

Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation *Annual Report 2009-2010*

Building financial support to promote and recognize excellence in our schools

CEDAR RAPIDS
Community Schools
FOUNDATION



First graders from Garfield Elementary School enjoyed learning about farming, tasting food made from corn and holding baby farm animals at AG Day in the Park at the Central City Fairgrounds. Funding for this trip was provided through the Foundation's *Kids in the Community* field trip program. This program annually benefits approximately 2,400 students.

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Making an Investment in Education

By Robert Reitz
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Each and every day of school, dedicated teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff throughout the district make a profound impact on the lives of students from kindergarten through grade 12. The Foundation for the Cedar Rapids Community Schools is proud to be a partner in their efforts by raising funds to support and enhance the educational experience of young people in our community.

For all non-profit organizations, however, fundraising in the midst of a struggling economy presents a demanding challenge. Add to that the ten percent reduction in state funds in next year's budget, and it becomes apparent that our school district will be forced to make some hard decisions. Raising funds for our schools requires optimism balanced by realism. It relies on the generosity and commitment of those who believe that public education is the most important investment we can make in the future of our nation.

The Foundation is fortunate to have the support of school employees, donors and volunteers in the community, area businesses and corporations, and other foundations. With their financial and in-kind assistance, for example, the Foundation is able to help students whose families are still recovering from the flood of 2008. A letter from a guidance counselor at one of our high schools illustrates the continuing needs of these students:

. . . having access to the flood funds for our school has allowed us to assist students in so many ways. I'd like to share one in particular with you. We have a student who was enrolled in one of the Industrial Tech programs at Kirkwood. [His] family had really lost everything in the flood of '08 and he needed the right shoes and clothes to be able to participate. We were able to purchase the required steel-toed boots (we also made sure they were waterproof because the family does not drive and he walks to school each day). We finished off the purchase with a Carhart hooded sweatshirt and nice warm socks. I was near tears as I dropped him off and he was able to feel confident and 'regular' as he joined the rest of the class and just fit right in.

Providing assistance to flood-affected families is not where the Foundation's efforts end. Donations help us to provide support to schools in other areas, as well. Each year, we are able to enhance classroom learning by providing funds for educational field trips. During the current school year, the Foundation has funded 34 field trips for 17 schools. More than 2,000 students have participated in these trips. Our Student Enrichment Fund supplies mini-grants of up to \$100 to teachers, counselors, and nurses to support the arts, purchase books, and acquire materials that they might otherwise pay for out of their own money. Each year, the Foundation offers professional development grants to faculty and staff to support continuing education and curriculum innovation.

In this issue, you will read about the school programs supported through funds from the John P. and Lawrence J. Giacoletto Foundation and from The Educational Measurement Group of Pearson in Iowa City. You will also learn about events, such as the Lace Up for Learning 5K/10K/Family Fun Run, that raise funds for a variety of school programs. As always, we are deeply grateful for the contributions we receive that enable us to fulfill our mission.



Robert Reitz
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Memorial Fund Allows the Music to Play On

By Amy Geiger, Executive Director

Ruth Carlson spent her life sharing her love of music with others; now in her memory the music plays on. For many years, Ruth spent her time in a classroom, in front of students and often behind a piano as the music teacher at Taylor Elementary School. Teaching children brought her great joy. To her grandson it only seemed fitting to establish a memorial fund in Ruth's honor to be used for the music program at Taylor Elementary School. Many friends, relatives and former colleagues contributed to the fund.

Establishing a memorial fund is a wonderful way to carry on the legacy of a loved one. The Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation has been the honored recipient of several memorials. Memorial contributions have funded a variety of programs, including scholarships for college-bound students, professional development grants for teachers, and a book club reading program targeting fifth grade at-risk students.



In much the same way that Ruth Carlson's grandson established a memorial as a tribute to her passion for music, family and friends can establish a fund to "custom fit" the interests and passion of the honored person. Memorials can be endowed with a minimum gift of \$5,000, thereby insuring that the fund continues to give in perpetuity. Whether the memorial is endowed or represents a one-time contribution, the gift leaves a lasting impact on the educational experience of those who receive it.

