

impossible | possibilities



# 2014 Year in Review

"Be an Element of Change"

# A Word From Our Board

Dear Supporters,

Impossible Possibilities (IP) turned seven years old on Aug. 10, 2014, matching the number of college scholarships the organization awarded to local high school students last year. In 2014, IP also worked with students from Texas Christian University (see page 7) on independent projects, one of which included the conceptualization of a new “Scholarship Network” that will connect the organization’s scholarship recipients with members of its Advisory Board. The network, which is currently in the research and development phase, will allow past and present students to engage local professionals on mentoring, internship and job opportunities.

In addition, as IP expands its outreach in 2015, the Board has plans to integrate a second custom platform to enhance the effectiveness of its Maven’s Milestones Reading Achievement Program, the organization’s largest program in terms of number of students served. The central database will streamline the data-collection process between IP and its participating schools, allowing the organization to customize reading metrics and track individual student progress for school administrators. The platform will also provide key infrastructure for future program expansion.

Thank you for your continued support and generous contributions in helping local DFW students make the impossible possible!

Happy New Year

IP Board of Directors

## **Cover Photo:**

*TCU students (back left to right: Kat Thompson, Katie Melton, Raul Marez and Courtney Poey) with students from Cesar Chavez Elementary on Oct. 24, 2014.*



## **What’s Inside?**

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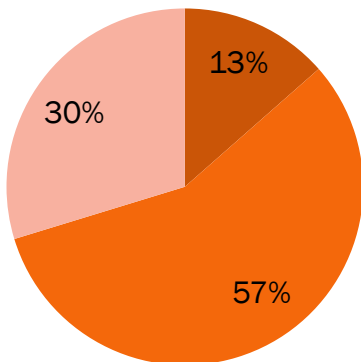
# Scholarship Initiative

IP hosted its annual Advisory Board meeting and Scholarship Presentation on April 17, 2014, at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. The event provided IP Directors the opportunity to give an overview of the organization's existing programs and share its strategic outlook.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the organization's 2014 Scholarship Class, an ambitious group of seven high school seniors who are currently enrolled at their respective colleges. Since 2009, the organization has awarded 37 scholarships totaling \$61,500.

## Scholarships Awarded by City

■ Dallas ■ FW ■ Arlington



From Left to Right: IP co-founder Joshua Hernandez, scholarship recipients Jourdan Robinson, Tara Otterbine, Lea Sandoval, Eric Wagner, Tracy Kwan, Gabrielle Gafford, Matthew Buckhout and co-founder Justin Hernandez.

## The 2014 IP Scholarship Class:

1. Matthew Buckhout, James Bowie High School in Arlington
2. Gabrielle Gafford, L.V. Berkner High School in Richardson
3. Tracy Kwan, Timberview High School in Mansfield
4. Tara Otterbine, Arlington High School in Arlington
5. Jourdan Robinson, Eastern Hills High School in Fort Worth
6. Lea Sandoval, Sam Houston High School in Arlington
7. Eric Wagner, James Martin High School in Arlington

# Mavens Milestones



Students at Cesar Chavez Elementary who made it to the highest reading level pose for a picture on Friday, May 16, 2014.

"The Maven's Milestones program provides success charts so the students can track their reading progress, tangible incentives that the students can earn, motivational assemblies to inspire the students, but most importantly, mentoring from Impossible Possibilities' staff that creates a sense of warm friendship and respect."

*Diane Best,*  
Woodway Elementary  
Librarian

IP is currently in its fifth consecutive year hosting its Maven's Milestones Reading Achievement Program. More than 1,100 Fort Worth ISD students at Washington Heights (WH), Cesar Chavez (CC) and Woodway (WW) elementary schools are participating in the program, which complements each school's Accelerated Reader curriculum and rewards students for reaching each of "Maven the Raven's" Milestones: Ascent, Afterburner, Approach and Call Sign Maven. The milestones represent a specific number of points that the students earn by reading books and passing online quizzes.

## 2013-2014 Results

- WW had the highest point total per student followed by WH and CC
- CC had the highest average point total per student when comparing first year point totals to WH and WW
- WH and WW average point total per student is higher than last year
- WW read 52% more this year compared to last year

# Sik'Lik

IP hosted its 4th Annual Sik'lik Youth Poetry Slam and Writing Workshop at TCU's Moudy Auditorium on Nov. 22, 2014.

