



# **LinVin Scholarship Foundation, Inc.**

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## **2024 LinVin Scholarship Foundation Annual Report**

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# **2024 Annual Report Summary**

The LinVin Scholarship Foundation had a highly successful year in 2024. Although we were unable to secure grant monies from the Community Foundation of South Alabama, we still received a grant from the Mobile Bar Foundation and the LinVin Scholarship Foundation was able to continue all its programs with the help of increased donations from its founding members.

In 2023, the LinVin Scholarship Foundation provided eighty-four scholarships with a distribution of \$18,075.75. In 2024 the Foundation awarded 84 scholarships to 59 children for a total of \$18,511.80.

In 2024, we paused the activity with the Strickland Youth Detention Center so that the program could be redesigned to better address the needs of the youth offenders.

## **2024 Financial Summary – By the Numbers**

**Donations Received - \$17,030.00**

**Grants Received - None**

**Total Income 2024 - \$17,030.00**

**Scholarships Awarded - 84**

**Individual Children Who Received Scholarships - 59**

**Scholarship Monies Awarded - \$18,511.80.**

**Total Distributions for 2024 - \$18,511.80.**

### **Breakdown**

**Children Taking Theatre - 19 students for a Total of \$3,915.00 in Scholarship Money**

**Voice Lessons – 3 students for a Total of \$1980.00 in Scholarship Money**

**Summer Camps – 8 students for a Total of \$1,211.50**

**Summer Intensive Drama Camp – 16 students for a Total of \$2,536.50**

**Musical Dance - 4 – for a Total of \$1,905.00 in Scholarship Money**

**Children Taking Music Lessons - 2 for a Total of \$1,600.00 in Scholarship Money**

**Children Taking Ballet - 11 – for a Total of \$8,000.00 in Scholarship Money**

**Children Participating in Workshops - 18 for a Total of \$2,536.50 in Scholarship Money**

**Schools Represented – 26**

**Net Operating Loss: \$1481.80 – Covered by the balance in the account.**

# **Demographic Breakdown**

## **By School Grade –**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>#</b>
Kindergarten	1
1st Grade	3
2nd Grade	3
3rd Grade	5
4th Grade	9
5th Grade	7
6th Grade	4
7th Grade	10
8 h Grade	9
9th Grade	11
10th Grade	9
11th Grade	3
12th Grade	3

## **By Income Bracket –**

<b>Salary Range</b>	<b>#</b>
under \$16,000	3
\$16,000-24,999	2
\$25,000-\$39,999	13
\$30,000-\$49,999	2
\$40,000-\$59,999	13
\$50,000-\$69,1000	1
\$50,000-\$69,999	8
\$60,000-\$79,999	15
\$70,000-\$89,999	25
\$90,000+	1

## **By Number of Children in the Home -**

<b># of Children</b>	<b>#</b>
1	8
2	29
3	35
4	7
5	2
6	1

**Single Parent Households – 12**

# **LinVin Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Background**

The idea of creating a foundation to offer scholarships to children whose families needed a little help to allow them to participate in the arts came because of the Paragone family observing multiple families having to forego participation in an extra-curricular arts activity.

The Paragone's initial concept was to fund the program with their own money and limit the number of participants and the amount of the scholarship awards based on the available funds.

The program was launched in August Of 2021 and by the end of 2021 the Foundation had distributed scholarships to eleven children totaling \$4,663.00.

It was during 2022 that the LinVin Scholarship Foundation was approached by The Honorable Edmond G. Naman, Circuit Judge, to see if the Foundation was interested in developing an arts program to bring to the Strickland Youth Detention Center. The goal was to provide alternatives for these "at-risk" children.

The Foundation applied for and received grant money in 2022 to cover the cost of both the program development and the expense of the facilitator for 2023.

In January of 2023, the Foundation also launched a program entitled Mobettalife II©. The purpose of this program is to inspire, motivate, and empower individuals to think and feel that they are worthy. The Program uses theatre improvisation as a mechanism to achieve these goals.

