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# THE RELAY TIMES

**September 2025**

**Vol. 09**



# RELAY UPDATE

## VICE - PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Dear Relay Family,

Since joining Relay in its earliest days in 2017, I've had the privilege of serving in many roles, each deepening my appreciation for the work we do. As I reflect on our journey, I'm filled with gratitude for how far we've come. Through challenges and victories, one guiding principle has stayed at the center of it all: IMPACT over everything.

I often think back to something our founder shared during a Vacation Bible School years ago: "If even one child gives their life to Christ, all the hard work is worth it." That same spirit lived on in a simple, powerful conversation between one of our leaders and a young girl in a grocery store, a moment that planted a seed of hope and showed her that college could be part of her future. That spark helped shape what Relay would eventually become.

Relay has always been about meaningful change. Whether it's one ambassador, one scholarship, or one life transformed, these moments are the heartbeat of our mission. Every single impact matters, and that is the legacy we are building together.

Today, I'm proud of the reach we've achieved. From the Dallas-Fort Worth area to communities in Louisiana, Maryland, and even as far as Nairobi, Kenya, Relay's mission continues to grow. Our impact has no borders, and neither does our commitment to uplifting others.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to invite you to our 2025 Relay Family Financial Literacy (FINLIT) Summit. This annual event is designed to equip individuals, students, and families with essential financial tools and knowledge through engaging workshops, hands-on learning, and expert guidance. From budgeting and saving to making informed financial decisions, we're coming together to build stronger, more financially empowered communities.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors, partners, volunteers, and all who participate in our fundraisers, workshops, and community-impact events. Your belief in our mission is reflected in every program we deliver, every scholarship we award, and every student we empower. Thank you for choosing to invest in this work; you are an essential part of every success story we celebrate.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we are building something enduring, touching one student, one family, and one life at a time.

With gratitude and hope,

*Peris Kabaru*  
Board Vice President, Relay

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 2025 FINLIT SUMMIT



### Mark Your Calendar: 2025 FinLit Summit

We're excited to invite you to the 2025 Annual Financial Literacy (FinLit) Summit, happening on Saturday, November 8th at Dallas College – Mountain View Campus.

This free, fun, and informative event is designed for individuals, students, and families to empower them with the financial knowledge, tools, and confidence they need to build a stronger financial future.

The Summit will feature a series of interactive breakout sessions covering key topics such as credit, savings, insurance, budgeting, and investing. Led by community experts, these sessions are hands-on, practical, and rooted in real-life application—providing attendees with professional insight and actionable steps they can take to secure and grow their financial health.

In addition to learning sessions, attendees will explore a vibrant exhibitor hall showcasing local businesses and organizations that offer resources, services, and opportunities to help families reach their financial goals.

### Our mission is simple but powerful:

To help families create a financial plan that aligns with their values, goals, and priorities, and to do so in a supportive, community-focused environment. Through engaging workshops, demonstrations, and one-on-one conversations, families will gain a clearer understanding of how to build wealth, protect their assets, and make informed financial decisions with confidence.

This is more than just an event; it's a chance to connect with like-minded individuals, share ideas, and become part of a growing network committed to financial empowerment and long-term security.

Our goal is bold: to guide families from **“Lack to More Than Enough”** and take intentional steps toward generational wealth.

**Learn, Grow, Thrive**  
**A Summit for Individuals, Students, and Families**

**REGISTER**

[www.relayheroes.org](http://www.relayheroes.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SPONSORS NEEDED

### We need your help to make the Financial Literacy Summit a success

**Impact Sponsor (Title Sponsor) \$5,000** - By pledging \$5,000 or more as a Title Sponsor, your company will be recognized as the platinum sponsor. This esteemed position entails prominent logo placement on all event materials, exclusive mentions in press releases and social media promotions, a dedicated exhibitor space at the event, and the opportunity to address summit attendees. Your company's pivotal role in advancing financial literacy and supporting families in our community will be celebrated through this sponsorship.

**Inspire Sponsor \$3,000** - As an Inspire Sponsor, your support will inspire individuals and families to achieve their financial literacy goals, promoting empowerment within the community to realize these ambitions.

- Access To Attendees Registration Data
- Ability to create pre-summit content or workshop
- Social media messaging acknowledging sponsorship before/during the Summit
- Organizational logo placed on Relay website [www.relayheroes.org](http://www.relayheroes.org)

**Family Sponsor \$1,000** - The Relay Family Financial Literacy Summit aims to provide free access for attendees. Your \$3,000 contribution enables individuals and families to participate in the summit without charge, granting them access to essential resources that enhance their financial literacy and personal financial objectives. Each family will depart with resources to implement the skills acquired at the summit, fostering enduring positive impacts for their household.

