



Client Case Study



Dave Crum
Executive Director



Lyndsay Lettre
Administrative Assistant

About GFPS Foundation

Established in 2010, the Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Foundation targets funds to programs that enhance opportunities for excellence for our most vulnerable students and brightest students and teachers. Our goal is to help make our good schools even better. We are guided by the district's vision, "All kids are engaged in learning today... for life tomorrow."

The mission of the Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Foundation is to enhance the high-quality teaching and life-long learning for the students in the GFPS by funding innovative educational programs and scholarships.

Advantages of GLM

- Time and money savings
- Frees up time for both board and staff members
- Paperless
- Easy to use
- Efficient, friendly customer support and technical staff
- Copy feature saves time on having to create multiple scholarship applications
- Much easier to read than hand written applications
- Easier access for board/reviewers
- More streamlined process
- Able to keep track of which applications are complete and which are still in progress—great for counselors

Previous Grant Process

In 2011, the board allocated \$50,000 towards teachers seeking discovery grants or classroom initiated grants. We had 71 applications and 21 of those were awarded. We did all of that with paper, and when you start to think about the time we spent having to make copies of all 71 applications for 10 reviewers and then go through the review process... it was time costly, to say the least.

Benefits of Foundant GLM

Since adopting the Foundant software, it is just so much more efficient for us that we end up taking less of our board members' time and less of our staff members' time. The board members like that they can not only review online, but we bring them together and we'll all meet in the boardroom. The summary sheets can be brought up for discussion and they can make their final selections with no paper involved. They are able to get together in a very quick fashion because all the summary work is done. We're now looking at expanding, and Foundant's services are going to allow us to do that.

Have you had applicant feedback?

The applicants like it once they get used to getting online and doing it. For students, it's easier because they're so used to typing everything as it is. The handwriting on some of the paper forms was atrocious. I think for them the online system is easier because they can just go in, type their answers into Word, and then copy/paste it right into the application. We haven't had any complaints from the students and then teachers seem to like it a lot better for grants. It's a more streamlined process, so if they have problems they just give me a call and I'm able to easily walk them through it.



What is Foundant's support like?

The Foundant training support is fast, and they're helpful. We've really only had to call them on one issue, and they worked really hard to get that resolved as fast as possible. And I always receive a follow-up email asking if the issue has been solved and if not how they can help to solve it.

And they're very easy to contact if we have questions. We typically have scholarships once a year, so by the time I go to make new ones I've often forgotten how to do certain things. I just call in to Client Services and they walk me through it again and it's easy to go from there.

With eleven scholarships online, it would have been time consuming to create all of those separate applications, but I'm able to copy.



Lyndsay Lettre
Administrative Assistant

Favorite GLM Features

With eleven scholarships online, it would have been time consuming to create all of those separate applications, but I'm able to copy. I can create one application and then I don't have to create multiple different applications from scratch. All I need to do is change the information to match the different scholarships or the different grants, which saves a lot of time.

It's also very easy to go online and assign reviewers; all I need is an email address and then I send them instructions. From there, it's easy for them to get online and they seem to really like it.

There's also a feature where you can separate, so you can see whose application is in draft versus who has already submitted their application. Once they've submitted their application, I can go in and see if they have all the necessary documents—some of our scholarships require letters of recommendation and they can submit their applications before those are in. Once they have all of their letters of recommendation, I can move them into a complete section and that way I know who's just completed the application and who's "really done," which makes it much easier on my end.

The best feature for me is that I can see who is working on the application at any given time; so I can see what types of projects we're going to get and which students are submitting applications for scholarships—which helps the counselors because they can go to the students and say, "This is what you're missing and this is what you need to complete it."