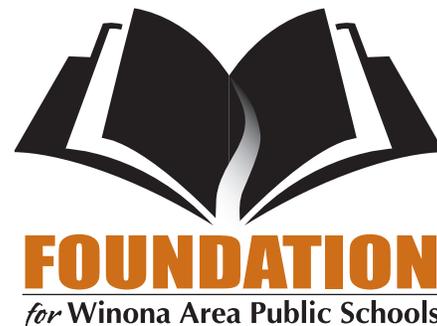


The Foundation Files

September 2014 through August 2015



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* Executive Committee
** Ex-Officio; Voting
*** Ex-Officio; Non-Voting

Shelley Milek, *Executive Director*



Not pictured: Ben Baratto, Katherine Harding, Don Klagge, & Dr. Stephen West

From the Executive Director

Once again, the year flew by as the Foundation Board of Directors and I worked hard to manage donations and funds which provided over 30 grants for our schools, multiple scholarships and additional new mobile technology. The halls bustled with activity as the students loaded buses to science museums, art institutes, and even a first step to other countries. Generous citizens and alumni gave back to their schools by honoring classmates and retirees by providing donations to the Foundation.

August brought excitement as the staff had the opportunity to attend the opening day workshop and see first-hand the charismatic leadership of new Superintendent, Dr. Stephen West. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools provided an update on the many amazing things done to enrich and expand the educational opportunities for our students. Staff was encouraged to continue to find innovative ways that the Foundation can enhance the lives of our students through education. By the end of the presentation, Dr. West had staff, and this Director, dancing in anticipation of the upcoming school year.

The Foundation Board of Directors worked on updating and improving the "Dare to Dream" grant. We listened to staff as they communicated the benefits of having the summer to prepare for the fall "Dare to Dream" project. Because of this, we moved the annual "Dare to Dream" award to the spring. This wonderful adjustment benefited the schools by providing two "Dare to Dream" awards for the 2014-2015 school -year. See more exciting details later in this newsletter.

During the winter months, we finalized a new look for our website, making it easier for people to navigate around and see the many wonderful and exciting things happening at the Foundation.

As people bundled up for the winter season in Winona, the Gala Committee, already well underway in their planning, finalized details for yet another great celebration of education. The Gala Committee and Board of Directors worked hard to create an event that would bring a bit of the Coast to the chilly spring evening. A sense of warmth from the islands helped to bring a community working together towards one common goal; enriching our students' lives with better tools for education.

The end of the school year brought many great activities to our schools. The Foundation's annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition netted over 175 poems this year. Judges marveled at the passionate expressive writings of our students. We also saw students who worked hard to showcase their resume of talents as they applied for scholarship offerings. The Foundation was privileged to hold funds that housed over 14 scholarships this year.

As the school year closed and the summer lends to preparations for another exciting year, we take a moment to reflect on the many gifts we have. The Foundation is here because of the great support we receive from our alumni, community and businesses, and staff. Together we work hard to enrich and expand the educational opportunities in the Winona Area Public Schools. Thank You!!



Executive Director, Shelley Milek

– Shelley Milek, Executive Director

Highlights of the Year

The 2014-2015 year was very active and eventful for the Foundation. Some of the highlights include:

- 40 classroom and school grants
- \$5000 "Dare to Dream" grant for "The Vegetable Garden"
- (2) \$250 Teacher Grants to use for educational materials
- \$5000 "Dare to Dream" grant for "WSHS Healthy Lake Winona Project"
- 82 Donor Advised Funds and management of them
- 20 scholarships from funds held at the Foundation
- 10 prize awards from the Haake Poetry Fund for winning poetry
- Over \$500,000 has been directed this year through the Foundation to projects that enhance public education in Winona
- \$40,000 raised for Mobile Technology in our schools



First Semester Children's Books for Nicaragua

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity and kind support. Your help has made possible all of the special programs, projects, field trips and speakers listed in this newsletter-and much, much more. Gratitude goes out to each of you and we hope you will contact us with any questions or ideas for the Foundation and our schools.