The Sik'lik program enhances writing, presentation skills and overall self-esteem by giving students an opportunity to perform original poetry in front of an audience of their peers. Fifty-five middle and high school students participated in the event, which included a writing and performance workshop hosted by national-award winning poet Mike Guinn. Seventeen of those students then showcased their talents on stage, competing in a two-round poetry slam competition.

Two former champions vied for the 2014 Sik'lik title, which was determined by a razor thin margin of .1 of a point. 2012 winner Durmerrick Ross edged 2013 winner Dillion Youngblood to reclaim his title with a perfect score of 60 points over two rounds. Newcomer Dylan Weaver rounded out the top three with a score of 58.2.

Additional entertainment was provided by Fort Worth-based singer/songwriter Morgan Shine, who performed for the students in attendance and also shared insight into the creative writing process.



Top 10 student performers who participated in the poetry slam competition on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014.



2012 Champion Durmerrick Ross reclaims his title with a perfect score of 60 over two rounds.

**"This year's event was our best in terms of the number of overall participants. The preparation that these students put into their performances and the emotion they convey through their poetry is incredible."**

*Joshua Hernandez,*  
Impossible Possibilities



# Grant Initiative

IP awarded a \$1,000 grant in support of the 2nd Annual Dallas Citywide Luggage Drive held on Friday, May 30, 2014, at Dallas City Hall.

The grant marks the second year that the organization has contributed to the drive, which benefits graduating high school seniors in the Dallas ISD. Each recipient will use the luggage as they transition from high school to college.



Front Row Kneeling from left to right: Education is Freedom President Marcia Page, Adan Gonzalez, sponsor Jim Lake, IP co-founder Joshua Hernandez, Rep. Rafael Anchia and IP co-founder Justin Hernandez

The annual event was organized by 2011 IP scholarship award recipient and current Georgetown University senior Adan Gonzalez, who realized the need for luggage after his own experience of having to use trash bags when he moved from Dallas Oak Cliff to Washington D.C. IP teamed up with Education is Freedom, the “Si, Se Puede” (Yes, We Can) Network, University Crossroads, the Jim Lake Companies and others to make the event a success, while Texas Congressional Representative Rafael Anchia (District 103 in Dallas) provided the keynote address to the students. The IP grant purchased 20, four-piece sets of luggage, which contributed to the overall goal of 120 total sets.

**“The new luggage is just a bonus for these students. What really matters to them is knowing that someone believes in them.”**

*Justin Hernandez*  
Impossible Possibilities

# Service Learning

## Year In Review

- Kelsey Paulhus
- Brandon Wood

## Programs

- Kat Thompson
- Courtney Poey
- Raul Marez
- Katie Melton

## Scholarship Network

- Brandon Wood
- Brien Twomey
- Bryan Tony



IP teamed up with eight students from TCU as part of a service learning curriculum through the Neeley School of Business' *Management, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Department* that offers students course credit for their work with local nonprofits.

Each of the students was assigned to a specific project during the fall semester. The first project included the content selection and layout/design of the organization's annual Year in Review.

The second project focused on program coordination, where TCU students hosted an interactive student engagement on Friday, Oct. 24, 2014, at each of the three elementary schools involved in the organization's Maven's Milestones Reading Achievement Program. In addition, the students organized various aspects of the organization's Sik'lik Youth Poetry Slam held on Nov. 22, 2014.

The third project involved the conceptualization of a new "Scholarship Network" that will link the organization's scholarship recipients with its Advisory Board, allowing future mentorship and employment opportunities.



# Fundraising — Speaker Series

The Advisory Board (AB) is comprised of junior and senior level members from the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a common goal to bridge the business community with student education. In addition to the various networking events held throughout the year, the organization hosts a semiannual Speaker Series and invites prominent businessmen and women to speak about their respective industries.



Eric Hyman on May 15, at Times Ten Cellars

Eric Hyman, current Athletic Director for Texas A&M University, discussed his background in collegiate athletics, his principals for building a successful program and the challenges he faced as A&M transitioned from the Big 12 into the Southeastern Conference.



Ryan Rogers on Nov. 6, at the Worthington Bank

Ryan Rogers, Chief Investment Officer for Mary Kay Inc. and grandson of company founder Mary Kay Ash, spoke on a range of topics, including the Mary Kay brand, the company's entrepreneurial identity and its current expansion into emerging global economies.

