

Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation *Annual Report 2014-2015*

Building financial support to promote and recognize excellence in our schools



Children receiving books purchased with funds from the Barb Petersen "Caldecott" Memorial Fund for Literacy – a fiscal agency organization of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation.



CEDAR RAPIDS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Board of Trustees 2014-2015

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 experiences serving nonprofit organizations of all types and sizes.

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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. As we compile our data and look at the past year, we are proud to report that the Foundation has grown not only in revenues but also in the support we have been able to provide to our educators and the children they serve.

Over the past year, we have been examining our role in student success and how we fit into the District's vision of "Excellence for All." We continue to look at ways that we can support the District in methods, both big and small, to help bridge the gap between funding and need.

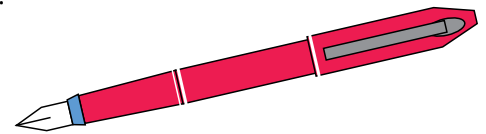
By closing the gap that often exists between District funding and student experience, you've helped us to provide field trips that otherwise would have been eliminated. You've helped us to create a safe and educational summer learning experience for children. Your support has provided scholarships for 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 to fund, or, on a field trip that the Foundation was able to help provide funds for, has his or her eyes opened to the wonders of science or the outdoors, it is your support that provides 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
2014-15 Chair, Board of Trustees



Keep in Touch!

WEB: www.crcsf.com

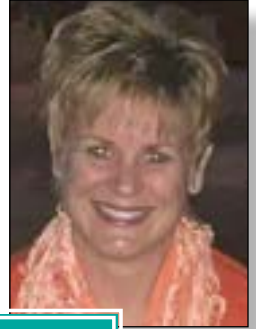
FACEBOOK:



www.facebook.com/CedarRapidsCommunitySchoolDistrictFoundation

From the Executive Director

It's been a year of significant growth. We are closing the books on a year that saw assets reach the \$800,000 mark. We are entering a year with an annual budget of nearly \$270,000 – of which \$221,000 will be disbursed to programs and projects within the District. The Board of Trustees is 15-volunteer members strong, including several alumni who choose to give back to the District through their board service. A recent estate gift and a large anonymous donation have allowed the Foundation to think beyond its traditional funding programs to bigger picture visions for teachers and students. Keep in touch ... you don't want to miss what's coming!



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 district's schools.

Welcome New Superintendent

The Foundation's trustees hosted a Welcome Reception for Dr. Brad Buck, the District's new Superintendent. More than 50 people attended the gathering at the Educational Leadership and Support Center. Dr. Buck, former director of the Iowa Department of Education, is a 1987 graduate of Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School. The Foundation looks forward to working with one of its own alums to advance the mission of building financial support to promote and recognize excellence in our schools.



2015 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

Cora Lassen
Robert L. Geuder Scholarship
Cameron Frazier
Haley Murray
Gordon Wilhelm Memorial Scholarship
Jason Chung
Gina Buelow
Tom Campbell Memorial Scholarship
Chris Wiesbein
Walt Hartman Scholarship
Kyra Andrews
Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship
Taylor Miller
Stephen Carlson
Alma Zazza Memorial Scholarship
Emma Rolwes
Nancy Parmater Champion Memorial Scholarship
Katara Taylor
Judy and Larry Blum
Dylan Pady
Bob Brooks Scholarship
Chase Muenzenmeyer
Taylor DeBurn
Abbie Mattison
Lindsey Bullington
Scott Hill Memorial Scholarship
Lucas Larson
Jim Bowen Memorial Scholarship

Cameron Frazier
Cotton Knox
Joe Kenney Memorial Scholarship ()*

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

Michele Miller
Kennedy Community Service Scholarship
Terrence Hall
George Novak Memorial Scholarship
Kendall Dooley
James Schneekloth Memorial Scholarship
Jason Grobatic
Ewoldson Fine Arts Scholarship
Douglas Hopper
Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship
Timothy Lange
Grant Rutherford Memorial Scholarship
Alma Bradley
JoAnn Beasler Memorial Scholarship
Emilee Caldbeck
Tom & Carol Ryder Cougar Student Scholarship
Margaret Curry
Bob Brooks Scholarship
Joshua Lyman
Paul Anthony Music Scholarship

METRO HIGH SCHOOL

Edeja Ayers
Retired School Personnel Achievement Award
Edeja Ayers
Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Pease
Otto Weidersberg Memorial Scholarship
Kiosh Lucas
Tom White Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Pease
Irene Weidenman Memorial Scholarship

