



Established in 1966, the Donaldson Foundation has funded charitable causes on behalf of [Donaldson Company, Inc.](#) The Foundation's mission is to positively impact the communities in which Donaldson Company employees live and work by supporting education. To learn more about the Donaldson Foundation, please visit:

<https://www.donaldson.com/en-us/about-us/company-information/community-involvement/>

In January 2019, Science from Scientists (SfS) received a generous grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Donaldson Foundation in support of SfS' mission to teach and inspire the next generation to identify and solve real-world problems by improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) literacy. SfS sends real scientists into classrooms every other week during the school year to teach hands-on STEM lessons aligned with state and national science standards to measurably improve the aptitudes and attitudes of 3rd- through 8th-graders in STEM. SfS' program brings discovery-based "aha" learning with role models to all students - regardless of circumstances or means - to encourage a wider variety of students to pursue careers in STEM fields.

The during-school program uniquely addresses the factors that influence whether students have the confidence and proficiency to pursue STEM in high school and beyond. Social stigmas are removed, because the program serves all students in a grade level during school. Lessons are hands-on activities that reach students with a variety of learning styles and language capacities; they are guided by real professionals, providing students with connections to role models, who encourage them to try new things. The program assists teachers, because it correlates to academic standards and provides them flexibility to choose lessons that best meet their needs, provides all materials and supplies, and offers embedded professional development with access to related educational resources. Parents, who may otherwise be unable to reinforce STEM education, have access to lesson descriptions and follow-up activities with inexpensive household items.

Because of Donaldson Foundation's generous contribution, we are able to support bringing during-school STEM enrichment to 1,441 students and 74 classroom teachers in 16 elementary and middle schools in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota during the 2018-2019 academic year. Our project goals are to provide every student in participating schools and grades with more contact hours doing quality STEM activities, to measurably increase student aptitude and attitude toward STEM, to improve student scores on state science assessments, and to help close STEM achievement gaps.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and the thousands of children and teachers we serve annually in SfS programs, thank you, Donaldson Foundation, for supporting our project and our commitment to creating equitable access to quality STEM education for all students!