



# ANNUAL REPORT

2025



*A Legacy of Generosity Guides Our Future Vision*

# Mission in Action

**The Kazickas Family Foundation (KFF)** has continued its philanthropic mission of creating a better world for both current and future generations of Lithuanians through grant giving and outreach activities:

- **Building stronger NGO communities** through targeted networking and collaboration events.
- **Supporting grantees beyond funding** with capacity-building, skills development, and advisory support.
- **Contributing to Lithuanian society** through initiatives in education, youth engagement, and emotional well-being.
- **Expanding KFF's international reach** by strengthening ties with diaspora communities and global partners.
- **Promoting philanthropic values** through strategic communication, media presence, and public engagement.



In the photo from the left: Consul General of Lithuania in NY Dovydas Špokauskas and Kazickas Family members Lucy Kazickas, Marceil Kazickas, John Kazickas and Joseph Kazickas



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

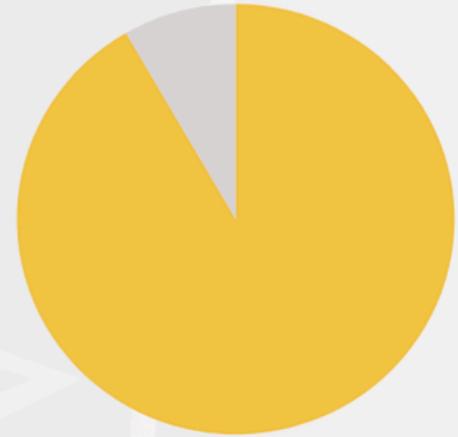
# Impact in Numbers

**TOTAL OF \$906,000**

**ALLOCATED:**

- **\$830,254** to long-standing grantees
- **\$75,746** to new grantees

**New Grantees**  
8.4%



**Long-standing Grantees**  
91.6%

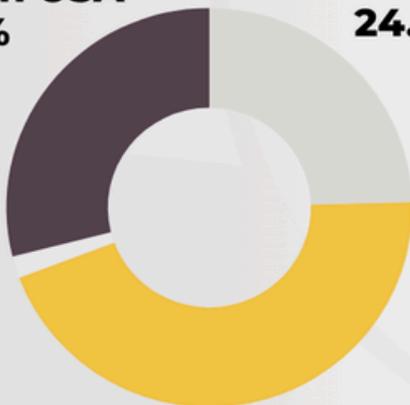
**114**

**ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED:**

**LT causes in USA**  
28.9%

**USA**  
24.6%

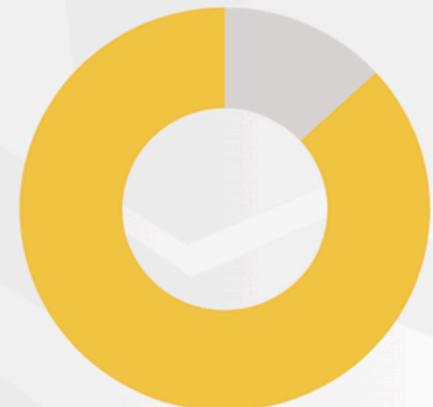
**Other**  
1.8%



**Lithuania**  
44.7%

- **51** in Lithuania
- **33** Lithuanian causes in USA
- **28** in USA
- **1** in Zimbabwe
- **1** in France

**New Grantees**  
13.2%



**Long-standing Grantees**  
86.8%

- **99** long-standing grantees
- **15** new grantees

# KFF as a Philanthropic Leader

KFF continued to strengthen its leadership role in philanthropy, both in Lithuania and internationally, inspiring others to contribute to society in a meaningful way through strategic, family-led initiatives, public engagement, and knowledge sharing.

- KFF was honored with the **AmCham Lithuania Award for visionary philanthropy**, leadership, and strengthening Lithuania–US ties.
- Participation in the **Lithuanian Business News** podcast with Jūratė Kazickaitė and Neila Baumilienė – “The Philanthropy Gene Lives in All of Us”.
- **Neila Baumilienė**, KFF Executive Director in the US, received the **Knight’s Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania**.
- Sorainen law firm clients attended a **discussion with Joseph and Lucy Kazickas on philanthropy and family values**.
- Meetings with **leaders of philanthropic foundations in Lithuania**, contributing to dialogue and knowledge exchange.



