

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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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.

The MAC Foundation believes in empowering, connecting and elevating underserved entrepreneurs and promoting cultural awareness, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Board Members

Karine Sokpoh, President
Pierre Bitá, 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

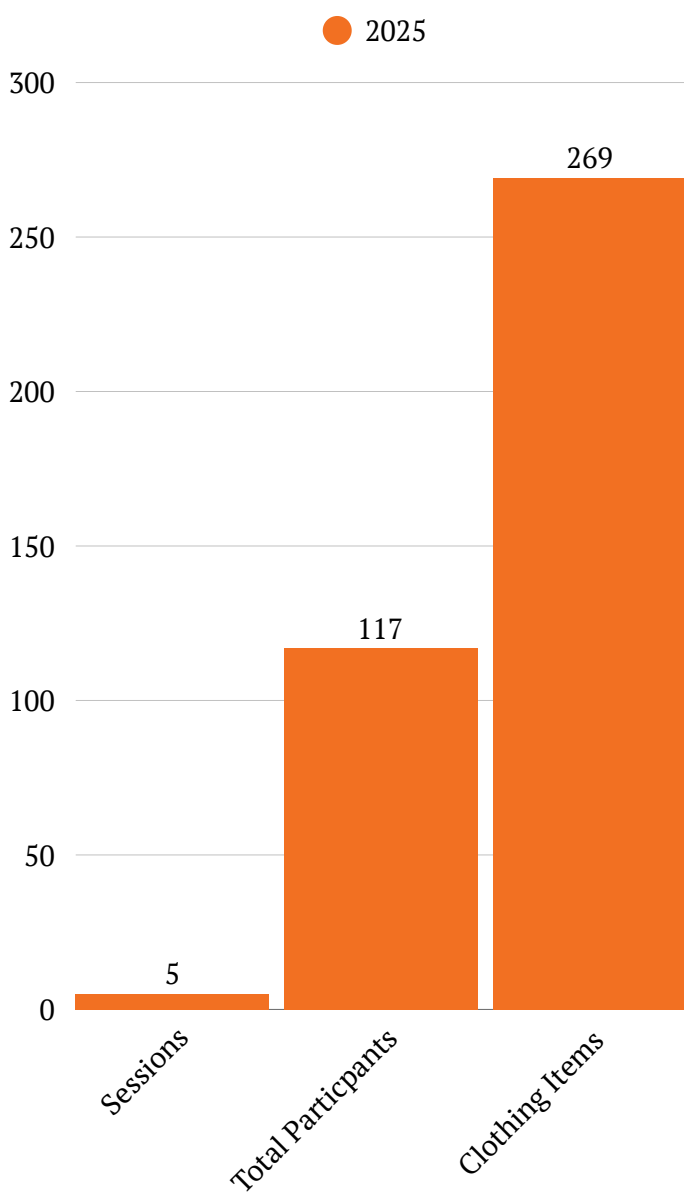


In 2025, the MAC Foundation made significant impact by:

- Empowering over 117 individuals through the Suit Up program with over 269 articles of business clothing.
- Awarding a total of \$20,000 in scholarships to 20 area students.
- Helping 6 teens create their own businesses through the Rising CEOs program and providing \$500 of start-up money to one of their businesses.
- Providing over 1,119 service hours to businesses.



Our Programs: Suit UP



In 2025, we supported over 117 students and emerging professionals by providing professional attire and individualized career coaching focused on résumés, interview preparation, and mentorship.

This work was made possible through partnerships with Heartland Integration Center, Metro Omaha Women's Business Center, Ignite Nebraska, LinkedIn, community service organizations, creative partners, and dedicated volunteers who supported workforce development for youth and young adults.



Our Programs: Rising CEOs

In just 10 weeks, participants launched businesses across a range of industries—from child and parent care to sustainable jewelry, food delivery, mentoring, and photography—and presented their ventures at a graduation pitch event.

Kelsey Herrera earned \$500 to support the launch of her business, ParentKind, and says the MAC Rising CEOs program “challenges, connects, and grows you” in ways that are always worth it. Her experience reflects the confidence and real-world skills students gain through the program. These young entrepreneurs leave the program better prepared to turn their ideas into action.



IMPACT

100%

high school
graduation rate

100%

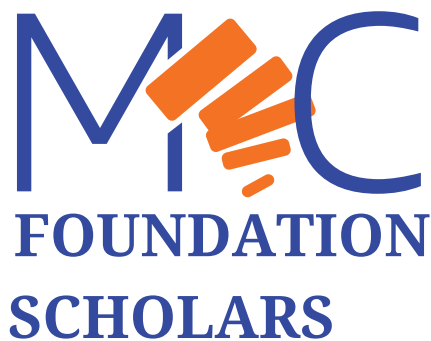
of participants
found the program
to be engaging

66.67%

of participants were
satisfied with the
instructor-to-
student ratio

100%

of parents were
satisfied with
the program



2025 MAC Scholars

Aligned with our mission to advance equity in education, our scholarship program supports underserved students pursuing accounting, finance, law, and STEM while promoting academic excellence and professional growth. In 2025, we awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to 20 local students. Among them is Caroline McDonald, a MAC Scholar using her award to cover freshman-year expenses at Loyola University Chicago as a pre-law Political Science major.