Tachey Heard
Susan Hovelson Shimon Memorial Scholarship
Keitasha Arnold
Catherine Gendreau Memorial Scholarship
Taylor Jackson
Gilbert J. Maas Memorial Scholarship
Ellise Bechler
Friends of the City-Wide PTA Scholarship
Bryan Cline
Paul Anthony Music Scholarship

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Christopher Scank
John Charlson Physics Award
Elliot Lewis
Evelyn & Willis Daugherty Memorial Vocal Music Scholarship
Thomas Fisher
Michael Janssen
Mary Azelborn
Henderson Memorial Scholarship
Joseph Lenzen
Kyla Yuza-Pate
Richard & Jeanne Sentman Scholarship
Jerome Thurmon
Alice F. Bizulis Memorial Scholarship

(*) SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN 2014-2015



Leave a Legacy

The Foundation 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 scholarships 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 CRCSD goals. If you have interest in leaving a permanent legacy to public school education, consider a planned and/or estate gift directed 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 fifth 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.



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION

Vital Educational Partnership

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 2015 contribution of \$49,000 which funded School Project Grants. Seven School Project Grants were awarded in the spring to schools seeking larger capital needs. Grants funded in 2015 include:

- Coolidge, Hoover, & Van Buren Elementaries – PACT programming
- CRCSD – ABA Program
- Harding Middle School – 3D Printer
- Jefferson High School – Option Program
- Johnson STEAM Magnet School – Spatial Temporal Math
- Metro High School – STEAM Academy
- Pierce Elementary – Kindergarten Station Rotation



Students at Johnson STEAM Academy exploring new technologies



This past year, The Giacoletto Foundation also made a \$20,000 commitment to bringing STEM education to the elementary school level. Giacoletto funded the full roll-out of the “Engineering Is Elementary” curriculum for all 5th grade students. This program will continue in 2015-2016 with a focus on hands-on, open design, experimentation, and real life scenarios to promote interest in engineering.

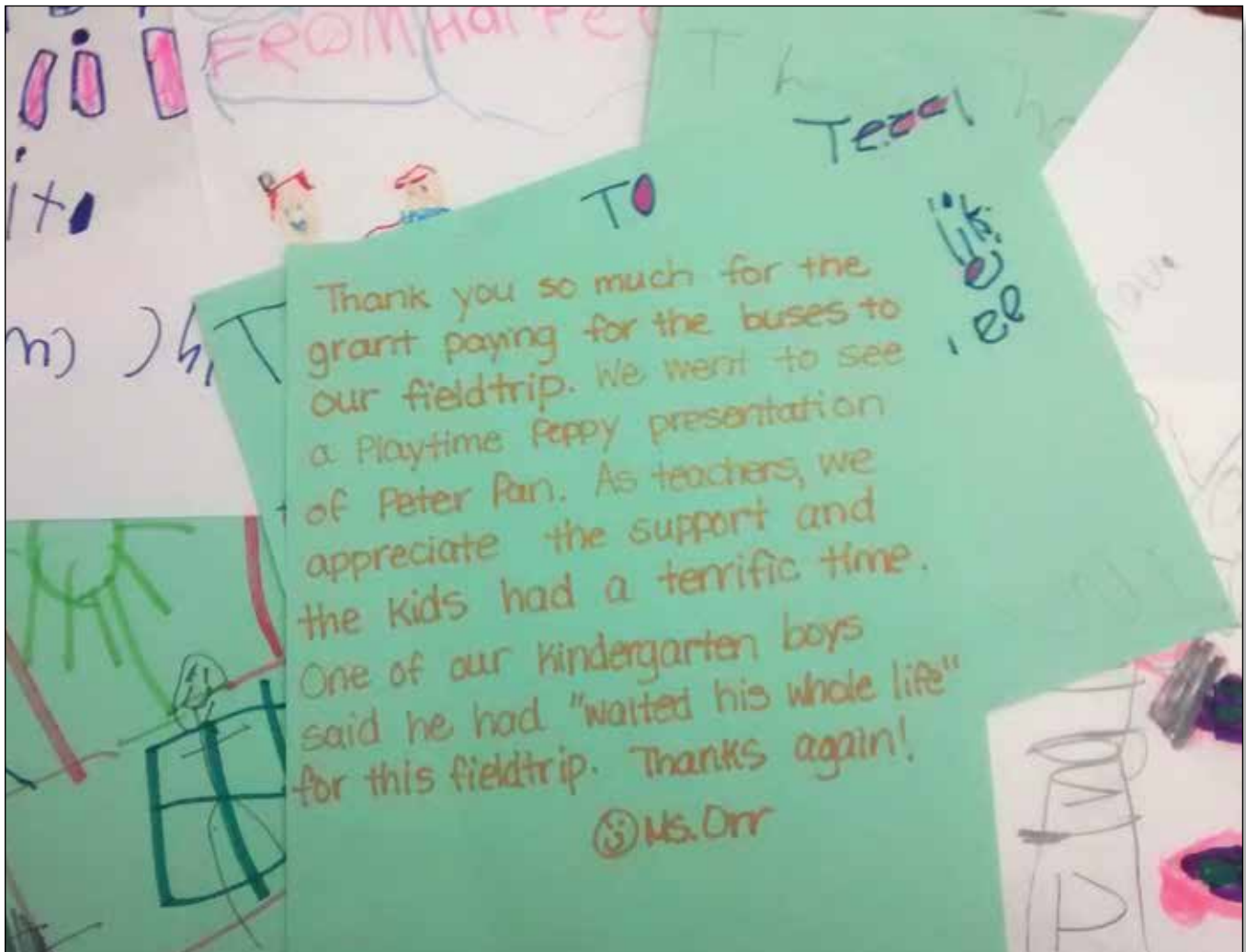
Hoover Elementary 5th grade students in Tawnie Kerska's class explore membranes via the Engineering Is Elementary curriculum

