

# Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation *Annual Report 2013-2014*

*Building financial support to promote and recognize excellence in our schools*



The Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation was founded in 1984.  
We celebrate 30 years of a vibrant mission to build financial support and to promote and recognize excellence in our schools.



CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
**FOUNDATION**

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### Board of Trustees 2013-2014

*A committed board assures future growth by keeping abreast of District needs and putting the Foundation in a position to address existing concerns and meet new challenges. The Board of Trustees has decades of varied experience serving nonprofit organizations of all sizes.*

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deNovo Alternative Marketing

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**Sue Wilber**

Cedar Rapids Community School District

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**Laurel Day**

Cedar Rapids Community School District

**Karen A. Swanson, CFRE \***

Executive Director

(\*) ALUMNI

## From the Board Chair:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation, I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you. This is traditionally the time of year to measure our success, which you will find enclosed with this note, but also to reflect on the successes that, together with your help, we've created within our district.

By closing the gap that often exists between district funding and the student experience, you've helped us to provide field trips that otherwise would have been eliminated. You've helped us to create a safe and educational summer learning experience for children. Your support has provided scholarships for not only students, but also for teachers who seek to expand their expertise and strive to be the best educators for our students.

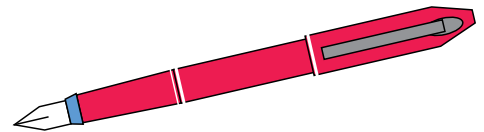
Your help has been crucial to our mission; and in many ways, you may never know the direct impact you have made. As a student makes career choices based on a program you may have helped fund or has his or her eyes opened to the wonders of science or the outdoors on a field trip that the Foundation was able to provide support for, it is your support that provided that impetus.

We are supported by our donors and the District in many ways. Whether you provide direct support for a fund or general support that helps us administer and fund programs in the District, your contribution is one that has empowered and changed student achievement.

And for that, we are very thankful. Please take a moment to review our Annual Report and learn more about our achievements this past year. Stay current with our progress on our website and become our friend on Facebook. Join us as we strive to fulfill our mission of building financial support and promoting and recognizing excellence in our schools.



Jen Neumann  
2013-14 Chair, Board of Trustees



CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
**FOUNDATION**

**Keep in Touch!**

WEB: [www.crcsf.com](http://www.crcsf.com)

FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/CedarRapidsCommunitySchoolDistrictFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/CedarRapidsCommunitySchoolDistrictFoundation)



## From the Executive Director

30 years? What an amazing legacy of impact the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation has had in supporting the work of the CRCSD. From an all-volunteer organization with just a few thousand dollars in the bank, the Foundation has grown to manage a \$250,000 annual budget that grants more than \$130,000 each year to programs and projects in the District. I'd say that's a good 30 years' work! But the Foundation is poised to grow further in the next 30 years. The strategic plan, which guides daily operations, has just been reviewed by the Trustees this month. We are on target to accomplish every directive by plan's end in 2018. I hope you will consider either increasing your involvement with the Foundation or joining in our work. Be a part of the next 30 years of providing financial support for, and promoting excellence in, the Cedar Rapids public schools.

