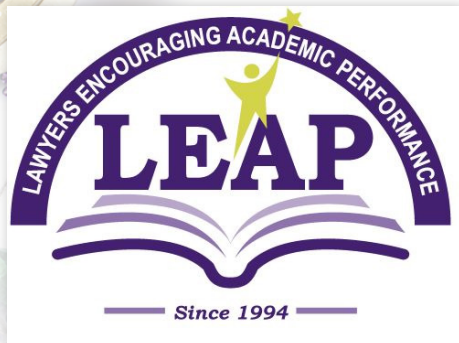


29th Annual LEAP Luncheon Wrap Up



The 29th Annual Mardi Gras Luncheon hosted by Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) was a great success. On Tuesday, February 21, the LEAP Board was joined by 100 community leaders at the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association to celebrate another year of incredible fundraising for Operation Breakthrough (OB). Thanks to the generous legal community, LEAP donated \$90,000 to Operation Breakthrough! LEAP's commitment to Operation Breakthrough is one of the many ways the Kansas City legal community shows its passion for giving back to children in need.

Operation Breakthrough thanked the LEAP donors and luncheon attendees via a musical performance by the preschool choir. The audience was treated to classics like "You've Got a

Friend in Me." The crowd then enjoyed speeches from two proud Operation Breakthrough students who spoke eloquently about their favorite activities and the many benefits of spending time at OB.

This year's honoree for "LEAP Queen" has a special connection with Operation Breakthrough. Kersten Holzhuetter, a partner at Spencer Fane LLP, was responsible for the Mardi Gras luncheon during the pandemic. She hosted great virtual programs in 2021 and 2022, to ensure that LEAP continued its success of raising money for Operation Breakthrough. The virtual celebrations helped raise \$200,000, which OB used to address the many challenges presented by COVID and further its mission of providing a safe, loving, and educational environment for so many of Kansas City's children. Kersten was happy to have everyone back for an in-person lunch in 2023 and looks forward to hosting the next luncheon on Fat Tuesday in 2024. LEAP is so grateful for Kersten's leadership, her ability to adapt, and her positive attitude.

The Foundation for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance is a not-for-profit foundation established in 1994 to provide needy children with mentoring services and to financially support educational programs. It is the unique, joint professional effort of KCMBA, Eastern Jackson

County Bar Association, Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Jackson County Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, the Kansas City Chapter of Association for Corporate Counsel of America, Asian American Bar Association, and LGBTQ Bar Association of Greater Kansas City. Since its inception, LEAP has raised and given about \$2,500,000 to Operation Breakthrough! Operation Breakthrough has utilized LEAP donations to fund a state-of-the-art computer lab, school counselors and enrichment programs. ■



The crowning of the 2023 LEAP Queen, Kersten Holzhuetter.

Platinum Donors

Davis, Bethune & Jones LLC
Robb & Robb LLC

Diamond Donors

Polsinelli
Presley & Presley, LLC

Gold Donors

Boyd Kenter Thomas & Parrish, LLC
Husch Blackwell LLP
Jack and Mary Kilroy
Mark Parrish
Miller Schirger, LLC
Stinson

Silver Donors

Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson & Rader, P.C.
Cannezzaro Marvel
David L. and Jennifer Howe Heinemann
Ed and April Dougherty
Franke, Schultz & Mullen, PC
Kersten Holzhuetter and Dan Kilcoyne
Kirk Goza
Paul LLP
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
Spencer Fane LLP
Stueve Siegel Hanson LLP
The Redfearn Law Firm



Many more people and entities contributed to LEAP's success. Please visit <https://kcmba.org/web/Events/Leap> to see a complete list of the 2023 LEAP donors and supporters.