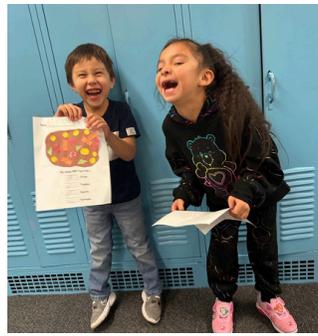
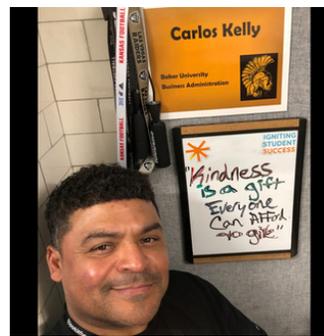
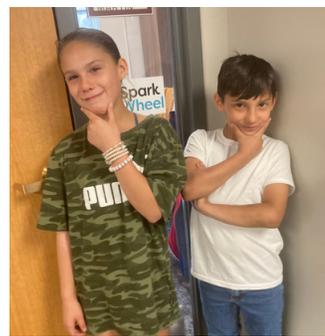




 **SparkWheel**

**ANNUAL REPORT | Fiscal Year 2024**







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**FROM  
OUR  
LEADERS**



“In my 17th year with this organization, I find myself **more grateful than ever** that this is the work that I get to do, with board and staff colleagues who inspire me daily in our commitment to those we serve.”

*Malissa Martin*

**Malissa Martin**

President & CEO

### **How would you describe SparkWheel’s core mission in today’s evolving social landscape?**

**Alex Delaney:** This year, our focus on solutions-oriented thinking has resulted in SparkWheel spending the year self-reflecting to make sure we are pointed in the right direction. We are continuing to focus on the strategic goals we set out when reorganizing, while remaining flexible enough to add new resources to achieve them.

**Malissa Martin:** Data and indicators from many sources confirm that our services are more needed than ever. Consequently, today’s strategies and resources must evolve to meet the needs of both the present and immediate future. That said, I would describe our mission today as unchanged; we will always serve students so that they can achieve the kind of futures they deserve.

### **Are there any new programs or areas of focus that SparkWheel is exploring?**

**AD:** We continue to retool the organization with an extended geographic focus. We are constantly growing our own data-driven model to reflect our values and the students we serve. We are committed to being a national leader in integrated student supports.

**MM:** Yes, and two examples of that are geographic opportunities and enhanced services for the families and households of our students. Another is our exploration into the alignment of SparkWheel’s work with the social determinants of health (SDOH) and how best to demonstrate that. At the same time, we are continuing a deeper implementation of the services we’ve implemented during the last few years, such as our early childhood and post-secondary services.

“I am honored to spend another year as the Board Chairperson of SparkWheel, an organization that is **deeply committed to making a difference** in the lives of students.”



**Alex Delaney**  
Board Chair

**What are the biggest achievements or milestones SparkWheel has reached this year?**

**AD:** We are excited to announce that we have hired a new Chief Development Officer to help us continue to grow and expand our impact. We are also grateful for the support of our board members, who are committed to helping us achieve our mission.

**MM:** Our first year as SparkWheel was remarkably smooth and successful, which I attribute to our lengthy, in-depth considerations, planning, and preparation prior to leaving our previous network. As a result, we were able to maintain full focus on our mission and those we serve.

**What are your long-term aspirations for SparkWheel, and how do you plan to achieve them?**

**AD:** We recognize that the world is always changing, but the need for our work is constant and growing. The board and staff are very thoughtful regarding these changes and the place SparkWheel has in them, and we continue to be committed to the well-being and success of the students we serve regardless of the shifting of economic or political winds.

**MM:** I believe that the integrated student supports field must evolve to go both broader and deeper; serving a longer term of the student’s life and more deeply within their family and household. Our board and our staff are committed to a generative, forward-looking culture, and therefore, our work to achieve these greatly enhanced services is already underway.