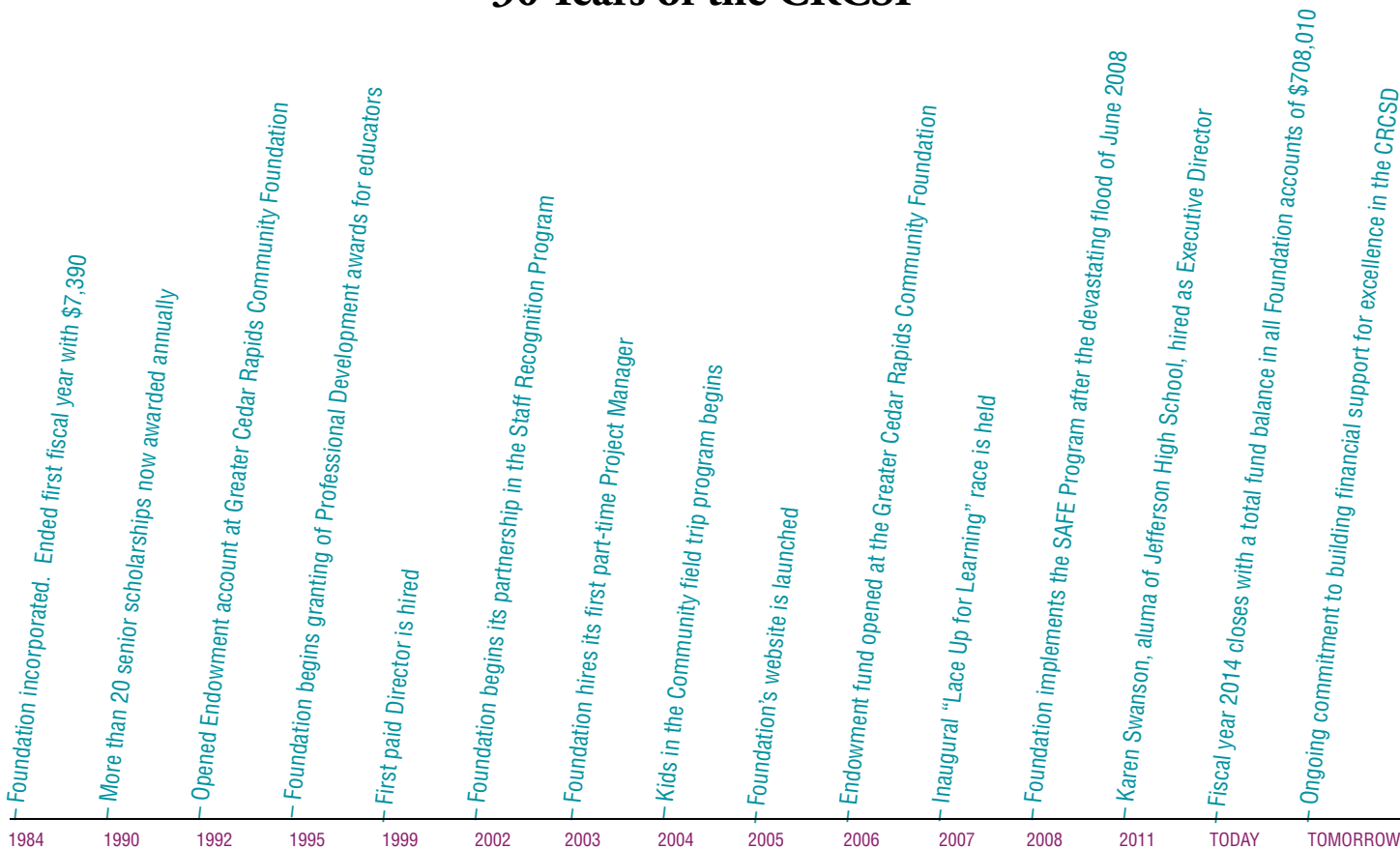


Karen A. Swanson, CFRE  
Executive Director

**Mission**

*The mission of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation is to provide financial support to, and promote excellence in, the Cedar Rapids Public Schools. Through the funding of projects and programs the foundation works to enhance the educational experience of students in the public schools.*

## 30 Years of the CRCSF





## 2014 Senior Scholarships

The Foundation manages and directs 36 senior scholarships. Scholarships are funded by generous donations from families and friends of the District.

### JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Jace Hadish  
*Robert L. Geuder Scholarship*  
Layne Sullivan  
*Gordon Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship*  
Nathan Karlan  
Katelyn Kann  
*Tom Campbell Memorial Scholarship*  
Kelsey Hewitt  
*Walt Hartman Scholarship*  
Erica Atkinson  
*Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship*  
Holly Moershel  
Rhett Allen  
*Alan Zazza Memorial Scholarship*  
Amanda Jo Ely  
*Judy and Larry Blum Scholarship*  
James Robinson, Jr.  
Alexis Dahlen-Zeck  
Quentin Gaeta  
Allysa Eberle  
*Scott Hill Memorial Scholarship*  
Spencer Hunt  
*Jim Bowen Memorial Scholarship*  
Tremere Hill  
*Robert Foley Memorial Scholarship*\*

### KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Garrett Carlson  
*George Novak Memorial Scholarship*  
Mark Mettler  
*James Schneekloth Memorial Scholarship*  
Jessica Darland  
*Ewoldson Fine Arts Scholarship*  
Chloe Dougan  
*Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship*  
Evan Batterson  
*Rutherford Memorial Grant Scholarship*  
David Pauls  
*Tom and Carol Ryder Scholarship*  
Danielle Maus  
*Buelow-Rutherford Memorial Scholarship*  
Ethan Divis  
*Bob Brooks Scholarship*  
Drew Vitale  
*Robert Foley Memorial Scholarship*\*  
Marissa Stangl  
*John W. Whipple Memorial Scholarship*  
Benjamin Geiger  
*Otto Weidersberg Memorial Scholarship*  
Tamia Ayoki-Davis  
*Tom White Memorial Scholarship*  
Nathan Manchester  
*Irene Weidenman Memorial Scholarship*

