



THE P4K POST

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MARCH 2026



Stepping Into Their Futures

From High School Seniors to College Freshmen

There's something powerful about a room filled with seniors standing on the edge of their next chapter – excitement, nerves and big dreams all in one place. Scholarship Night brought that energy to life as students gathered to explore what comes next after high school.

Representatives from several university partners, sat down, one-on-one with students to answer questions about campus life, academic expectations, housing and support services. Their presence helped turn uncertainty into clarity and helped students to picture themselves on a college campus.

As one senior shared, “Talking to them made it feel real – like I can actually see myself there.”

We were also grateful to welcome EducationQuest Foundation, who provided practical guidance on financial aid, scholarships and planning for the real cost associated with pursuing higher education. Families were able to ask detailed questions and walk away with a clearer understanding of how to prepare financially for the journey ahead.

By the end of the night, what started as nerves had shifted to confidence. Students left with information, encouragement and a stronger sense that they are supported every step of the way.

The future may be new territory – but they are not walking into it alone.



Mock Interviews

P4K high school students recently stepped into a real-world setting to sharpen one of the most important skills they'll carry into adulthood: how to interview with confidence.

This year, interviews were generously hosted by Hayes & Associates and Gallup. Students experienced firsthand what it's like to sit across from a hiring manager and make their case. From practicing a confident handshake and maintaining eye contact to thoughtfully answering questions about their strengths, goals, and work ethic, students were challenged to step outside of their comfort zones and into a professional environment.

Volunteers from both host organizations conducted the interviews, offering meaningful feedback and encouragement after each session. For many students, it was their first formal interview experience – and a powerful opportunity to refine their communication skills, build self-awareness, and better understand employer expectations.

Experiences like this are about more than just landing a first job. They're about preparation. When students learn how to articulate their strengths, share their stories, and present themselves professionally, they master skills that will serve them in college applications, internships, scholarships, and future careers.

We are grateful to Hayes & Associates and Gallup for investing their time and expertise in our students. By creating spaces where young people can practice, grow, and receive real-world feedback, they are helping ensure our students walk into interviews – and their futures – with confidence.

Celebrating Our Goals!

In January, our elementary students kicked off the new year by celebrating big accomplishments from the first semester!

Students who achieved their Reading, Life Skill, and Attendance goals were recognized for their hard work and dedication.

With medals around their necks and pencils and prizes in hand, they were celebrated for showing focus, growth, and commitment all semester long – proof that when students set goals and stay consistent, they can achieve incredible things.



Giving Made Simple: Donor-Advised Funds

You may have heard the term “donor-advised fund” – often called a DAF – and wondered what it means.

A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving account that allows individuals or families to set aside funds for philanthropy and recommend grants to nonprofit organizations over time.

Many donors contribute cash, stock or other assets to a DAF, receive an immediate tax benefit, and then recommend gifts to the causes they care about when the time is right.

It's a flexible, convenient and thoughtful way to support the organizations making a difference in your community.

For supporters of Partnership 4 Kids, donor-advised funds are a powerful way to invest in students' journeys from classrooms to careers.

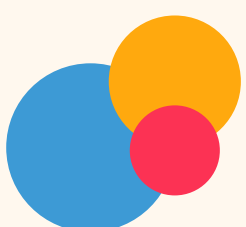
Grants from DAFs directly support mentoring, scholarships, career exploration and long-term guidance for more than 2,300 students each year.

If you have a donor-advised fund, we encourage you to log into your account and recommend a grant to Partnership 4 Kids today. You can also name Partnership 4 Kids as a recurring beneficiary or include us in your long-term giving plans.

Every DAF grant – at any amount – helps ensure students have the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to reach their goals.

Have questions about how to direct a gift through your DAF? We can help!

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Small Groups, Big Success!



Our small group reading program is officially underway in all five of our elementary partner schools – and the early impact is already clear.

Designed to give students a more personalized and supportive literacy experience, the new format creates space for deeper engagement, stronger connections, and meaningful skill-building. By breaking into smaller groups, students have more opportunities to read aloud, ask questions, build comprehension skills, and form relationships with caring adult volunteers who are invested in their growth.

Gifford Park Elementary teacher, Gretchen shared her excitement about the new approach:

“I LOVE the format of small groups. The kids are more engaged, and I love how they are getting so many opportunities to not only read but also connect with the volunteers. It’s clear that the volunteers are dedicated to helping these students. I have no doubt that it is helping this class become stronger readers.”

Her reflection captures exactly what we hoped to achieve – increased engagement, authentic connection, and a learning environment where students feel seen and supported.

As our small group reading program continues across all five elementary schools, we’re excited to watch students grow not only as readers, but as thinkers, leaders, and lifelong learners – one book at a time.



A Reflection of Legacy

Remembering our Founder, Mike Yanney

With the passing of our founder, Michael B. Yanney, I have found myself reflecting on what it truly means to build something that has had such a profound impact on so many young lives, changing our community for the better.

Mike did not simply start an organization – he started a movement. He believed deeply in investing in young people. He believed that when students are surrounded by consistent support, high expectations, and real opportunity, they rise. And he believed that our community has a responsibility to walk alongside them.

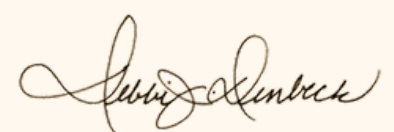
Because of that belief, Partnership 4 Kids has grown into a long-term support system serving thousands of students from pre-k through postsecondary education. His vision created access where barriers once stood. His leadership brought business and education together. His optimism challenged all of us to think bigger about what is possible for our youth.

We all feel an immense gratitude for the foundation Mike built – and an equally strong sense of responsibility to carry it forward. Honoring his legacy is not just about remembering the past; it is about continuing the work with purpose. It is about strengthening our mentoring opportunities, continually evaluating programming, expanding career exploration opportunities, investing in scholarships and ensuring every student we serve knows they are capable of success.

Mike’s legacy lives in every graduate who crosses the stage, every mentor who shows up consistently, and every donor who chooses to invest in a young person’s future. We will continue this work with the same clarity of purpose he modeled for us.

As we look ahead, I am reminded of his steady resolve and the words he often shared – words that now guide us forward:

“There is more work to be done.” - Mike Yanney



Debbie J. Denbeck
President/CEO



Mike Yanney and his first group of mentees.



Mike and Gail Yanney with P4K students.
(P4K 30th Anniversary)



Preparing for the Next Chapter

There's something powerful about a room filled with seniors standing on the edge of their next chapter – excitement, nerves and big dreams all in one place.

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Several of our university partners joined us for the evening, sitting down one-on-one with students to answer questions about campus life, academic expectations, housing and support services. Their presence helped turn uncertainty into clarity and gave students the chance to picture themselves on a college campus.

As one senior shared, “Talking to them made it feel real – like I can actually see myself there.”

We were also grateful to welcome EducationQuest Foundation, whose team provided practical guidance on financial aid, scholarships and planning for the true cost of higher education. Families had the opportunity to ask detailed questions and walk away with a clearer understanding of how to prepare financially for the journey ahead.

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Join the Movement!



When you become a monthly donor, you provide the consistent support needed to educate our youth.

Scan to Donate!

Become a P4K Volunteer!

Scan the QR code or visit p4k.org/volunteer to learn more!

For additional questions: mentor@p4k.org



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