

## Historical Highlights

Past & Present	2009	1995
<b>Program Results</b>		
Number of participating schools	18	9
Number of applicants	171	56
Percent of applicants interviewed	37%	25%
Scholarships awarded to date	\$386,000	\$3,000
Number of volunteers	68	11

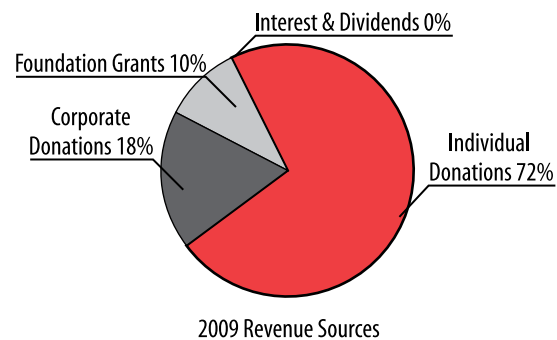
## Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	12/31/09	12/31/08
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash, savings and investments	\$143,445	\$202,986
Pledges Receivable	10,976	21,971
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$154,421</b>	<b>\$224,957</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>		
Scholarships Payable	\$83,000	\$134,004
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	71,421	90,953
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$154,421</b>	<b>\$224,957</b>

Statement of Activities	2009	2008
<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>		
Contributions and Grants	\$57,499	\$79,657
Interest and Dividends	248	3,714
Other	0	0
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$57,747</b>	<b>\$83,371</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		
Program	\$117,375	\$88,318
Fundraising	7,139	9,610
Administrative	3,770	880
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$128,284</b>	<b>\$98,808</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(\$70,537)</b>	<b>(\$15,437)</b>



## Organizational Profile

Founded in 1995 by a group of recent college graduates, Education First is a nonprofit organization that provides college scholarships to low income youth. The founders of Education First believe that higher education can assist in breaking generational poverty. To promote our mission, we provide both financial and mentoring support to students. Education First targets students who have overcome significant life challenges and are seldom recognized for their achievements.

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## Volunteers

Carrie Belcher	Frank Griffiths	Ana Plantenberg
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Valentina Brailovskaya	Jenna Jasso	Jessica Sandoval
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Eyita Gaga	Kysa Meyerer	Steven Tsao
Rosalinda Garcia	Louis Milard	Lorena Villareal
Steven Gess	Emily Moloughney	Amy Wang
Bryan Goldberg	Megan Palm	Raquel Whitney
Ajay Gopalan	Anthony Patterson	Katie Zwiebel

*Education First is dedicated to providing need-based college scholarships to exceptional seniors attending high schools with historically low percentages of college applicants.*

*By rewarding students with strength of character, a commitment to learning, and a vision for their future, our aim is to invest in individuals who will positively affect their communities.*



## Executive Director's Letter

In 2009, Education First received over a 170 scholarship applications from graduating seniors. Our scholarships continue to be some of the largest available and the opportunity they provide to students is lasting. The volunteers in six regions interviewed 63 students and ultimately granted \$90,000 in scholarships to six remarkable high-school seniors. We anxiously look forward to watching these students grow and succeed in college and beyond.

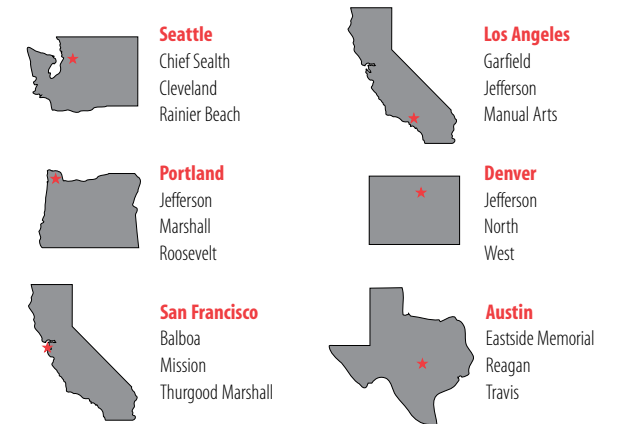
An objective of the past year was to infuse new volunteers into the organization. We have been successful in our efforts by adding new volunteers in each of the six regions. With the increased volunteers, we plan to organize more local fundraising events, create new corporate donor relationships, and expand our reach in the Fall Letter Campaign.