For the many students at Taylor Elementary School, Ruth Carlson is someone they will know only through the music they sing and the instruments they play. For those who knew Ruth personally, this gift serves as a loving reminder of the generations of music lovers she helped foster and for those yet to come.

If you are interested in learning more about the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation's Memorial program, please contact us (319) 558-2400.



Amy Geiger
Executive Director

Ruth Carlson with her
great grandson Morgan.

2009 CRCS Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Jefferson High School

Robert L. Geuder Scholarship

Matthew Reimert

Gordon Wilhelm Memorial
Scholarships

Justin Derby

Tom Campbell Memorial
Scholarships

Catherine Rinderknecht

Lucas Saunders

Walt Hartman Scholarship

Marshall Baber

Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship

Justin Ingram

Alan Zazza Memorial Scholarships

Molly Broghammer

Justin Simmons

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Memorial Scholarship

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Paul Anthony Scholarship

Catherine Rinderknecht

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Tara Countryman

Retired School Personnel Association
Scholarship

Starlene Walton

Rod Kelley Memorial Scholarship

Cynthia Harris

Washington High School

John Charlson Physics Award

Reginald Anderson

Evelyn Daugherty Memorial/Vocal
Music Scholarship

Roland Hart

Henderson Memorial Scholarships

Caitlin Bruggeman

Emily Covington

Lauren Glantz

Richard and Jeanne Sentman
Scholarships

Timothy Berry

Danielle Wakeham

Aenille/Stewart/Swaney Memorial
Scholarship

Holly Leaverton

Alice F. Bizulis Memorial
Scholarship

Callie Rooney

Susan Hovelson Shimon Memorial
Scholarship

Nicholas Clark

Catherine Gendreau Memorial
Scholarship

Natalie Roush

Paul Anthony Scholarship

Jennifer Titus

Reception Honors New School Leaders

Citizens and community leaders gathered at Coe College's Clark Alumni House August 11, 2009, to meet new superintendent, Dr. Dave Benson, and new associate superintendent, Dr. Gary O'Malley. The Foundation served as sponsor and host of the reception for the new school district leaders.

Dr. Benson comes to Cedar Rapids after five years as superintendent of the Ladue School District in St. Louis, MO. He had previously served as superintendent of school districts in Kansas and Iowa. He earned his B.S.ED. degree from Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS; an Ed. S. in school administration from Wichita State University, Wichita, KS; and a Ph.D. in educational administration from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Dr. O'Malley most recently served as an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at Illinois State University, Normal, IL, where he taught graduate courses in curriculum, assessment, instruction, and program evaluation. Previous professional roles included high school principal, director of instructional services, and director of curriculum for school districts in Illinois and Iowa. He earned a B.A. degree from Luther College, Decorah, IA; an M.A. from Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL; and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

"The reception was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet many community members whom I have since spent time working with," said Dr. Benson. "I appreciate and value the role that the Foundation plays in helping meet the needs of students and staff above and beyond what traditional funding sources support and I look forward to supporting their efforts."

Both men bring a wealth of experience to the Cedar Rapids Community School District at a critical time in the district's recent history. Among the challenges they must address include the district's continuing efforts to recover from the 2008 flood, adequate funding for schools in a time of state budget cuts, and increasing academic expectations for all students.



Benson - O'Malley Reception Photo (L to R) Police Chief Greg Graham, City PTA President Susie Weinacht, Dr. Benson, Linn County Commissioner Lu Barron.

Giacoletto Foundation Funds School Programs

Viola Gibson Elementary School was among eight schools that received grants from the John P. and Lawrence J. Giacioletto Foundation. Viola Gibson's grant went toward the purchase of voice recognition software that helps students with various types of learning disabilities put their thoughts into writing by way of dictation.

In its third year of funding programs through the school foundation, the Giacioletto Foundation gave a total of \$29,950. A portion of the funds went to the school foundation's Student Enrichment Fund providing mini-grants to teachers for the purchase of items in the following categories: the arts, books, and classroom enhancement.