“Kids in the Community” Field Trip Program

A field trip to an art museum can improve information recall, critical thinking skills, appreciation of history, and tolerance toward others.

--Greene, Kisida, & Bowen, 2014

Hills Bank & Trust continued its annual sponsorship of the “Kids in the Community” field trip program for school year 2014-2015. This program sends District students of all ages into the community for curriculum- based experiences to increase learning outside a traditional classroom setting. A total of 84 field trip grants were awarded to schools to benefit nearly 3,000 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, Mc-Bride Raptor Center, Indian Creek Nature Center, and the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library.



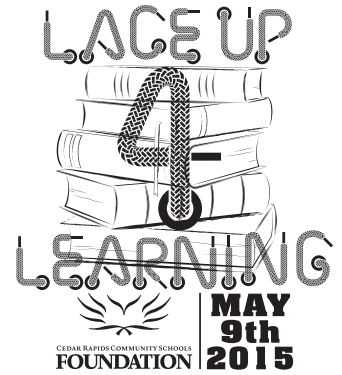
Hills Bank and Trust Company

Member FDIC

8th Annual “Lace Up for Learning” Event

Once again the Foundation hosted the “Lace Up for Learning 5K, 10K, and Family Fun Run. More than 475 runners of all ages and abilities participated May 9, 2015 at Kingston Stadium to raise funds to benefit the Foundation’s funding of school project programs, equipment needs, and curriculum support that enhance the educational experiences for students of all ages.

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 2016 race, scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016!



Grant Wood Elementary running club celebrating after the race



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.

Nine Professional Development Grants Awarded

In May 2015, the Foundation awarded a total of \$2,280 to nine District educators to continue and enhance their education. The following staff members received grants:

- Brooke Sperau, educator at Garfield Elementary, received the Ernie Pence Memorial Grant, to continue coursework at Mt. Mercy University.
- Laura Zimmerman, ELL teacher at Roosevelt Middle School and Amy Smith, teacher at Jefferson High School will attend the “Ensuring Learning for All” conference.
- Cindy Hutcheson, a teacher at Harding Middle School, will attend the “Teacher at Work” workshop at Grant Wood AEA.
- AJ Maiers, a teacher at Cleveland Elementary School, will participate in a “Human Relations Training” workshop.
- LaShay Smith, a paraeducator at Jefferson High School, will complete her recertification requirements at Kirkwood Community College.
- Kelli Rozendaal, 3rd Grade teacher at Johnson Elementary, will create an innovative curricular project for her new STEAM classroom.
- Stacey Haynes-Moore, language arts teacher at Kennedy High School, will attend the Journalism Education Association National Convention.
- Julie Bradley, an ELL teacher at Hiawatha Elementary, will attend the “Courage to Teach” retreat.



