

2025 IMPACT REPORT

Creating Positive Educational Outcomes





FOUR YEARS AGO...

we imagined a future for the Mary Lyon Foundation in which we would expand our programming and grow our operating and program endowments to meet the extraordinary challenges of the families in the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School Districts in perpetuity. Because of the commitment of community members like yourself, we have almost met our Comprehensive Campaign Goal of \$5,000,000. With \$435,042.52 left to raise by September 30, 2025, we are confident that, with your continued commitment, we will reach our goal.

Our endowments are invested accounts. Over the past four years, we have created an endowment for all our programs. The Foundation only uses a small percentage of the growth of the accounts to ensure the principal grows and the fund is available in perpetuity. The creation and development of our endowments have stabilized our operational capacity and ensured the continuation of our programming.

The Mary Lyon Foundation's impact in Western Franklin County is substantial. Our commitment to providing families with basic needs to ensure that children come to school fed, warm, and ready to learn is at the forefront of our mission. Ensuring that children have books to read in the classroom and at home, eyeglasses so they can see, adequate school supplies, and scholarships for college and postsecondary programs is evidence that the Mary Lyon Foundation has realized its vision. The families in Western Franklin County are being provided with a lifeline like never before.

The Mary Lyon Foundation's impact in West County can be much more. As part of our strategic plan, we've begun helping other local families in Franklin County. The needs in our region are extraordinary, and we believe we can and should support all of Franklin County. Over the past four years, we've helped a young mom acquire tires for her car so she could start her new job as a phlebotomist, helped young families with re-homing costs, gave gas cards to travel to doctor's visits, helped pay utility bills and much more.

We visualized a community in Franklin County where families have the essential resources to make ends meet and children are revered and nurtured. Imagine the educational outcomes for children when families can provide for them!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We will continue our good work and expand our services to help more people in Franklin County. Through the generosity of a new donor, we are endowing a new fund named the Union 38(FRS) and Mohawk Trail (MTRS) Family Fund. This new fund meets the goals of our strategic plan and will support the essential needs of students and families in both districts. We will continue to work to expand our programming and, over the next few years, will roll out a plan to provide comprehensive wrap-around services for everyone living in Western Franklin County.

We are grateful to those who have supported us over the past years. With an eye toward the future, we will continue our good work and hope you will continue supporting our mission. For those who still want to assist us, please join our campaign today.

Happy New Year,

KRISTEN TILLONA-BAKER

Kristo Tillmai Baken

Executive Director

Honoring Heritage, Shaping the Future: The Korpitas' Commitment to Community

Dylan and Kristyn Korpita have established The Union 38 (FRS) and Mohawk Trail (MTRS) Family Fund with the Mary Lyon Foundation, aligning with the non-profits' mission to support children and families in the Pioneer Valley. Both of their families have strong ties to Franklin County, and they have always felt a deep commitment to investing in the area that shaped them. When they discovered the work being done by the Foundation, they were inspired by its purpose and dedication to the region, motivating them to create a lasting impact through this endowed fund.

For Dylan and Kristyn, this fund is a meaningful way to give back to the communities that have supported and nurtured them. Amidst an increasingly busy world, there's a growing risk of losing the tight-knit networks that provide guidance and meaning to our lives, and it is their belief that the most effective way to counter this is by focusing on local investments, which is why the Korpita's chose the Mary Lyon Foundation to steward this endowed fund. With this vision, they hope that this fund will help strengthen the schools and neighborhoods in the Franklin Regional and Mohawk Trail districts, honoring the rich heritage of the Pioneer Valley. By advocating for families and children, they hope to make a meaningful difference in education while reinforcing the sense of connection that the Mary Lyon Foundation works to cultivate.

Looking to the future, the Korpitas are devoted to helping Franklin County thrive, sharing the Mary Lyon Foundation's mission of assisting local communities. As Dylan expressed, "Our family's story is the American story. It was told right here in Franklin County. Now we want to invest in other families from these same towns as they write theirs." Through this endowment, the couple is doing just that—continuing a legacy of unity, support, and growth for generations to come.



