



YOUTH NAUTICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report





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- Commodore Ilja and Kelley Vreeken (2018)
- Zach Rockwell (2020)
- Commodore Gary and Christine Gonzalez (2021)

2025 YNEF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE
Dennis, Lynn	Grosse Pointe North High School	Michigan State University
Dordal, Gabi	Home schooled	Wayne State University
Ellison, Sean	Seaholm High School	Jacksonville University
Kapur, Aarush	Detroit Country Day	DePaul University
Killips, Maverick	University of Detroit Jesuit High School	University of Michigan
Pyenta, Mia	University Liggett School	University of Michigan
Rebain, Graham	University of Detroit Jesuit High School	University of Michigan
Riley, Jack	Grosse Pointe South High School	University of Tennessee
Sharp, Lucia	Troy High School	Michigan State University
Turner, Kathryn	University Liggett School	Grand Valley State University
Walton, Charles	University of Detroit Jesuit High School	University of Vermont
Wszolek, Alexander	West Bloomfield High School	Princeton University

FROM YNEF PRESIDENT JIM MORROW 2025 AND BEYOND

2025 marks our 16th year as a 501(c)(3) Foundation, however, our team has been raising funds to promote nautical education and youth sailing since 1986. Today, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club has the finest sailing venue in the Midwest with top notch equipment and Coaches. We have 28 high school sailing teams in the Detroit Metropolitan area, and very strong summer programs at all the DRYA clubs in the area. The Detroit Community Sailing Program, supported by YNEF, delivers a first-class program to the inner-city of Detroit. These programs provide a fantastic opportunity for young folks to learn a lifetime sport and have a safe competitive environment to enjoy our great lakes. There are over 450 kids enjoying sailing in our community each year.

We are committed to supporting and growing the Sailing programs at the GPYC and throughout our community. The High School programs are fall and spring and a varsity sport at many of the 28 high schools in our Metro Detroit Area. The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club continues to have outstanding young sailors competing throughout the country. We are looking to promote more regattas to enhance the competitive environment in our Area and hope to host some regional events in the spring.

While strong programs exist at Crescent and Bayview, the Detroit Community Sailing Center on Belle Isle continues to offer learn-to-sail programs. They have now partnered with the University of Michigan to offer S.T.E.M. related courses. They introduced a boat building woodworking program, and this past year delivered two Optimist Dinghy sailboats. This program hosted 100 youth and 50 adults this past year.

YNEF has a special program to assist Junior teams that are setting their goals for top sailing competitions. The Walz/Griggs Olympic team are on a campaign for the 2028 Olympics. Our program allows them to fund raise for their campaign through the Foundation to provide the 501c3 status for their fundraising. This year we also sponsored Mike Kirkman who was competing in the World Team racing event in Dubai.



**SAILING
EXPERIENCE
has
its PERKS**

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED
IN ANY SAILING PROGRAM.***

Quick and Easy Application.

**HURRY DEADLINE: APRIL 4, 2026
go to: ynef.org/scholarships**

THE YOUTH NAUTICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*Qualification is for anyone who sailed in a sailing program from 8-18 years old.
Does not have to be a racing program. Go to ynef.org/scholarships for details.
Scan the code for scholarship instructions and online application:



For 2026 we will be awarding 13 scholarships for those with Jr. Sailing experience, even if it was only in the learn-to-sail category. Many parents are unaware of the qualifications and miss out on a \$2000 Scholarship. All details can be found on our website www.ynef.org

For the coming year we are hoping to engage parents more in the junior sailing activity and will be sponsoring events to encourage their involvement. We will continue to work with the clubs to ensure they are able to provide the equipment and training needed to improve our junior programs.

