EMPOWER FUTUREWAVE FOUNDATION

Strategic Plan · Fiscal Years 2027–2029

501(c)(3) Public Charity · EIN 99-3152826 · Naperville, Illinois · empowerfuturewave.org

Mission

Empower Futurewave Foundation advances education, food security, and dignity for underserved communities. Locally, our youth-led Empower Eats program rescues surplus food and delivers meals to residents of Naperville and DuPage, Kane, and Will Counties through our proprietary Bridge 2 Meal technology platform. Globally, we deliver free literacy and STEM education and women's empowerment programming across nine countries through trusted local partners.

Vision

A world where a meal is never wasted while a neighbor goes hungry, and where every child — regardless of geography or income — can read, learn, and lead. We believe young people are not future changemakers; they are changemakers now.

Values

Youth leadership — our programs are designed and operated by young people. **Radical efficiency** — we maximize impact per dollar through technology and volunteerism. **Local partnership** — we work through community organizations that know their neighbors best. **Transparency** — we hold the Candid Gold Seal and publish our results.

Where We Are Today (August 2026)

Indicator	Current Position
Food security (Empower Eats)	15,000+ cumulative meals rescued since founding; approximately 9,000 meals delivered annually; 425 individuals served weekly; 5 commercial food-donor partners
Technology	Bridge 2 Meal app (2025 Congressional App Challenge winner) provides real-time donor-to-shelter matching and volunteer dispatch
Global education	Free weekly English and STEM classes in 9 countries; 3,000+ lives touched; 1,500+ hours of instruction delivered
Women's empowerment (EmpowerHer)	Support for girls, young mothers, and survivors of domestic abuse in program countries
Funding	FY2025 revenue: $3,000. FY2026 revenue to date: approximately $11,000, including a $5,000 DuPage Foundation seed grant (May 2026), $1,500 from Naperville Sunrise Rotary, $750 from KidsMatter Teen Philanthropy Initiative, and roughly $1,100 in recurring earned revenue from STEM tutoring and e-commerce

Indicator	Current Position
Recognition	Candid Gold Seal of Transparency; featured in the Chicago Tribune (January 2026); Compassionate Kitchen Award

Strategic Goals: FY2027–FY2029

This plan commits the Foundation to three measurable goals over three fiscal years, each with annual objectives and the key performance indicators our board will track.

Goal 1 — Scale Empower Eats into a county-wide food rescue network

Objective	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Meals delivered annually	12,000	15,000	20,000
Individuals served weekly	500	625	800
Commercial food-donor partners	10	15	20
Trained, background-checked volunteer drivers	20	25	35

Strategies: invest in food-safety infrastructure (thermal transport, ServSafe certification); fund volunteer mileage reimbursement — our primary operational bottleneck; expand Bridge 2 Meal hosting capacity as dispatch volume grows; pursue municipal policy endorsements that incentivize corporate food donation across DuPage County.

Goal 2 — Deepen global literacy and women's empowerment programs

Objective	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Countries with active weekly classes	9	9–10	10
Instruction hours delivered (cumulative)	2,000	2,600	3,400
Local delivery partners with written agreements	6	8	10
Women and girls reached via EmpowerHer	150	225	300

Strategies: formalize partner agreements and outcome reporting in each country; standardize curriculum and volunteer teacher training; document student outcomes (attendance, literacy progression) to support evaluation and fundraising.

Goal 3 — Build organizational capacity and financial sustainability

Baseline: the Foundation's audited-able revenue was $3,000 in FY2025 and approximately $11,000 in FY2026 — nearly a fourfold year-over-year increase driven by our first institutional grants. The targets below continue that trajectory at a deliberately realistic pace: each year's goal is grounded in grants already identified in our pipeline plus modest growth in earned and individual giving.

Objective	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Annual revenue	$18,000	$26,000	$36,000
Active institutional funders	4	5	6–7
Earned revenue (tutoring, e-commerce)	$1,500	$2,000	$2,500

Objective	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Board members (governing)	3	5	5–7

Strategies: maintain a two-track grants pipeline (local Chicagoland food security funders; global education and women's funds); renew existing funder relationships (DuPage Foundation, Rotary, KidsMatter) annually; grow workplace-giving presence (Benevity, Network for Good, PayPal Giving, GiveButter); recruit a governing board with finance, food-industry, and nonprofit expertise; publish an annual impact report; sustain the Candid Gold Seal and pursue Platinum. All revenue figures are reconciled to bank records and reported on the Foundation's annual IRS filing.

Financial Sustainability Model

The Foundation operates a deliberately lean model: programs are volunteer-delivered, technology is built and maintained in-house, and administrative overhead is minimal. Revenue is diversified across four streams: (1) local and regional foundation grants; (2) corporate and retailer giving programs; (3) recurring earned revenue from STEM tutoring services and our Etsy storefront; and (4) individual and workplace giving. No single funder represents an unmanageable share of the budget, and the Bridge 2 Meal platform's low fixed cost means core food-rescue operations continue even in lean fundraising years.

How We Measure Success

Empower Eats impact is captured in real time by the Bridge 2 Meal app — every rescue, delivery, and dispatch is logged, giving us auditable counts of meals, partners, and volunteers. Shelter partners provide weekly service reports. Education programs track enrollment, attendance, and instruction hours through local partners, with student progress reviews each term. The board reviews a KPI dashboard against this plan's targets twice yearly and publishes results in an annual impact report.

Governance and Leadership

Empower Futurewave Foundation was founded in 2021 by Navya Shah and received its 501(c)(3) determination in March 2024. The founder serves as principal administrator, supported by chapter volunteers across nine countries and a youth-led logistics team in Illinois. A stated priority of this plan (Goal 3) is expanding the governing board to five or more members by the end of FY2027, adding independent oversight, financial expertise, and community representation.

Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
Funding concentration	Two-track grants pipeline, earned revenue, and workplace giving diversify sources
Food safety compliance	ServSafe certification for all drivers, commercial-grade thermal equipment, background checks
International partner reliability	Written partner agreements, outcome reporting requirements, and annual partner reviews

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Adopted by the Empower Futurewave Foundation — August 2026

Navya Shah, Founder