### METRO HIGH SCHOOL

Mindy Hartman  
*Iowa Retired School Personnel Scholarship*  
McKayla Townsend  
*Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship*  
Temaira Batey  
*Friends of the City-Wide PTA*

### WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Cameron Haney  
*John Charlson Physics Award*  
Emily Comer  
*Evelyn and Willis Daugherty Memorial Scholarship*  
Madelyn Carlson  
Mikayla Frye  
Caroline Rossberger  
*Henderson Memorial Scholarship*  
Nicholas Hansen  
Nicholas Paoli  
*Richard and Jeanne Sentman Scholarship*  
Danielle Franklin  
*Aenille-Stewart-Swaney Memorial Scholarship*  
Ashley Ulrich  
*Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship*  
Desree Masse  
*Susan Hovelson Shimon Memorial Scholarship*

Keith Hammner III  
*Paul Anthony Music Scholarship*  
Dominique Buckley  
*Catherine Gendreau Memorial Scholarship*  
Anna Bergquist  
*Bob Brooks Scholarship*  
Keith Hammer III  
*Gilbert J. Maas Memorial Scholarship*  
Madelyn Carlson  
*Robert Foley Memorial Scholarship*\*

(\*) SCHOLARSHIP  
ESTABLISHED IN 2013-2014



## Leave a Legacy

The CRCSF provides funds for innovative programs and resources for students and teachers. The Foundation is a private, non-profit charitable organization under IRS section 501(c)(3), accepting contributions that are designated by donors for specific purposes, such as scholarship and school-based projects as well as unrestricted funds that are then granted by the Foundation in response to requests for support and to fulfill CRCSF goals. If you have interest in leaving a permanent legacy to public school education, consider a planned and/or estate gift to the CRCSF. Donations are gratefully accepted in any amount. Please contact Foundation Executive Director, Karen Swanson, at (319) 558-2400 for more information.

### Vision Statement

*To be recognized as the key educational charitable-giving organization of the Cedar Rapids Community School District, and to provide broad and equitable educational opportunities to students and staff of the Cedar Rapids public schools.*

## UICCU Funds

### Welcome Back Students Events

The University of Iowa Community Credit Union returned for a fourth year as the flagship sponsor of the District's *Welcome Back Students* events at various elementary schools. The Foundation received a generous contribution, and participating school principals received \$500 each to spend on school-related needs within their buildings.



## Two Foundations Working Together

Since 2006, The Giacoletto Foundation has partnered with the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation to underwrite unmet needs for both schools and teachers. The John P. & Lawrence J. Giacoletto Foundation is the largest donor to the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation, with a 2014 contribution of \$46,181. This generous support underwrites two of the Foundation's most popular and needed programs:

**Student Enrichment Fund Grants** – Grants of up to \$100 are provided to teachers who apply for reimbursement of personal funds they have spent for classroom-based materials and programs. These grants underwrite expenditures such as: books, calculators, magazine subscriptions, grammar booklets, and reading rugs.

**School Project Grants** – Provided in the spring to schools seeking larger capital needs, School Project Grants can be as much as \$10,000. A sample of grants funded in 2014 includes:

- Hiawatha Elementary – Musical instruments
- Harding Middle School – Connecting the Digital/Physical Worlds
- Kennedy High School – SMART Lunch communications project



*Students in Catherine Metz' 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom at Arthur Elementary School supplement learning via flashcards provided by The Giacoletto Foundation through the Foundation's Student Enrichment Grants program.*



## 10 Years of “Kids in the Community” Field Trip Program

The Foundation, in partnership with Hills Bank & Trust, has been sending students into the community to experience curriculum- based experiences to increase learning. Hills Bank & Trust provides \$15,000 toward “Kids in the Community” annually – ensuring that District students of all ages have the opportunity to extend classroom learning into the community. Hands-on learning experiences were made available at many of the cultural, educational, and historical sites in and around the city. A total of 91 field trip grants (largest number in 10 years!) were awarded to schools to benefit 3,500 K–12 students. Field trips included visits to places such as the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Oak Hill Cemetery, Carl & Mary Koehler History Center, University of Iowa, National Mississippi River Museum, Iowa State Capitol, Prairie Park Fishery, McBride Raptor Center, Indian Creek Nature Center and the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library. Participation in the Kids in the Community Field Trip program included:

- 15 of 21 elementary schools
- 4 of 6 middle schools
- All 4 high schools

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Des Moines  
May 29, 2014



Iowa State Capitol

**Hills Bank  
and Trust Company**

Member FDIC

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “Lace Up for Learning” Event

568 runners “laced up” for the Foundation’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual “Lace Up for Learning” 5K, 10K, and Family Fun Run May 10, 2014 at Kingston Stadium. All proceeds from this annual event benefit the Foundation’s funding of school project programs, equipment needs, and curriculum support that enhance the educational experiences for students of all ages.

The seventh annual event saw runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. The youngest entrant was only months old, riding in a stroller ... while the eldest runner was 74 years of age!

Visit the “Lace Up for Learning” website at: <http://laceup.cr.k12.ia.us/> for more information, race results, photos, and a list of event sponsors. And while you are there, sign up for the 2015 race, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2015!



### Impact Statement

*To improve the learning environment by providing scholarships, learning materials, improved facilities, and enrichment opportunities to students and professional development grants to district staff.*

### 2014 “Lace Up for Learning” Corporate Sponsors

General Mills

Hills Bank & Trust Company

International Paper-Cedar River Mill

Transamerica

Van Meter Industrial, Inc.

Waypoint

### In-Kind Sponsors

Hardee’s

Hills Bank & Trust Company

Hy-Vee Food Stores

Lamar Outdoor Advertising

Panera Bread

Raining Rose

Running Wild

Unity Point Healthcare



## Foundation Awards Grants to Teachers

In May 2014, the Foundation awarded a total of \$1,880 to seven District educators to continue and enhance their education. The following staff members received grants:

- Bill Johanningmeier, educator at Taft Middle School, will be taking courses at Colorado State University—Pueblo in cooperation with Siedow Teacher Education.
- Emily Barnes, music specialist at Van Buren and Garfield will attend the International Summer Course (Orff-Institut) “Elemental Music and Dance Pedagogy.”
- Lindsay Fox, a teacher at the Transition Center, will take “Making Connections for Engaged Learners” via the University of LaVerne.
- Two educators at Harding Middle School, Sarah Novak, visual and graphic arts teacher and Cindy Hutcheson, physical education teacher, will participate in the “Teacher at Work” course through the GWAEA.
- Tricia Schutterle, a Level 3 Behavior Focus instructor at Hiawatha Elementary, will attend the 2015 “Social Thinking Conference.”
- Jennifer Brown, chemistry teacher at Washington High School, will attend the “Engineering Design for the K-12 Science Classroom” workshop at UNI.



*Pictured: Front Row left to right – Lindsay Fox, Emily Barnes, Cindy Hutcheson, Sarah Novak, Tricia Schutterle. Back Row left to right – Jennifer Brown, Foundation Executive Director, Karen Swanson. Not pictured: Bill Johanningmeier (Ernie Pence Memorial Award Winner)*

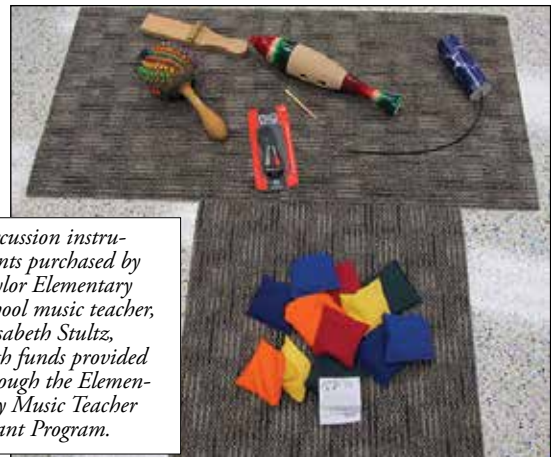
### CRCSD Alumni Program

Now in its second year, the CRCSD Alumni Program – managed by the Foundation – is making efforts to interact with its more than 50,000 living alumni. 2014 saw the completion of new alumni directories for Jefferson, Kennedy & Washington. With that information, an e-newsletter was created and is being sent quarterly to alumni with email addresses. The Foundation also connected with several reunion gatherings during the summer months, passing out contact update cards and alumni magnets. More touch points are planned for 2015. If you are an alumna or alumnus and would like to be included in Alumni activities, reach out to Executive Director, Karen Swanson via email or phone. You can also submit personal updates via the Alumni tab on the Foundation’s website ([www.crcsf.com](http://www.crcsf.com)).