Your Kids may be eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship if they EVER participated in a Junior or High School Sailing program check the web site www.ynef.org

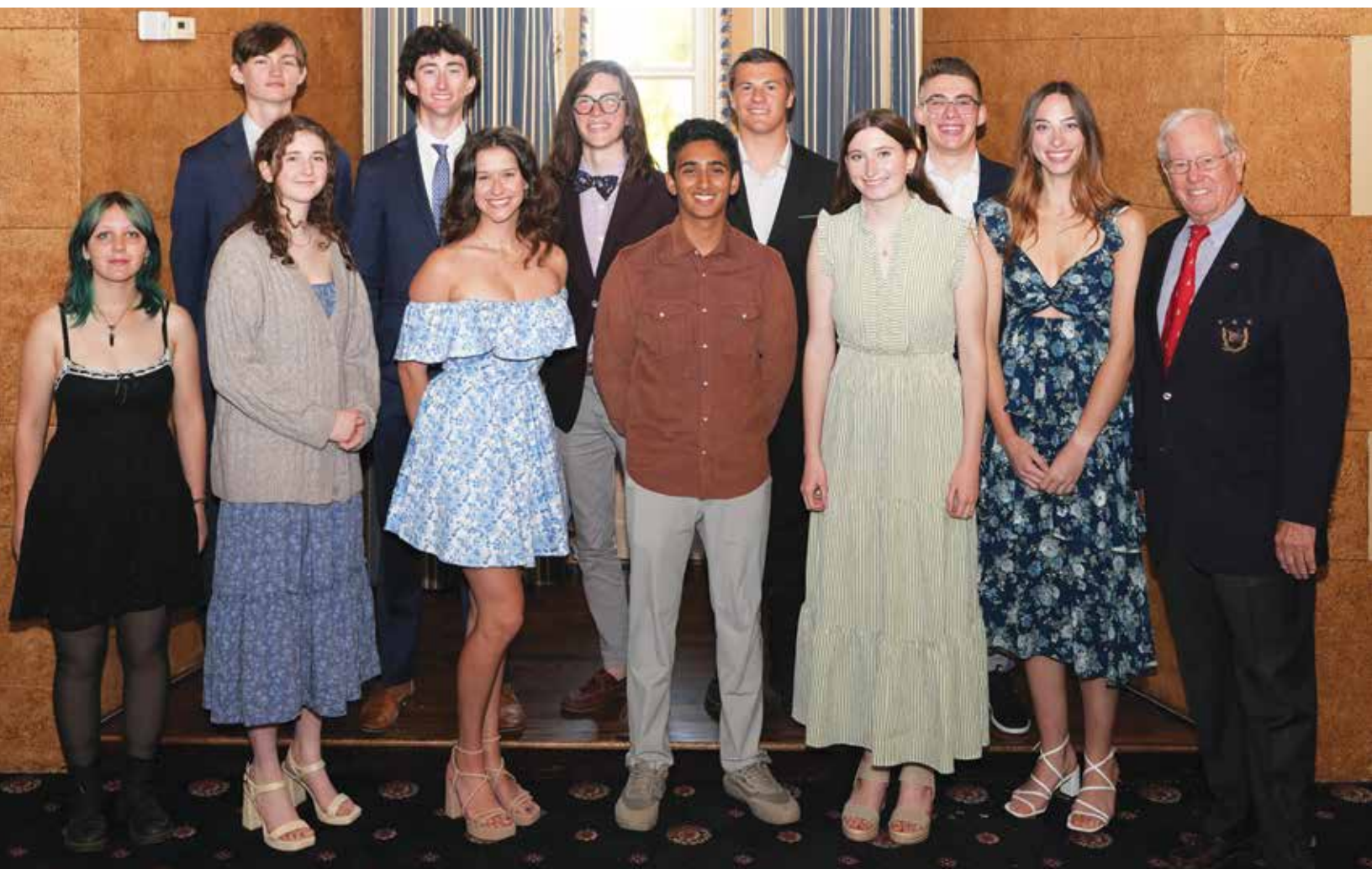
*GPYC member
Andrew Walton, volunteered to
create a video of the YNEF program.
To view scan the code to the right.*