**BY  
THE  
NUMBERS**

# We helped more than **30,000** students, located in over **60** schools.

## Kansas

### CHANUTE

Chanute Elementary School  
Chanute High School  
Royster Middle School

### DODGE CITY

Dodge City High School

### EL DORADO

El Dorado Middle School

### EMPORIA

Emporia High School  
Logan Avenue Elementary School  
Walnut Elementary School  
William Allen White Elementary School

### FORT SCOTT

Fort Scott High School  
Fort Scott Middle School

### GARDEN CITY

Garden City High School

### INDEPENDENCE

Independence High School  
Independence Middle School

### KANSAS CITY

Argentine Middle School  
New Stanley Elementary School  
Silver City Elementary School

### LAWRENCE

Prairie Park Elementary School

### MARYSVILLE

Marysville High School

### NEODESHA

Heller Elementary School  
Neodesha Middle/High School  
North Lawn Elementary School

### OTTAWA

Ottawa High School  
Ottawa Middle School

### PARSONS

Parsons High School  
Parsons Middle School

### PITTSBURG

George Nettels Elementary School  
Lakeside Elementary School  
Meadowlark Elementary School  
Pittsburg Community Middle School  
Pittsburg High School  
Pittsburg State University  
The Family Resource Center  
Westside Elementary School

### TOPEKA

Highland Park High School  
Ross Elementary School  
State Street Elementary School  
Topeka High School  
Topeka West High School

### UNIONTOWN

Uniontown Junior High/High School  
West Bourbon Elementary School

## Missouri

### BOONVILLE

Boonville High School  
Hannah Cole Primary School  
Laura Speed Elliott Middle School

### KANSAS CITY

Benjamin Banneker Elementary School  
Central Middle School  
Crossroads Preparatory Academy  
Frontier School of Innovation Middle School  
Guadalupe Centers High School  
Southeast High School

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Cuivre Park Elementary School  
Troy Middle School

### MCDONALD COUNTY

Noel Elementary School  
Pineville Elementary School  
Southwest City Elementary School  
White Rock Elementary School

## Iowa

### WATERLOO

Central Middle School  
George Washington Carver Academy Middle School

## Oklahoma

### ANADARKO

Anadarko East Elementary School  
Anadarko High School  
Anadarko Middle School  
Anadarko Mission Elementary School  
Anadarko Sunset Elementary School



YOU CAN HAVE  
UNTIL  
YOU STOP TRYING



100% IS-  
PROGR



T  
Talented Tough  
Tenacious Thinker Tough

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### Tribes

- \*Apache
- \*Cherokee
- \*Choctaw
- \*Crow
- \*Kiowa
- \*Mickasaw
- \*Caddo
- \*Chickasaw
- \*Comanche
- \*Delaware
- \*Wichita

**OUR  
2023-2024  
IMPACT**



### Supporting Goals

**37,400+**

the number of goal-related supports that we provided

### Providing Enrichment

**36,700+**

the number of times we provided Enrichment Activities for students

### Encouraging Family Engagement

**8,600+**

the number of family and household members who participated in Family Engagement activities

