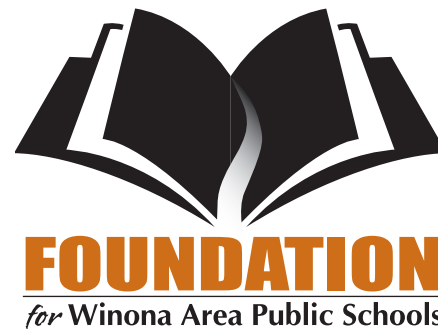


# The Foundation Files

September 2015 through August 2016



## The Foundation Board of Directors

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 \*\*Ex-Officio; Voting  
 \*\*\*Ex-Officio; Non-Voting  
 Shelley Milek, Executive Director

## From the Executive Director

As I reflect upon this past school year, I am humbled by the tremendous support the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools receives every single day from our alumni, board of directors, community, businesses, and staff. I am taken aback by how even the simplest gesture can mean so much to a student and his or her education.

As a parent of a 2016 WSHS graduate, I am amazed at the wonderful knowledge base my son received throughout his education at Winona Area Public Schools. I know that he has skill sets that will help him as he moves forward into that next level of education. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is working hard to ensure that we may continue to enrich and expand the educational opportunities in the Winona Area Public Schools.

As the school year started last August, energized staff attended opening day workshops, preparing for an exciting new year. Staff learned that proceeds from the spring Foundation for WAPS Gala enabled the District to purchase mobile technology for almost the whole sophomore class at WSHS. Staff were encouraged to apply for grants, and to continue to find ways for the Foundation to help the Winona Area Public School system with educational needs.

After partnering with an outside company, the Foundation was pleased to offer an updated Alumni Directory to our WAPS alumni. This resource will aid in connecting with past alumni of Winona Senior High School and be a valuable source of information on past and continued friendships and contacts.

The Urban Elegance theme of this year's Gala used a unique design associated with popular urban form to connect people and places, movement and style. This created the backdrop for the event that brought people together in a common goal; enriching our students' lives with better tools for education. The proceeds from the event benefited Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities for all Winona Area Public Schools.

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is privileged to hold a multitude of funds encompassing honorariums, memorials, endowments, special interests, and scholarships for our schools' causes and students. This year the Foundation offered funding toward 22 scholarships and set up many more funds to provide scholarships in the future.

As the foundation continues to grow and improve, know that we are here solely to support education and the students of Winona Area Public Schools.

The foundation is honored to be able to offer assistance to our students through the strong commitment, collaboration and dedication from so many.

The Foundation Board of Directors and I will continue to work hard to expand and enrich educational opportunities for our students in the Winona Area Public Schools for years to come. Thank you!! We couldn't do it without you!!



Executive Director,  
Shelley Milek



Not pictured: Liz Paulson, Jamie Pomeroy,  
and Dr. Stephen West

-Shelley Milek, Executive Director

## Highlights of the Year

The 2015-2016 school-year was very active and eventful for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. Some of the highlights include:

- 35 classroom and school grants
- \$5000 "Dare to Dream" grant for "A Rigamajig Building Club"
- (2) \$250 Teacher Grants to use for educational materials
- 83 Donor Advised Funds and management of them
- 23 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
- Over \$29,000 raised was used to purchase mobile technology for WAPS
- Over \$55,000 raised at the 2016 Urban Elegance Gala for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities

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



## The Foundation for WAPS 2016 Dare to Dream Award Winner!



Each year, the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools awards a \$5000 “Dare to Dream” grant winner. The purpose of the award is to foster the creative spirit within the District and encourages our staff to dream of ways we can enhance and enrich education for our students. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools was pleased to announce the 2016, \$5000 “Dare to Dream” grant winner, as Jefferson Elementary Stem School teacher, Byron Gilliland, for his “Rigamajig Building Club”.

Gilliland stated in his application that research shows elementary aged students learn best when they are motivated through curiosity and collaboration. Their imaginations can be sparked by just giving them the materials and free reign they need to create whatever they want. He dared to dream of an afterschool “Rigamajig Building Club” offered to students in the Winona Area Public Schools (grades K-4).

The collection of “Rigamajigs” contain planks, wheels, pulleys, nuts, bolts and rope which allow children to follow their curiosity to learn about engineering, design, architecture, art, and science, through exploration and collaboration. His dream is to engage the inquisitive mind and creative spirit of our elementary students while they build three dimensional wooden structures and engage in problem solving and amazing feats of creative engineering. “Rigamajigs” are an adventurous way to incorporate problem solving, creativity, collaboration, and imagination into all parts of the curriculum. Gilliland’s vision is to host an after-school club numerous times throughout the fall and spring of the 2016-2017 school years. Congratulations and thank you, Byron Gilliland, for Daring to Dream!!!!