Pictured: left to right – Karen Swanson, Foundation Executive Director, Stacey Haynes-Moore, LaShay Smith, Laura Zimmerman, Julie Bradley, and Cindy Hutcheson. Not pictured: Brooke Sperau (Ernie Pence Memorial Award Winner), AJ Maiers, Kelli Rozendaal, and Amy Smith

SAFE Provides Extra-Curricular Support

The SAFE (Sports, Academics, Fine Arts and Enrichment) Program offers financial assistance for at-risk and/or low-income District students to participate in extra-curricular activities. The Foundation believes that 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 \$50,000 to assist students with the fees associated with participating in extra-curricular programs throughout the District. This past year \$10,114.50 was distributed to nearly 100 students.

“If it wasn’t for this money I would never have been able to join the marching band. Thank you for the opportunity and for the new friends.”

SAFE program recipient

Anonymous Donor Funds Elementary Music Programs

For the past five years, an anonymous donor, through 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 this donor’s continuing support for the important work of music education in the schools. Purchases have included such items as: an acoustic guitar, headphones, recorders, percussion instruments, and microphones.



Coolidge Elementary music teacher, Amy Hanisch, plays a guitar for her students. The guitar was provided through the Elementary Music Teacher Grant Program.

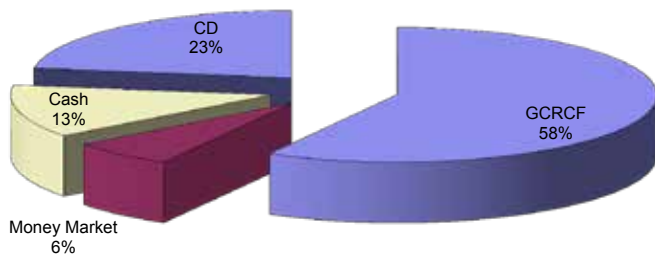
Foundation Reports Successful Year

Fiscal year 2015 ended strong with total contributions of \$403,922. This is the sixth consecutive year of positive fund growth. Nearly \$205,000 was granted via scholarships, program grants, and project awards. The portfolio return in 2015 was positive 15%. Projections for the fiscal year 2016 operating budget include a \$24,200 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 CRCSF office.

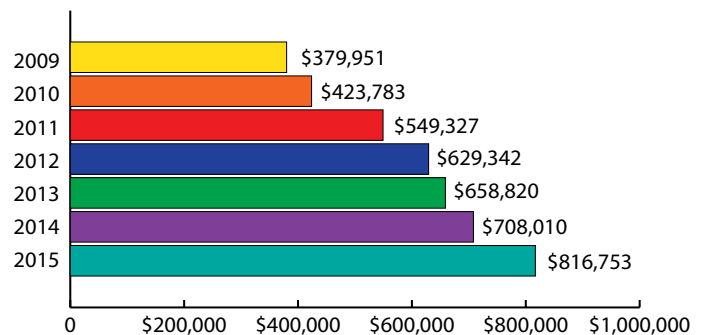
Activity From 10/1/14 through 9/30/15

	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	General Funds	Total Funds
Revenues:				
Contributions	26,222	138,401	239,299	403,922
Transfer				-
Investment Income	8,577	2,319	3,629	14,526
Total	34,799	140,720	242,928	418,447
Expenses:				
Scholarships and Awards	22,700	96,245	82,799	201,744
Professional Development Grants		400	1,680	2,080
Staff Recognition			1,000	1,000
Professional Services			38,435	38,435
Administrative	700	3,773	16,378	20,851
Fee Allocation	811	4,055	(4,866)	-
Total	24,211	104,473	135,426	264,110
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	10,588	36,247	107,502	154,338
Transfers/Adjustments	-	-	-	-
Change in Portfolio Market Value	(26,791)	(7,391)	(12,010)	(46,192)
Increase / (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(16,204)	28,857	95,492	108,145
Beginning Fund Balance	451,909	92,353	164,347	708,608
Ending Fund Balance	435,705	121,209	259,839	816,753

Investment Portfolio 9/30/2015



Steady Growth Of Assets:



Foundation Donors

October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

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.