### Sharing Life Skills

**11,800+**

the number of times we worked with students to share Life Skills

### Offering Resources

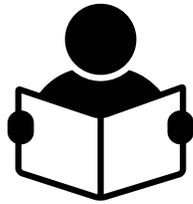
**300,000+**

the number of Essential Needs items we provided to students and their families

# IGNITING STUDENT SUCCESS

# 3,394

students received case-managed care in 2023-2024



## 99%

stayed in school



## 84%

improved behavior



## 76%

improved attendance



## 87%

improved academics



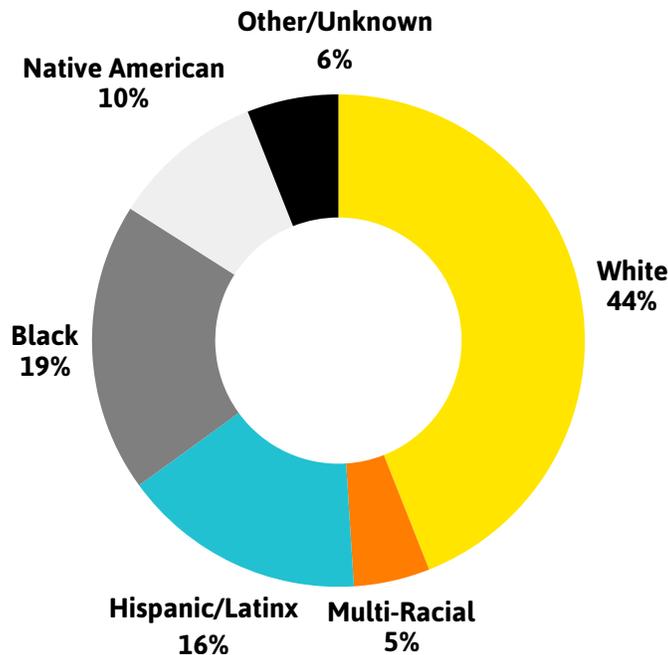
## 97%

of Seniors graduated



## 92%

of students on free/reduced lunches





# STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

# Empowering Students, One Life at a Time



At SparkWheel, our mission is to provide students with the tools and support they need to thrive, now and into the future. Our Student Support Coordinators (SSCs) play a vital role in this mission by offering guidance, encouragement, and a safe space for students to navigate their challenges. \*Amira's story is a powerful testament to the impact of this support.

Amira has been a SparkWheel student since middle school, and throughout her journey, she has always found a reliable source of strength in her SSCs. Reflecting on her experiences, Amira fondly recalls each SSC she's had, expressing deep appreciation for the entire SparkWheel team.

Amira's journey took a heartbreaking turn when she tragically lost her father, \*Ahmad, who was her biggest supporter and best friend. Ahmad was a familiar face to the staff at Amira's school, known for his devotion to his daughter—often bringing her lunch from McDonald's and going above and beyond to ensure her happiness. When Amira lost her dad, SparkWheel quickly rallied around her and her family, delivering groceries and offering support during their time of grief. Just ten days later, Amira faced another devastating loss—the passing of her aunt.

***Despite her immense pain, Amira showed remarkable resilience. She returned to school, determined to continue her academic journey. Her SSC recalls a conversation with Amira: "We joked about me being her therapist. I said, 'I'm not a therapist, but I will always be here for you to talk to, vent to, cry in front of. My room is your safe space.'"***

Amira's SSC worked closely with her and her teachers to help her catch up on schoolwork. With the support of her SSC, Amira has shown incredible determination to succeed. "Amira is doing well; we know she can do better, and she told me she would do the work and get the grades she knew she could achieve," says her SSC. Amira agrees, saying, "I have to do good. I have to do it for my dad and my auntie."

Amira's resilience is an inspiration to us all. Her story highlights the profound impact that compassionate support can have on a student's life. At SparkWheel, we are immensely proud of Amira's strength and determination, and we remain committed to standing by her side, every step of the way.

**WE  
KNOW  
GIVING  
MAY  
IMAGINE**

A world  
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# From Struggles to Success with SparkWheel Support