# New Grantees Overview

## Youth Empowerment:

- Women Activity Innovation Center
- Personal Youth Development Center
- Caritas of Šiauliai Diocese
- Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Immaculate Virgin Mary

## Emotional and Mental Health:

- Domus Solis, Think Equal Program
- Human Rights in Mental Health

## Social Welfare:

- Home of Good Experiences
- Women Information Center
- Kaunas' L'arche Community
- Alytus' Association for People with Disabilities
- Long Island Cares

## Arts and Culture:

- First International Vytautas Bacevicius Piano Competition

## Education:

- The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights

## Diaspora Engagement:

- Baltic American Chamber of Commerce
- Paris-Lithuanian Community



# KFF STEM Scholarship Program

The Kazickas Family Foundation STEM Scholarship Program entered its second year, continuing the initiative launched under the leadership of KFF President Jūratė Kazickaitė to support talented Lithuanian students pursuing STEM studies in TOP universities abroad.

The selection committee composed of Kazickas family members and an academic expert awarded scholarships to **seven recipients**:

- **Three students** received **€10,000 scholarships**
- **Four students** received **€5,000 scholarships**

## 2025 STEM scholarship recipients:

- **Justas Miliauskas** – Bachelor in Natural Sciences (Biological), University of Cambridge, UK
- **Migle Sarpilo** – MSc in Biotechnology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- **Barbora Bučinskaitė** – MPhil in Stem Cell Medicine, University of Cambridge, UK
- **Jurgis Kemeklis** – BSc in Mathematics with Computer Science, MIT, USA
- **Pijus Tamošiūnas** – Master in Chemistry, University of Oxford, UK
- **Kipras Deksnys** – Bachelor in Engineering, University of Cambridge, UK
- **Rugilė Urtė Ulianskaitė** – MSc in Mathematical Finance, University of Warwick, UK



# Kazickas Family Visits

## Jurate, Michael and Beverly in January

### Main activities:

Met the First Lady, Minister of Economy & Innovation, French Ambassador; visited the Ukraine Center in Vilnius; hosted events: Youth Can 10th Anniversary, dr. J. P. Kazickas Yale Fellows Evening, ASSIST Reception.



## Jurate in June

### Main activities:

Mass and Concert in Memory of Alexandra Kazickas at St. Casimir's Church, Alexandra Kazickas Kalvenaite and Petras Butenas Literacy Award Ceremony, Bring Together Lithuania Partners Breakfast, Uncommon LT workshop, Meeting with First Lady.



# Kazickas Family Visits

## Joseph and Lucy in September

### Main activities:

Sacred Music Hours Closing Concert, meetings with Presidents Valdas Adamkus and Gitanas Nausėda, Law firm Sorainen Client Event (discussion on philanthropy), KFF Grantee and Partner Gratitude Evening.



# Engagement with Partners in LT

**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.**

**We hosted 13 community building events at the Kazickas Family Residence:**

- International exchange program ASSIST Alumni Reception
- Youth Can 10th Anniversary Reception
- Dr. J.P. Kazickas Yale Fellows Reception
- International Women Association of Vilnius Handout Ceremony of International Christmas Charity Bazaar
- Networking Reception and Panel Discussion “Education and Emotional Wellbeing - whose responsibility is it?”
- Bring Together Lithuania Opening & Closing Events
- Alexandra Kazickas & Butenas Literacy Award Ceremony
- Reception with Lithuanian Diaspora young professionals
- LT Big Brother Mentors Event
- Sacred Music Hours Opening & Closing Concerts Receptions
- Discussion and Reception with Sorainen partners on Kazickas Family Legacy and Philanthropy
- Gratitude Evening for Partners of our Grantees
- Katalista Ventures Demo Day



# Engagement with Partners in LT

## This year KFF staff in Lithuania:

- Held and participated in **over 170 meetings and visits** with partners, grantees, beneficiaries and other KFF community members.
- Attended **over 50 events** organized by partners.



