

Development Narrative Report FY 2026/2027

GRANTS

Recent Grant Updates

- **Awarded** – \$25,000 STEM Grant from Xcel Energy. Payment received on 8/20/2026
- **Awarded** – \$25,000 3M General Cash Grant for STEM Programming in Under-Resourced Twin Cities Schools. Payment received on 8/27/2026

Meetings and Funding Updates

- **Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation** – Tim met with our program officer in August to discuss changes to the upcoming grant cycle and better understand the Foundation's evolving strategic funding model. Our program officer has helped position MINNDEPENDENT's work and impact to align with the new priorities and funding parameters. Funding decisions will be made by the family members who manage the Foundation and will be by invitation only. We expect to receive an update this fall.

TRUSTS

- 2027 Trust award expected in January 2027.

ANNUAL FUND

Category	# of Donors	Total YTD Amount	# of New Donors
Individuals/Orgs/Corp	6	\$2441.92	0
Trusts	0	\$0	0
Foundations	1	\$25,000	0
Sponsors	30	\$51,450	3
Board (20)	3	\$391.92	15% Giving

FY 25/26 Individual/Organization/Corporation Donors (Does not include sponsors)

1. Tim Benz
2. Anastasia Benz
3. Heidi Gallus
4. Mike Brennan
5. Phil and Connie Paquette
6. Roger and Mary Ahrenholz

Help Us Expand Our Reach – Follow Us on Social Media:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/MINNDEPENDENT/>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/minndependent/>
- X - <https://x.com/MINNDprez>
- Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/minndependent>

SPONSORSHIPS

2026 School Leadership Conference (Sept. 28 -30, 2026)

Thrivent	\$3,000.00
Langer Construction	\$3,000.00
Slow Road Photo	\$3,000.00
Enquiry Tracker	\$3,000.00
VenturEd Solutions - NEW	\$3,000.00
Escale Advisors	\$3,000.00
Canopy IT Solutions	\$3,000.00
Opus	\$1,800.00
Pope Design Group	\$1,800.00
Revolution Sporting Goods	\$1,800.00
Solid Rock Construction	\$1,800.00
ATSR	\$1,800.00
Renaissance	\$1,800.00
Donald's Uniform	\$1,800.00
Catapult Learning	\$1,800.00
MNSAA	\$1,800.00
Allied Black Top - NEW	\$1,800.00
Youth Frontiers - NEW	\$1,800.00
FY26-27 School Leadership Conference Sponsorship	\$40,800.00
Sponsorship Goal	\$42,000.00

2026 Preferred Partnership Program (October 2026 – September 2027)

Thrivent	\$500.00
Langer Construction	\$500.00
Pope Design Group	\$500.00
Escale Advisors	\$500.00
Opus	\$500.00
MNSAA	\$500.00
YTD Preferred Partnership Program Sponsorship	\$3,000.00

Sponsorship Goal	\$0
-------------------------	------------

2026 STEM Education Conference (Aug 12, 2026)

Creative Learning Systems/Smart Labs	\$1,000.00
Thrivent	\$500.00
Science from Scientists	\$250.00
The Works	\$250.00
ATSR	\$500.00
Xperitas - NEW	\$250.00
Twin Cities PBS	\$250.00
High Tech Kids	\$250.00
Sparkpoint Innovations	\$500.00
U of M CFANS	\$250.00
MN Zoo	\$250.00
Teaching Channel – trade for presenter	\$0.00
MN Agriculture in the Classroom	\$250.00
FY26-27 STEM Education Conference Sponsorship	\$4500.00
Sponsorship Goal	\$4000.00

Other Organization Sponsorships 2026-2027

Thrivent ENEWS Spotlight (6 issue July - December 2026)	\$1,200.00
Thrivent PD (1 webinar in 26/27)	\$750.00
The Opus Group ENEWS Spotlight (July - Dec 2026 - 6 issues)	\$1,200.00
YTD Other Sponsorships	\$3150.00
Sponsorship Goal	\$6000.00

