

2023-24 Community Report



June 30, 2024

Business leaders and volunteers helping
Thunderbird High School

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About Thunderbird High School Parent Association

Our 100% volunteer-run parent-teacher organization traces its origins back to the 1972-73 school year opening of Thunderbird High School. Family members have partnered with local business leaders and the Thunderbird High School administrative team to build community while supporting students, teachers, and the campus. Our group meets monthly with the Thunderbird High School administrative team during the school year to maintain positive, open communication between the school and the community. Plus, we host events throughout the school year to build community, raise funds for our programs, and support the school.

2023-24 School Year Highlights

Despite several fundraising challenges, our TPA accomplished our mission in the 2023-24 school year. Due to scheduling challenges, low ticket sales, and sponsorship shortfalls, we lost our annual golf classic and auction party fundraisers, which account for over half of our annual fundraising. Our team adjusted our spending budget, earned new sponsorship support from local business leaders, and benefitted from community volunteers launching the first Moon Valley Strides 4 Schools fundraising event (MVStrides4Schools).

We started the school year with the highest monthly TPA meeting attendance in the past four years. That volunteer support continued with all Fun Friday volunteer spots covered during the school year, fantastic volunteer help with Casino Night, campus events, and the MV Strides4Schools. We hosted our first family tent area for the Homecoming parade with more than 20 people joining the fun.

Our parking lot banners went up, Casino Night was a blast, Fun Fridays were epic, our teachers and administrators expressed great appreciation for our work and our Class of 2024 Safe and Sober Grad Night event was a hit. With great community support our 2023-24 school year was a success.

When parents are involved in their children's schooling, students show higher academic achievement, school engagement, and motivation, according to a 2019 American Psychological Association review of 448 independent studies on parent involvement. [Libby Stanford](#) – EdWeek July 25, 2023



Supporting students

Helping provide a T-Squad t-shirt to incoming Freshmen, incentive awards and recognition during the school year, games on Fun Fridays, then scholarship opportunities at the end of their high school journey with a Safe and Sober graduation celebration on their last day as Thunderbird High School students our TPA is there every step of the high school journey encouraging and supporting our students.

TPA volunteers at Thunderbird High School supported the start of the 2023-24 school year by assisting with registration and distributing class schedules. Their presence on campus aimed to welcome students, show care, and emphasize the value of the community high school.

Thunderbird students achieved the highest A score in the GUHSD this year. In celebration, TPA volunteers organized an ice cream social on short notice, serving frozen treats to all students.

Students from Student Government, Thunderbird Outdoors Club, and the Navy Junior ROTC program presented at TPA meetings this school year to pitch their requests for TPA funds and our group funded each request.

During the school year, our TPA volunteers hosted a Fun Friday from September through May, creating a fun environment for students to celebrate their classroom work, play games, and enjoy candy during extended lunchtime breaks. We also funded our Thunderbird Administration Team's monthly awards and recognition program to encourage positive student behaviors on campus and in the classroom.

We finished the school year by awarding cash awards and scholarships to seventeen graduating seniors and hosting an epic Safe and Sober Graduation Night lockdown party at the Desert Ridge Dave & Buster's. We are one of only three high school parent groups in the State of Arizona that hosted a graduation event of this scale and comparable to high schools in California, all through the Midwest and parts of the Southern United States.



At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents. former Arizona Governor Jane Dee Hull



Supporting teachers

Thunderbird High School teachers drive our school and student performance. Helping fill teacher requests for classroom supplies, hosting meals for teachers, tutoring students during monthly lunchtime sessions, sharing treats during the school year, such as tamales before the holiday break, and hosting the annual welcome to the new school year breakfast are ways we show our support for Thunderbird teachers.

We encourage teachers to submit requests for funding to our TPA. Requests are reviewed at our monthly meetings and then funded as we can. During the 2023-24 school year, our TPA-funded shelving units are used to store student art projects between classes, software teachers use to track and target Sensory Improvement Program student development, Outdoors Club trip support funds, travel bags to help build a new Navy Junior ROTC marksmanship team, calculators for the math department, flair pens for student projects, and basic cleaning supplies are all teacher requests our TPA funded this school year.



Supporting administrators

Each month, our TPA meeting features a presentation from our Thunderbird High School administrative team. These meetings provide an opportunity for our Thunderbird leaders to share information directly with families and community members. They are also a forum for families and community members to ask questions and hear directly about how things work at the school, providing a vital communication link.

Our TPA works with our school administrative leaders to support Thunderbird High School. During the 2023-24 school year, our volunteers answered a call from the admin team to celebrate Thunderbird's earning the highest A grade in the GUHSD with an ice cream social. Our TPA gathered enough ice cream sandwiches and dairy-free frozen treats to serve everyone on campus after school, and our amazing volunteers pulled together the event on just two days' notice.

Our TPA is always so helpful, and we truly appreciate the amazing support we receive from the TPA.

- Thunderbird Teacher Thank you card



Supporting campus

New Thunderbird logo parking lot banners went up at the start of the 2023-24 school year, putting long-since barren posts to work and welcoming everyone to campus. Our TPA volunteers partnered with a local graphic designer who donated his time and received great help from locally owned and operated SAS Unlimited Printing to complete this project.

Big campus projects require collaboration across school groups and partnerships with the community. Our TPA is exploring ideas for our next campus improvement project.