### Anonymous Donor Funds Elementary Music Programs

For the past four years, an Anonymous donor via the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation has provided \$100 per elementary school for music teachers to purchase items needed to augment their in class curriculum. This grant is in honor of long-time Coolidge Elementary School music teacher, Kathleen McNamara, who retired in 2011. The Foundation is thankful for the ongoing support of this donor to the important work of music education in the schools. Purchases have included such items as: an acoustic guitar, headphones, recorders, percussion instruments, and microphones.



*Percussion instruments purchased by Taylor Elementary School music teacher, Elisabeth Stultz, with funds provided through the Elementary Music Teacher Grant Program.*



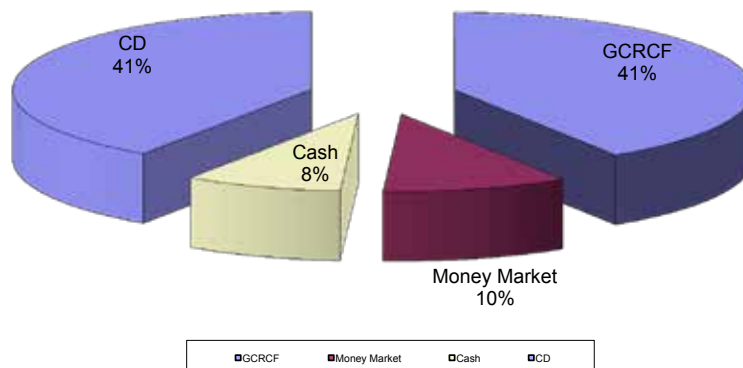
## Foundation Reports Successful Year

Fiscal year 2014 ended strong with total contributions of \$202,607. This is the fifth consecutive year of positive fund growth. More than \$175,000 was granted via scholarships, program grants, and project awards. The portfolio return in 2014 was positive 3.07%. Projections for the fiscal year 2015 operating budget include a \$23,400 surplus. The Foundation maintains three years of projected operating funds in CDs, cash, or money market investments. The Form 990 is available upon request at the CRCFSF office.

### Statement of Activities Activity From 10/1/13 through 9/30/14

	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	General Funds	Total Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Contributions	31,356	187,324	73,927	292,607
Transfer				-
Investment Income	5,438	2,046	1,436	8,921
Total	36,795	189,370	75,363	301,528
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Scholarships and Awards	16,920	132,650	25,761	175,331
Professional Development Grants			1,480	1,480
Staff Recognition			-	-
Professional Services			36,956	36,956
Administrative	(156)	31,587	18,887	50,319
Fee Allocation	557	9,364	(9,921)	-
Total	17,321	173,601	73,163	264,086
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	19,473	15,769	2,201	37,442
Transfers/Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Change in Portfolio Market Value	7,754	1,410	2,585	11,748
Increase / (Decrease) in Fund Balance	27,227	17,178	4,785	49,190
Beginning Fund Balance	424,668	99,121	135,031	658,820
Ending Fund Balance	451,894	116,300	139,816	708,010

Investment Portfolio 9/30/2014



## Foundation Donors October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

The CRCSF is thankful for the many donors of up to \$100 whose gifts are vital to the Foundation's continued success, but whose names are not listed only due to space limitations.

### **\$10,001.00+**

Cedar Rapids Community School  
District  
Giacoletto Foundation  
Greater Cedar Rapids Community  
Foundation  
Hills Bank & Trust Company  
Richard L. McDonald  
Metro High School

### **\$7,500.00 -- \$10,000.00**

University of Iowa Community  
Credit Union

### **\$5,000.00 -- \$7,499.00**

The Optimist Club of Marion-  
Cedar Rapids

### **\$2,500.00 -- \$4,999.00**

Anonymous  
Linn County Witwer Trust  
William P. Whipple

### **\$1,000.00 -- \$2,499.99**

Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.  
Lawrence & Judith Blum  
Cheryl L. Bowen  
Benjamin & Amy Butters  
Kevin Eck & Sashi Solomon  
John & Joy Fitzgerald  
Great America Financial Services  
Mark & Shelly Hartman  
International Paper-Cedar River  
Paper Mill