## Thank you Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors...

Volunteers come from all walks of life. Volunteers are parents and neighbors of all nationalities. Volunteers come together to give their time each and every day to build community and create better schools. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has been blessed with such volunteers. Six board of directors will be going off the board after serving three and six-year terms. They have been part of a team that has raised and given out thousands and thousands of dollars to the Winona Area Public Schools to help enrich and expand educational opportunities for our students. Thank you for all you have done, you will be missed and your gifts will live on in our students.

**Jen Anderson, President**



**Luke Merchlewitz, WEA Rep.**



**Katherine Harding, Student Rep.**



**Gaby Peterson, VP**



**Don Klagge**



**Chris Streukens**



While we will miss the many contributions from the board members completing their terms, we are excited to welcome new board members to the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. They are thrilled to join the board and we are looking forward to continuing on the legacy of great work for our students and schools.

The newest additions to the Foundation’s Board of Directors are:

**Hannah Brown, Student Rep.**

**Tina Smeby**

**Kate Gilmer**

**Mary Cappel, WEA/Faculty Rep.**

**Erica Ping**

**Tanya Berzinski**

**Stacey Matthees**



## CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

Information on the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, its mission, Board of Directors, grants, and alumni connections can be found on our website at:

[www.foundationwaps.org](http://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!!

# Urban Elegance Gala Raises over \$55,000 for our Schools.....

Next year's Gala:  
*Stay Tuned*

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools brought in a little "Urban Elegance" to the 2016 Gala. Community, staff, and alumni arrived at Visions Event Center ready to celebrate public education and raise money for academics, arts, athletics and activities in our schools!!!

The landscape of architectural design, including metal and glass sculptures, warehouse styled windows, timeless textiles, modern and rustic décor, and contemporary lighting and art, set the tone for a truly "urban" evening. Urban design is about making connections between people and places, and that is what happened as attendees perused the tastings and silent auction areas, bid on urban and natural art, and ended their evening with a zealous and thriving live auction, all which netted over \$55,000 for our schools!

"Year after year, I am amazed at the ever-growing support we have for the Foundation" said Shelley Milek, Executive Director of the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. "It definitely takes a "village" to accomplish the task of putting on the Gala and we are privileged 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.

Gala Chair Luke Merchlewitz adds, "This year's event captured record breaking volunteer contributions to the Foundation's cause, from the first time ever on-line alumni auction, to the various talented volunteers who gave generous community support and commitment through the contribution of their time. I look forward to the benefits of these funds to enhance academics, arts, athletics and activities in our schools."

Shannon Hanzel, retired WSHS English Teacher commented, "It was heartening to see so many former students of mine now involved with the civic community coming forth to support the school district through the Foundation for WAPS."

Each year the Foundation's Board of Directors awards the Legacy Award which is presented to a citizen or organization that shows exemplary support and commitment to the Foundation's goal to enhance education with dedication to our community of learners. The 2016 Legacy Award was presented to Jim Hanzel who was the first Executive Director for the Foundation back in 1995! Among his first efforts was to establish a capital campaign and endowment plan, he was instrumental in setting up the first office and board, he created our Lowell Nelson Society and the WAPS payroll deduction plan, and was the first, familiar and friendly face the Winona staff and community encountered when wanting to support the students of District 861.

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 2016 "Urban Elegance" gala an overwhelming success.

The \$55,000 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. Photos from the event can be found on our Facebook and web page. To contact the Foundation, call Shelley Milek at 507-494-1004 or [www.foundationwaps.org](http://www.foundationwaps.org).





