

THE P4K POST

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MARCH 2025



Make A Lasting Impact

Become A P4K Volunteer!

"My mentor always believed in me, even when I didn't." - P4K Middle School Student

At Partnership 4 Kids, our volunteers do more than lend a helping hand—they become a source of encouragement, guidance, and inspiration for our students. Every interaction, whether in the classroom, at a special event, or through one-on-one mentoring, helps students gain the confidence and skills they need to succeed. Volunteers don't just show up; they show students that they matter, that their goals are within reach, and that someone is in their corner every step of the way.

Being a P4K volunteer means being part of something bigger—a movement that transforms lives through education, mentorship, and opportunity. Volunteers help bridge the gap between potential and achievement, showing students that their dreams are possible with the right support. Whether offering encouragement, sharing career insights, or simply listening, volunteers play a vital role in shaping the next generation of leaders, problem-solvers, and changemakers. Every moment spent with a student is a step toward a brighter, more promising future—for them and for our entire community.

Read More on Page 4.



Mark Your Calendars!

Hops & Grapes is turning up the fun!

Get ready, Omaha! Hops & Grapes is back and better than ever! Mark your calendars and join us at A View West Shores for an unforgettable evening of fine wines, craft brews, and top-tier entertainment.

This year, we're raising the bar, thanks to the dedication of our Executive Leadership Team. Expect signature cocktails, an incredible lineup of auction items, and the high-energy sounds of dueling pianos that will have you singing along all night long!

We are thrilled to have Nicole & Derek Leathers as our Event Chairs, alongside our Honorary Chairs, Lori & David Scott, whose support continues to make a lasting impact on the students we serve.

Plus, a special thank you to Werner Enterprises, whose generosity helps us create meaningful opportunities for the next generation. This is more than just a night out—it's a chance to change lives.

Tickets and sponsorships are available now!



Hops & Grapes

Friday, April 25, 2025
A View Westshores

Event Chairs
Nicole & Derek Leathers

Honorary Chairs
Lori & David Scott

With Presenting Sponsor
WERNER

Scan for more details!



For questions, please contact Cheryl Murray Kerst at cmurray@p4k.org or 402-930-3082.



SWING 4 KIDS

MONDAY JULY 28, 2025

TIBURON GOLF COURSE
10302 S. 168TH ST | OMAHA, NE 68136

For more information, contact Tam Webb
at twebb@p4k.org.



Scan the QR code to learn
about sponsorship opportunities.



CEO's Corner

Funding Their Futures



As we step into another exciting year at Partnership 4 Kids, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to you—our dedicated supporters. Your generosity and belief in our mission make it possible for us to stand beside our students at every stage of their educational journey.

Because of you, P4K provides the wraparound support our students need to dream big, set goals, and take meaningful steps toward their futures. From elementary school through postsecondary education, we are there to guide, mentor, and uplift them—ensuring they have the resources and encouragement to succeed. Whether it's through mentorship, academic guidance, or career preparation, we are committed to having their back.

And we couldn't do it without you.

We are so proud of our students and all they continue to accomplish. But just as importantly, we are proud of this community—our mentors, donors, and partners—who come together to make a difference in the lives of young people at such critical points in their lives. Your commitment shows them that they are not alone, that their goals matter, and that their success is worth investing in.

Your support doesn't just change lives—it transforms futures. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Here's to another year of empowering students and building futures—together.

Debbie Denbeck

President/CEO

Scholarship Night!

Funding Their Futures



The excitement was undeniable at our Scholarship Night, an evening dedicated to empowering our high school juniors and seniors as they take their next steps toward postsecondary success.

Hosted by our High School and Postsecondary teams and generously sponsored by Fiber First, the event exceeded expectations—not just in impact, but in attendance! With well over 100 students and family members present.

The night was filled with valuable resources and hands-on guidance, ensuring students left with the knowledge and confidence to navigate their futures. Representatives from Metropolitan Community College, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Saint Mary, Bellevue University, UNO Goodrich, and many other service learning partners were on hand to provide insights and answer questions.

P4K staff worked closely with students on critical next steps, including completing their P4K Scholarship and FAFSA applications. Informative presentations covered essential topics like financial aid, college readiness, and career planning, equipping students and families with the tools to make informed decisions.