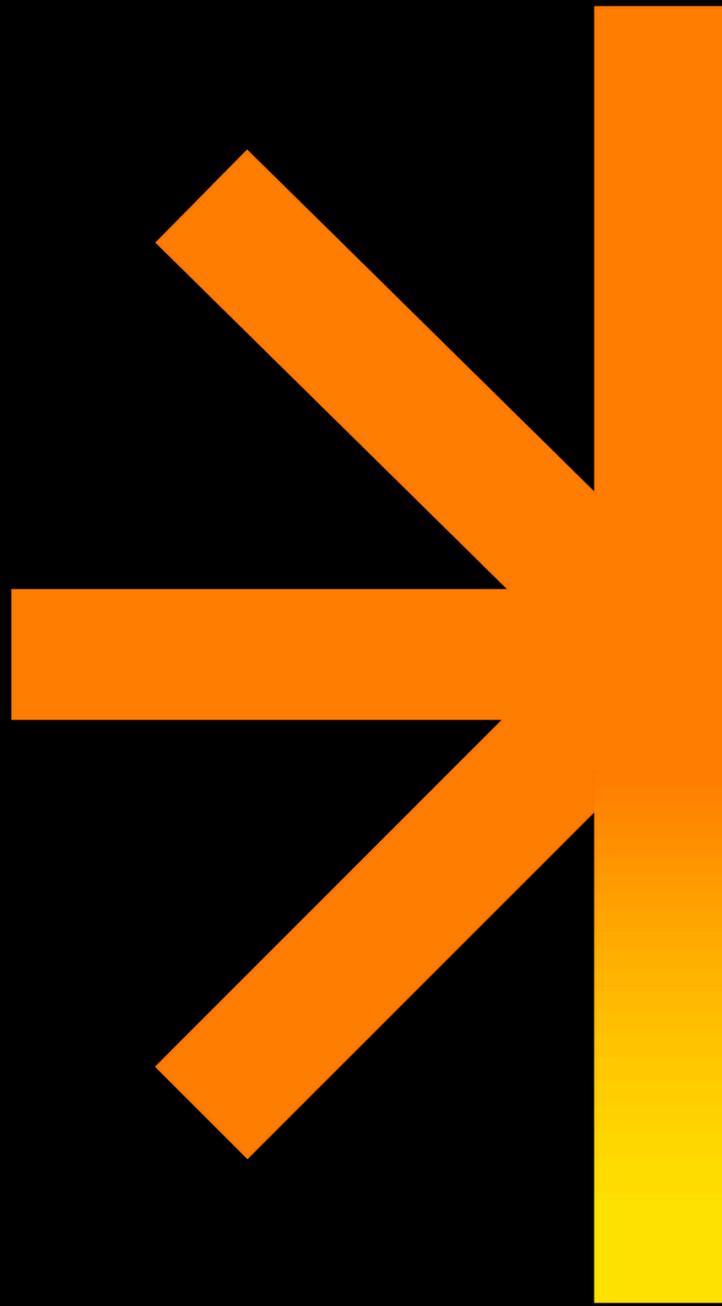
\*Anthony\*'s journey is one of remarkable transformation—from emotional outbursts and academic challenges to newfound confidence and success. Having endured significant trauma early in life, Anthony moved in with his grandmother and changed his name in an effort to start fresh. However, his behavior in elementary and middle school remained difficult, with incidents like throwing chairs, using profanity, and accessing restricted websites—indicators that he needed new coping strategies.

In his freshman year, SparkWheel's Student Support Coordinator (SSC) and a team of educators—including special education staff, school psychologists, counselors, and administrators—began working together to create a plan for Anthony's success.

By November, the team developed a behavior plan designed to help Anthony manage his emotions and thrive in school. A key element of this plan gave Anthony opportunities to check in twice daily with the SSC for snacks and conversations, provided he met behavioral expectations. This simple yet effective structure allowed Anthony to decompress, reflect, and reset, helping him build new habits that reinforced positive behavior. With hard work and consistent support from his school team, Anthony passed all his classes that semester—an achievement that reflected not only academic progress but also emotional growth.

***By the start of his sophomore year, Anthony's transformation was undeniable. For the first time, he returned to school with no behavior plan in place and was granted full privileges. The maturity he developed over the summer, combined with the foundation of trust and structure built during his freshman year, set the stage for a successful year. So far, Anthony has maintained solid grades and hasn't received a single office referral.***

Anthony's story is a powerful example of how thoughtful collaboration, empathy, and consistent support can foster meaningful change. His journey shows that even in the face of significant challenges, students can thrive when they are given the right tools and encouragement to grow. As Anthony continues his high school journey, his success serves as an inspiring reminder of the impact that compassionate support can have on a student's life.