\$50,001.00 - \$100,000.00

Cedar Rapids Community School District
Estate of Jeanne E. Skalsky-Carter

\$25,001.00 - \$50,000.00

Anonymous
The Giacoletto Foundation

\$10,001.00 - \$25,000.00

The Gazette Company
The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
Hills Bank & Trust Company
Richard L. McDonald
PEARSON
University of Iowa Community Credit Union

\$7,500.00 - \$10,000.00

Alliant Energy Foundation, Inc.
Verizon Foundation

\$5,000.00 - \$7,499.00

Philip E. Ewoldsen
M. Paul & Glennys Brimmer Foundation
The Optimist Club of Marion-Cedar Rapids

\$2,500.00 - \$4,999.00

The Jared & Carol Hills Foundation
Van Meter Industrial

\$1,000.00 - \$2,499.00

Lawrence & Judith Blum
Cheryl L. Bowen
Cargill, Inc.
Lisa Ann Johnson
Jeffrey M. Novak
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Novak
Rockwell Collins Matching Gift Program
Lindsay P. Schumacher
Scott Hill Memorial Scholarship Committee
U.S. Bank Foundation

Linn County Witwer Trust
Catherine Welch
William P. Whipple

\$500.00 - \$999.00

Shawn & Lianna Cornally
Gordman's
Robert & Marilyn Hovelson
General Mills/Your Cause, LLC
Dave Markward
Kenneth W. Novak
Trace D. Pickering
James & Nancy Snetzler
Donald & Roberta Steichen
Karen Zazza

\$100.00 - \$499.00

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Chan Min Huang
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Stefan Koczo
Sherrie L. Kopecky
Randy Krejci
Mary Ann Kucera
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Jack & Joyce Sedlacek
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Karen A. Swanson
Marc Wallace
Greg & Deb Wanzek
Waypoint Services
Western Fraternal Life Association
Alissa Williams

FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS:

TOTAL ASSETS:	\$816,753
NUMBER OF GRANT PROGRAMS:	8
TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED FY2015:	\$403,922
TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS:	372
NUMBER OF NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AND/OR FUNDS:	3
ANNUAL PORTFOLIO INCREASE:	15%
TOTAL DOLLARS AWARDED:	\$203,824
NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED:	15,668
NUMBER OF TEACHERS SERVED:	235
NUMBER OF SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN:	47

CRCSD Alumni Program

Now in its third year, the CRCSD Alumni Program – managed by the Foundation – works to engage and interact with its alumni. Each quarter, an e-newsletter is sent to alumni with email addresses on file. The Foundation also connects with alumni via reunion gatherings. If you are an alumna or alumnus and would like to be included in alumni activities, reach out to the Foundation's Executive Director, Karen Swanson, by email or phone. You can also submit personal updates via the Alumni tab on the Foundation's website (www.crcsf.com).



Washington High School, Class of 1985 celebrating their 30th Reunion (Summer 2015)

Children Served

In fiscal year 2015, a total of 15,668 children were served by various Foundation programs at a total financial investment of \$203,824.

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, the Homeless Program, and Iowa BIG. During FY2015 the following new fiscal agent programs were added: The Bookhouse Fund and Partnership for Post-Secondary Success.

District Supports the Foundation via Charitable Giving

Fiscal year 2015 saw the staff of the Cedar Rapids Community School District support the Foundation with more than \$30,000 in donations via the Annual Charitable Community Campaign/Staff Payroll Deduction program. That sum is 10% of the Foundation's annual budget! Every dollar given by faculty and staff goes to help underwrite 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.

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

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Permit No. 147

Major Gift Makes Major Impact

In early spring, the Foundation was advised that it received a \$35,000 donation from an anonymous donor. This generous donation was designated for the Student Enrichment Grant program and the SAFE program. The donation helps the Student Enrichment Grant program increase from a maximum of \$100 per teacher to \$250 per teacher! Funds also are committed to fully fund SAFE for the coming school year. The Foundation is grateful for this significant, program-enhancing contribution. Thank you!



2500 Edgewood Road NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
319-558-2400 • kswanson@cr.k12.ia.us • www.crcsf.com

Items Purchased with 2014-2015
Student Enrichment Funds

I would like to thank the donor for the Student Enrichment Grants I have received over the last few years. In art, most of the supplies purchased each year are consumed by students in their art projects and taken home. Because of this my art budget is usually used to replace these supplies every year. The Student Enrichment Grants have enabled me to purchase items that will enhance and supplement student learning and projects. These items have included tools such as new scissors or paint brushes but also artist's videos and literature related to art.



Thank you so much for supporting students and classroom needs!

Dee Hubler

Pierce Elementary Art Specialist

Artwork made possible because of Student
Enrichment Grants - - - -