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE 2025 YNEF SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

On May 18, 2025, the Youth Nautical Education Foundation (YNEF) celebrated 12 outstanding young sailors at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The Foundation awarded scholarships that underscore its growing legacy. Founded in 2012 as the Grosse Pointe Nautical Education Foundation, YNEF has now distributed over \$250,000. Several awards are permanently endowed. Scholars are selected for their sailing skill, character, and community involvement—honed through programs like the Detroit Regional Yacht-racing Association. These scholars join over 162 past recipients. The 2025 YNEF scholarship recipients showcased resilience and talent.

Applications for the 2026 scholarships will open on December 1, 2025, and close on April 4, 2026. The next ceremony is scheduled for May 2026. YNEF continues to inspire the next generation of mariners. Learn more at ynef.org.



Scholarship recipients gather at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club brunch with YNEF president (far right) Jim Morrow.

SCHOLARSHIPS



LYNN DENNIS

Graduated:
Grosse Pointe North
High School
Attending:
Michigan State University
Scholarship:
Zach Rockwell Scholarship



GABI DORDAL

Graduated:
Home schooled
Attending:
Wayne State University
Scholarship:
Benno Steinborn



SEAN ELLISON

Graduated:
Seaholm High School
Attending:
Jacksonville University
Scholarship:
Commodore Gary and
Christine Gonzalez



AARUSH KAPUR

Graduated:
Detroit Country Day
Attending:
DePaul University
Scholarship:
Commodore Sean and
Dr. Kristen Schotthoefer



MAVERICK KILLIPS

Graduated:
University of Detroit
Jesuit High School
Attending:
University of Michigan
Scholarship:
Commodore James and
Patricia Anderson



LUCIA SHARP

Graduated:
Troy High School
Attending:
Michigan State University
Scholarship:
Manuel J. and Nora Moroun



MIA PYENTA

Graduated:
University Liggett School
Attending:
University of Michigan
Scholarship:
Commodore Tymon C. and
Sheri Totte



KATHERYN TURNER

Graduated:
University Liggett School
Attending:
Grand Valley State University
Scholarship:
Commodore John and
Marlene Boll



CHARLES WALTON

Graduated:
University of Detroit
Jesuit High School
Attending:
University of Vermont
Scholarship:
Commodore Ilja and
Kelley Vreeken



JACK RILEY

Graduated:
Grosse Pointe South
High School
Attending:
University of Tennessee
Scholarship:
W.W. Williams Company



GRAHAM REBAIN

Graduated:
University of Detroit
Jesuit High School
Attending:
University of Michigan
Scholarship:
Commodore James and
Sandy Morrow



ALEXANDER WSZOLEK

Graduated:
West Bloomfield High School
Attending:
Princeton University
Scholarship:
Edwin and Felicia Shaw



SUMMER SUCCESS AND FUTURE FOCUS: YNEF'S ENDURING IMPACT ON DETROIT'S SAILING YOUTH

YNEF has worked with the Challenge the Wind sailing organization for well over 12 years as they have grown into the Detroit Community Sailing Center. This year, they hosted over 100 Kids and 50 adults for their summer program located at the former Detroit Boat Club. They also had a waiting list for their program of over 100 strong.

The University of Michigan's Detroit River Story Lab and Detroit Community Sailing have partnered to create the Detroit River Education Center. The center



will expand an established portfolio of experiential educational programs into a living classroom on Belle Isle and the river. One of these new S.T.E.M.-related programs was to establish a woodworking class for the sailors. To date, they have built three Optimist sailboats.



Strategic Relocation Plan: Securing Future Access Amid \$60M Belle Isle Renovation

The major issue is the program's future location. While they currently operate from the Belle Isle Boat House, the former Detroit Boat Club, this facility is being considered for a \$60M renovation. The Detroit Community Sailing program is currently working on an alternative project that will be more cost-effective and provide greater water access for the program. Recently, Jim Anderson and I attended meetings with various stakeholders in the Belle Isle development to discuss the alternative plan shown below.