In 2025, the Foundation "rebooted" the program with a new instructor, Ms. Rayvn Otis along with the original instructor Mr. Jeffrey Phillips and rebranding the program – "Making Better Choices." The Foundation also met with the principal leaders at the Strickland Youth Detention Center to establish a new set of guidelines for participation.

Individuals will learn how to think and feel that they are worthy. They learn how to **own** their stories and realize that **they are the author**, and for them to **believe** that they can "Make Better Choices."

## **LinVin Scholarship Foundation Mission**

The mission of the LinVin Scholarship Foundation is to provide a vehicle for children and adults of needy families to receive scholarships to offset a portion of the fees for participation in programs in the performing Arts with our Community Partners.

## **LinVin Scholarship Foundation Vision**

The LinVin Scholarship Foundation believes that all children should have the opportunity to participate in the arts. Dressing-up, putting on performances, creating music, painting...what do these things all have in common? These creative outlets all help children develop important social-emotional, physiological, and cognitive skills according to the National Endowment for the Arts as highlighted below.

Here are the top three reasons to expose children to the Arts at an early age:

### **1. Arts help develop and enhance social skills.**

Wondering how a child can work on developing essential social skills like sharing, caring, and empathizing with others? Introduce the child to the wonders of arts, music, and theater! Parents who took part in a research study and reported singing to their child at least three times a week were able to report back that their child demonstrated strong and sophisticated social skills. This same impact was seen for visual arts when parents used toys, such as blocks, for building several times a week.

### **2. Arts help children regulate their emotions.**

Even as an adult, managing our emotions can be hard and straight up exhausting. Did you know that music, theater, and the arts can help children learn how to understand and manage their thoughts and feelings? Research has shown that toddlers engaged in an integrative arts program (music, creative movement/dance, and visual arts) showed improvement in both their positive and negative emotion regulation. Another study reported a reduction in children's anxiety and aggression after taking part in an eight-week long dance group.

### **3. Arts have beneficial social-emotional outcomes for children of varying abilities and backgrounds.**

The National Endowment for the Arts has found that, while family income and socioeconomic status (SES) can impact children's opportunities for arts participation, engagement in the arts has a positive impact on children from all SES levels. In addition, when autistic children ages three to five participated in music play as compared to traditional play with toys, they began to show improved social skills and communications such as maintaining eye contact. It is amazing to see the impact music, theater and art can have on the social-emotional development of little ones regardless of their backgrounds or abilities!

# **Biographies**



## **Vincent O. Paragone**

Mr. Paragone is a co-founding member of the LINVIN Scholarship Foundation. As a member of several arts communities in both Huntsville and Mobile, Mr. Paragone has a strong belief that involvement in the arts is a strong motivational force in the development of children. As so many others were able to influence his children in their pursuit of the Arts, Mr. Paragone is now dedicating time, treasure and talents to giving back to the Arts community.

Involvement with youth began early in Mr. Paragone's life, volunteering as a coach and umpire for CYO baseball and as a camp counselor during youth summer programs at his church.

In college, Mr. Paragone was involved with student government, volunteering time to ensure elections went smoothly. During Mr. Paragone's college years, Mr. Paragone was also elected Vice President of the executive board of the Ozone Park Civic association.

As Mr. Paragone's career advanced, so too did a commitment to volunteerism. Mr. Paragone co-founded the South Hempstead Civic Association and served as the organization's Vice-president and President spearheading efforts to improve the community.

Mr. Paragone also served on the facilities planning committee for the Rockville Centre School District compiling recommendations and proposals to renovate and rebuild the school system's facilities. Mr. Paragone also participated in multiple career day events, bringing technology career exploration to the Middle School students of the district.

As Mr. Paragone's family grew and children became involved in sports, Mr. Paragone volunteered as a coach for Baseball, Basketball and Soccer, taking two teams to State titles. Mr. Paragone was also a Class "B" licensed FIFA referee and served as a Technical Advisor to the 4-H club of Nassau County, teaching several electronics courses.

After relocating to Huntsville in 1991, Mr. Paragone continued to volunteer as a coach for Baseball, Basketball and Soccer and served as the Treasurer for both the North Alabama Soccer League and the Rocket City Invitational tournament for six years.

