

A stylized, dark blue silhouette of a human head and shoulders, facing right. The head is filled with a bright, glowing yellow and orange light, representing the brain. The background is a gradient of blue and purple.

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The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and other charitable donations.

Donations are deductible in the United States for income tax purposes.

Information on all the Foundation's programs and activities can be found on the website at mensafoundation.org.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We're changing lives with our good work



I joined Mensa 46 years ago, and it changed my life. For one thing, I met Liz at a Mensa meeting, and we have been married 34 years. And through local meetings, Annual Gatherings, Colloquiums and all the other fascinating activities Mensa has offered over the years, I have made friends, done things, and visited places I never would have otherwise.

Mensa changed my life, but it also changed me. It gave me a wider perspective on life and allowed me to see and appreciate how other people live and how they view themselves and their high intelligence. It allowed me to understand that some people celebrate their smartness and some don't. Mensa gave me the ambition to become a leader of all these smart people and the confidence to go ahead and do just that. First as LocSec, then RVC, Treasurer, AMC Chair, and International Mensa Chair, I saw the world of Mensa opening wider and wider, encompassing people throughout the world.

But it wasn't until I joined the Board of Trustees of the Mensa Education and Research Foundation that I found something deeper, something that highly intelligent people can do to show how smart they really are.

Our Foundation is the organization that allows Mensa to carry out its mission of nurturing human intelligence and encouraging smart people to reach

It takes only one person to make a difference.

their potential. Through scholarships, awards, a research journal, resources for gifted children and those who support them, the Foundation has made an important difference, transforming lives not

only in the United States but in countries all over the world. We are able to do all this work only because of donations from people like you.

These pages show some of the things our Foundation has accomplished and why you should become part of it. We believe this is true: It takes only one person to make a difference, either by doing, or not doing, something; if you weren't there, it wouldn't have happened. Show how intelligent you are by doing something really smart — giving to our Foundation. You can be that one.

SCHOLARSHIPS

For so many Mensans, our Foundation is synonymous with scholarships. And with good reason: It's our longest-running and best-known program. This year, our Foundation awarded more than \$85,000 to the next generation of great thinkers and doers (see the winners at mensafoundation.org).



If you have made a gift to a Foundation scholarship fund, you have helped thousands of people on the road to achieving their potential. One of those is last year's winner of the Greg Timmers Scholarship, Denna Good-Mojab of Lynnwood, Wash., who wrote this:

"As a 17-year-old senior in the University of Washington School of Music with a GPA of 3.9, I am making great progress toward my immediate goal of earning a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. My long-term goal is to become a vocal performer and musical scholar. I began studying piano when I had just turned 3; within one month, I had learned to read music. When I was 10, I debuted with the Portland Opera as the Second Spirit in The Magic Flute. I have now sung in nine operas with professional and university opera companies. I am multilingual and sing classical, operatic, and world music in 10 languages. I plan to work toward earning a Master of Music in vocal performance with a Doctor of Music to follow."

How could the judges say no? (Listen to Denna sing at youtube.com/user/DennaGoodMojab.) If you want to help more students like her, go to mensafoundation.org, where you can also see a complete list of this year's winners.

COLLOQUIUMS

Colloquium 2015 drew 284 attendees for stimulating sessions on brain health. Next year's event — the Nature of Genetics: Flora, Fauna and the Future — promises to be just as exciting.



Speaker Dr. Darryl Kaelin

Learn more at ag.us.mensa.org

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Every year, the bibliophilic faithful gather in Washington, D.C., for the Library of Congress National Book Festival. Amid the thousands of people, the hundreds of titles and the dozens of authors, the Mensa Foundation plays an integral role in the success of the Festival because we provide the “Children’s Guide to the Festival” for attendees (see last year’s guide at loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/guides.html). Our Foundation also creates the Eye Spy activity for the Festival poster (download free copies of the posters and the Eye Spy activities at loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/creative/eyespy.html). While the Festival is held in D.C., webcasts of it are available to anyone around the world for free (loc.gov/bookfest).

“I wish everyone who makes a donation to the Foundation could see the excitement the children show when they get their own guide, designed just for them,” said Lisa Van Gemert, the Foundation’s Youth and Education Ambassador. “It’s a proud moment for me when the guides bearing our logo are the most sought-after piece of paper at the Festival.”

This year, in recognition of the support the Foundation has given to the Library of Congress and the success of the Foundation’s Excellence in Reading program (mensaforkids.org), we were invited to become a Reading Promotion Partner, along with other organizations that promote reading and literacy across the nation, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Writing Project, the National Council of Teachers of English and Reading is Fundamental, among others. As a Reading Promotion Partner, our Foundation will now be able to share its Excellence in Reading program with a broad range of like-minded organizations, and informational materials will be available to the public in the Young Readers Center at the Library of Congress.