The Plan

1. Move the youth sailing program up to the North fishing pier
2. Renovate the historic police station into the Detroit River Education Center



Equipment Gifts and Stakeholder Meetings: YNEF Advances Community Sailing Vision

This summer, YNEF received some equipment to support its Growth plans. Our Jr. Board Team, Erin DeGrazia and Anna Groustra, recovered a 420 sailboat, cleaned and outfitted it, and donated it to the Detroit Community Sailing Team. Pictured is the donation to the program director, Harry Jones. In addition, the foundation donated 420 sails and Opti sails to the program.

The Detroit Community Sailing Program also offers our teen sailors an opportunity to volunteer, which can be useful for their high school honors programs.





MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL SAILORS COMPETE AT NATIONALS

The Marian Sailing Team received a grant from YNEF to compete in the 2025 Girls High School National Championship in San Diego this fall. The team has been practicing at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club with their coach, John Huskin. Team members include Claire Fagan (Sr.), Erin DeGrazia (Jr.), Luciana Palazeti (Jr.), Mattie Clark (Jr.), and Kattie DeGrazia (Fr.). As the only

team from Michigan, they raced FJ boats against top teams from across the country and finished 23rd out of 30. The \$1,500 cost for coaching, boat rentals, and registration was fully covered by the grant. The sailors, their families, and Marian High School appreciate the chance to compete at the national level.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2025 MISSA BAKER QUALIFIER

The Youth Nautical Education Foundation (YNEF) supported the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA) Baker Qualifier on April 26-27, 2025, at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in Michigan. Nine high school teams competed in E420s during a scheduled two days of fleet racing—completed in one day. YNEF sponsorship covered part of race management, safety equipment, and coaching, demonstrating our commitment to accessible, inclusive high school sailing.

Sailors raced through southwest winds of 7-15 knots and light showers, completing all scheduled races before late-day storms. Teams from Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin competed for spots at the Baker Trophy Nationals, showcasing competition and camaraderie.

Lake Forest High School Scouts (Illinois) won with an 11-1 record, followed by Jones College Prep Eagles (Illinois) at 10-2. Both teams demonstrated depth in their skipper and crew lineups.

New Trier High School Trevians (Illinois) took bronze (6-6), with Olivia Gingue '26 and John Lieber '26 anchoring the skippers' lineup, supported by crews Charles Dischner '26 and Amalia Lesterhuis '27. Arrowhead High School Warhawks (Wisconsin) (8-4) followed in fourth, powered by John Lieber '28, Nicholas Berkowitz '28, and Jack Riley '27, with crews Mark Sellers '27, Taysen Vrieau '25, and Taiya Kozak '27.

Michigan teams: Grosse Pointe South High School Blue Devils (5-7), Birmingham Public Schools Varsity (4-8), and Detroit Country Day School Varsity (1-11) along with two other Illinois teams, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Maroons (5-7), Saint Ignatius College Prep Wolfpack (4-8)—demonstrated grit in a tightly contested field, advancing valuable experience for future seasons.

The 2025 season is a testament to YNEF's commitment to expanding opportunities for youth in sailing.



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH VARSITY SAILING: 2025 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



The Grosse Pointe South Varsity Sailing team had a successful 2025, showing strong spirit and growth. Competing in Tier I and II regattas, our sailors advanced to key events, won a state championship, and proudly represented our community.

The spring and fall seasons featured growth in both fleet and team racing, highlighted by a state championship win and strong qualifier results. Below is a recap of the 2025 regattas.

Spring 2025 Regatta Results

Spring began with strong pre-qualifier results, moving the team to higher competitions. At the Mallory Pre-Qualifier (April 11-12), the team took 3rd, advancing to the Mallory National Qualifier. The next weekend, they finished 1st at the Baker Pre-Qualifier and Team Race State Championship, earning the state champion title and a spot at the Baker National Qualifier.