Other schools receiving grants in 2009 included the following:

- Harding Middle School – Interactive White Board technology and a digital DLP projector
- Metro High School – Pre-GED online institutional licenses and ten pre-GED online virtual seats
- Hiawatha Elementary School -- Six fusion writers, which are portable word processors that help students who have difficulty in written composition
- Cleveland Elementary School – Two fusion writers
- Truman Elementary School – Listening Center supplies for a kindergarten-first grade classroom
- Wright Elementary School – Amplification system
- Grant Early Childhood Center – Digital cameras, CD and tape player, microscopes and slides, and storytelling kits

The school foundation, along with teachers and students throughout the Cedar Rapids Community School District, are grateful for the Giacioletto Foundation's support. Grants from the Foundation continue to enhance classroom instruction and enrich learning opportunities.



Students in Mrs. Schulte's 1st grade class at Truman Elementary work on their listening and comprehension skills while enjoying a book on tape. The classroom listening center funded by the Giacioletto Foundation provides a fun and effective way for students to experience good literature that complements the reading curriculum.

'Lace Up for Learning' Builds Support

A record 641 runners and walkers braved the freezing cold temperatures on May 8, 2010 to participate in the Third Annual Lace Up for Learning 5K, 10K and Family Fun Run. This year's race had students and staff from 30 of the district schools along with participants from Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas. Runners also came from as far away as Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Illinois to help make this the most successful run to date.

Lace Up For Learning is developing into a unique event. Within the district several schools are offering running clubs as a way to introduce kids to fitness. Students learn the proper way to train for distance running and use the clubs as a way to prepare themselves for participation in the 5K or 10K. Many parents join their children on the course making this a great family event. The race is also becoming known for its one-of-a-kind Olympic style finish on the track at Kingston Stadium and offers the only 10K course in this area. Participation has more than doubled from the first year and the 10K run has nearly tripled in the number of entrants.

Proceeds from Lace Up for Learning benefit the Foundation's efforts to fund a variety of district projects, programs, equipment and curriculum related needs that enhance the educational experience for students.

Visit the race website at laceup.cr.k12.ia.us for race results, pictures, and a list of event sponsors.



These students are all smiles as they and learn about molecules and surface tension in preparation for making their own bubbles.



Pearson Gift Supports After School Program

Students and staff at Grant Early Childhood Center were excited to receive a \$10,000 gift this year from The Educational Measurement Group of Pearson to pilot an after-school enrichment program. As a testing service for schools, Pearson recognizes the value of early childhood education.

Principal Val Dolezal noted that Grant offered two after school enrichment programs. Families had the option of choosing one program or both programs. In February, gym and fitness games were available along with computer math and reading activities. Families could choose from art and nutrition programs in March. The April program included science and music.

A little paint, paper and creativity makes for a great picture! This student was pleased with her creation as a part of the after school art class.

Foundation Awards Professional Development Grants

The Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation has announced the 2009 recipients of the Ruth Harbour Memorial Scholarship, the Weyerhaeuser Foundation STEM grants, the Ernie Pence Memorial professional development grant, and the CRCS Foundation grants.

Keri Annis, a third grade teacher at Pierce Elementary School, has received a \$250 Ruth Harbour Memorial Scholarship to use toward a Master's degree in School Library Media Science at the University of Northern Iowa. This scholarship was established by friends of the late Ruth Harbour, a Cedar Rapids Community School District school librarian and elementary school principal.

Ted Neal, a science and social studies teacher at McKinley Middle School, and Joan Steinmetz, a biology instructor at Kennedy High School, received \$750 Weyerhaeuser Foundation grants. Neal will study the relationship between the ancestral Rocky Mountains and the bedrock of Iowa. Steinmetz will attend the National Association of Biology Teachers convention in Denver, CO. Cedar River Paper employees assisted the school foundation in securing this grant program that provides opportunities for professional development in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Stacy Haynes-Moore, a language arts teacher at Jefferson High School, was awarded the Ernie Pence Memorial professional development grant. Haynes-Moore is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Iowa, focusing on language, literacy, and culture.

