2024

ANNUAL REPORT

MC FOUNDATION

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Key Highlights	4
Our Programs	5-9
Gratitude Gala and Awards	10
Financial Performance	11
Donor Recognition	12
Looking Ahead	13

Overview

The MAC Foundation is the fundraising arm of the Midlands African Chamber, Inc, organized as a 501(c)(3) corporation exclusively for charitable, educational, and cultural purposes in the state of Nebraska.

Mission and Vision

Our mission is to connect, empower, and elevate underrepresented entrepreneurs.

We envision a world where we can help empower, connect, and elevate underserved entrepreneurs and promote cultural awareness, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our commitment to these goals drives our work and shapes our strategies.

Board Members

Karine Sokpoh, President
Pierre Bita, Secretary
Dr. Albert Kate, Treasurer
Tierra Nesbit, VP Marketing

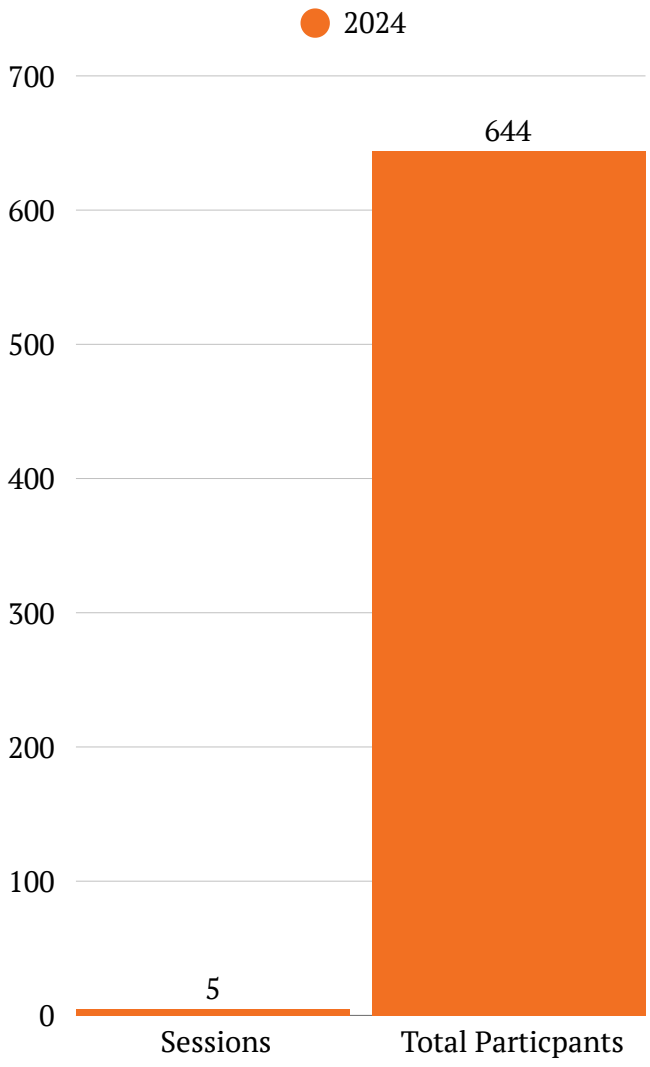
Ike Igbokwe, Board Member at Large
Dr. Matthew Omojola, Member at Large
Darrell. T. Black, Member at Large
Ralph Kodjovi Abalo, Member at Large

Key Highlights

In 2024, the MAC Foundation made significant impact by:

- Empowering over 658 individuals through the Suit Up program with over 1,800 articles of business clothing.
- Awarding a total of $12,000 in scholarships to 12 area students.
- Helping 13 teens create their own businesses through the Rising CEOs program and funding 3 of these businesses.
- Providing over 2,025 service hours to businesses.

Our Programs: Suit UP



In 2024, we took significant strides toward empowering young individuals and creating pathways for their success.

Through our comprehensive programs, we supported more than 644 students and young professionals by providing essential tools for their career journeys. This included professional attire to ensure the participants could present themselves confidently in interviews and professional settings, as well as career coaching that offered personalized guidance, resume building, interview preparation, and mentorship.

We partnered with Aksarben Foundation, Women's Fund of Omaha, Fraser Stryker, Koley Jessen, LinkedIn, Ignite Nebraska, UNMC, Black Students Leadership Council, African Immigrant Family Services, and countless volunteers to provide workforce development services to youth and young adults.