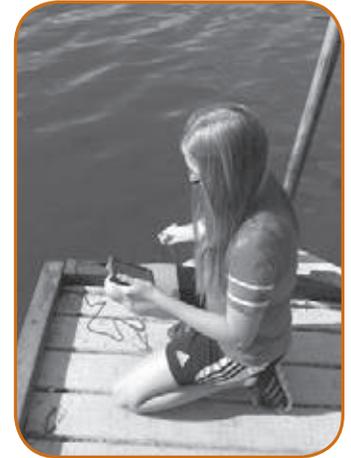
Dare to Dream By Katherine Harding- Student Board Representative



The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools awarded its fall 2015 “Dare to Dream” grant to Anne Simon for her innovative idea of a vegetable garden at the high school, named the, “Dare to Dream Garden”. Simon aimed to involve the entire school population and community, and organized groups in the construction, education, and maintenance of the garden. She called her vision for the project, “an extension of the classroom”. Groups involved included, Health classes learning the benefits of growing organic vegetables, Food and Nutrition classes and Food Services cooked the vegetables grown, Math classes calculated the square footage and dimensions, and Industrial Technology classes helped build boxes to house the vegetables. Since being awarded the grant, Anne Simon has worked with groups such as Restorative Justice and Miller Mentoring to maintain the garden during the summer.

She used the summer vacation to, “focus on the details of the project”. This has included making plans for a Garden Advisory Committee and creating a Facebook page so the community can stay updated on progress in the garden.

The spring 2015 “Dare to Dream” grant was awarded to Peter Weess for his, “WSHS Healthy Lake Winona Project”. Healthy Lake Winona is a community group that strives to conserve and clean up local surface and groundwater. They will be conducting a series of water quality tests on both the East and West Lake Winona, in conjunction with, Saint Mary’s and Winona State University. Funding for Weess’ grant will go towards testing equipment that will enable student involvement with the Healthy Lake Winona water quality testing for years to come. This hands-on learning opportunity will help students develop a rich understanding of aquatic ecosystems that could not be formed in a classroom alone. A group of volunteer students began testing in August. The testing will continue in biology and chemistry classes when school begins.



Education First’s, Educational Global Student Leaders Summit



Luke Merchlewitz

Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools Board Member and 2013-2014 “Dare to Dream” grant recipient Luke Merchlewitz, along with WSHS graduate Calvin Dretske, were guest presenters at “Education First’s, Educational Global Student Leaders Summit” in Davos, Switzerland.

The conference centered along the innovation and future of education. Nearly 1500 high school students and teachers were challenged and inspired to question and reflect on how to personally redesign education to meet the needs of our future.

The Foundation for Winona Area Public School’s Global Forum “Dare to Dream” award was the catalyst which initiated this great opportunity. Merchlewitz and Dretske’s presentation, one of twelve workshop presentations at the conference, highlighted the studies of “water in our world” with students at Washington-Kosciusko Elementary School. Their presentation was entitled

“What if the World Took a Selfie?” Together they represented WAPS and our Foundation. Not only did they share and discuss their award winning local project, but also had participants imagine a world beyond their immediate environment, recognize diverse audiences and find potential to make an impact. Workshop participants were educated and empowered to practice global competency – a tool that helps individuals investigate the world, recognize perspectives, and communicate ideas.

Merchlewitz stated, “Participants of the Summit were very focused and driven to design creative solutions to some of education’s shortfalls.”

“Over the past two years Cal and I have seen how our collaboration, creativity, empathy and leadership can pave the way for innovative thinking and teaching for young learners,” said W-K Second Grade teacher, Luke Merchlewitz. “The Education First Educational Summit and the Foundation’s Dare to Dream award serve as a unique opportunity and a critical tool in a quest to think and present positive opportunities for some lucky WAPS learners.”