The Foundation also awarded four \$250 professional development grants. Carla Riley, a first grade teacher at Erskine Elementary School, will use her grant to receive training in the Orton-Gillingham method of reading instruction. Katie Decker, a behavioral disorders paraprofessional at Grant Early Childhood Center, will register for a course titled "Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children" at Kirkwood Community College.

Garfield Elementary School first grade teacher, Cherien Kimball, will attend a two-day summer workshop in Minneapolis centered on make-and-take sessions in reading, writing, and math. Jennifer Manternach, music teacher at Harrison Elementary School, will pursue a Master's degree in educational administration at the University of Iowa.

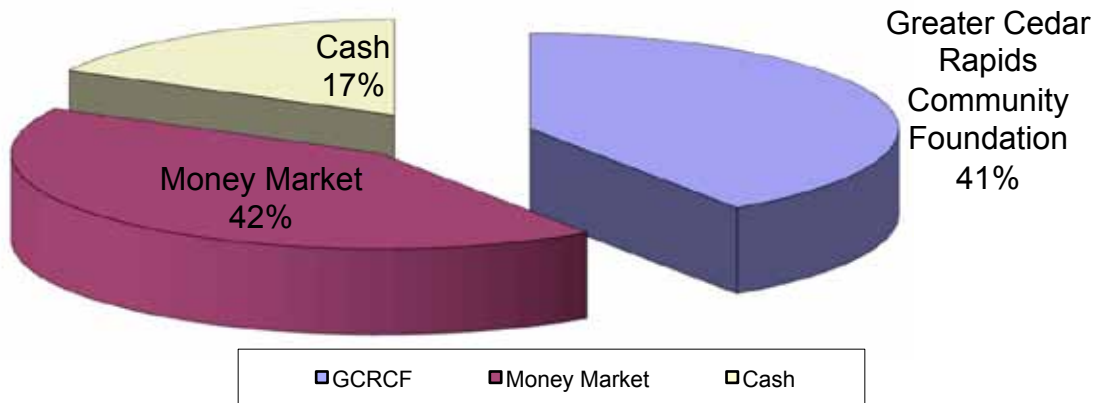


Award recipients (L to R) Keri Annis, Joan Steinmetz, Cherien Kimball, Jennifer Manternach, Carla Riley. Not pictured Ted Neal, Stacy Haynes-Moore, and Katie Decker.

Foundation Reports Successful Year

The Foundation completed the fiscal year on September 30, 2009. We are pleased to report contributions of \$206,854 and scholarships and awards of \$123,572. The portfolio return for this period was positive .09. The Foundation maintains three years of projected operating funds in CD's, cash, or money market fund investments. This conservative approach has helped the Foundation preserve its principal investments during the recession.

Investment Portfolio 2009-2010



Statement of Activities						
Activity From 10/1/08 through 9/30/09						
		Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	General Funds	Total Funds	
Revenues:						
	Contributions	13,892	77,071	115,891	206,854	
	Transfer				-	
	Investment Income	(7,535)	(1,377)	(2,516)	(11,429)	
	Total	6,357	75,694	113,375	195,425	
Expenses:						
	Scholarships and Awards	13,600	82,493	25,279	121,372	
	Professional Development Grants			1,400	1,400	
	Staff Recognition			800	800	
	Professional Services			35,023	35,023	
	Administrative			8,069	8,069	
	Fee Allocation	8,603	1,538	(10,141)	-	
	Total	22,203	84,031	60,430	166,664	
	Excess of Revenues over Expenses	(15,846)	(8,337)	52,945	28,761	
	Change in Portfolio Market Value	9,946	1,808	3,315	15,069	
	Increase / (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(5,901)	(6,529)	56,260	43,830	
	Beginning Fund Balance	286,475	61,695	31,781	379,951	
	Ending Fund Balance	280,574	55,166	88,042	423,782	

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January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

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Lawrence & Judith Blum

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