## Snapshot

- 26 current members across multiple industries
- Supports 1/3 of all Program Operations
- Program Committees & Volunteer Opportunities
- Speaker Series & Networking Events



# Financial Overview

## Highlights:

- Secured \$22,000 in grant funding, highest in any year
- Received \$11,363 from Fundraising and Individual Donations

## Revenue & Expense

Total Revenue: \$38,338

Total Expense: \$29,571

Total Income: \$8,767

## Grants Received:

Miles Foundation \$10,000

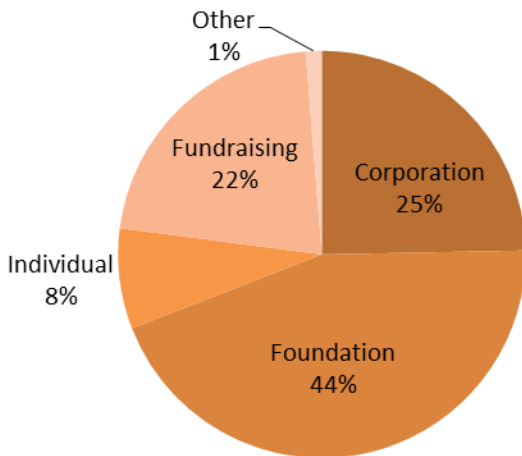
The Ryan Foundation \$5,000

Texas Capital Bank \$5,000

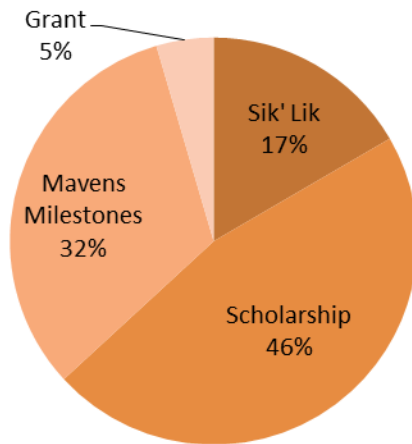
Colonial Country Club \$2,000

Charitable Fund

## Contributions by Donor:



## Expense by Program



Please email [admin@impossiblepossibilities.org](mailto:admin@impossiblepossibilities.org) if you are interested in being part of the Advisory Board. IP is able to impact students in the local community because of the support of individual donors just like you! If you would like to make a financial contribution that will benefit student education, you can do so by logging on directly to [www.impossiblepossibilities.org](http://www.impossiblepossibilities.org). All donations are tax deductible.

# Advisory Board

**Michael Bache** - VALUE Incorporated,  
Senior Valuation Analyst

**L. Kelly Jones** - Jones-Hassett  
Attorneys, Attorney

**Johnathan Baker** - Quicksilver Oil and Gas,  
Senior Financial Analyst

**Jessie Lemp** - Alcon Labs,  
Global Brand Medical Affairs Lead

**Rhett Bennett** - Black Mountain Exploration,  
President

**Jason Middleton** - Medtronic,  
Pharmaceutical Sales

**Brandon Brinkman** - CapRock Wealth  
Advisors, LLC, Wealth Advisor

**Katie Middleton** - KatnDog Pet  
Sitting Co., Owner

**Tanner Davidson** - DR Horton,  
Account Manager

**Jonathan Ozuna** - Peerless Mfg. Co.,  
Financial Analyst

**Michael Elliott** - Lockheed Martin, Senior  
Manager, F-35 PNR & Rate Readiness  
Program Manager

**Mason Orr**- LGM Finance Companies, LLC,  
Finance Manager

**Mikel Faulkner** - HKN Inc.,  
President and CEO

**Kurt Puente** - L-3 Communication,  
Principal Pricing Analyst

**Joe Ghesquiere** - Allied Electronics ,  
Vice President of Strategy

**Marshall B. Robinson** - Energy and  
Exploration Partners, Director of Finance

**Vanessa Gomez** - Quicksilver Resources,  
Vice President Treasury

**Allison Roberts** - AECOM,  
Senior Financial Manager

**Erick Gordon** - Abbott Labs,  
Manager

**Travis Sapaugh** - CB Richard Ellis,  
Brokerage Services

**Colin Grunewald** - L&B Realty Advisors,  
Senior Analyst

**Laura Silverman** - Energy and Exploration  
Partners, Land Analyst

**Aubrey Hardman** - Lockheed Martin,  
Manager Investor Relations

**Andrew Tirbeni** - Texas Pacific Group,  
Private Equity Manager

**Andrew M. Hunter** - Lockheed Martin, Senior  
Manager Financial Planning & Analysis

**Richard Wegner** - Basic Energy Services,  
Director of Budget & Analysis