through



our new partnership with Life Tools Foundation. This amazing collaboration will offer learners one-on-one, diversified support to meet their individual needs. The recurring weekly sessions are designed to identify specific learning targets and cultivate a relationship of trust and confidence. It is a wonderful resource to extend to our community."

Preparing students for their future will allow for greater successes and opportunities to thrive. The Empower Tutoring program participants will have access to tutors in a place where they already spend time after school and are comfortable. If we can eliminate obstacles and meet our young people 'where they're at', students will be able to focus on their learning and eventually choose their rightful place in the world.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT U.S. VENTURE/SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION



The Life Tools Foundation is blessed to receive support from the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation. We have had the great opportunity to work with Mr. Greg Vandenberg, Director of Giving and Community Engagement, and his team as we develop new initiatives to touch the lives of young people throughout Northeast Wisconsin. With their generosity, we are able to assist students in need, help them reach their goals, and ultimately change their lives forever.

The U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation's (USV/SFF) mission is to be a catalyst for change supporting self-sufficiency, community enrichment, and vulnerable populations. Art, Ray, and Bill Schmidt founded the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation in 1985 to honor the legacy of altruism and benevolence of their parents, Albert and Margaret Schmidt.

Today the Foundation is a hybrid corporate/family foundation. Its board of directors is made up of U.S. Venture team members and descendants of Albert and Margaret's family. Its mission continues to be based on the values taught by the couple to their eight children: volunteerism, helping those who need a hand up, appreciation for community, and the importance of strong families.

This past year alone, the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation annual golf outing raised over \$4 million that will be used to end poverty in Northeast Wisconsin. Thank you to Greg and the U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family Foundation for supporting our students and so many others in our community. Together we can.

1 in 7 Wisconsin Adults



struggle with low literacy.

1 in 4 Wisconsin Adults



struggle with basic math.



**JOIN OUR
EMAIL LIST
TO RECEIVE
UPDATES RIGHT
TO YOUR INBOX!**

LTF IN THE NEWS

Listen to our conversation with Hayley Tenpas of Focus Fox Valley at WHBY Radio. You can listen to our conversation at www.whby.com/focusfoxvalley.



OUR TUTORS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



As the Life Tools Foundation team meets with various funders, we are often asked, "What makes the Life Tools Foundation special? What is the secret to your students' success?" The answer to that question is very simple and very profound – our tutors are our secret! From an administrative perspective, the LTF team expends much time and effort in finding qualified and passionate tutors that have expertise in particular subject areas and experience working with young people.

Our stated goal for our students is to provide them with a similar or better tutoring experience as compared to what they would receive at a for-profit tutoring company. What makes our tutors so special? First, and most importantly, they have a passion for youth empowerment; having experienced the highs and lows of working with young people, they remain

optimistic about the potential of our students and are willing to invest personally to make that full potential a reality. Our tutors have also 'been there, done that' in regard to educating students. This experience allows our educators to hit the ground running when they begin working with a student and allows them to customize their approach to the specific needs and challenges of that child.

The vast majority of our tutors are certified teachers or seasoned paraprofessionals with expertise in a particular subject area (reading specialists, special education, math interventionist, etc.). Others have advanced degrees in chemistry, engineering, English, etc. and are able to work with older students in advanced mathematics, sciences, and ACT test prep. This education provides our tutors with the ability to explore a concept from different angles until the gap is bridged, and the student fully understands what is being taught.

Ultimately, our tutors create relationships with our students. They challenge, they encourage, they listen, they dream, and they celebrate alongside the young person. Our tutors make the difference for our students; and our students make all the difference for our tutors.

300+

Students served in the
2020-2021 school year

23

LTF tutors working with students
throughout the community



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jane Kaufman is a Life Tools Foundation Board Member with a passion for helping young people develop the skill sets they will need to be successful in the world. Jane is currently retired but stays very busy through her involvement at U.S. Venture and her volunteer teaching. Jane spent much of her life, beginning as a young child, assisting at U.S. Venture/Schmidt Oil in a variety of capacities.

During the week, you will find her assisting students in classrooms all over the Fox Cities and volunteering her time to empower young people in need of a hand up. Jane currently resides in Combined Locks where she continues to make a significant impact on those in her community.

When asked why she is so committed to youth education, Jane responded, "I enjoy helping students develop academic and personal skills to be successful. When the students put in the effort, they will see the benefits long-term. A good education is a gift."

GIVE NOW ONLINE!

Being one-on-one with students allows our tutors to be present to our students, whatever their challenges. Help us be that lifeline.

www.LifeToolsFoundation.org

Text GIVE or DONATE

to 920-315-3810 to invest in our students.

LIKE AND
FOLLOW US!



1ST ANNUAL LTF SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



This back-to-school season, the Life Tools Foundation held its first annual School Supply Drive. The theme of this year's drive was 'Let's get Organized!' and focused on collecting school supplies for students that would help them get organized for the upcoming academic year.

Supplies such as daily planners, backpacks, pencil cases, etc. help students to get and stay organized throughout the year to help them academically and personally. Organization and time

management are important skill sets that will help students in the classroom and in their chosen career.

The LTF is committed to providing our students with the resources they need to be successful, whether that be a pencil, a backpack, or a calculator. Having the materials and tools they need reduces frustration, boosts confidence, and empowers our students by removing obstacles that stand in their way. A special 'thank you' to the five organizations who agreed to be

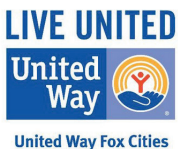
donation drop-off sites: 360U Softball, Green Bay Escape, Badger Sports Park, Active Chiropractic & Rehabilitation, and Green Bay 7Up Bottling Company.

We were very encouraged by the response we received from the school supply drive, the support of our donors, and the supplies we were able to gather for our students. The Foundation is hopeful that this drive will cover our students' needs for the current school year, while allowing them to focus on learning.

THANK YOU TO OUR HERO DONORS!



J. J. Keller
Foundation, Inc.



Matt & Gina
Vanden Heuvel

Wallace Family
Foundation

Dalum Family
Foundation

Mike & Diane
Van Abel

Jim & Andrea
Maher

Judie Taylor
Family

Amanda & Gaetano
Auricchio

Jane Kaufman
Bob Keller