## 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:

- **Fundraising workshop sessions to 10 grantee organizations** on fundraising covering the basics of fundraising and attracting funds from the business sector. It consisted of two workshops by experts from the Baltic Fundraising Hub.
- Tickets for **30 partners** to attend the **“Fundraising Summit 2025”** 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 needs.

## Some highlights of the meetings and participation in events:

- Events and meetings dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence in Washington DC.
- North American-Lithuanian Business Forum in Boston.
- 11th North American Lithuanian Song Festival in Cleveland.
- World Lithuanian Center's Fundraising Evening.
- Čiurlionis Symposium at Yale University, New Haven.
- Lithuanian Foundation Gala in Chicago, Lemont.
- Meeting with the First Lady Diana Nausediene, leaders and teachers of Lithuanian heritage schools on the East Coast.
- All Saints day with the community of A. Kazickiene Saturday School in Long Island.
- The New York City Fundraiser organized for the Ukrainian NGOs "Kind Deeds" and "Save Ukraine".
- Bring Together Lithuania presentations at Lithuanian heritage schools and community centers.
- 5K Run for Lithuanian Freedom in New York.
- Organ concert by Renata Marcinkute-Lesieur in NYC.



# Expansion of International Presence

In January, KFF Board Member Michael Kazickas, his wife Beverly, and KFF staff from Lithuania and the US participated in **business visit to Paris, France.**

The trip aligned with the **Lithuanian Cultural Season in France.**

- Visited the **Lithuanian Embassy in Paris.**
- Met the **Ambassador Arnoldas Pranckevičius**, the Cultural Attaché Austė Zdančiūtė and other diplomats.
- Visited the **Lithuanian exhibition at the Pompidou Center by MO Museum**, followed by a tour of Center's art restoration facilities.
- **Visited Le Mans.**
- Initiated the meeting and networking with the **French-Lithuanian community** at the Embassy of Lithuania in France.
- KFF and its grantees – **Bring Together Lithuania, Sodžiaus Meistrai, Sacred Music Hours** – presented their cultural, educational, and historical ties with France.
- Met the **Saint-Sulpice church organist Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin**, attended a Sunday organ concert.



# Expansion of International Presence

In October, KFF's visit to Italy, Turin and Rome.

The trip aligned with two important events - the launch of the Lithuanian Cultural Season in Italy and the annual Italian-Lithuanian community gathering in Turin.

- Participated in **three day Italian-Lithuanian community gathering** in Turin.
- Met with **the Ambassador of Lithuania** to Italy, Dalia Kreiviene at the Lithuanian Embassy in Rome.
- Participation in **Mass celebrated by Cardinal Rolandas Makrickas** at Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica.
- **Mass celebrated by Fr. Audrius Arstikaitis** at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican.
- Meeting with **Ambassador to the Holy See** Sigita Maslauskaite at the Embassy.
- Visited to St. Paul Outside the Walls Basilica with an organ performance and guided tour **by Christian Alexandro Almada and Renata Marcinkute-Lesieur**.
- Met with the Board Members of **Lithuanian Communities in Rome and Italy**.
- Promoted **Bring Together Lithuania** for Italian-Lithuanian youth and their families.



# Visibility

KFF strengthened its public visibility through active media engagement, partnerships, and storytelling across multiple platforms.

Key highlights include:

- KFF leadership and staff were invited to speak as subject-matter experts at 10 events and participate in 5 interviews and podcasts, reflecting recognition of KFF as a trusted thought leader in philanthropy.
- **Press releases** published to showcase our programs and grantees, contributing to greater public awareness.
- Other press releases prepared jointly with partners **Sorainen, IWAV, Sacred Music Hours, Bring Together Lithuania, Presidents' Office and Lithuania's Power**, highlighting collaborative initiatives,
- Published the latest **Odyssey of Hope book** in English and Lithuanian languages, sharing the life stories of Alexandra and Joseph P. Kazickas and their journey through the 20th century.