At the Baker National Qualifier (April 26-27), the team finished 5th. At the Mallory National Qualifier (May 3-4), they placed 8th, qualifying for the Phebe King National Invitational, where they finished 11th.

Fall 2025 Regatta Results

In the fall, the team qualified for the Great Lakes Championship by placing 4th at the MISSA Northeast Great Lakes Qualifier, and wrapped up the season with a 12th-place finish at the championship in Chicago.

SAILING LEADERSHIP FORUM 2025 FEBRUARY 6-8, 2025 • CORONADO, CA

The Youth Nautical Education Foundation (YNEF) supported Christina Noland, Sailing Director at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and coach of the Grosse Pointe South High School sailing team, with a grant to attend the Sailing Leadership Forum in Coronado, California, February 6-8, 2025.

The Forum brought together leaders from all areas of sailing to connect, share best practices, and foster organizational growth. With YNEF's support, Christina engaged with fellow leaders, discovered new ideas, and returned with insights to benefit Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and the local sailing community. This investment demonstrated YNEF's ongoing commitment to the future of sailing.



YNEF PROMOTES SAFE SAILING WITH YOUTH BOOK DONATIONS

In 2025, YNEF is once again donating "Sailing for Kids" instructional books to Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Crescent Yacht Club, Bayview Yacht Club, and Detroit Yacht Club. This helps young sailors get the guidance and safety skills they need on the water.

These donations also show YNEF's dedication to maritime safety and education, helping local youth become skilled and responsible sailors.



OPTI RACERS SHINE AT MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club's Opti Racers excelled at the Midwest Championship on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, October 11–13, 2025. Competing against 270 boats, sailors demonstrated remarkable skill, resilience, and team spirit throughout the three-day regatta.

Under Coach David's guidance, the team embraced every learning opportunity. Navigating shifting winds and executing precise maneuvers, the racers challenged themselves and enjoyed the thrill of competition.

Special recognition goes to our top finishers, who placed among the regatta's best. Parents and volunteers played a vital role, supporting the team both on and off the water. The camaraderie and dedication displayed set a positive example for all. Participation in such a large, competitive fleet was an invaluable experience. We look forward to building on this success in future events.



YNEF FUNDS ELITE JUNIOR SAILING COACHES CLINIC

YNEF supported a one-day coaches clinic at Bayview Yacht Club in Spring 2025, led by well-known sailor and coach Dave Perry. The clinic gave DRYA junior sailing coaches advanced teaching techniques that go beyond regular instructor courses, helping them improve their skills and the experience of Detroit junior sailors. Dave called it "What They Didn't Teach You in Level 1 and 2 Instructor Training Courses." This event was a special chance for coaches to grow.



Grosse Pointe News



**Proudly supports
YNEF's mission:
2025 and beyond.**



FROM LONG BEACH TO EUROPE: LIAM WALZ AND ABIE GRIGGS' OLYMPIC JOURNEY



Liam Walz and Abie Griggs are a local US men's 49er team training for the 2028 games in Los Angeles. This past year they split their time between Long Beach, California and Europe where they trained and competed in various events including the princess Sofia regatta, Kiel week, and the UK nationals. Now that the 2025 season is winding down, they'll spend the rest of the year training in Miami and fundraising for the 2026 season.

Their first event of 2026 will be the Vilamoura Grand Prix in February, afterwards they'll attend the princess Sofia regatta, French Olympic week, 2026 world championships, and European Championships. If interested in supporting Liam and Abie visit their website using the link below and consider donating to help their campaign.