Our Programs: Rising CEOs

2024 Champion: Am'Agyn Spencer

Runner Ups: Tony Digny & Joshua Afanoukoe

This year, 11 students participated in the Rising CEOs program with 3 businesses funded, and Am'Agyn Spencer, a sophomore at Duchesne Academy and the 2024 Rising CEOs Champion founded Neighborhood Nannies.

Her passion for community brought her to Rising CEOs, where she was able to blend her leadership and entrepreneurial goals.

"The mentors at MAC gave me guidance and confidence in my ability to succeed. Rising CEOs taught me that preparation is the foundation for success and that careful planning can open doors."

IMPACT

100%
high school graduation rate

62.50%
participants were new to entrepreneurship

85.71%
rated experience as excellent

100%
of parents were satisfied with the program

2024 MAC Scholars

Leticia Teteh, 2024 MAC Scholar

Cynthia Anukege, 2024 MAC Scholar

Supporting BIPOC students in Accounting, Finance, Law, and STEM, our scholarship encourages academic excellence. We awarded $12,000 in scholarships to 12 local students. See below in their own words the impact the scholarship had on their lives.

Originally from Ghana, Leticia is a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska Omaha, specializing in public finance. She says “the scholarship meant everything” as she was able to take care of tuition with the funds provided, after her move to NE caused her to incur significant moving and living expenses.

Cynthia Anukege says her academic career has been fulfilling thanks to the MAC scholarship which motivates her to continue striving for excellence in her academic and professional pursuits.

She stated “I am deeply grateful to the MAC Foundation and Karine Sokpoh for their generosity, support, and encouragement. As the saying goes, ‘An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.’ “

UMOJA™ FORUM

This year, we held three Umoja forum sessions and collaborated with over a dozen local organizations to promote unity and build economic advancement locally and in the diaspora.

We partnered with the Urban League of Nebraska, Simple Foundation, Martin Williams International, EADAN, and Untamed. With the help of these partners, we hosted impactful discussions with leaders like Wayne D. Brown, JD Mahamed Jimale, Osuman Issaka, Hon. Fiifi Kwetey, General Secretary of NDC Ghana and Daniel K. Agboka-Dzegede (Volta Development Forum), and Dr. Martin Williams.

1978	16	10
Reach	Hours of Service	Collaborations

This year, we collaborated with the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, and Equal Opportunities Consulting to host Mission & Meals 2024, aimed at enhancing support for nonprofit members.

Our COO, Fidele Mienso, facilitated sessions where members identified challenges like collaboration, mentorship, and resource needs. Solutions discussed included training, funding panels, and governance support, with key topics covering the NAM Guidelines and Principles Survey, available resources, board governance, and recruitment to strengthen local nonprofits.

Jill Thomsen
Equal Opportunities Consulting

Anne Hindery
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands

3
Sessions

40
Hours of Service

5
Partnerships

16
Nonprofits Assisted

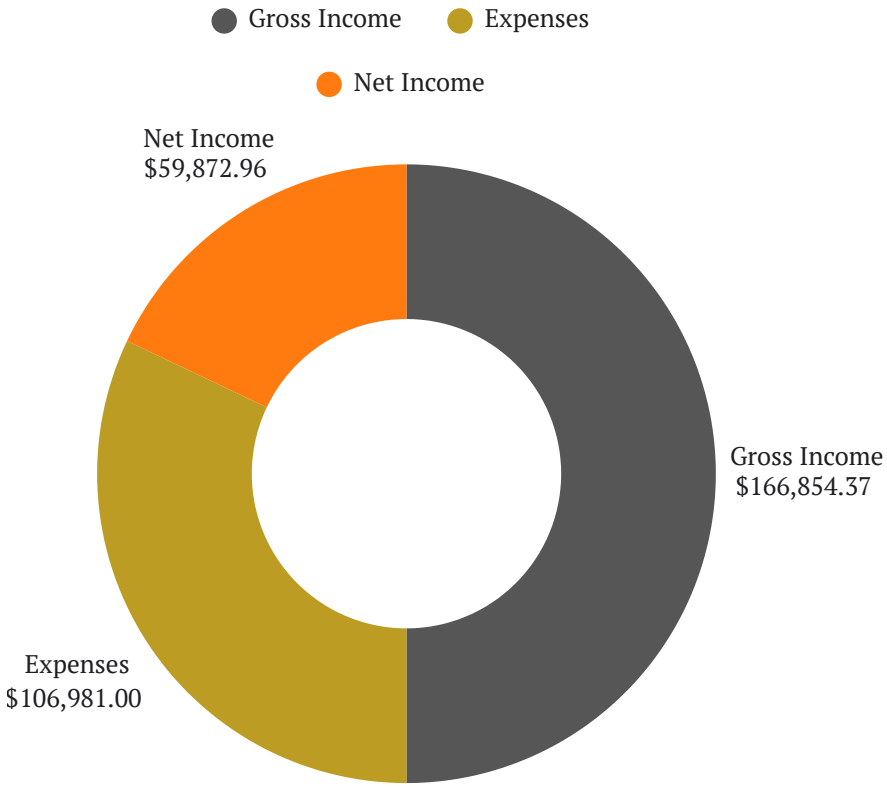
The Gratitude Gala serves as a powerful platform for recognizing exceptional individuals and organizations, while also serving as a significant fundraising event for both the MAC Foundation and the Midlands African Chamber Inc. The event was held on November 16, 2024 at MCC Fort Omaha Campus and brought together 250 attendees where outstanding community leaders were honored and 12 MAC scholars were awarded academic scholarships.