The success of the upcoming fundraising season is important for us to maintain our top scholarships in the marketplace. We have actively been pursuing new corporate donors and grants, but many corporations have yet to restore their commitment to non-profit giving. As we approach the 2010 Fall Letter Campaign, we hope you will show support for Education First and help us continue to serve as a catalyst for remarkable graduating seniors.

Sincerely,

Nathan D. Smith  
Executive Director

## 2008–2009 Participating High Schools



## Our 2009 Scholarship Recipients (\$10,000)



**Seattle**  
**Brittany Green**  
 Rainier Beach High School

"In my spare time, I am a tutor and enjoy teaching others to read. I also serve as a local fundraising volunteer for local food actions in Seattle and have been holding down a part time to job to pay for college. I will be attending Lincoln University and plan to study law with a focus in the civil arena."



**Portland**  
**Alexandria Washington**  
 Jefferson High School

"Early on, I had to become very self-reliant emotionally and materially to ensure success at school. I've work hard from a young age to overcome this adversity, do well in school, and work to not only support myself, but to help my siblings, while also finding time to participate in and serve my community. I will be the first to attend college in my family."



**San Francisco**  
**Anqi Ran**  
 Balboa High School

"After coming to the US, I realized there are plenty of people who are compassionate, but never put it into action. Thus, instead of saying, 'someone' needs to get it done, I stepped up. I became the President of the Red Cross Club to help senior citizens. Being a first generation college student will be tough, but receiving a college education will help me fulfill my goal of becoming a CPA."



**Los Angeles**  
**Rosalinda Garcia**  
 Manual Arts High School

"With a college education I hope to change the lack of community involvement from the Latin American community. My personal involvement in the Salvadoran and American Leadership and Education Fund, is a step towards that goal. I enjoy this activity because it helps we grow leadership skills and makes me a more responsible student, as role model for others."



**Denver**  
**Robert Ortega**  
 North Senior High School

"Seven years ago I had promised my grandmother that I would pursue a higher education. Although she has now passed away she has motivated me to not only graduate from high school, but go to college. I aspire to motivate youth to see that education is the true key to success and through hard work, anything is possible. It was once said, 'to get ahead is to get started' and college is my starting point."



**Austin**  
**David Johnston**  
 Reagan High School

"I am a leader. I have the power to influence friends and peers. Even this year, I have influenced many of my peers to obtain a post secondary education by my actions and encouraging words. No one in my family has gone to college, so I want to be the role model that my younger brothers look up to."

## Honorable Mention Award Scholarships (\$5,000)

**Seattle**  
**Travonna Wiley**  
 Rainier Beach High School

**Portland**  
**Taylor Maher**  
 Marshall High School

**San Francisco**  
**Besarion Khidesheli**  
 Mission High School

**Los Angeles**  
**Josue Alvarez**  
 Manual Arts High School

**Denver**  
**Alicia Griffin**  
 Jefferson High School

**Austin**  
**Isata Konneh**  
 Eastside Memorial

## Past Scholars — Where are they now?

// The Education First Scholarship made possible my acceptance at the University of California Los Angeles. Winning the scholarship provided me with inspiration and confidence to apply to universities and thus make my dream of completing a college education come true. I am grateful to Education First for having provided me with financial assistance and with the confidence to continue my education. //

— Sayra Escobedo, '07 Winner (Jefferson High School, Los Angeles)

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### Associates & Students (\$10 - \$99)

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