For more information go to:
<https://walzgriggs49er.com>



JEDDAH YACHT CLUB HOSTS EPIC YOUTH WORLDS

by Michael Kirkman

I would like to thank Youth Nautical Education Foundation for helping me get to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the 2024 Youth Match Race World Championship. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The event was hosted at the Jeddah Yacht Club and Marina. The Yacht Club was beautiful. The competition featured 12 teams from 10 countries worldwide. The event was sailed in boats called Fareast28Rs. They were sporty asymmetrical keelboats. Our team was led by skipper Justin Callahan. On the boat, I was trimming the jib and helping with communications. The sailing conditions in Jeddah were amazing. Each day began around 10 knots in the morning and grew to 20 knots every single day out of the North. The sailing was on the Red Sea, and there were huge waves with not a cloud in the sky every day. Our team finished the round robin in 3rd place and felt good going into the quarterfinals. Unfortunately, we lost in the quarterfinals to Team New Zealand. As a result, we finished in 5th. It was a very fun event and I learned a lot sailing with such great sailors. Thank you once again for the support, it is really appreciated!



SAVING THE FLEET

This summer YNEF came to the rescue to bring two GPYC Coaching Boats back to life. First we found a RIB with the tubes totally deflated and parked in a corner. We were told the cost of replacing the tubes was \$8800 and funds were lacking. YNEF provided a \$4000 check and allowed the project to proceed. One week later we were back in business.

Once the RIB was back in action, we found a 15' Whaler also parked in the corner with a blown engine. Again, funds were an issue, and the boat was needed to support the Sailing program. YNEF contacted Pete Beauregard at Colony Marine for assistance. Original quotes were over \$10k for complete installation and new engine. Pete came up with a plan to install a new 50 hp motor. Total cost for the engine replacement was \$5800. YNEF provided a check for \$3000, Colony Marine



covered the travel and Installation cost and the GPYC covered the remaining amount. Complete turn around for the repower was 1 week. Thanks to Pete and Colony Marine for helping us do this project in a timely fashion.

JR. BOARD TEENS EARN HONORS WHILE SUPPORTING SAILING ACCESS

YNEF began a Jr. Board Member program this year to get our teen sailors more involved in volunteer work and expanding their leadership skills. Led by Erin DeGrazia and Anna Groustra, this group raised funds for the sailing program with their "wine wall" at the spring party. In addition, they took a used 420 sailboat and recovered it to provide the donation to the Detroit Community Sailing program. Their work included cleaning and outfitting the boat for inclusion in the youth program on Belle Isle. The participants earn volunteer credit for their high School honors program.



Left to right, Detroit Community Sailing Director Harry Jones, Junior YNEF Board Member Anna Groustra and YNEF President Jim Morrow.



RACING FOR A CAUSE: YNEF FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

On Saturday, February 1st, 2025, from noon to 4 pm, the Youth Nautical Education Foundation (YNEF) held a special fundraiser at Superlap in Berkley that brought together virtual racing and philanthropy. Guests raced on nine advanced simulators, trying out famous tracks from around the world. Professional instructors were there to help everyone improve their

driving and lap times. The event was limited to 45 people, making it a fun and close-knit afternoon. Each \$85 ticket included unlimited simulator time, great food, and drinks. Pre-registration was required, and tickets sold out fast. The Superlap fundraiser was a fast-paced success, combining excitement with proceeds benefited YNEF's mission.

FUNDING THE FUTURE: YNEF PAVERS AT GPYC SAILOR'S CORNER

In 2025, YNEF launched its renewed Paver fundraising campaign, with each brick symbolizing a \$500 donation to support sailing programs.

The program allows individuals or families to leave their names engraved into bricks at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club's Sailor's Corner.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go directly toward providing opportunities and resources for aspiring young sailors to learn and thrive in the sport.

To join, fill out the form on our website (ynef.org/fund-raisers) or scan the QR code below. You can mail in your check to the address provided.

Secure your paver today and inspire a love of sailing for years to come!

Scan to download the paver form





2025 Spring Launch PARTY

& AUCTION



Epic night of gourmet bites, cocktails, Superlap sim racing, live auction, and entertainment — benefiting Youth Nautical Education Foundation!