Gratitude Awards Winners

Founders Award: Home Team Auto Sales, Candice Price & Ron Devers
MAC Champion: Invest Nebraska, Dan Hoffman
Small Business of the Year: Team-LLC, Charmaine Walker
Inclusion Leader Award: All of Us Together CO, Mynesha Spencer
Philanthropic Star of the Year: Urban League of Nebraska, Wayne Brown
Large Business of the Year: Bank of America, Ali Husain
Volunteer of the Year: Omaha Headshot Company, Lane Hickenbottom
President's Volunteer Services Award: Hayes & Associates, LLC, Latricia Harris
Nukunu Award: Annushka-Mikaela Adanlete

Financial Performance

As the fiscal arm of the Midlands African Chamber Inc., the MAC Foundation played a pivotal role in securing funding, managing resources, and ensuring financial transparency for the organization. In 2024, The Foundation achieved a net income of $59,872.96 demonstrating a healthy financial position.



Donor Recognition

As we continue to build the MAC Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors and supporters who made our work possible this year.

We also acknowledge our scholarship donors and gratitude gala attendees who collectively helped raise $75,000 at the 2024 Gratitude Gala to support our mission and programs.

- Fidele Mienso
- Laban Njuguna
- Dr. Emmah Mwema
- Dr. & Mr Femi Awodele
- Mrs. & Dr. Dele Davies
- Dr. Chinyere Oarhe
- Yole Law
- Dae Spa
- Mynesha Spencer
- Am'Agyn Spencer
- Shonna Dorsey
- Demetrius Gatson
- Dorina Mahler
- Alicia Johnson
- Dede Amedenou
- Ron Devers
- Desiree Nguessan
- Vanessa Wielenga
- Deborah Gaspard
- Tynievya Miller
- Nichelle and Wayne Brown
- Eulice Washington
- Karine Sokpoh
- James Mobley
- Charles Kaup
- BlueRay 360
- Katie Weitz
- Cosmos Awortwi
- Hanihani Moundiba
- Sahfaya Mahamane
- Yolanda Barney
- Mahas Ahmed

Looking Ahead

As we journey ahead, the MAC Foundation remains steadfast in our commitment to expand our reach and amplify our impact among the communities we hold dear. Standing on the shoulders of our existing programs' successes, we set our sights on:

- Strengthening Umoja: Deepen intentional partnerships within African American and African immigrant communities through joint initiatives.
- Increasing the MAC Foundation Scholarship: Award 20 scholarships to MAC scholars in 2025.
- Boosting the Suit Up and Rising CEO programs by incorporating AI and digital literacy components.
- Expand Capacity: Hire additional staff to improve operational efficiency and provide enhanced support.
- Diversify Fundraising Strategies: Explore new fundraising opportunities for sustainable growth.
- Implement a CRM System: Acquire a Customer Relationship Management system and establish upgraded evaluation and tracking mechanisms to effectively monitor outcomes and key performance indicators.

Join the Tribe!

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As we look back on 2024, we are profoundly thankful for the steadfast support of our donors, partners, and community.

Your generosity and commitment have been vital in enabling us to reach our goals and foster significant change. Whether through financial donations, volunteer efforts, or the sharing of your knowledge, every act of support has made a significant impact in our community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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