In 1997, Mr. Paragone volunteered as the technical theatre supervisor to take the Grissom High School Theatre Company to the International Thespian festival in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Paragone became a member of the Huntsville Community Chorus in 1996 and since that time, in addition to singing with the chorus, Mr. Paragone has served as the organization's Finance Committee Chair, Play Reading Chair, Computer Technologist, Arts Assembly Representative, Vice-President, and President. During Mr. Paragone's tenure as President, he organized the first Huntsville Community Chorus Festival, creating a three-day festival of educational workshops concluding with a combined choral performance of the world renowned, Olaf Choir and the Huntsville Community Chorus.

Mr. Paragone has Technical Directed many shows in both Huntsville and Mobile and appeared on stage in over twenty productions for many of the Theatre organizations.

Mr. Paragone has volunteered with multiple schools in the Huntsville City School system as a Technical Theatre Director, Computer Consultant and was asked to chair a Technical Advisory Committee by the newly hired superintendent.

Mr. Paragone has made keynote presentations on international business and the use of computer tools you already own to improve classroom management to the Alabama Association of Foreign Language teachers.

Since 1993, Mr. Paragone has been a performer, volunteer, and committee chair for the Panoply Arts Festival and in 2013, served as the festival chair overseeing 100+ Committee chairs, 40 vendors and 80 performing groups on 5 stages throughout the park.

Mr Paragone has served as a Trumbauer judge for 25+ years at the regional level and 4+ years at the state level and served as a Judge for the Alabama Thespian Festival for 3+ years and most recently as a judge for the South East Theatre Conference (SETC).

Mr. Paragone currently serves as a Board Member at Large for the Mobile Arts Council.

From 2003 through 2013, Mr. Paragone was awarded three Silver and eight Gold Presidential volunteer awards accumulating over nine thousand documented volunteer service hours during that time.

Mr. Paragone holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Theoretical Mathematics and additional Certifications in Project Management, Manufacturing Engineering, and Test Engineering. As a businessperson, Mr. Paragone has both owned businesses and has served in many executive management positions for multiple Fortune 500 companies where he participated as an executive team member in multiple mergers and acquisitions, and oversaw dozens of product design and assembly projects, resulting in over thirty billion dollars in revenue.





### **Linda M. Paragone**

Mrs. Paragone is a co-founding member of the LINVIN Scholarship Foundation.

Mrs. Paragone received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, a Master of Science degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Queens College of the City University of New York and a Certificate in Administration and Educational Leadership from the University of Alabama.

Although Mrs. Paragone's teaching career did not begin until the completion of the master's degree, Mrs. Paragone held leadership roles while still in college and was a civic association officer for many years.

Mrs. Paragone worked as a bilingual social worker in the foster care system before beginning a family of her own. Mrs. Paragone served as president of the PTA and was a 4-H leader.

Mrs. Paragone's teaching career spanned 30 years, beginning with teaching English as a Second Language for four years and ending with teaching high school Spanish for 26 years. Mrs. Paragone taught in an International Baccalaureate program.

Mrs. Paragone's expanded her leadership roles in professional organizations while fully employed as a teacher. Offering professional development for language teachers and facilitated over thirty-five presentations and workshops at district, state and southeast regional conferences, Mrs. Paragone was a respected member of the teaching profession.

As the founder of a residential language immersion program for high school students in Alabama and the Executive Director of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Mrs. Paragone received numerous state and regional awards and received the Alabama World Languages Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Although Mrs. Paragone has retired from full or part-time employment as a language teacher, through volunteer tutoring and teaching a weekly arts and crafts class to elementary school aged children, Mrs. Paragone's involvement with children continues.

## **LinVin Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors & Scholarship Committee**

Our 2024 Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee remained the same as in the previous year consisting of Dr Jennifer Garrett, Ms. Diane Sama, E. Russell “Barney” March, ESQ, Ms. Sally Priester and Dr. Patrick Jacobs. The board and committee are all volunteers and dedicate their time to supporting the youth of the Mobile and surrounding areas. In 2024, the Scholarship Committee received, reviewed and approved eighty-five applications for children to receive scholarships.

You can read more biographical information on our website <http://linvinscholarshipfoundation.com>