Thanks to Superlap Drive Studio the Superlap Simulator stole the show at the 2025 Summer Launch Party—Right, Jeff Laethem gripping the wheel, engine roaring, tires screaming!

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DTE Energy Foundation

Creating lasting impact in our communities

WHO WE ARE

The DTE Energy Foundation supports initiatives focused on arts and culture, community transformation, economic progress, education and employment, environment and human needs with the goal of providing hope and inspiration to nonprofits making a difference in their communities. The Foundation is committed to a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment where all board members, and staff feel respected and valued regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or identity, disability, education, or any other bias.



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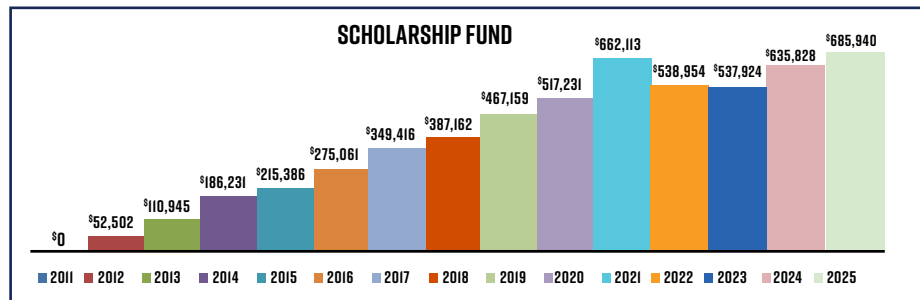
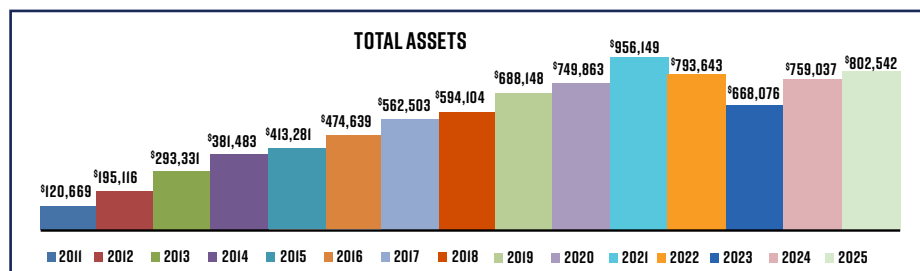
Martimo

DAVAN

BOSTON WHALER

FOR THE YEARS ENDED OCTOBER 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 14,720	\$ 12,550
INCOME — PARTY AND AUCTION	\$ 11,070	\$ 20,971
Investment Income	\$ 97,653	\$ 135,949
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Grants and Event Support	\$ 43,382	\$ 56,845
Administrative Expenses	\$ 19,688	\$ 15,797
Depreciation and Amortization	\$ 545	\$ 655
Professional Fees	\$ 16,325	\$ 5,213
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 79,940	\$ 78,510
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 43,504	\$ 90,961
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash in Bank and on Hand	\$ 13,867	\$ 31,033
Schwab Investment	\$ 101,535	\$ 90,977
Schwab Scholarship Funds	\$ 685,940	\$ 635,828
Total Current Assets	\$ 801,342	\$ 757,838
OTHER ASSETS	\$ 1,199	\$ 1,199
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 802,541	\$ 759,037



*No pay is given to support the Foundation

2025 YNEF CONTRIBUTORS

PLATINUM \$10,000–\$50,000

Commodore & Mrs. James Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Beauregard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gagliano

GOLD \$5,000 – \$9,999

AHEE jewelry — Ahee Family
Colony Marine — Peter Beauregard
Commodore John & Marlene Boll FND
DTE Foundation
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Grosse Pointe News
Mr. John Falkawicz
Commodore & Mrs. James Morrow
Commodore & Mrs. Ilja Vreeken