- Social media messaging acknowledging sponsorship before/during the Summit
- Organizational logo placed on Relay website [www.relayheroes.org](http://www.relayheroes.org)

#### Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

- **Box Lunch Sponsor \$4,000** - Boxed lunch at the Summit • Logo placement on table and in the program. Opportunity to place a marketing piece in each box.
- **Summit Bags: \$2,500** - Sponsor logo displayed, along with Relay logo, on all tote bags used to distribute materials to Summit attendees.
- **Summit Scholarship \$1,000** - Helps to provide a scholarship that will be awarded to one lucky student during the Summit.



Email us at [info@relayheroes.org](mailto:info@relayheroes.org) to select your sponsorship opportunity today

# 2025 individual sponsorships



## Friend of Relay - \$25

- Your Name on event website

## Relay Hope - \$50

- Your Name/Logo on event website

## Relay Hero - \$100

- Special Recognition via Social Media
- Your Name/Logo on event website



[www.relayheroes.org](http://www.relayheroes.org)



# REPLAY UPDATE

## 2024 FINLIT SUMMIT RECAP



# IMPACT REPORT

# 2024

[Read More](#)



# REPLAY UPDATE

## 2024 FINLIT SUMMIT RECAP

The inaugural Financial Literacy (FINLIT) Summit was a resounding success, launched as a free, community-centered event focused on equipping individuals and families with essential financial tools for long-term success. Designed to be inclusive and impactful, the summit brought together a diverse group of over 130 participants, 14 expert speakers, 8 exhibitors, and community leaders passionate about financial empowerment.

Attendees engaged in dynamic breakout sessions tailored to specific demographic needs—ranging from middle and high school students to college students, adults, and members of the Latino community.

The summit created a space not only for education, but also for dialogue, community connection, and building confidence in financial decision-making.

The summit featured targeted workshops, including:

- Insurance to help families understand risk management.
- A High School Track covering financial literacy, scholarships, credit, and how to pay for college.
- An Adult Track focused on entrepreneurship, financial stewardship, and long-term planning.
- A Middle School Track, titled "Show Me the Money," introduced younger students to core financial concepts through interactive learning.

### Why You Can't Afford to Miss the 2025 FINLIT Summit!

"The presenters shared their personal experiences and journeys, which made the sessions feel real and relatable. I walked away with practical tools and insights to start building my own financial wealth." ~ **Darrell**

"My number one takeaway was learning to turn my adversity into an advantage, thanks to Jeff Street's powerful presentation. ~ **Shamaine**

It was a great opportunity to connect and network with inspiring speakers and exhibitors." ~ **Nychel**



I attended the 2024 FINLIT summit and was incredibly pleased with the amount of support, information, and resources to assist me on my financial journey. As a young adult and recent graduate of university, there are a lot of new responsibilities I am required to take on that may not have been comprehensively explained in school. Through the summit, I gained access to mentorship that enabled me to feel confident about my next steps and goals. There's plenty of books available as well however none of them provided comprehensible and easy to digest information like the one that was provided at the summit, Namely the book *How Money Works: Stop Being a SUCKER* by Tom Mathews and Andy Horner gave me a information about financial literacy without being overwhelming and in a similar way to the presenters at the summit. All in all, this event provided a physical connection and community to the power of financial responsibility and has assisted me in the next chapter of my life. ~ **Dakota**

# REPLAY UPDATE

## 2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

### Next Level Athletics Workshop

The 2025 Next Level Athletics Workshop was successfully held on Saturday, July 12th, at Pin Oaks Christian Fellowship in Anna, Texas. Over 50 middle and high school student-athletes from across North Texas participated in the full-day event. The workshop focused on developing leadership skills, strengthening character, and equipping students with tools to excel both on and off the field. Students engaged in interactive sessions covering topics like mental wellness, financial literacy, strength training, team dynamics, and goal setting.

One of the highlights was a dynamic panel featuring collegiate athletes, coaches, and young professionals who shared their journeys and offered actionable strategies for success. Attendees also enjoyed team-building exercises and breakout discussions tailored to their age groups. Two \$500 educational scholarships were awarded to standout student-athletes who demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment throughout the day.



Each participant received lunch, a Next Level t-shirt, and printed materials to take home. Post-event surveys revealed that 93% of students left feeling more confident in setting goals and staying focused. Additionally, 88% reported gaining practical insights into time management, character, and financial decision-making. Many students noted that they felt empowered hearing directly from peers and mentors with lived experience.

Parents expressed appreciation for the workshop's holistic approach to development, and volunteers described the day as "energizing" and "purpose-driven." The workshop also helped foster new connections among student-athletes from different schools and backgrounds. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, speakers, and volunteers who made this experience possible. Planning is already underway for the 2026 workshop, with a focus on expanding reach and increasing scholarship awards.

