



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**The Kazickas Family Foundation est. 1998**

# Mission in Action

The KFF plays a significant role in increasing civic-mindedness in Lithuanian society, especially the young generation. It provides people in the NGO field with opportunities to connect, exchange ideas and form partnerships.

To keep up this mission, our activity plan focused on the following areas in 2024:

- Community building and creating a platform for networking,
- Support to grantees besides financial grants and donations,
- More opportunities to the Lithuanian society,
- Increased publicity as a source of inspiration to others.



In the photo Kazickas Family members from the left: Andrew Grant, Sophie Kazickas, John Kazickas, Marceil Kazickas, Jenna Campbell, Jack Kazickas



In the photo from the left: KFF's Communication Director Kamile Permire, Executive Director in the US Neila Baumiliene, Project Coordinator Monika Zavistanaviciute, Executive Director in Lithuania Domante Greifenbergeryte

# Key Metrics



## Total of \$897,000 allocated:

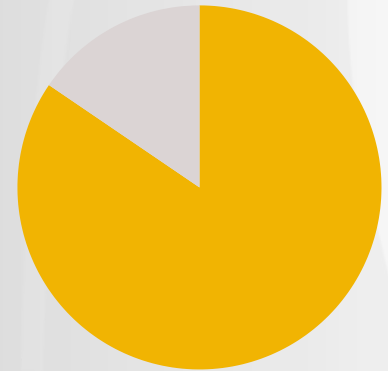
- \$139,000 to new grantees
- \$758,000 to long-standing grantees



## 128 organizations and individuals supported:

- 75\* in USA
- 53 in Lithuania
  
- 104 long-standing grantees
- 24 new grantees

New Grantees  
15.5%



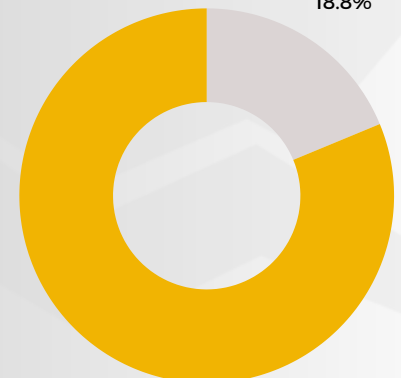
Long-standing Grantees  
84.5%

Lithuania  
41.4%



USA  
58.6%

New Grantees  
18.8%



Long-standing Grantees  
81.3%

\* Out of 75 organizations supported in the US, 40 are Lithuanian schools for diaspora.

# Key Milestones

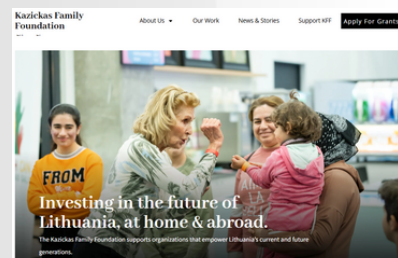
## New KFF STEM Scholarship Program

- \$50,000 allocated
- 6 winners selected



## Brand new organization's website launched

- A joint effort of the Kazickas family members, KFF staff and Uncommon.It team



## “Smart-ups” project

- After two year-long meetings a group of like-minded business and NGO sector representatives started developing an emotional health standard for education community
- KFF is a donor alongside “Eika” and “Acme Group”



## Partner Appreciation and Networking event

- 100 partners, grantees and friends gathered
- 7 Kazickas family members attended



# New Partner Overview

## New organizations that KFF supported in 2024:

### Youth Empowerment:

- Youth after-school initiative “Kybartu Jaunimas”
- Students’ of Pasvalys’ Petras Vileisis Gymnasium board game project
- Therapeutic farming program “Ugdanciu Patirciu Namai”
- Visaginas’ youth center “Tocka”

### Emotional and Mental Health:

- Psychologically safe space for teachers project “Teachers’ Peer Support Circles”
- Children Support Center, through “Smart-ups” project
- Children care at hospitals initiative “Niekieno vaikai”
- Befriending hotline for the elderly “Sidabrine linija”

### Social Welfare:

- Rehabilitation center for people with addictions “Taikos kelias”
- SOS Children's Villages
- Kursenai Family Home Guardianship Center

### Arts and Culture:

- Arts agency “Artscape”
- Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre Support Fund “Orfejaus lyra”

### Other:

- Lithuanian Armed Forces Wounded Warrior Foundation
- Online course platform for women “WoW University”
- Baltic Fundraising Hub
- Global Lithuanian Leaders Awards
- Lynch Foundation (for recovery of Vilte Gruzdyte)

# KFF STEM Scholarship

Under **KFF's president Jurate Kazickas' initiative \$50, 000 have been allocated to support talented Lithuanian citizens** accepted into accredited undergraduate or graduate programs in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) abroad.