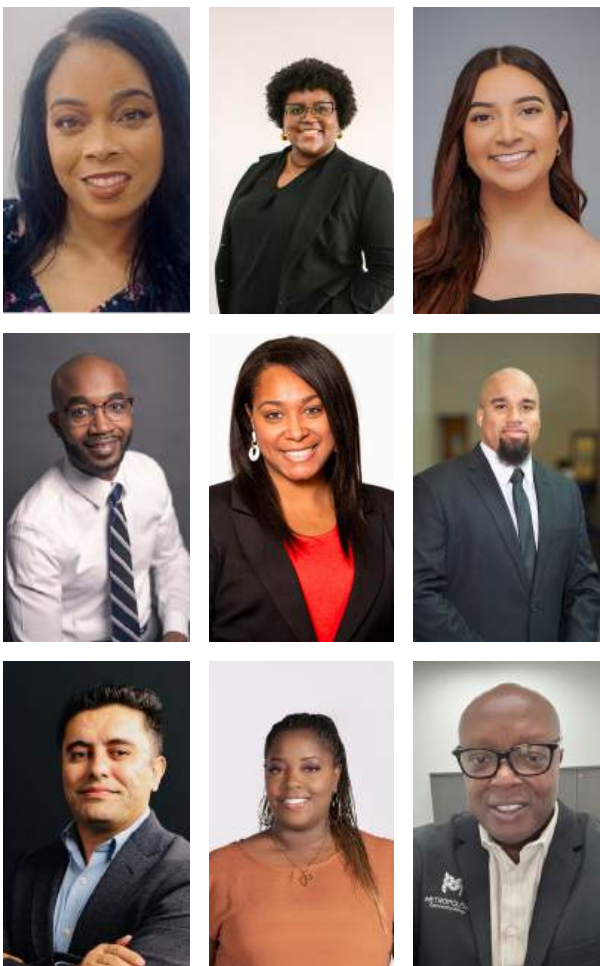
Another recipient, Josiane Kabayundo, is a Fulbright Scholar and PhD candidate at the University of Nebraska Medical Center researching pediatric cancer, with 13 published articles and 13 research presentations achieved so far. This initiative reduces financial barriers for underrepresented students and empowers them to become leaders, innovators, and contributors to a more diverse and inclusive workforce.



Caroline McDonald
Loyola University Chicago
Pre-Law and Political Science



Josiane Kabayundo
University of Nebraska Medical Center
PhD Candidate



In 2025, we hosted impactful discussions with leaders like Mohammed Sahil of the Nebraska Afghan Association, Joy Kathurima of the American Civil Liberties Union, Jannette Castro-Gomez of 402 Legal, Tim Clark of Metropolitan Community College, April Hibbler of the Urban League of Nebraska, Candice Price of Home Team Auto Sales, Brandon Whitaker of the Salem Baptist Church, Trecia Johnson of the Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals, and Johnny Nesbit of the Urban Financial Services Coalition.

4

30

12

Sessions

Hours of Service

Collaborations





In 2025, we collaborated with the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, Parlay Consulting, and United Way of the Midlands to host Mission & Meals 2025, aimed at enhancing support for nonprofit members. We facilitated sessions with non-profit members with key topics covering strategies planning, organizational development, building partnerships as a nonprofit, and impact measurement and evaluation.



Meg Blue
United Way of the Midlands



Anne Hindery
Nonprofit Association of the
Midlands



Beth Morrisette
Parlay Consulting

16+

Participants

16.5

Hours of Service

9

Nonprofits Assisted

4

Partnerships





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 22, 2025 at MCC Fort Omaha Campus. Our theme for the 2025 Gratitude Gala was *A Legacy of Liberation: from Civil Rights to Entrepreneurship*.