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

Information on the Foundation, its mission, Board, grants and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

www.foundationwaps.org.

Also, a **link for on-line donations** is available 24/7 for gifts in honor or memory of a special person, program or event.



The Foundation is on Facebook!! Check us out!!

It was a "Shore Thing" ...

Next year's Gala:
March 5, 2016

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools "Welcomed Aboard" community, staff, and alumni as guests arrived at a coastal themed celebration for education, held at Visions Event Center. The evening's, "party with a purpose," was to celebrate WAPS' pride and to raise money for mobile technology in our schools.

Adirondack chairs nestled in "beachy" sand, a white and blue mast navigated above the deck of a coastal blue sailboat, and a "Shell Shack" overflowing with crab cakes, set the tone for this maritime activity. Attendees strolled the boardwalk viewing driftwood and nautical themed art for sale, a seafaring silent auction, and ended their evening with a mobile technology themed live auction, all which netted \$40,000 for our schools.

"I sincerely thank everyone who attended and supported the Gala," said Shelley Milek, Executive Director of the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. "We are honored to have the support of so many outstanding citizens representing our city, schools, universities, and businesses, all joining to celebrate partnerships in education." A special thanks and recognition to lead sponsors, Merchants Bank and Winona National Bank, for playing a major role in making the event possible.

"The Gala was a success, as parents, school and community came together to celebrate education," adds Gala chair Luke Merchlewitz. "As a Foundation Board of Director, I applaud the overwhelming support, year after year, from this community to enhance and expand opportunities for all learners."

The Foundation's 2015 Legacy award was presented to Pauline Knight. She was one of a small team of people who recognized years ago the need for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools to be formed. She was instrumental in recruiting its first Executive Director, Jim Hanzel, organizing efforts for the Foundation's beginnings, and so much more. Pauline served as the first recording Secretary of the Foundation. She always knew that the Foundation would be an instrumental tool for making a difference in the lives of students. She explained, "After all, the Foundation is about the kids."

A special thank you is extended to the many sponsors, business donors, silent auction donors, and Gala Committee members that gave their time and money to make the 2015 "It's a Shore Thing" Gala an overwhelming success.

The \$40,000 raised from this event will continue to provide benefit to WAPS students for years to come. Thank you again for all of the continued support of the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. We look forward to celebrating with you again next year. To contact the foundation, call Shelley Milek at 507-494-1004 or www.foundationwaps.org.



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Winona Area Retired Educators Association

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D & D Peterson
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\$500 Scholarship given to Michael Stevens (Raised by a Eric Rumstick Memorial Tournament)

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Jefferson Project PEAK

Dan & Pat Rukavina Family

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• In honor of Barb Carlson
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WK Social Fund

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Winona Senior Friendship Center

WSHS Softball Fund

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WSHS Touchdown Club

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WK Project Plant

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Jerry Raddatz Baseball Field

David Heise

Russ RaHunde

Jim & Shannon Hanzel

Chuck Schollmeier

Jim & Shannon Hanzel

Joann Wilson (Birthday)

Nancy O'Reilly

Marvin Wilson (Birthday)

Nancy O'Reilly

Nancy & Joren Wondrasch

Jim & Shannon Hanzel

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Tom Guillou

Jamie Rattunde Nelson

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Memorial Scholarship

Marv Gunderson
Mary Reek

Class of 1974

Memorial Scholarship

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• In Memory of Karla Prod
Francie Biesanz
Marjorie & William Ford
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• In Memory of Karla Prod
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Nancy Keller
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We have made every effort to provide an accurate listing of gifts received between 9/01/14 and 8/31/2015. However, if you find an error/omission, please contact the Foundation office at 507-494-1004.