Building community

Bringing people together to build community is part of our mission statement and one of the keys to showing our support for Thunderbird High School. We launched our first Homecoming Family Tent viewing area for the Homecoming Parade, where Thunderbird families came together to cheer on the students and enjoy the HOCO parade. Our TPA FUNdraising events are always a fun time for families to gather and connect while helping raise money for our programs. Casino and Bingo Night included a fun WigGig theme; Ladies Night featured a pajama party theme; the Wine and Whiskey Night featured excellent drink samples, and all events offered plentiful food.

New for the 2023-24 school year is the Moon Valley Strides4Schools 5k family fun run and walk. Volunteers from Lookout Mountain Elementary, Mountain Sky Junior High, and Thunderbird High School organized the event, bringing families across the area together and raising funds for parent-teacher organizations at each of the three schools.

Each month during the school year, we host open meetings that include an online Zoom connection for those unable to attend. We post meeting information in advance and invite all Thunderbird families to attend to hear directly from school administrators and connect with other community members.

I know we have asked A LOT of TPA for Honors and Awards, and we appreciate all that you do. Such great work put in by everyone. I can't thank you enough. - Thunderbird Administrator Emails



Our Board

Our 100% volunteer Thunderbird Parent Association (TPA) Board members donated time to help organize our meetings, lead TPA projects, connect with sponsors in raising funds to help our programs, organize FUNdraising events, and to host the best Grad Night party in the State of Arizona.

Co-Presidents:	John and Catherine Martin
Treasurer:	Jennifer Elzholz
Co-Vice Presidents:	Kim Baker and Dawn Green
Secretary:	Danielle Cervantez

Our Sponsors

Strong schools form the foundation of future economic growth. Our Thunderbird students are future employees, business founders, and homebuyers, and they will fill all the roles we need to keep our community growing. Business support helps show our community commitment to our students and helps prepare the future workforce. Sponsorship support is critical to our TPA mission and we are enormously grateful for the help these businesses provided during the 2023-24 school year.



Our supporters

These businesses contributed to our TPA programs during the year and helped us with our 100% volunteer-run programs.



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Financial Statements

Thunderbird Parent Association Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024
Assets		
Cash	37,540	35,694
Supplies	2,500	2,500
Total assets	40,040	38,194
Liabilities		
Donation software license	2,000	-
Prior year scholarships		3,000
Net Assets	38,040	35,194

Statement of Activities for the years ended June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024

	for the year ended June 30, 2023	for the year ended June 30, 2024	Change
Operating Activities			
Revenues and other support			
Golf Classic gross proceeds	15,095		(15,095)
Grad night ticket sales and sponsorships	20,734	14,549	(6,185)
Auction party gross proceeds	10,064	11,538	1,475
Donations received	677	6,975	6,298
Sponsorships		5,000	5,000
Wine & Whiskey event	2,800	4,335	1,535
Other fundraising	2,201	5,567	3,366
Total revenue and other support	51,571	47,964	(3,607)
Expenses			
Student support			
Grad Night	24,803	22,013	(2,790)
Scholarships	3,700	700	(3,000)
Awards and Recognition	2,138	1,580	(558)
Fun Friday and other student focused events	961	3,120	2,159
T-Squad	2,100		(2,100)
Other student program requests	2,545		(2,545)
Teacher support			
Teacher requests	6,500	5,903	(597)
Classroom supplies	750	1,216	466
Hospitality program	3,936	2,450	(1,486)
Campus improvements	2,106		(2,106)
Fundraising expense	13,785	5,690	(8,095)
Administrative expense			
Insurance and accounting	1,486	3,360	1,873
Printing, supplies, and other expense	355	86	(270)
Operating expense	65,167	46,118	(19,049)

Financial Statements



Notes to financial statements

1. The Thunderbird Parent Association statement of financial position and statement of activities is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, with all amounts reconciled to the bank statements and period-ended bank account balance with incurred but not yet paid items noted as liabilities.
2. The Board presents the financial statements, which have not been subject to audit.
3. The Golf Classic fundraiser added \$15,095 to gross fundraising and \$6,095 net fundraising to the 2022-23 school year.
4. The Golf Classic Auction Party raised \$10,064 in gross and \$5,279 in net funds for the 2022-23 school year.
5. The Moon Valley Strides 4 Schools community walk plus dedicated sponsorships added \$12,000 to the 2023-24 school year net fundraising, offsetting the loss of the Golf Classic fundraiser.
6. Our teacher hospitality program was subsidized with \$500 of WINCO grocery gift cards. The in-kind donation is included in the financial data as an expense offset.
7. As of June 30, 2024, scholarships awarded during the 2023-24 school year had yet to be paid out. As of year-end, they are listed as a liability, with the amounts to be paid in August 2024.
8. Our TPA used more funds than raised during the 2022-23 year and then used 89% of the funds raised during the 2023-24 school year, plus our administrative expenses as a percent of total operating expenses are 3% and 7%, respectively, which are strong measures that our 100% not-for-profit organization is investing funds raised directly into our mission to help Thunderbird High School.
9. The TPA hosted the Safe and Sober Grad Night party, which is 60% funded through funds raised and 40% through ticket sales. The Grad Night event represents our single largest operating activity.
10. Provided below are standard metrics used to measure not-for-profit organization financial performance. The metrics presented show that our 100% volunteer-run organization is investing the funds we raise into our mission to help Thunderbird High School.

	for the year ended June 30, 2023	for the year ended June 30, 2024
Current year funds raised used on charitable mission	123%	89%
Program expense ratio	97%	93%
Fundraising expense ratio	27%	12%
Grad Night as a percent of Operating Expense	38%	48%
Student programs as a percent of Operating Expense	18%	12%
Teacher programs as a percent of Operating Expense	17%	21%