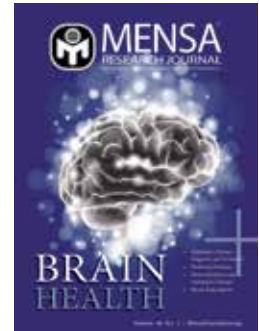
PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Sometimes a great program for Gifted Youth requires a great expenditure. More often, the expense is not that great but just large enough to be a deal breaker. That’s where our Foundation steps in, with mini-grants that make it possible for a group of bright kids to have a really special experience. Recently, Richmond Area Mensa won a mini-grant for a daylong interpretive boat trip to a national wildlife refuge. The group learned about the rich history of the James River as well as the aquatic species that live in it, and the flora and fauna in the refuge.

KNOWLEDGE CENTERS

THE *MENSA RESEARCH JOURNAL* has a new editor, Steve Slepner, who succeeds Robin Crawford. Steve is assistant editor of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* in Philadelphia and also has served as research engineer in the Temple University Department of Psychiatry, managing editor of *Biological Psychiatry* (the journal of the Society of Biological Psychiatry), research associate at Allegheny University of the Health Sciences, and research coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Neurobiology and Behavior. Besides serving as LocSec and newsletter Editor for Delaware Valley Mensa, Steve has served as RVC2 and chaired several regional gatherings and the 1993 Colloquium.

Steve’s first issue was Winter 2015, devoted to the work of scholars who competed for the Awards for Excellence in Research. Next up, the Fall 2015 issue, examining the relationship of humor to creativity and intelligence.



Check out the list of back issues, order a copy or subscribe at mensafoundation.org/mrj

MENSA FOR KIDS, the smart online place for teachers, parents and gifted students, now has an equally smart design. This great resource reflects the Mensa Foundation’s commitment to educators and gifted families.

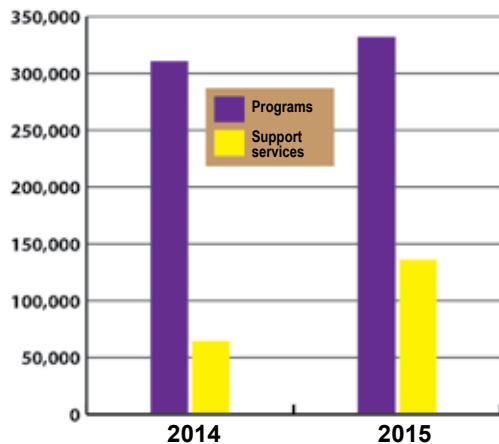
Please visit mensaforkids.org.

When Eric Szczerbinski, the group’s Gifted Children Coordinator, heard they would be receiving the mini-grant, here’s what he told us:

“Wow! That’s great! THANK YOU!! The families will be very happy to hear the news and I think it’ll result in quite a bit more participation – these grants (and matching grant from our Local Group) ... will cut the costs of this trip by more than 50%, and that will be a big deal to many families, especially those with multiple siblings. Thanks everyone – it’s truly appreciated!”

FINANCIALS IN BRIEF

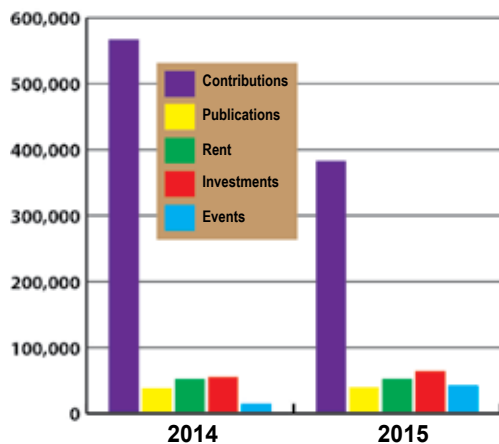
EXPENDITURES (in dollars)



Program services	\$310,395	\$331,969
Support services*	64,685	136,048
Total expenses	\$375,080	\$468,017

* Increase in Support Services from 2014 to 2015 is due to a change in how our auditors reported our expenses in 2015.

REVENUE SOURCES (in dollars)



Contributions (total)	\$567,160	\$382,530
Unrestricted	356,181	189,104
Temp. restricted	153,979	136,426
American Mensa	57,000	57,000
Publications	38,918	39,899
Rent (minus expenses)	52,119	52,534
Investments (total)	55,275	64,254
Unrestricted	16,709	20,816
Restricted	38,566	43,438
Event income	15,062	42,520
Total revenue	\$728,534	\$581,737

THANK YOU, DONORS!