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
FUNDERS**

## \$2,000,000+

Kansas Department for Children and Families

## \$100,000+

Anonymous Foundation  
Boonville R-1 School District  
Hall Family Foundation  
Lincoln County R-III School District  
McDonald County R-I School District  
SchoolSmartKC  
USD 235 - Uniontown Public Schools

## \$25,000+

City of Topeka  
Cloud L. Cray Foundation  
Crossroads Charter Schools  
Douglas County Community Foundation -  
Bo's Hog Wild Children's Fund  
Frontier School of Innovation  
Guadalupe Educational Systems  
Hulston Family Foundation  
Pittsburg State University  
USD 234 - Fort Scott Unified School District  
USD 253 - Emporia Public Schools  
USD 290 - Ottawa Public Schools  
USD 446 - Independence School District  
USD 501 - Topeka Public Schools  
USD 503 - Parsons Public Schools  
Waterloo Community Schools District

## \$10,000+

Douglas County Community Foundation - Bo Killough  
Charitable Fund  
James S. McDonnell Family Foundation  
Max & Helen Guernsey Charitable Foundation  
Otto Schoitz Foundation  
Royals Charities  
United Way of El Dorado  
United Way of Greater Kansas City  
USD 364 - Marysville Public Schools

## \$2,500+

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas - Elm Acres  
Foundation  
Douglas County Community Foundation - Community Grant  
Douglas County Community Foundation - Momentum Grant  
Emporia Community Foundation - 79 Fund  
Healthy Bourbon County Action Team  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services  
Parsons Area Community Foundation  
United Way of Dodge City  
United Way of Southwest Missouri-Southeast Kansas  
United Way of the Flint Hills  
Western Kansas Community Foundation

## \$1,000+

American Eagle Employee Giving  
City of Parsons  
Cobalt Boats  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas - General  
Fund via Rosalie D. Manley Endowment Fund  
DCS Services  
Earl Devore  
El Dorado Charities Auxiliary  
F&S Collision Repair Center  
Fort Scott Area Community Foundation  
Frankfort Meat Company  
Franklin County Development Council  
Golden Plains Credit Union - Garden City, KS  
Great Southern Bank - Parsons, KS  
Wayne Holum  
Samantha Wallis Agency, Inc.  
Security Benefit  
Genna Siemons

## \$250,000+

Kansas State Department of Education  
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

## \$50,000+

Kansas City Public Schools (MO)  
State of Kansas  
The Family Resource Center  
USD 250 - Pittsburg Public Schools  
USD 413 - Chanute Public Schools  
USD 500 - Kansas City, KS Public Schools

## \$15,000+

Evergy  
Finnup Foundation Trust  
Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust  
Pritchett Trust  
R. J. McElroy Trust  
Topeka Community Foundation - Advisors Excel Charity Fund  
USD 443 - Dodge City Public Schools  
USD 457 - Garden City Public Schools  
USD 461 - Neodesha School District  
USD 497 - Lawrence Public Schools

## \$5,000+

American Eagle Outfitters Foundation  
American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation  
BMO Harris Bank N.A.  
Cargill Foundation  
City of Pittsburg  
Finney County United Way  
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation - Bicknell  
Legacy Foundation  
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation - Raymond  
C. and Marguerite Gibson Foundation  
Health Forward Foundation - Applicant Defined Grant  
Health Forward Foundation - Donor-Advised Grant  
Mariner Foundation  
Richard Miller  
Topeka Community Foundation - Greater Topeka Fund  
USD 490 - El Dorado Public Schools  
Watco Companies

## \$2,000+

Azura Employee Foundation  
Bicknell Family Foundation  
Paul Carttar  
LSB Foundation  
Topeka Community Foundation - 40th Anniversary Grant  
Don Turnbaugh  
Cindy Wilson