Leave A Legacy... Through the Foundation's Lowell Nelson Society

In 1997, the Foundation Board of Directors established the Lowell Nelson Society in honor of former District 861 Superintendent Lowell Nelson. Membership in the Society is accorded to those who help build the Foundation's endowment by naming the Foundation, as a beneficiary in their wills, qualified pension plans (including IRAs, 401K's, Keoghs, etc.), insurance policies, trusts, or other types of planned gifts.



Please consider the Foundation when you are updating your Will or developing your estate and retirement plans. Our office is here to help you make a difference in the lives that follow.

Judy Bodway
Susan and John Eddy
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Barbara Schilling*
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Rita Sullivan*
Linda A. Wood
Pete and Joyce Woodworth
(*deceased)

Teacher & Staff Payroll Deduction Participants 2014-15

Heartfelt thanks to nearly 100 WAPS staff members who participated in the Payroll Deduction Program benefiting the Foundation. Their support provided almost \$13,000 for our students and we are so grateful!!

The following WAPS employees support the Foundation through the District's Payroll Deduction Plan (Rec'd up to 8/31/15):

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Mary Cappel	Cory R. Hanson	Janet M. Moeller	Thomas P. Sanvik	Kristine A. Traxler
Gay Casper	Jon M. Hogenson	Jeffery S. Morgan	Margaret M. Schild	Mary Dickey Tufvesson
Emily Cassellius	Marie L. Holmquist	Gaylene E. Mortensen	Steven R. Schild	Dwayne A. Voegeli
John Cassellius	Lisa M. Hudson	Kathleen W. Moser	William A. Schmidt	Cheryl T. Weaver
David R. Chapman	Gretchen A. Johns-Derbyshire	Lisa L. Mullen	Chuck Schollmeier	Kara L. Welch
Kristin K. Coudron	Cynthia S. Johnson	Brenda Nelson	Wendy Schneider	Kathleen Welch
Eileen M. Dahlin	Jay E. Kohner	Nancy J. Nelson	Kirstin J. Schultz	Steven G. Wiltgen
Maryann Dennis	Molli R. Kook	Jenny M. Nettles	Rodney A. Schwarz	Judith A. Yess
Robin L. Draves	Susan Larsen	Patricia L. Norman	Julie L. Seeley	
Adrien N. Everest		Steven F. Norman	Melissa L. Shields	

2014-15 Grant Awards

Phy Ed Bowling - WALC
 Phy Ed Lake Lodge - WALC
 Cal Fremling River Boat - WMS
 8th Grade Science Trip
 Mystery Cave field trip - WMS 8th Grade
 Exploring Music and Choir - WMS 6th Grade
 (2) \$250 District Payroll Deduction Classroom Grants
 Science Fair trifold display boards - WMS 5th grade
 Career Exploration Expo - WSHS
 Nicaragua Book Project
 Concordia Language Village Trip
 Music in Action field Trip
 Poetry Reading
 2015 Summer Student Trip - Global Scholars

Painting from Life - artist in residence - Jefferson, Goodview, and Rollingstone Elementary grades 3 & 4
 Artist in Residence - WSHS
 Fortitude Awareness Play - WSHS
 Winona Ambassadors travel to Misato - WMS & WSHS
 Orchestra NYC Trip - WSHS



5th Grade MN Zoo Field Trip

WSU Science Trip - WMS
 Fort Snelling - 6th grade
 Art field trip - WALC
 Young Writers Conference
 English 9 field trip - WSHS
 Performance in the Park - WMS 7th & 8th grade choirs
 Italy-Greece Trip - WSHS



May 2015 Eagle Bluffs Field Trip

Shakespeare in the Schools - WSHS
 Teen Voices Project
 Guthrie field trip - 7th grade
 Spotlight Showcase
 Science Museum field trip
 Challenge Biology field trip
 Senior Seminar - WSHS
 Field trip to MN Zoo and IMAX - 5th grade
 Year End field trip - WALC
 German I field trip to Mpls. Institute of Arts
 Dare to Dream Vegetable Garden
 Dare to Dream WSHS Healthy Lake Winona Project

Dr. West jived to a dancing disco beat!!!!



