

The joy of funding scholarships

(as told by donors and educators)

By Jon Dize

The Romans named January after the god Janus, since with his two faces he could see forward and backward. Here at The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana, or The Lutheran SGO, we try to celebrate the past as we look to predict the future, but this year is unlike any other in our nine years of operations. We follow with highlights of the blessing that the SGO program has been, and will continue to be for students, families, schools and their associated churches.



“I first paid attention to The Lutheran SGO because it was Lutheran. Then I continued because I could save on my taxes. I took action when I realized that I would be helping the friends of my children in the school.”

If you don't know who we are, The Lutheran SGO helps make the dream of a Christian education a reality for Indiana families through scholarships. We are one of a few nonprofits allowed to manage the SGO scholarship program in Indiana. Starting in 2012, we now manage the program for all 50 Lutheran elementary and high school students in Indiana. Donations to The Lutheran SGO provide scholarships and are eligible for a 50-percent state tax credit.

“Thank you for your efforts toward helping our Lutheran schools and keeping students within a Christian education.”

Looking back, donors to the program have blessed our schools many times over. Supporters of SGO scholarships have provided over \$14 million in scholarships for over 11,000 students since the 2012-13 school year — 11,000 students that might not have been able to afford a Christian education, and \$14 million in donations that have helped Lutheran schools continue to provide a quality Christian education, which is the hallmark program of many of our Lutheran

churches in the district, for some since the 1800s.

“It's our pleasure to give back with what the good Lord blesses us with. These schools have raised me and our children and it's a true blessing to help others get the same Christian education.”

But we were worried as we looked ahead for this year. During these COVID times, would donors continue to support scholarships? Could our schools find ways to stay connected with those with a heart for students and scholarships when personal visits are greatly restricted or canceled? Our worries were unfounded, as they often are. We needed to be reminded of Rom. 15:13:

May the God of hope fill you with all

joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“We have had several families this year either lose a job or have unexpected high medical bills. We were able to help with an SGO scholarship. The relief and joy on the father's face when I told him was exactly why we do our jobs. We were able to help this family not worry if they would need to pull their students.”

As of the date I wrote this article, donations are higher this year as compared to last year! We are helping families that never had considered a scholarship in the past, or that were choosing between food and education. Schools shared those needs. Donors responded and continue to respond!

“We are together in ministry, the ministry of getting kids into heaven.”

Scholarships helping families. Scholarships helping churches and schools — we look forward to 2021 and beyond!

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Learn more at LutheranSGO.org.



Children of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, sing a hymn during a chapel service.