SILVER \$1,000–\$4,999

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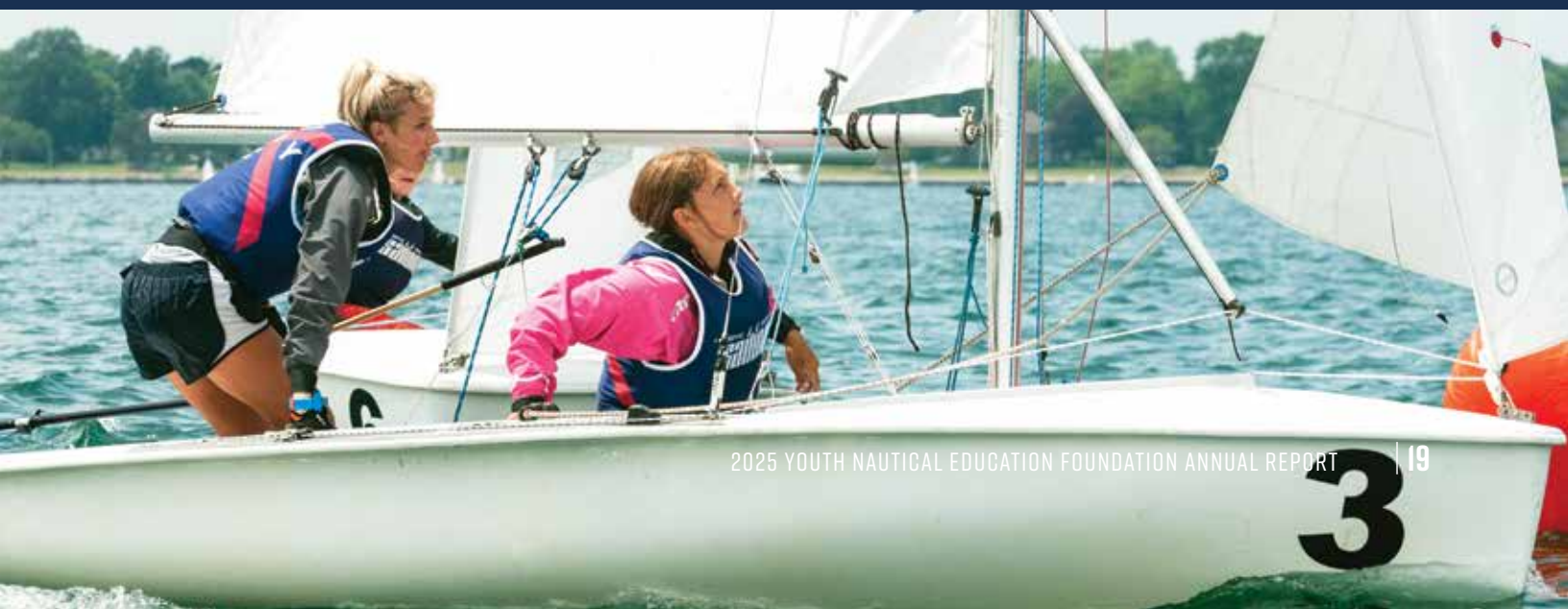
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Mrs. Christina Nolan
In Memory of Zach Rockwell
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Mr. & Mrs Joseph Schaden
Commodore Sean &
Dr. Kristen Schotthoefer
Mr. Michael Sobolewski
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W. W. Williams Company
Ms. Patricia Wyrod

BRONZE UP TO \$999

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Dr. Mariann Channel
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Cross
Ms. Chrissa Cueter
Ms. Meg White & Ms. Tina D'Angela
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory DeGrazia
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Youth Nautical Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization A Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Foundation





788 Lake Shore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236



YOUTH NAUTICAL

YOUTH NAUTICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Its mission is to promote national and international amateur sailing, maritime education, competition, and water safety.

501 (c)(3)