# REPLAY UPDATE

## 2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

### Valentine's Day Outreach to Seniors

This Valentine's season, on Saturday, February 8th, our Relay Ambassadors came together to prepare and deliver over 200 special Valentine's Day gift bags for seniors across the community—including those at Settlers Ridge nursing facility. Each bag was thoughtfully assembled with sweet treats, small gifts, and heartfelt notes to bring joy to seniors who could use a little extra love.

The impact was deeply felt. One visitor shared this touching message after discovering a gift bag left for their loved one:  
*"I appreciate your kindness, consideration, and generosity toward older people who are sometimes forgotten."*

Thank you to our incredible Ambassadors and supporters for helping us make this act of love possible. Your care continues to remind our elders that they are seen, appreciated, and not alone.



### Spreading Joy, One Kona Ice at a Time

On August 2nd, Relay Heroes hosted a Free Summer Treat Day featuring the Kona Ice truck for the Anna community. Families, students, and neighbors gathered to cool off with refreshing shaved ice and enjoy a sense of connection. Over 100 people were served during the event, creating a vibrant and joyful atmosphere.

It wasn't just about the treats—it was about community, connection, and showing up with joy. Volunteers played a key role in welcoming and engaging with families. The event left a lasting impression and helped strengthen local awareness of Relay's work. We're grateful for everyone who came out and can't wait to do it again!

# REPLAY UPDATE

## 2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHT



### MicroFinlit Sessions

This year, we proudly launched our MicroFinLit workshops—intimate, engaging sessions designed to deliver practical financial education in a relaxed, community-centered setting. These workshops not only empower participants with valuable tools but also offer opportunities for networking and brand visibility. Topics covered include:

- Cybersecurity & Identity Theft
- Mastering Your Money
- Home Ownership

Each session helps attendees strengthen their financial confidence while connecting with others in a supportive and accessible environment.

### FAFSA:

We continue to provide personalized FAFSA assistance, and to date, we have impacted over 1,950 students and parents, helping them navigate the often complex process of applying for financial aid. Our hands-on approach ensured that each participant had the guidance to complete their application accurately, paving the way for their educational aspirations. By demystifying FAFSA, we played a crucial role in making higher education accessible to our community. ***Don't forget our 2025 pledge to assist 2,025 individuals with FAFSA completion!***



Stay tuned with Relay for the 2026 MicroFinlit sessions beginning in January 2026, along with our 2025 October Financial Aid month Webinars, designed to guide you through key funding opportunities. For ongoing support with FAFSA applications, our team is always available at [info@relayheroes.org](mailto:info@relayheroes.org). We look forward to helping you navigate your financial aid journey with confidence.

# SPRINT UPDATE

## CELEBRATING OUR CLASS OF '25' AMBASSADORS

We are proud to celebrate our 2025 Ambassador seniors—Lauren Listhrop and Bryson Jackson—who are graduating from Relay's Ambassador Program and stepping confidently into the next chapter of their academic journeys.



My name is Lauren Listhrop, and I've just completed two amazing years at Relay! This fall, I'll be attending Oklahoma State University as a nursing major on the pre-PA track.

Being part of Relay has been such a fun and meaningful experience. I've learned a great deal—especially about managing finances and staying organized as I take on additional responsibilities. I'm incredibly grateful to the entire Relay team for your support and guidance, even when my schedule was completely packed!

I'm also proud to share that I'm the first in my family to head straight to college after high school, an exciting milestone that means so much to me.

Thank you all so much for everything you've poured into me over these last few years. I truly couldn't be more thankful!

*Lauren*

Being an ambassador for Relay Heroes Today's Leaders Tomorrow for three years has been a powerful part of my journey. It taught me that leadership isn't just about showing up for yourself; it's about being present for others and practicing discipline in everything you do.

I've always believed in leading by example, and this experience challenged me to grow both personally and as a leader. From volunteering in the community to being mentored, I discovered that true impact comes from combining heart with action.

I'm proud to have represented this program, and I carry the lessons I've learned with me, on the field, in the classroom, and throughout life.

This fall, I'll be attending Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska, to pursue Criminal Justice, and I'm excited to bring all that Relay has poured into me to this next chapter.

*Bryson*



# SPRINT UPDATE

## MICROCREDENTIAL CERTIFICATIONS AND BADGES

We are proud to award three Microcredential Certifications and Badges to two outstanding ambassadors who have demonstrated thoughtful reflection, and a strong understanding of college readiness, financial literacy, and scholarship concepts.



Ciara



Julian

MICRO-CREDENTIAL



MICRO-CREDENTIAL



MICRO-CREDENTIAL



Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of your growth and dedication!

# RACE UPDATE

## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Danica



Daniel



Eric



Johnny



Asten

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

A well-earned recognition of your hard work and determination, and the incredible potential ahead of you.