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John & Shelley Milek  
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John & Shelley Milek

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*We have made every effort to provide an accurate listing of gifts received between 09/01/2015 and 08/31/2016. 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  
Mark Godsey  
Norma Grausnick  
Harriet Green  
Scott and Carmen Hannon  
Jim and Shannon Hanzel  
Dr. Donna Helble  
Susan Hoffe\*  
Neva King \*  
Harland and Pauline Knight  
Ruth Kottschade\*  
Tom and Leone Mausycki

Roger and Ramona Metz  
Shelley and John Milek  
Joliene and LaVerne Olson  
Linda and Don Olson  
Russ and Wanda Rattunde  
Nancy and Jim Reynolds  
Chuck and Judy Shepard  
Barbara Schilling\*  
Sharon Suchla\*  
Rita Sullivan\*  
Linda A. Wood  
Pete and Joyce Woodworth  
(\*deceased)

# Teacher & Staff Payroll Deduction Participants 2015-16

The staff of Winona Area Public Schools continues to give back to their students. Whether it is giving back through hours of before and after school tutoring and teaching, providing awesome nutrition and school lunches, keeping our buildings clean and safe, offering assistance with clubs and activities, giving back through coaching, writing letters of recommendation, being that first approachable friendly face and assisting with transcripts and conferences, or giving that extra encouragement that everyone sometimes needs, thank you. It is an honor to know you! Thank you for the continued support you give to the Foundation so we can continue to provide extra educational assistance each and every day. Heartfelt thanks to the nearly 100 WAPS staff members who not only provide excellent education and support for our students, but who also participated in the Foundation's Payroll Deduction Program benefiting the Winona Area Public Schools. Their support provided over \$12,000 for our students. We are so grateful!!

## The following WAPS employees support the Foundation through the District's Payroll Deduction Plan:

Gloria Alatone	Jon A. Feldhake	Susan Larsen	Patricia L. Norman	Melissa L. Shields	Alvin Weisbrod
Courtney W. Anderson	Timothy S. Firstbrook	Holly J. Lechler	Steven F. Norman	Anne M. Simon-Debroux	Kara L. Welch
C. Shannon Bechly	Linda Gale	Corey F. Lee	Susan L. Ogren	Lisa K. Skifton	Kathleen Welch
Fred J. Blacklock	Timothy M. Gleason	Joseph D. Lepley	Catherine Pahnke	Joleen K. Smith	Steven G. Wiltgen
Elizabeth Ann Boettcher	Katrina J. Glick	Mary L. Lewis-Hyde	Kenneth E. Paulsen	Katy M. Smith	Judith A. Yess
Paula L. Braaten	Elizabeth B. Hall	Pamela J. Lica	Kim M. Penrod	Mathew A. Smith	
William L. Braun	Kelly S. Halversen	Darcy Lindquist	Linda K. Pfeilsticker	Emily Solheid	
Janet K Bridwell	Lyn Halverson	Dawn Lueck	Nathan J. Pollock	Terri A. Spartz	
Carolyn L. Bruels	Scott R. Halverson	Kenneth J. Mann	Carole D. Prudoehl	Gayle Steinquist	
Joel G. Bruels	Gail T. Hannemann-Doering	Haley A. Martin	Barbara R. Rahn	Ted A. Stuckmayer	
Kathleen A. Calvey	Cory R. Hanson	Sundra L. Menton	Stacy Rasmussen	Brenda L. Svendsen	
Mary Cappel	Jon M. Hogenson	Brenda C. Merchlewitz	Beatrice M. Salisbury	Marianne E. Texley	
Gay Casper	Marie L. Holmquist	Luke A. Merchlewitz	Judy M. Sanvik	Kristine A. Traxler	
Emily Cassellius	Lisa M. Hudson	Amber Mlynczak	Thomas P. Sanvik	Mary Dickey Tufvesson	
John Cassellius	Bill Jacobs	Janet M. Moeller	Margaret M. Schild	Dwayne A. Voegeli	
David R. Chapman	Gretchen A. Johns-Derbyshire	Jeffery S. Morgan	Steven R. Schild	Cheryl T. Weaver	
Kristin K. Coudron	Cynthia S. Johnson	Gaylene E. Mortensen	William A. Schmidt		
Eileen M. Dahlin	Kristin Kjos	Kathleen W. Moser	Chuck Schollmeier		
Maryann Dennis	Jay E. Kohner	Lisa L. Mullen	Wendy Schneider		
Robin L. Draves	Molli R. Kook	Brenda Nelson	Kirstin J. Schultz		
Andrea Eisner		Nancy J. Nelson	Rodney A. Schwarz		
Adrien N. Everest		Jenny M. Nettles	Julie L. Seeley		