Sarah Burrell

Development Associate, Mary Lyon Foundation

When opportunity and purpose align, magic happens—that's how I felt joining the Mary Lyon Foundation as a Development Associate in November 2024. Originally from Oregon, I moved to Western Massachusetts in 2019 to be near family as I began my journey as a single mother to my newborn daughter. With a BA in Public Relations from Gonzaga University, I was determined to build a stable, fulfilling life for us.



My professional path is diverse and meaningful, including roles at the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Annie Selke and building my own marketing clientele specifically supporting creative women in business. All these positions have equipped me with strong storytelling and relationship-building skills that I'm excited to bring to my new role at the Mary Lyon Foundation.

As a single parent raising a child in this community, my connection to the Foundation is personal. Supporting local families, children, and educators isn't just my job—it's my passion. Every fundraising effort is a heartfelt commitment to making a difference.

With a background in communications and lived experience as a local parent, I'm dedicated to ensuring resources reach those who need them most. Together, we can create meaningful change.

A Helping Hand at the West County Community Resource Fair

The Mary Lyon Foundation proudly hosted its second annual West County Community Resource Fair at Mohawk Trail Regional School, highlighting the many ways Franklin County organizations provide critical support to families and students. With a mission to connect the community in a trusted and familiar space, the fair brought together a wide range of services to meet essential needs.

From health and wellness to housing, food security, and legal support, the fair provided a lifeline of assistance for those navigating life's challenges. Families accessed programs offering fresh, local food, like Franklin Community Co-op and the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, which ensured access to nutritious meals for all. The Opioid Task Force of Franklin County brought compassionate care through its mobile medical services, while the Key Club's own Caring is Sharing Clothing Closet provided warm clothing and toiletries to support daily needs. A vaccine clinic, held in partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, provided flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, helping families prioritize their health conveniently and safely.

Attendees also had the opportunity to learn tactics to prevent housing crises, gain legal advice for civil issues, and access mental health resources, educational guidance, services for senior citizens, and financial relief. The foundation is grateful for the Kiwanis Club for providing dinner and to Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters, Foxtown Diner, Green Fields Market, and Keystone Market for generously donating cookies. A special thank you the Fire and Police Department for organizing the Toucha-Truck event and for bringing comfort dogs for attendees. Every detail of the fair reflected a commitment to making life just a little easier, helping individuals and families feel empowered and cared for.

More than just an event, the fair created a space where connections flourished. Parents, students, and community members not only discovered helpful resources but also experienced the reassurance that they are not alone. Each conversation and every interaction served as a reminder that help is close at hand within our close-knit community. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, compassion, and a sense of unity that lifted the spirits of everyone who attended.







At its heart, the fair was a reminder of the power of connection and the importance of community. It wasn't just about the resources—it was about creating a space where every family could feel seen, supported, and cared for. The Mary Lyon Foundation is deeply honored to play a role in creating these moments of kindness and collaboration, ensuring that every individual has the support they need to succeed—both in school and in life.

Fueled by Your Generosity: Four Years of

IMPACTFUL GIVING

We've distributed thousands of diapers, personal hygiene products, and feminine hygiene products to support women and children.

Held two Community Resource Fairs and Vaccine Clinics.

Partnered with more than forty agencies to provide more resources to our families.

and so much more!





640Winter Coats



\$25,000 in Books to Support Literacy



350Backpacks & Supplies



ENDLESSEyeglasses thanks to
Tom Miner, The Optician



208,000 lbs of Groceries



\$40,000 in Educator Mini-Grants



\$150,000 in Funds to Support Families



\$250,000 in Scholarships



\$25,000 to Help End Homelessness



Children received gifts through our holiday giving tree at Greenfield Savings Bank

Thank You To Our Donors

Your generous support has enabled the Mary Lyon Foundation to provide essential resources—such as food, clothing, and educational materials—to students and families in need across our nine-town area. Together, we are fostering student success and strengthening our community.