## \$500+

AVEM  
Cassie Bicknell  
Cheryl Bowen  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas - Douglas K. and  
Kathy A. Stuckey Fund  
Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas - Future Fund  
Community National Bank & Trust - Chanute, KS  
Alex & Ali Delaney  
DeVaughn James Law Firm  
First Community Bank - Jane, MO  
Matt Godinez  
Dr. Steve Karlin  
Howard Keim  
Trent Lancaster  
Neodesha Plastics  
Rebecca Nevergold  
Pete's of Erie  
Michael Rose  
Sicut North America  
Talon Concrete

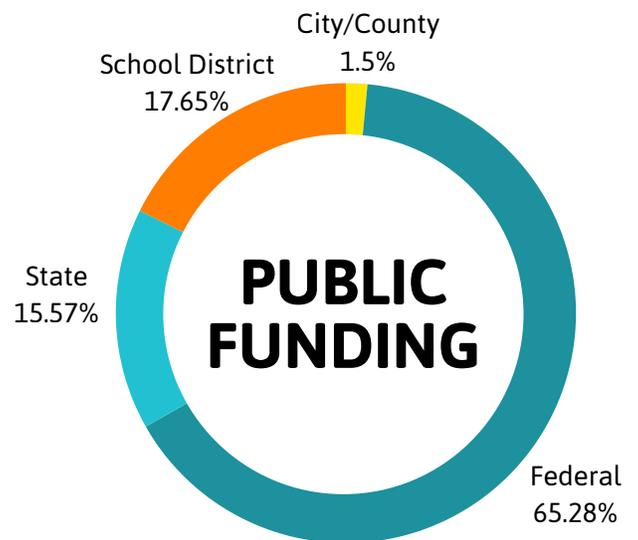
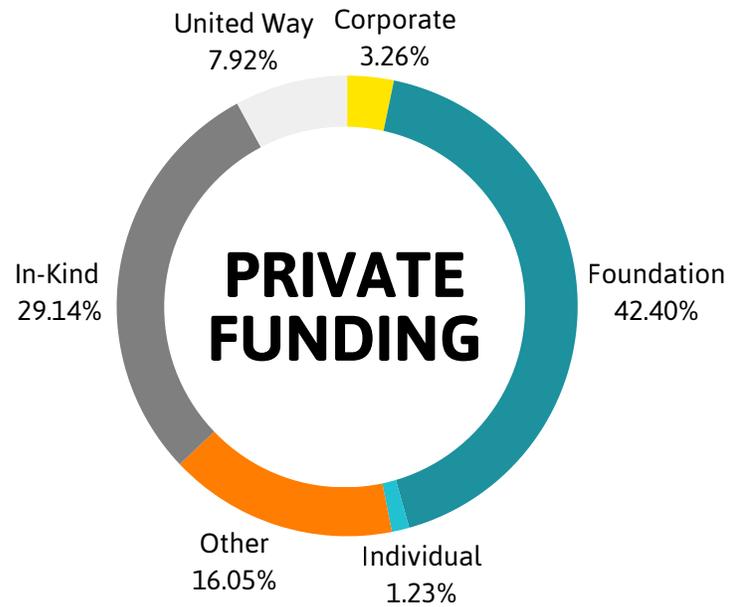