As we reflect on the evening, we're reminded of the incredible drive and potential within each of our students.

Scholarship Night wasn't just about checking off application boxes—it was about envisioning what's next, feeling supported in the process, and celebrating the bright futures ahead.



Students learning about the human lungs!



Hands-on learning about engineering and robotics!

2025 Futures Fair

Empowering Students for What's Next

The 2025 Futures Fair, hosted at the University of Nebraska at Omaha was a powerful day of career exploration and connection for our middle school students. Futures Fair was designed to give students the opportunity to explore different careers at a younger age. For over 15 years, Futures Fair has been connecting P4K students to local Omaha businesses, trade programs, and postsecondary institutions, giving students firsthand exposure to a variety of career and education pathways.

Throughout the day, students engaged in hands-on activities, built relationships through networking, and connected with over 40 industry professionals.

From learning about skilled trades to exploring college programs and internships, attendees gained valuable insights into the many possibilities for their futures.

For some, the fair sparked new interests and aspirations. "It's really cool to get to talk to everyone here. It helps inspire me to explore more," shared a McMillan Middle School student.

The Futures Fair once again proved to be a vital bridge between education and employment, ensuring students have the resources, mentorship, encouragement and support needed to confidently take their next steps toward life-long success.

Meet A Board Member!

Featured Member of the Quarter: Curtis Johnson



Curtis A. Johnson, AIA, LEED AP, is a Senior Principal and Architect at DLR Group, where he has spent much of his career designing schools that inspire learning. His passion for education and mentorship led him to Partnership 4 Kids (P4K), first as a Swing 4 Kids supporter and later as a board member.

Since joining in 2015 (or 2018), Curtis has been deeply invested in P4K's mission of guiding students from classrooms to careers. He finds the greatest joy in seeing mentorship transform students' lives, helping them not only graduate but thrive in their careers. With experience in school design and a wife who teaches, Curtis understands the power of education and the critical role of community support in shaping future generations.

His advice to those considering nonprofit work or mentorship?
If you want to make a difference - become a mentor.

Curtis' Fun Fact!

Curtis spent his early years learning in a one-room schoolhouse, where students naturally mentored one another—an experience that, in hindsight, seems to have shaped his lifelong commitment to learning, mentorship, and community impact!



Make A Lasting Impact

Our students need you.

At Partnership 4 Kids, volunteers are at the core of our work, transforming students' lives through meaningful connections and encouragement.

Whether serving as mentors, guest speakers, or classroom volunteers, they play a vital role in shaping the future of young learners.

One Lewis & Clark Middle School student summed up the impact of P4K best: "P4K is an opportunity for life." That opportunity exists because of the dedicated volunteers who show up, listen, and believe in our students' potential.

From guiding students through goal-setting activities to sharing career advice, P4K volunteers help open doors to new possibilities.

Your time and support inspire confidence, spark curiosity, and provide a network of encouragement that stays with students long after their school years.

If you're looking for a way to make a difference, volunteer with P4K.

You can be the encouragement a student needs to dream bigger and reach higher. Get involved today and help us create opportunities for life.

Reach out at mentor@p4k.org to get started today.



Tomorrow's Leaders

What our students are saying!

"My Goal Buddies inspire me and help me feel confident."

- Sherman Elementary, 4th Grader

"[P4K] taught me to believe in myself and my future."

- Monroe Middle School Student

"I wouldn't have known college was possible for me, without P4K."

- Aalishiya F., P4K Alumn

Make A Difference Today!

www.p4k.org/donate

Venmo Charity:
[@Partnership4Kids](https://www.venmo.com/Partnership4Kids)



Scan the QR Code to Donate!

INSPIRE FUTURE LEADERS, TODAY!

📖 Become a Mentor!

Guide and inspire students through meaningful, one-on-one connections.

📖 Be A Book or Goal Buddy!

Engage with students through goal-setting sessions and interactive learning in the classroom!

📖 One-Time Opportunities!

Support students by helping at career panels, workshops, and celebrations.

📖 Spread the Word!

Share P4K's mission with your network to help us reach more students.



Partnership 4 Kids

Long-term Support.
Lifelong Success.

1004 Farnam Street Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68102

402-930-3000

www.p4k.org



@Partnership4Kids

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