

Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) Earns a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

LREF is proud to announce that its strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency has earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. This rating designates LREF as an official “Give with Confidence” charity, indicating that our organization is using its donations effectively based on Charity Navigator’s criteria. Charity Navigator is America’s largest and most-utilized independent charity evaluator. Since 2001, the organization has been an unbiased and trusted source of information for more than 11 million donors annually.

Charity Navigator analyzes nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, referred to as beacons. Currently, nonprofits can earn scores for the Impact & Results, Accountability & Finance, Culture & Community, and Leadership & Adaptability beacons.

“We are delighted to provide LREF with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence,” said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. “The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that LREF is able to accomplish in the years ahead.”

“Our Four-Star Charity Navigator is further validation that our supporters can trust our commitment to good governance and financial health,” said LREF Executive Director, Terri Richards and LREF Board of Trustees President, Sara Senney Verderber. “We hope that it will introduce our work to new supporters who can help us advance our mission to support opportunities for student enrichment and educational success, while fostering engaged alumni connections.

LREF’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on charitynavigator.org.

About the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation

The Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF), a not-for-profit, 501c(3) philanthropic organization was conceived in 1984 by a visionary group of teachers, administrators and community leaders who saw the need to create an organization to engage alumni but also raise and distribute funds that would bridge the gap between what government funding provides for public schools and what is really needed to ensure a world class education for students.

Lakewood has been known for its excellence in public education for generations. Since its inception, LREF has distributed millions of dollars in support to the schools. In the last 5 years alone, LREF has provided an average of \$100,000 dollars per year to fund opportunities in academics, the arts, athletics, technology and more for over 4,200 Lakewood students in all 12 of our city schools as well as assist Lakewood Alumni in maintaining meaningful connections to their classmates and their Alma Mater. These contributions have insured that the Lakewood Schools continue to rank with the best educational opportunities anywhere, public or private.