Interstate Power & Light Co.  
Kathleen Kirschner & Robert Novak  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Novak  
Marlin Petersen  
Rockwell Collins Matching Gift  
Program  
Lindsay P. Schumacher  
Transamerica/AEGON  
U.S. Bank Foundation  
Van Meter Industrial  
Karen Zazza

### **\$500.00 -- \$999.00**

American Endowment Foundation  
Blake Beltramea  
Lisa L. Dumond  
Judy Foley  
General Mills  
Robert & Marilyn Hovelson  
Kenneth W. Novak  
William & Charla Osborne  
Tom & Sue Ryder  
James & Nancy Snetzler  
University of Iowa

### **\$100.00 -- \$499.00**

Marcia Andrews  
Greg & Teresa Barnett  
Derek Brown  
Antoinette Carson  
Richard A. Cleaver  
Tim Collins  
Donald K. Coonrod

CRCSD Executive Council  
Laurel Day  
Gail Devock  
John & Sherry Gray  
Gerald C. Groff  
Beth & Dave Hill  
Chan Min Huang  
Tania J. Johnson  
Kevin Keene  
Rob & Kristy Kleinsmith  
Randy Krejci  
Dean & Edna McKelvie  
Dan Ottemoeller  
James & Patty Powers  
Joanne R. Prior & Patricia Shapley  
Bob & Karen Reitz  
Lynette L. Richards  
Tom & Sharon Rosenberger  
Linda B. Schuring  
Stephanie J. Schutt  
Scott Hill Memorial Scholarship  
Committee  
Jack & Joyce Sedlacek  
Paul & Cindy Smith  
Beverly A. Speer  
Carol Struss  
Karen A. Swanson, CFRE  
Diana Thomsen  
Greg & Deb Wanzek  
Karleen K. Watts  
Waypoint Services  
Alissa Williams

## District Supports the Foundation via Charitable Giving

Fiscal year 2014 saw a change in the District Charitable Giving Campaign. The Foundation was added to the United Way giving season, which resulted in a nearly 70% increase in giving! During 2013-2014, the Foundation received more than \$30,000 through the District's Staff Payroll Deduction program. The Foundation appreciates every dollar given by faculty and staff to underwrite some of the Foundation's many programs. The commitment of employees – teachers, counselors, administrators, bus drivers, secretaries, or principals -- speaks to their understanding of the important role the Foundation plays in the financial health of the District.



### Fiscal Agency Program

The Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation serves as the fiscal agent for many fine programs that have a relationship with the CRCSD. Partnering with the Foundation allows these organizations to focus on carrying out their missions, knowing their funds are being professionally managed. Each group is individually governed, yet has access to the fiduciary services and benefits of a nonprofit foundation, as requested.

This past year, the Foundation managed funds for the following organizations: Jeanne Sentman Literature Fund, Jefferson Grateful Grannies, Metro Student Achievement Fund, The Academy for Scholastic & Personal Success, and the Homeless Program. During FY2014 a new fiscal agent program was added: Iowa BIG.

### Children Served

*In fiscal year 2014, a total of 16,682 children were served by various Foundation programs at a total financial investment of \$175,331.*

### SAFE Continues Immediate Impact



The SAFE (Sports, Academics, Fine Arts and Enrichment) Program offers financial assistance for participation in extra-curricular activities for at-risk and low income students who were affected by the 2008 flood, and/or those attending a school located in a flood-affected neighborhood. Involvement in extra-curricular activities complements the District's academic curriculum and enhances students' educational experiences. This translates into positive student learning and development. Since its inception, the SAFE Program has provided more than \$40,000 to assist students with the fees associated with participating in extra-curricular programs throughout the District.



Cedar Rapids Community Schools  
Foundation  
2500 Edgewood Road NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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Permit No. 147

## Two New Endowed Programs

The Foundation was honored this year as the recipient of two new endowed programs. Both in honor of past CRCSD educators, the Foundation is proud to announce the:

- *Suzi Sargeant McDonald Endowment*: Funds provided to high schools within the District, rotating annually, for the underwriting of costs associated with the production of Children's Theatre of Cedar Rapids Playtime Poppy performances. Suzi was a 1963 graduate of Jefferson High School, active in theatre during her years there, moving on to become the Director of Drama at Washington High School. This endowed fund will continue Suzi's love of children's theatre.
- *Barb Petersen "Caldecott" Fund for Literacy*: Funds will be used to purchase all Caldecott Award winner and honorable mention books each year for the schools close to Barb's heart – Van Buren Elementary and Hoover Elementary.



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