Dr. West Dancing

Dr. Stephen West, Superintendent of Winona Area Public Schools, took his passion for learning to the next "techno" level by "Dancing with the Winona Stars," sponsored by Gotta Dance. One of his passions for our students is to move them into the 21st Century by becoming a digital district. The Winona Area Public Schools is engaging an initiative to transform learning and teaching for our students. It is based on a belief in the unique power of technology to enhance the core mission and boost learning. Dr. West would like to put one technology learning device into each student's hands. These devices, by no means will replace the teacher, but rather, will help the instructors differentiate the abilities of their students. Today's generation of students view technology as part of their everyday environment. Dr. West's rhythm and soul brought in \$10,000 for our schools. Thank you Dr. West!!!

2015 Annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition

A debt of gratitude is owed to Dr. Paul Haake who established this annual poetry competition at the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. Dr. Haake, a 1950 alumnus of Winona Senior High School and Professor Emeritus at Wesleyan University, honored the memory of his father, Arnold Haake, by endowing the annual poetry prize.

"The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools congratulates the 2015 Annual Haake Poetry Award winners.

WSHS Winners:

First Place (\$100 Prize): Pippa Armstrong and Raelynn Peter

Second Place (\$50 Prize): Nolan Maxwell, Lucy Nelson, and Elaina Smith

WMS Winners:

First Place (\$100 prize): Noble Swenson and Page Panzera

Second Place (\$50 Prize): Francesca Hopkins, Garit Wollen, and Aminah Masood

Thank you to all student contestants for their participation which generated 178 original poetry compositions this year. The Foundation would like to thank Laura Armstrong and Eileen Dahlin, and all of the language arts teachers at WMS and WSHS, as well as, our esteemed judges panel. The judges included Carol Borzykowski, Emilio DeGrazia, and Ken McCullough. The support and commitment of the teachers and the judges, helped make this program a tremendous success.

For more information, please call the Foundation for WAPS at 507-494-1004.



Calling all Winona Area Public Schools Alumni...



We can't believe it has already been five years. It is Alumni Directory time again! The Foundation is partnering once again with the Winona Area Public Schools and Harris Connect to gather information on its alumni. Postcards have been sent and calls are being made to contact all alumni. This data helps us provide information to you for class reunions and to keep you informed regarding changes in your schools. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 507-494-1004.

Shelley Milek

**Coming Together is a Beginning
Keeping Together is Progress
Working Together is Success
-Henry Ford**



Mission

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an **independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization** established in 1991 and funded entirely by community and business supporters of education in Winona. The single purpose of the Foundation is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in Winona Area Public Schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources.

Community & Alumni Support

Community and alumni support has been invaluable in the many projects that have benefited our students, such as field trips, student speakers and enrichment programs. The Foundation also holds over 76 donor advised funds created by individual supporters to benefit specific educational causes of interest, such as the, SE MN Science Fair Fund, student scholarship funds, classroom technology funds, and funds for student learning trips.

How You Can Help

Donations can be made online (www.foundationwaps.org), in person (at our office at WMS) or by mail: 1570 Homer Rd, Winona, MN 55987. Gifts are frequently made in honor or in memory of a special person or event and can also be provided via a Will, pension plan or other types of planned giving.

For more information, please call the Foundation at 507.494.1004 or email: support@foundationwaps.org.

www.foundationwaps.org

Mark your Calendars!

March 5, 2016:

Join us at the
Foundation's Gala
to be held at
Visions Event Center!

Over the past two years, **more than HALF OF A MILLION DOLLARS** have been directed through the Foundation to projects and programs that have enhanced education in the Winona Area Public Schools through the Foundation.

Our sincere thanks to the many generous and caring donors who have made this possible.

Sincere thanks to each of you for your support!

1570 Homer Road
Winona, MN 55987
507-494-1004



"Investing in today's students for tomorrow's future."

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