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, who have enabled the Mensa Foundation to continue its work and enhance its programs. In addition to those listed here, many others have contributed support for the year's successes.

Our thanks . . . we couldn't do it without you!

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More generous donors listed on Page 41

YOUR \$1

The donors who appear on these pages were a major factor in our success this year. Our Foundation gave awards for teaching, research, discovery and invention and provided educational programming for thousands of gifted youth and adults. We gave 186 scholarships to students who will shape our future. We recognized scholars and researchers and brought their work to you. A dollar of

each Mensa member's dues goes straight to the Foundation, and it is amazing what your \$1 did. But it wasn't your \$1 alone. Many members donated more and others included our Foundation in their wills, because that \$1 can only do so much and we stretched as far as it can go.

Expand your reach and your impact by donating today at mensafoundation.org.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

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FOUNDATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of the Foundation awards, which recognize research in and support of intelligence both nationally and internationally.

FRED KATZ of Hauppauge, N.Y., is the recipient of the Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement, awarded annually to a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem-solving. Fred’s research addressed the ubiquitous problem of a motion sensor’s ability to discriminate between a home intruder and a wandering pet. Through readings from a combination of passive infrared and Doppler microwave sensors, he was able to develop and integrate an algorithm capable of discerning between objects in the sensor’s field of view.

ANDREA MYSTRENA, a gifted and talented teacher at Northern Burlington Regional Middle School in Columbus, N.J., is the Distinguished Teacher Award winner. Among the many reasons Andrea was nominated was her willingness to go beyond academics to ease students’ stress in the classroom. She also introduced communication technology into her instruction, which made asking questions and turning in electronic assignments simpler for students. Andrea was nominated by 7th grader and Young Mensan Stephanie M., who wrote, “Ms. M has made gifted and talented a class that I feel comfortable to be completely myself. I’m not afraid to express myself and raise my hand to state my opinions. She has taught me that you shouldn’t care what anybody else thinks and just be yourself. This is the greatest lesson anyone has ever taught me.”

RHODA ERHARDT of Maplewood, Minn., is the winner of the Intellectual Benefit to Society Award for her work as part of an evaluation team at a child development center in rural Minnesota. She helped develop a home therapy program for disabled children that eventually grew into a larger case study she uses to teach professionals and parents across the country and internationally. By focusing on children with disabilities who live in rural and indigenous communities, her work provides services to children who often have little or no access to services that “ensure their development and participation in community life.”

DR. JESSICA REYES of Boston, Mass., is the inaugural winner of the Laura Joyner Award, given to recognize outstanding work, theoretical or applied, in the area of human intelligence. Dr. Reyes’ research into lead exposure and behavior investigates the link between lead levels in early childhood and student test scores in elementary school. Her work shows significant achievement relative to the mission of our Foundation by helping ensure that children develop their intelligence to the fullest level possible.

DAVID SMITH of Saskatchewan, Canada, is the recipient of both the International Intellectual Benefits to Society Award and the Copper Black International Award

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The Awards for Excellence in Research are given each year for outstanding research on aspects of human intelligence and giftedness. This year’s winners include scholars from Australia, Germany and Hungary, as well as the United States. The winners are:

SENIOR RESEARCHER

Matthew C. Makel, Duke University: *Changing the Pond, Not the Fish: Following High-Ability Students Across Different Educational Environments*

JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

Jae Yup Jung, University of New South Wales, Australia: *The Cognitive Processes Associated with Occupational/Career Indecision: A Model for Gifted Adolescents*

Tanja Gabriele Baudson, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany: *Teacher Judgments as Measures of Children’s Cognitive Ability: A Multilevel Analysis*

Harrison J. Kell, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University: *Who Rises to the Top? Early Indicators*

Cara Gormally, Gallaudet University: *Developing a Test of Scientific Literacy Skills (TOSLS): Measuring Undergraduates’ Evaluation of Scientific Information and Arguments*

Peter Przemyslaw Ujma, Semmelweis University, Hungary: *Sleep Spindles and Intelligence: Evidence for a Sexual Dimorphism*



for Creative Achievement. A member of Mensa Canada, he received the International Intellectual Benefits Award for developing a behavior modification training system that enables people throughout the world to work with electricity safely and more efficiently. He received the Copper Black International Award for providing practical electrical safety risk management skills that electrical workers can apply in their work. He has designed and

built three innovative, mobile safety-training labs unique to North America.

