

Greetings,

On behalf of the Black nurses Association of Greater St. Louis, we know and understand the importance of financial support to a further education. The college kids program is a great initiative to promote continuing education and financial literacy. This program is greatly needed because it gives the children something to work towards throughout there schooling.

It is imperative to teach financial literacy at a young age and the college kids program have been Avenue.

Black Nurses association of Greater St. louis is in support of the college kids program continuing.

Constance Payne, MBA, HCM, LNC, MSN
Publicity and Public Relations Chair
Black Nurses Association

--

Keeping God 1st

Constance Payne



TISHAURA O. JONES
MAYOR

CHARLES E. COYLE SR.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

St. Louis Fire Department



DENNIS JENKERSON
FIRE CHIEF

May 22, 2023

As a member of the fire department I am writing this letter to express my support for the College Kids Program. This program provides financial support, resources and education for children and families within the community.

The St. Louis Fire Department appreciates the opportunity to work alongside devoted members of the College Kids team. These enthusiastic individuals show care and support for the youth that we serve. We are honored to be given the option of referring students to this great program. We believe that this program is instrumental in educating and grooming the next generation for a better future.

Parents have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for having a great experience. This program is critical in helping parents and students make wise financial decisions. Opening a savings account at a young age plants a seed and is instrumental in helping children learn about money management and saving for the future. Also, starting an account at a young age encourages students to start thinking about college and how to get there. No matter what your background or socioeconomic status is, College Kids affords the opportunity for interested students in the City of St. Louis to enroll in their program.

In closing, financial skills are important in life and getting kids started early with good financial habits and savings can make a big impact on their lives. This program is good for the growth of our community. This program helps to strengthen and support that mission. I strongly support College Kids values and commitment to better the lives of generations in our community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cherri Merchant".

Firefighter Cherri Merchant

May 21,2023

College Kids

Dear Mrs. Davis,

I am elated to offer my full support of the College Kids, Inc program. My 2 grandchildren, Edan and Ethan Hogan, have been enrolled in the program since their Kindergarten year. Now both are 10 and 7 years old, excellent student athletes and envision attending college. We have been supporting College Kids Inc by supporting fundraisers and attending workshops as we work towards increasing their college accounts.

The level of care shown by the staff is impeccable. We appreciate Treasurer Adam Lane, personally attending and actively interacting with the families. He shows he has a vested interest with the kids.

In my eyesight, College Kids Inc can only sore upward. They keep the program interesting for the kids to want to continue participating and anticipating the next event. Financial Literacy can be a deal breaker for our impressionable youth, and without it they are likely to make the same costly mistakes many adults to do to this day.

College Kids, Inc thank you for all that you do. I'm looking forward to graduation day for my grandkids and knowing there is something waiting for them to continue their educational journey.

Sincerely,

Shavette Wayne-Jones



**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**

— EST. 1818 —

05/19/2023

**SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION**

3500 Lindell Blvd.
Fitzgerald Hall
St. Louis, MO 63103

P 314-977-4062 or
314-977-2508
F 314-977-3290

www.slu.edu

Dear Treasurer Adam Layne,

Saint Louis University, School of Education, endorses College Kids. This program changed our community's economic future.

As a community partner, we have seen College Kids grow and evolve. Academic accomplishment, financial freedom, and personal growth have given these young people purpose and strength. Financial literacy workshops and events hosted by College Kids staff and financial institutions have taught them about money and how to manage it, think critically, be creative, and communicate well.

College Kids also helps students within the city of St. Louis. College Kids provides financial aid, summer programming, training, and post-secondary resources. Fairness and inclusivity are admirable and fit our schooling philosophy.

The program emphasizes the entire person beyond academics. These events teach children life skills and money. Some programs teach our youth money management and prepare them for college, work, and life.

The College Kid's team has always been dedicated and hardworking, inspiring me. The program has given us great community and companionship, helping us overcome challenges and attain our best potential.

Please keep funding College Kids' bright futures. We can improve and equalize the world together. Thank you for supporting our community's education and economy.

Thank you,

Ryan Wilson
Saint Louis University School of Education
Program Coordinator for Community Projects

Higher purpose. Greater good.