Grant Pipeline Report - FY 2026-2027 (Thru August 2026)						
Source	Purpose	Request	Budget	Status	YTD Awarded	Deadlines & Notes
Hardenbergh Foundation	Unrestricted - General Ops		\$ 25,000.00	In Process		Due Oct 1, 2026
Capital Group Associate Involvement Grant Program	Unrestricted - General Ops		\$ 25,000.00			
Richard M. Schultze Family Foundation	Unrestricted - General Ops - By Invitation Only		\$ 55,000.00			
	6 Month Grant Report - Due Oct 28, 2026	NA	NA			NA 10/9/2025
	Final Grant Report - Due April 16, 2027	NA	NA			NA Due 4/8/2026
Athwin Foundation	Unrestricted - General Ops		\$2,000.00			
Schott Foundation	Restricted - STEM Program		\$ 100,000.00			Due April 2026
Xcel Energy Foundation	Restricted - STEM Program		\$ 25,000.00			
	Final Grant Report - Due April 16, 2027	NA	NA			NA Impact reported completed 6/1/2026
3M Foundation	Restricted - STEM Prog/underserved students (SciSci Programming)	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	Awarded	\$25,000.00	Due 10-3-2026
	2026 Final Grant Report	NA	NA			Tim will schedule follow up meeting in Sept. 2026
Otto Bremer Trust	Strategic initiatives that align with OBT objectives - no grant applications accepted. Grants awarded based on stakeholder engagement and research by OBT.					
nVent	Restricted - STEM Program	TBD	\$0.00			
H.B. Fuller Foundation	Restricted - STEM Program (Science from Scientists or We Share Solar)	TBD				Applications accepted from Oct. 1 - Oct 21, 2026
CenterPoint Energy Foundation	Restricted - STEM Program	TBD				Applications accepted from March 1 - March 31, 2027
	Education focused, Have a strong connection to Donaldson communities operating expenses					Applications Jan. 12 - Feb. 13, 2027
Donaldson Foundation	Degree of need for those served, focus on impactful programs over general	TBD				Applications due Jan. 12, 2027
Lanner's Family Foundation	Foundation supports organizations whose activities are consistent with Catholic and Christian principals.					Grant deadline Dec. 31, 2026. 2026 funded BestPrep. Center of the American Experiment, College Possible, Hope Academy, SIU
The Gertrude R. Shieley Charitable Trust	Donor Advised Fund					Tim will reach out to DAF advisor
Other Grants (TBD)	Unrestricted - General Ops \$5000 - \$15,000	TBD	\$8,000.00			
			\$ 240,000.00	Total Awarded YTD	\$25,000.00	
Other Funding Provided By Community Partners						
Science from Scientist (SciSci)	SciSci supplemental funding to serve metro schools underserved students (8 schools served by program)				\$26,000.00	Funding provided by SciSci for MINNDEPENDENT member schools
				Total Awarded	\$26,000.00	

FY 2026/2027 DEVELOPMENT FUND REPORT (Thru August)									
Grants	FY27 PLAN	FY27 YTD	FY 26 YTD	Donors	FY 27 YTD	FY 26 YTD			
Unrestricted	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000 +					
STEM	\$125,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$5,000 -\$9,999		1			
Capital (IT Infrastructure)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000 - \$4,999	1	1			
	\$205,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$1-999	5	7			
				TOTAL	6	9			
Honor Fund									
Honor Fund/Unrestricted	\$80,000.00	\$2,441.92	\$8,571.95	Foundations	FY 27 YTD	FY 26 YTD			
HH Trust	\$42,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000 +					
	\$122,750.00	\$2,441.92	\$8,571.95	\$50,000 - \$99,999					
				\$25,000 - \$49,999	1	1			
				\$10,000 - \$24,999					
				\$1 - \$9,999					
Sponsorships									
Awards	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	TOTAL	1	1			
SLC	\$42,000.00	\$43,800.00	\$47,000.00						
STEM	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,750.00						
Seminars/Enews	\$6,000.00	\$3,150.00	\$2,950.00	Sponsors	FY 27 YTD	FY 26 YTD			
	\$87,000.00	\$51,450.00	\$54,700.00	\$5,000+	1	3			
				\$2,500-\$4,999	7	4			
				\$1,000-\$2,499	11	10			
				\$1-\$999	11	11			
TOTAL	\$414,750.00	\$78,891.92	\$88,271.95	TOTAL	30	28			
				Board Giving FY27					
				Total Members	Donors	Total FY27 YTD			%
				20	3	\$391.92			15%
				Board Giving FY26					
				Total Members	Donors	Total FY26			%
				20	20	\$27,339.09			100%
				Board Giving FY25					
				Total Members	Donors	Total FY25			%
				17	17	\$25,112.54			100%
				Board Giving FY24					
				0	0	Total FY24			%
				17	17	\$22,194.75			100%