DR. JOAN FREEMAN of London, England, is the recipient of the International Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award recognizes a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence, giftedness and related subjects. A British psychologist with a considerable body of research, including her ongoing study of giftedness that began in 1974, she is a sought-after guest for television news programs and worldwide speaking engagements on the subjects of intelligence and giftedness. Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the British Psychological Society, Freeman is a Visiting Professor at Middlesex University in London, Founding President of the European Council for High Ability and an elected Fellow of the British Psychological Society.

GIVING A GIFT

A major gift to our Foundation can be a game changer: for example, the one that allowed us to fund Mensa’s Youth and Education Ambassador. But the smaller donations that come to us every year are no less important; they are the ones that sustain us in our everyday work, such as scholarships, gifted youth mini-grants and the Distinguished Teacher Award. Dr.



Kishor M. Kulkarni of Florida is one such donor. Impressed with his commitment to our Foundation over the years, we asked him three questions.

Q: What made you select the Mensa Foundation as one of the charities you want to benefit?

A: I favor major charities in the fields of health-care, disaster relief, welfare of women and children, and education. I also support organizations of my personal interest such as Mensa. I feel that by encouraging the brightest amongst us, we may see better solutions to the problems and difficulties we face.

Q: Do you have a special reason for choosing education as a focus of your generosity?

A: Dedicated teachers

are very important to our society. They guide young people in making important choices. I fondly remember many of my teachers throughout my life as a student.

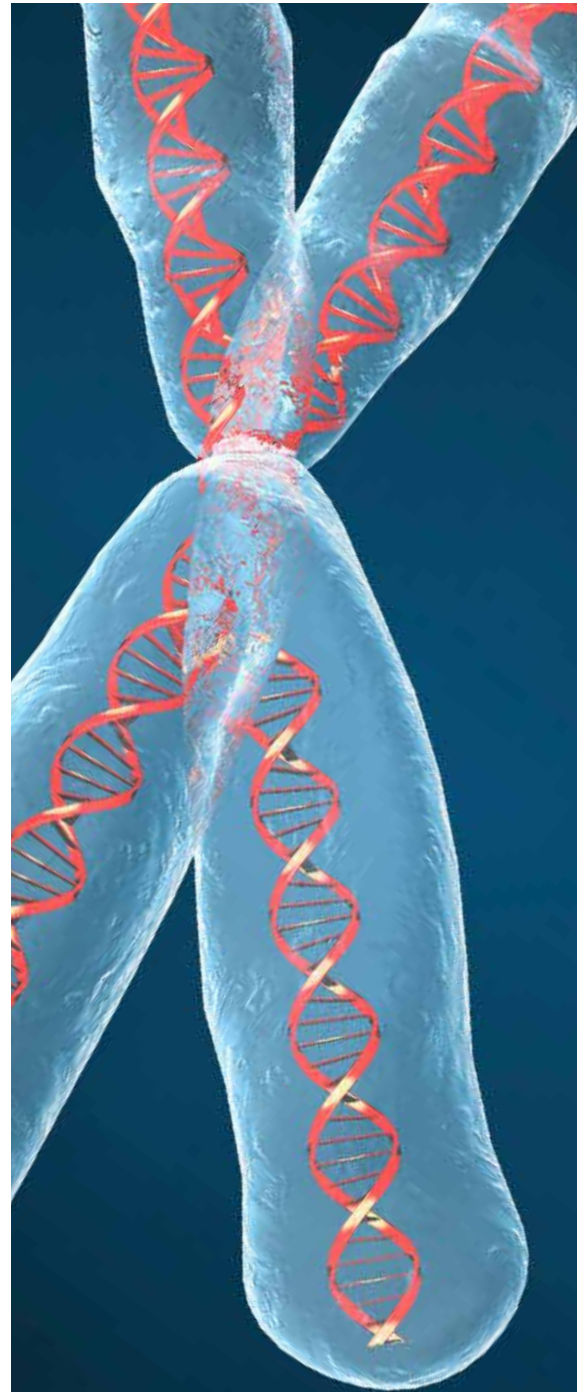
Q: Are you active in Mensa activities?

A: During my 25-plus years in the Indianapolis area, I built up many close friendships with Mensa members and attended many monthly meetings. After my move here a few years back, I have attended several meetings in Naples, Fla. This includes my leading a discussion on suggestions for “The Next Constitutional Amendment.”

MR. MENSA



The Mr. Mensa Pageant at the 2015 AG in Louisville, Ky., was a show to behold. Thanks to the contestants, audience and volunteers who made it happen. Most importantly, it raised about \$50,000, including a \$40,000 donation by Mensans Mark Glancey and John Gray to create and fund an LGBT scholarship.



COLLOQUIUM '16

THE NATURE OF GENETICS: FLORA, FAUNA AND THE FUTURE