May 19, 2023
Barbara T. Davis, Program Manager
Office of Financial Empowerment-Kids College Program
1200 Market Street Suite 220
St. Louis, MO 63103

RE: College Kids

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the Kids College. Their mission: “to improve college access and attainment among youth, increase assets for low-to-moderate income families living within the city, and promote the use of safe and affordable mainstream financial services and products among students and their families”, is adjacent to the work we do in the community.

Healthy Blue Missouri’s Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) team has an objective to improve SDOH access for members through active social resource development, resource investment in community stakeholder sustainability, and member connectivity while Identifying, expanding and connecting our vast network of local services agency within our shared community.

We have had several opportunities to invest in Kids College program understanding that educational supports along with financial literacy play a huge role in self-sufficiency and starting with our school aged youth allow an opportunity to plant seeds of success early.

I look forward to continued involvement and opportunities to collaborate with your organization.

Sincerely,

Meredith Childs

Meredith Childs
SDOH Program Manager
Healthy Blue MO
1831 Chestnut St.
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Community Partners,

It is with pleasure that I communicate the importance of the College Kids program to our youth and community. As an educator and parent, I understand the importance of being financially literate and the value of learning about finances at a young age. Obtaining this knowledge early on is life-changing. It is the difference between living in debt and building generational wealth.

I like the College Kids program because they have an innovative yet rewarding approach to teaching financial literacy to our youth. The program is a hands-on approach to financial literacy that offers kids the opportunity to build wealth by way of managing a bank account of their own. So many of our students are hands-on learners that this program is perfect for them to use the skills of managing and growing their wealth.

The amount of debt that incurs from attending college without a scholarship can be overwhelming. The stress from managing debt without minimal skills is life-threatening. As I struggle, to repay student loans and manage debt, I only wish that a program like College Kids was offered to me as a youth. I look forward to partnering with College Kids in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Blackwell".

Dr. Amy Blackwell Ed.D
Licensed Teacher and Administrator

5/22/2023

Today, I would like to take the time to show my appreciation for St. Louis College Kids. This programs is geared towards preparing children for college and financial literacy but, is actually so much more!

I want to show my appreciation in bullet points because no one is more important than the other.

- The Calendar and reminders that we receive about all the monthly events to help us learn, have fun, and grow or knowledge in financial literacy and our college saving funds
- Monthly opportunities to earn money for our college kids accounts
- Field days that are always extra special and just not thrown together
- Christmas parties to learn, interact, have fun, and you get gifts
- Trunk or treat to have fun in a safe place with people who care about you
- Family outings at the ball park, basketball games, and even the theatre (Cardinal's Game, SLU Basketball, COCO, and even the Fox Theatre this year), Art Contest and more!
- Monthly financial literacy classes for our parents and the students (Jepardy is the BEST)
- Monthly opportunities with contest to make things challenging to earn money for our college kids accounts making budgets and planning out your spending habits
- The Back to School Drive to make sure all the children have the utensils they need to be successful in school with fully loaded with essentials. I have been blessed to not need this but, it has everything to get a kid off to the start of the year
- You can bring the Financial Literacy Team Yes, even The Treasure, Adam A. Layne, comes to your class for a presentation on Financial Literacy. If your friends don't think that cool the swag bag will brighten their day
- College kids has donated book for libraries for growth in reading
- College Kids seems to be at anything they are invited to like the MO Charter School Fair, Service Days For Martin Luther King Day, and makes us all feels special
- Friday Freebie, Tuesday Trivia, and Hello Wednesday thanks to MS. Bard on IG
- Worksheets, Art Contest, Martin Luther King Contest, Field Day, Photo Day, Christmas Party

There are a lot of times I am busy with school and dance to do some of the projects on time but, I go back on my spare time and complete them. I then send them to Ms. Bard to let her know we appreciate ALL that she does for us. I already know a lot about financial literacy because my mom was an Underwriter but, I have still learned so much through this program.

I want to share with the Whole office that I recently asked my mom about the name plates on the wall at church. My mom explained that they were donations made by sponsors. She gave me an example of how you can support somethings by the sponsorship you give. We then discussed Alumni and what it stands for in the Greek organizations. She explained how some people are active and inactive members. With that being said When I grow older I will always be an active, donating, supporting Alumni of St. Louis College Kids because they do what they say they do. They are attempting to reach all one at a time

Thank You Ms. Barb for all you do for all of us, We love you to the moon and back

Destiny W.