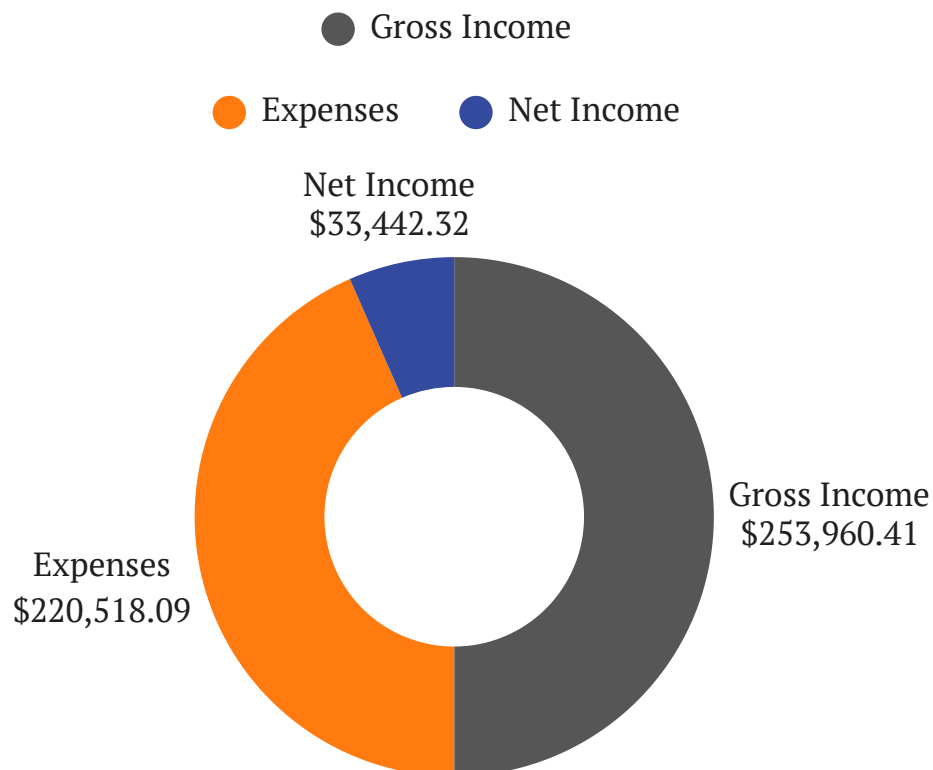
Gratitude Awards Winners

Waymaker-Courage in Truth Award: Sherman Wells
Founders Award: Embracing Heart Supportive Services
MAC Champion: Midlands Business Journal
Small Business of the Year: Rib Shack Smokehouse
Inclusion Leader Award: Tri-Faith Initiative
Philanthropic Star of the Year: Queens Butterfly House
Large Business of the Year: FiberFirst
Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Matthew Omojola
Nukunu Award: Tierra Nesbit



Financial Performance

As the financial arm of the Midlands African Chamber Inc., the MAC Foundation played a vital role in securing funding, managing resources, and maintaining fiscal transparency across the organization. In 2025, the Foundation reported a net income of \$33,442.32, reflecting a stable financial standing.



Donor Recognition

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



We also acknowledge our scholarship donors and gratitude gala attendees who collectively helped raise \$122,709.55 at the 2025 Gratitude Gala to support our mission and programs.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Paragon | • John Ekeh Law Offices, L.L.C. | • Johnny Nesbit | • Ross Uhle |
| • Hayes & Associates, LLC | • Dr. Chinyere Oarhe | • Karine Sokpoh | • Rachel Larson |
| • JPMorgan Chase & Co. | • Stacy Nichols-Byll | • Madeline Moyer | • Makayla Stubbs |
| • Pastel | • African Farms | • Dawn Stanley | • Pam Font-Gabel |
| • NP Mart | • Betty Kola | • Cammy Watkins | • Djifa Gnonouglo |
| • Family Practice of Grand Island | • Demetrius Gatson | • Brandie Byrd | • James Mobley |
| • Ike N. Igbokwe Law Firm | • LaTisha Henry | • Jewel Rodgers | • Lawrence Garnett |
| • Okolo Law Firm, LLC | • Ryan Callaghan | • Gibril Mansaray | • Fidele Mienso |
| • Devotion Law P.C. L.L.O. | • Megan Feeney | • Cristina Castro-Matukewicz | • Kerry Heinrich |
| • Embracing Heart | • Jenna McGhee | • Shari Strong | • Briana Ballew |
| • Supportive Services | • Teresa Frieser | • Gina Ewing | • Arike Davies |
| | | | • Dr. Matthew Omojola |



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:

- Supporting our signature programs: fostering community partnerships, providing educational and generational wealth building opportunities, and empowering underserved communities.
- Diversifying Fundraising Strategies: Explore new fundraising opportunities for sustainable growth.
- Strengthening the MAC Foundation Board of Directors by recruiting new members to support marketing and fundraising efforts.

Join the Tribe!

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As we reflect on 2025, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and community members.

Your generosity and dedication have been essential to achieving our mission and driving meaningful change. From financial contributions and volunteer service to sharing expertise and insight, every act of support has strengthened our impact and helped our community thrive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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