# We are so grateful

# \$453,369

The value of **in-kind donations** received





# BEHIND THE SCENES

# FY24 Board of DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS



### BOARD CHAIR

**Alex Delaney**  
MAD Ones Marketing Group  
Castle Rock, CO



### BOARD VICE-CHAIR

**Paul Carttar**  
Carttar Consulting, LLC  
Lawrence, KS



### BOARD SECRETARY

**Matt Godinez**  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
Chanute, KS



### BOARD TREASURER

**Cindy S. Wilson, CPA, CIA**  
Liberty Utilities  
Berryton, KS

## MEMBERS



**Gary Chapman, MSW, Ed.S.**  
Venture Leadership Collective  
Alexandria, VA



**Tasha R. Fridia**  
Friends of the Children  
Porcupine, SD



**Steve Karlin, PhD**  
Newman University  
Garden City, KS



**Dion Lake**  
Capitol Federal  
Topeka, KS



**Rachel Miles Sandler**  
Kauffman Foundation  
Kansas City, MO



**Don Turnbaugh**  
Lucia's Sarto  
Westwood, KS



**Laura Kaiser**  
Board Member Emeritus  
Overland Park, KS



**Howard Keim, PhD**  
Chair Emeritus  
Hesston, KS

# Our Programs

## Early Childhood

Developmental milestones in early childhood build toward school readiness, and that's why it's so important to integrate as many supports as possible.

***"SparkWheel coordinated donations around the holidays to provide supplies for a full holiday dinner for many families, new coats for children that did not have them, and movies every Saturday afternoon at the local movie theater for all families. The services were enjoyed and much appreciated by the families."***

***-SparkWheel Student Support Coordinator***

## K-12

School-age children face a variety of unique challenges and struggles throughout their educational experience.

***"SparkWheel is amazing and we're grateful to have them in our building. They're a great asset to the school and a great presence and support for our students. They look forward to meeting with Student Support Coordinators and they look for them when they're not in the building. They're a big part of the school culture."***

***-Middle School Principal***

## Tribal

Through our SparkWheel Tribal Program, we collaborate with Tribal governments and community organizations to support students in achieving their full potential. By addressing service gaps and removing barriers, we help ensure students have the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond.

***"SparkWheel has played an essential role in the Anadarko community in countless ways. Through community engagement and cultural representation, SparkWheel has built lasting relationships with both our tribal communities and local school district. Team Anadarko is deeply grateful for the opportunity to support and serve our diverse student body through our work with SparkWheel."***

***-Senior Director of Tribal Expansion, SparkWheel***

## Post-Secondary Support Program

Just because a student graduates high school or receives their GED, doesn't mean they no longer need support to be successful in their education.

***"Partnering with SparkWheel enables us to live out our mission and vision by providing access to quality educational programs and experiences for students and creating an inclusive educational environment where everyone feels valued. This partnership ensures that all students have an opportunity to succeed, be valued and retained to the university through graduation, while benefiting from an extra layer of support."***

***-Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging  
Pittsburg State University***

## FutureNow: Finance

FutureNow: Finance is an exercise that helps students understand some of the "realities" involved in preparing for an employable future and adulthood.

***"I learned that even with a good income, housing is hard to afford... I like that it made me think about budgeting which I haven't had to think about before."***

***-High School Student***

# Our Supports

SparkWheel complements existing resources and works to address gaps in support while removing barriers to success—meaning students are able to start school as ready as possible. We customize services for every school, placing a Student Support Coordinator in each location to provide supports for individual students, as well as supports accessible by the whole student body.



## Positive Behavior Interventions

SparkWheel supports schools in fostering a positive and welcoming learning environment.



## Family Engagement

SparkWheel provides families with supports and resources to increase caregiver-school engagement.



## Future Preparation

SparkWheel helps students learn to connect the dots between education and their future.



## Attendance Interventions

SparkWheel works with students and caregivers to help students be in school, on time, every day.



## Academic Support

SparkWheel provides academic support to students aimed at facilitating student success in the classroom.



## Enrichment Activities

SparkWheel delivers enrichment activities so that students can experience more of what the world has to offer.



## Life Skills

SparkWheel works to equip students with the life skills that are critical for their success in both academics and life beyond the classroom.



## Essential Needs

SparkWheel supports students by addressing essential needs that affect overall physical and mental wellbeing and success.

## **SparkWheel**

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[www.sparkwheel.org](http://www.sparkwheel.org)  
[@sparkwheelinc](https://twitter.com/sparkwheelinc)