May 19, 2023

Ms. Davis, Program Manager
College Kids
1200 Market Street Suite 220
St. Louis, MO 63103

RE: College Kids

To whom It May Concern

Hello, I would like to speak in support of College Kids. My kids are 9 and 11 and we LOVE this program. Not only has it taught us all more about finances, but it has given us a community to do fun things with! We love the parties downtown at the City Hall - they always provide us with so many resources and goodies! I have been helped in so many ways, and as a single mom living in the city programs like this are a game changer. My kids are so excited to have money in their bank account, and are inspired to work to get more. Barbara Davis is so welcoming and the communication is great. Thank you College Kids!!!

Alexia Martin, Coco and Roxy Cheek
314-518-0389

May 19, 2023

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the College Kids Program. Before I became a board member in Spring 2022, I was looking for an opportunity that would allow me to support my St. Louis community. A friend of mine happened to be a College Kids board member and invited me to a fundraising event to learn more about the work. While I do not have a background in education, I know that the lack of quality education and an inequitable ability to save for college disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities. Once I learned the program's mission, "To improve college access and attainment among youth, increase assets for low-to-moderate income families living within the city, and promote the use of safe and affordable mainstream financial services and products among students and their families" and activities, I knew this was an opportunity I didn't want to pass up.

College Kids is attacking the wealth gap head on for St. Louis by investing in what makes it go, families. This is a program that understands that planning for college early gives the student something to aspire to and provides financial support for the parents. Research shows that low-income students who save just \$500 for college are three times more likely to attend and four times more likely to graduate from college than those without savings for college. An educated workforce benefits the individual and the community. Providing this program to Black and Brown students will lead to the shrinking of the racial inequities in education and wealth, leading to the strengthening of those communities and creating a more equitable St. Louis.

I'm a board member because I believe in this program. College Kids has helped over 21,000 St. Louis public and charter school students start educational savings accounts, with about \$1.6 million saved to help more city children get a higher education. While a lot of focus is on the students, College Kids and the Office of Financial Empowerment provides great opportunities for families to strengthen their financial literacy and develop better practices as well. By serving the entire family, we help bring more stability to the household which can lead to more opportunities for growth and wealth building.

I appreciate you for considering supporting the College Kids Program as a valuable investment in St. Louis youth and their families. With your support, we can add to these great numbers and help more St. Louis families create a brighter future for their children and their communities.

Thank you for being a partner in this important work,



Brian Washington
Strategist-Initiatives, Missouri Foundation for Health
College Kids Board Member

May 19, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the College Kids Children's Savings Account Program in the City of St Louis. I believe that every child should have the opportunity to pursue higher education and programs like College Kids help make that possible. The program is easy to use and promotes saving by offering matching deposits. In particular, my son likes the activities and programs that he can complete to earn additional bonuses. It lets him have a sense of ownership of the account and he is proud that he is able to contribute to his future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fiala', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Mark Aaron Fiala, PhD MSW

To Whom it May Concern;

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the CollegeKids program. It's truly a vital part in the life of a child. It's positive, constructive, and a must have for children today. The interactions experienced thus far with everyone associated with the program has been pleasant and rewarding. CollegeKids is convenient, accessible, and hassle free. Being rewarded to learn, who could ask for anything more?

Thank you so much for helping me to help her achieve her future goals.

Best regards,

Sharon McLarren

May 19, 2023

Ms. Davis, Program Manager
College Kids
1200 Market Street Suite 220
St. Louis, MO 63103

RE: College Kids

To whom It May Concern

I am a Grandmother of two College Kids participants. Thanks to former Treasurer Tishaura Jones for planting the seed to start the College Kids savings account. I surely appreciate Treasurer Adam Layne, for continuing the pathway for the children. They both have given me the encouragement to save for my Grandchildren to help them further their education for the future. There's many opportunities to encounter to increase their savings, I'm grateful for that, every cents counts.