A committee composed of Kazickas family members and an academic expert Dr. Saulius Diliunas selected six scholarship recipients:

- Milda Tulabaite, Bachelor in Physics and Data Science, Constructor University, Germany
- Martyna Petrulyte, Master in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Clemson University, USA
- Agne Ramanaviciute, Master in Scientific Computing, University of Cambridge, UK
- Paulius Kalinauskas, Master of Physics, University of Oxford, UK
- Ieva Bagdonaviciute, Bachelor in Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- Marta Marciulionyte, Master in Analytical Chemistry, University of Copenhagen, Denmark



# Engagement with LT Community

The major highlight of fostering community connections was the **Partner Appreciation and Networking Event**. The focus of the evening was gratitude to partners and networking. The official program was composed of:

- **A panel discussion “Innovative Philanthropy”** moderated by KFF's Vilnius Office Executive Director Domante Greifenbergeryte. The panelists were: Kiki Kazickas on KFF's behalf, Sergej Artemiuk, “Acme Group”, and Aiste Ulubey, “Artscape”.
- **Beneficiary Spotlight** was given to Giedre Deveikyte, “Uncommon LT” alumna.
- **Grantee Spotlight** - to the Lithuanian World Center.
- **Musical performance** was gifted by ensemble “Lietuva”.



# Engagement with LT Community

This year KFF staff in Lithuania:

- held and participated in **over 80 meetings and visits** with partners, grantees, beneficiaries and other KFF community members.
- attended **over 40 events** organized by partners.



We hosted 6 community building events at the Kazickas Family Residence:

- International student exchange program “ASSIST” Alumni Evening
- Youth Empowerment Reception
- “Smart-ups” Project Strategic Session
- Social Welfare Reception
- Open Door Event for Lithuanian Diaspora
- Diaspora Talent Networking Evening

Dedicating time to meet with grantees and partners as well as creating platforms for idea exchange and networking have contributed to our goal of building a stronger like-minded civic community in Lithuania.





# Additional Support to Grantees

We expand our philanthropic efforts beyond financial support and provide the grantees with learning and networking opportunities. This year in addition to regular meetings and visits, we offered:

- **Pitch workshop sessions** to 10 grantees. They were organized by startup advisory “Katalista Ventures”, and consisted of two individual sessions and a final meeting where the organizations had a chance to practice their new pitch in front of a jury.
- Tickets for 20 partners to attend the **“Fundraising Summit 2024”** organized by the Baltic Fundraising Hub.



# Engagement with US Community

In the United States, we continue to **strengthen ties with the Lithuanian-American diaspora** and engage in efforts to address key community and diaspora issues. Some highlights of Kazickas Family and Executive Director of US Office Neila Baumiliene meetings and participation in events in the USA:

- The North American Lithuanian Business Forum in New York.
- The Lithuanian American Community Council Meeting in Dallas.
- The official unveiling ceremony of V. K. Jonynas bas-reliefs at the Lithuanian World Center.
- The Christmas morning celebration at the Alexandra Kazickas Lithuanian School in Eastern Long Island.
- The New York City Fundraiser and Community Info Event organized by the Ukrainian NGO “Kind Deeds.”

*In addition, a first U.S. business trip by Executive Director Domante Greifenbergeryte took place, including visits to Lithuanian-American communities and institutions in New York City, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Lithuanian diaspora youth summer camps “Neringa” and “Dainava”.*



# Uncommon LT Growth

In 2024 the IT skills program fully funded by KFF “Uncommon LT” shifted in its concept and approach. Now it offers modules on a variety of AI tools practical use and development of soft skills. The goal is to bridge the digital divide between cities and rural regions in Lithuania.

## Key facts:

- **Two locations** in Panevezys and Ukmerge. In 2025 to expand to five regions by adding Pasvalys, Birzai and Kedainiai.
- **Over 30 AI skills development workshops** carried out on 15 different topics.
- **Target audience:** teenagers, unemployed and minimum wage earners, teachers, senior citizens.
- **Dedicated team** behind the program are based in Panevezys and Ukmerge: Ieva Klungyte, Matas Meskauskas and Indromeda Jankauskiene.
- KFF staff supports the team through mentorship, strategic sessions, teambuildings and regular visits.



# Independent Programs

These programs already operate as separate NGOs but remain KFF's flagship initiatives for youth empowerment and development:

Key updates from life skills development program for youth living in the regions “Youth Can”:

- The program is celebrating its **10th anniversary**.
- 6-day summer camp received **65 campers**.
- 1-day alcohol-free youth music festival “PumpFest” in Pumpenai gathered **6000 attendees**.
- A **brand new youth and community center** opened in Pumpenai.
- Regular after-school activities take place in **10 locations across Lithuania**.



Key updates from diaspora youth internship program “Bring Together Lithuania”:

- **22 Lithuanian diaspora participants** from 6 different countries joined the 7th generation of BTLT in the summer of 2024.
- A record number, **over 80 applications** were received.
- **3 alumni** after completing their internships **decided to continue working or studying in Lithuania**.



# Next Year Goals

In 2025, KFF will continue fulfilling the mission to create a better world for current and future generations in Lithuania and abroad. Our key focus areas will remain:

- **Building community** by organizing networking events that address the causes the Foundation supports, including education, support to Ukraine, diaspora engagement, and more.
- **Helping grantees beyond funding** through capacity-building initiatives and partnerships.
- **Supporting Lithuanian society** through funding the new scholarship program and the emotional health standard.
- **Promoting philanthropic values** and inspiring others through media outreach and public events.

We are grateful to our community for standing with us for 26 years and enabling us to drive meaningful change across all the areas we work on. Together, we have achieved so much, and we are excited to embark on another impactful and inspiring year ahead!



In the photo: the two generations of the Kazickas family.



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