Domantė Kazickaitė: „Filantropijos genas mūsų visų etuvių viduje, tereikia tik surasti savo aistrą“



# Independent Programs

Beyond supporting grantees, KFF also initiates programs that later evolve into independent NGOs and remain flagship initiatives for youth empowerment and development.

Key updates from diaspora youth internship program “Bring Together Lithuania” (BTLT).

- **130+ applications** received; **30 participants** selected for the summer internship program.
- Program delivered in **three languages: Lithuanian, English, and Spanish.**
- Participants represented different countries, like **US, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, New Zealand, Bermuda and the UK.**
- Diaspora youth interned in leading Lithuanian companies, startups, governmental institutions and NGOs.
- **Program presented at major diaspora communities and events** across Europe, South America, and the United States.
- **35+ alumni** decided to work, study and live in Lithuania.

In 2026, BTLT is ready to launch **NEXUS**, a one-year career start program designed to strengthen young professionals’ long-term connection with Lithuania’s innovation and business ecosystem.



# Independent Programs

**Highlights from life skills development program for youth living in Lithuania's small towns and villages "Youth Can":**

- 2024-2025 season, **207** participants engaged in **640** activities across **11** locations.
- **7-day YC summer camp** in Pumpenai hosted **32 participants**. Campers developed competencies in the fields of sports, art, and self-awareness.
- **8-day Entrepreneurship summer camp** in Pumpenai brought together **41 participants**.
- **Music festival "PUMPFest"** promoting an active and healthy lifestyle attracted **5000 participants**.



**Highlights from the educational program developing digital skills among young people across Lithuania "Uncommon.lt":**

- Active in **five towns**: Panevėžys, Ukmergė, Jonava, Biržai, and Pasvalys.
- **69 trainings** delivered during the year.
- **1,193 workshop participants** and **350 participants** reached through partner events and conferences.
- **Uncommon LT legal entity** officially established.
- First pilot **workshops** launched for youth with **invisible disabilities**.



# Testimonials from Grantees

I am extremely grateful for the attention shown to us, NGO representatives! So far, no other organization in Lithuania has shown such a deep trust in the NGOs activities and desire to train them to improve their work.

The events dedicated to networking, showing gratitude and forging partnerships that you organize set an example for us on how to communicate with our members and supporters, and develop our organizational culture. We learn from you and implement this in our NGO's everyday life.  
THANK YOU!



**Aušra Kriškovicienė**  
Lithuanian Tricycle Sports  
Association President

I sincerely thank KFF for giving me the opportunity to pursue my dreams. This scholarship has provided me not only with financial support but also with the confidence that the path I have chosen is valued and supported.

For me, as a young scientist, this help means much more than just the continuation of my studies – it is a bridge to building a future, contributing to scientific progress, and strengthening Lithuania's name in the world.

Thank you for believing in young people and their potential.



**Miglė Šarpilo**  
KFF STEM Scholarship Recipient

Your generosity contributes to our school's mission - to nurture the Lithuanian spirit in the younger generation and strengthen their connection to their roots.

Thanks to your support, we can provide higher-quality education, enrich the learning environment, and continue the important work of fostering Lithuanian heritage abroad.

We are incredibly grateful for your trust and support. Every contribution you make is deeply valued and appreciated.



**Lina Šiškienė**  
Administrator at the Boston  
Lithuanian School

# Next Year Goals

In 2026, KFF will continue its mission to create a better world for current and future generations in Lithuania and abroad. Building on the progress made in previous years, the foundation will further expand its activities while strengthening strategic focus.

## Our key focus areas will remain:

- **Building community** with local and international philanthropic organizations and expanding KFF's international presence.
- **Helping grantees beyond funding** through capacity-building initiatives and knowledge sharing.
- **Strengthening impact measurement** by developing clearer tools and approaches to better assess and communicate the results of our work.
- **Promoting philanthropic values** and inspiring others through communication, media outreach, and public engagement.

We are grateful to our community for standing with us for 27 years and enabling us to drive meaningful change.



*Photos from the Kazickas family members' visits to Lithuania in 2025*



**The Kazickas Family Foundation est. 1998**