\$500,000+

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES

"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for all the support the Mary Lyon Foundation has provided me over the years. The generosity, kindness, and commitment to helping others have made a profound difference in mine and my children's life. From providing warmth for my home, to food for my children, to backpacks for school—Mary Lyon Foundation was there when we needed it most. But it wasn't just the material support. Kristen's kindness and her encouraging heart lifted me in ways I can't fully express. Her compassion has touched me deeply, and for that, I will be forever grateful."

- Parent from Buckland



YOUR SUPPORT, MAKES A DIFFERENCE



"WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY GRATEFUL TO THE

MARY LYON FOUNDATION... for the invaluable support, resources, and financial assistance they have provided during our most challenging times. Their commitment to helping families like ours has made a significant impact.

I vividly recall the time when I gave birth to my third son; it was one of the most overwhelming yet joyful periods in my life. Throughout this experience, Kristen Baker from the foundation was an incredible source of support. She consistently checked in on me, offering not just assistance but also compassion and encouragement.

Her genuine concern made a world of difference during those hectic days. We are immensely thankful for the support we've received, and I know that many other families share our gratitude for the dedication of the Mary Lyon Foundation and the remarkable efforts of individuals like Ms. Kristen Baker. Their kindness has touched many lives."

- Kecelyn D., Mother of 3

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

"We are incredibly grateful to the Mary Lyon Foundation for making impactful programming for fourth through sixth grade students possible. Because of their support, the Mohawk District elementary librarians were able to celebrate the Massachusetts Children's Book Award (MCBA) by hosting a district-wide event at Mohawk High School where we even welcomed an MCBA-nominated author to speak. These events are a wonderful way to engage young readers and promote literacy. Their support has truly made a difference in fostering a love of reading among our students!"

Library & Media Specialist from Sanderson Academy



Ways of Giving

Gifts to the Mary Lyon Foundation are flexible and customizable. You can make a one-time gift, pledge, or annual contribution. Donors who include the Foundation in their estate plans join the Putnam Hill Legacy Society.

VENMO



PAYPAL



Cash Gifts

Make your gift online for the fastest processing at www.marylyonfoundation.org, using the QR Code or by mailing a check using the enclosed gift envelope. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal. You may select recurring monthly donations as a choice through PayPal. Alternatively, you can make your gift using Venmo @marylyonfoundation or the QR Code

Pledges

You can increase your gift with a multi-year pledge. We can craft a pledge form tailored to your gift and mail it to you for your signature. Pledge reminders are sent twice a year for your convenience.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

(IRA) owners aged $70\frac{1}{2}$ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 tax-free annually to their favorite charity. If the donor is 73, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Charitable Gift Annuity

The Mary Lyon Foundation can be a gift annuity's beneficiary or yearly recipient.

Securities

We accept gifts of securities. For those who itemize, a gift of securities creates a charitable deduction. Gift of shares held for at least one year will have no capital gains tax owed.

Real Estate

The Mary Lyon Foundation accepts gifts of real estate such as a primary residence, vacation home, farm, commercial building, subdivision lot, undeveloped property, or a fractional interest in property.

Putnam Hill Legacy Society

A gift from your estate is a meaningful way to extend your generosity beyond your lifetime. Your gift can be for a specific amount or a percentage. Naming us as one of the beneficiaries of a life insurance policy, IRA, 401(k), or other retirement or investment account can be a tax-savvy way of giving.

Please consider including us in your plans for any amount and let us know so we can welcome you into the Putnam Hill Legacy Society.

For more information, call **(413)625-2555** or email **kbaker@marylyonfoundation.org** or **sburrell@marylyonfoundation.org**.



MARY LYON Foundation

Learn • Succeed • Thrive