Thank you

--

Ms. CmJackson



Shenandoah Elementary School
3412 Shenandoah Ave
St. Louis, MO 63104

May 31, 2023

Barbara Davis,
College Kids Program Manager
c/o Office of Financial Empowerment
1200 Market Street
St. Louis, MO 63103,

Thank You! On behalf of Shenandoah Elementary School, it is with great gratitude and appreciation I write thanking the **St. Louis Office of Financial Empowerment** for their outstanding support of Shenandoah Elementary School. Your willingness to collaborate and partner with our district, school, staff, students and families makes a big difference in our community. Because of the College Kids Program, families receive a great opportunity to receive financial education and necessary tools to help them reach their future college and career goals. Through ongoing monthly scheduling of activities/events and first-hand Storytime interaction from Treasurer Layne, students get to receive wonderful goodie bags as well as financial information to share with caretakers. What a spectacular avenue used to promote successful parental involvement/family engagement that will in turn better prepare our students for the college transition. Financial planning is a life-long skill that creates ever-lasting benefits and an educational experience for all as we embrace the idea of becoming better productive citizens of an ever-changing society.

Once again, thank you! Our hearts continue to smile as we value our connection/partnership with **St. Louis Office of Financial Empowerment**, who is truly devoted to helping our district and schools meet the needs of our staff, students, families and communities. Your ongoing committed support, dedication, time, patience, and overall kindness of providing our students with the opportunity to flourish has not gone unnoticed. Your thoughtfulness is a gift we here at Shenandoah Elementary School will always treasure.

Sincerely,

Constance Myers

Constance Myers, Family and Community Specialist

Nico Krehmeyer - Project Coordinator, Midwest BankCentre
2191 Lemay Ferry Rd. St. Louis, MO 63125
May 22nd, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support and endorsement of the College Kids initiative, administered by the City of St. Louis Treasurer's Office. This program aims to empower elementary, middle school, and high school students by helping them save for their future college educations.

As a member of the community and an advocate for meaningful financial empowerment, I am thrilled to witness the positive impact that the College Kids initiative is making. Midwest BankCentre has formed a strong and meaningful partnership with the program, recognizing its importance in equipping young people with the financial knowledge and tools necessary to plan for their educational future.

The College Kids initiative not only encourages responsible financial habits but instills a culture of saving from an early age. By providing substantive financial education and matching contributions, the program enables students to set goals and make enlightened decisions about their future. This initiative is instrumental in instilling a sense of empowerment, hope, and long-term planning among students, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

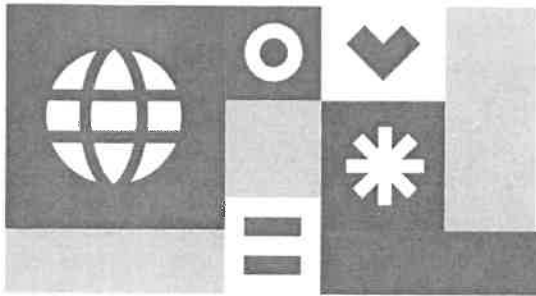
As a supporter of local financial education initiatives, Midwest BankCentre is pleased to be a part of the College Kids program. We are committed to raising awareness about the program and its transformative impact on the lives of numerous young scholars at St. Louis Public Schools.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the College Kids initiative and encourage its continued expansion and strengthening. The City of St. Louis Treasurer's Office, in collaboration with its many bank partners, is making a significant difference in the lives of St. Louis students, providing them with the means to save for their future education.

Thank you for your commitment to this worthwhile cause. We stand together in supporting College Kids and look forward to seeing the continued success of this significant initiative.

Kind regards,

Nico Krehmeyer
nkrehmeyer@midwestbankcentre.com
314-633-6724



St. Louis Language Immersion School

May 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the College Kids Program through the City of St. Louis' Treasurer's Office. Through this program, kindergarten students at St. Louis Language Immersion School - and across St. Louis City - receive a savings account with a \$50 deposit.

This program has seen much success at St. Louis Language Immersion School. Thanks to the program, our kindergarten students and families have access to a savings account for future educational expenses, and this empowers them for a strong financial future. We greatly appreciate the partnership with the Treasurer's Office, and we look forward to continued collaboration!

If I can provide any further details about the College Kids Program, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan Hill
Superintendent
St. Louis Language Immersion School
Meghan@sllis.org
314-533-0975x2229