Marianne Texley & Margaret Schild

## 2015-16 Grant Awards

\$5000 Dare to Dream Grant-Rigamajig Building Club-Engineering, Design, Science

Nicaragua Book Project

Folk Dancing at Madison Elementary

Elementary Author Visits

(2) \$250 Payroll Deduction Grants

WSHS Band Trip To Florida

Viterbo Music Field Trip-7th grade

Concordia Language Village

Young Writers' Conference

Mystery Cave Field Investigation

5th Grade Science Fair Display Boards

WAPS Elementary Artist in

Residence-Art

WALC Art Field Trip

Mark-My-Time Digital Bookmarks

Personal Care Packages-WALC

Fort Snelling Field Trip-WMS

Elementary Level Independent Works Stations

Preschool Work Centers

Fortitude Club Activity

German Field Trip to Mpls. Institute for Arts

Misato Trip- WMS & WSHS

Drive for Success

Structuring w/a Number Rack

Trills and Thrills Music Festival

5th Grade Minnesota Zoo Trip

WALC End of Year Field Trip

4th Grade Jefferson STEM Field Trip Science Museum

WSHS Drama Field Trip

MN Marine Art Museum Field Trip

STEM Advanced Algebra & Physics Trip to Valley Fair

Ell Summer Program

Guthrie Field Trip



Grants in Action



# 2016 Annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition

Dr. Paul Haake, WSHS alumnus, always kept his hometown of Winona close to his heart. He initiated a wonderful program through the Foundation for WAPS to honor the memory of his father, Arnold, who was known for his love of poetry during his WSHS years. The result was the annual Haake Poetry Prize that Paul generously funded. It is awarded each year to five promising poets at the WSHS and five poets at WMS via a writing competition. Dr. Haake's legacy will live on to benefit WAPS students for years to come.

## 2016 Haake Poetry Prize Competition Winners- WMS

### First Place:

Tara Ziegeweid for "We are the Class of 2020"  
Aaliya Delmore for "Heightening Oasis"



### Second Place:

Linda Moua for "The Sun Starts to Set"  
Julia Kronebusch for "Ocean"  
Morgan Walker for "The Ocean's Beauty"

## 2016 Haake Poetry Prize Competition Winners- WSHS

### First Place:

Muhammad Usman Nawaz for "Muslim Exchange Student"  
Pippa Armstrong for "Post Mortem"



### Second Place:

Nikki Miller for "Painting Flowers"  
Ariana Chavez for "Stars Fall Like Dust"  
Lucia Nelson for "Tree-Son"

Presented below is one of the winning poems, "We Are the Class of 2020", written by 8th grader, Tara Ziegeweid.

As we roam the hall between every class we remember the times that had to pass for us to continue our journey through life and everything that happened this year that had caused us great strife

When we had gotten the phone call that our classmate had passed everyone in the hallway than asked why did this happen, this is not right what could I have done, will this haunt me at night

It seemed like the world had froze and only God knows why we had these feelings inside that we knew we couldn't hide

We cried and wept, and were completely lost Then we remembered that we're the class of 2020 and we will support at any cost

we are Winhawks, and hawks fly together if someone falls we will pick them up as if they are light as a feather

We wore red as it was our classmate's favorite color and through this hard time supported each other even though the year didn't get off to a great start We will forever remember Solomon Elhindi in our heart

We will never forget the date of 1/13/2016, R.I.P Solomon You sure would have been one jolly old man we still hear your jokes and laugh and your smile that stretched a mile and a half

In Memory of  
Solomon Mohamed Elhindi  
1/13/16



## Another Successful Senior Send Off...

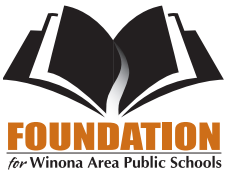
As we wrapped up the Foundation's scholarship season and played a role in holding funds for a multitude of scholarships for our seniors, we are reminded about a new beginning for them. The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has provided tools to enrich and expand education and the Winona Area Public Schools, with its excellent staff, continues to provide an education that will lay the groundwork for the next level of higher education.

When asked how the Winona Senior High School helped senior, Hallee Hoepfner prepare, she stated, "Winona Senior High School's challenge courses helped me prepare for the next level of education by teaching me important time management and study habits, allowing me to push myself academically, and assisting me in finding academic interests that I will be pursuing next year." Senior Kale Milek added, "Sports, at WSHS, allowed me the skills to balance my school-work, as well as, make my skills in determination and team-work stronger." Alumni, Hannah Peterson, added, "When having difficulties in certain classes, such as math, I learned how to utilize outside resources, such as, extra studying with teachers and online resources to overcome my challenges and be successful in rigorous courses."

As Pomp and Circumstance fades in the distance and our students use the summer to prepare for college in the fall, we can be assured that the educational tools and training provided will help them rise to that next level which will produce many great successes for our students.

**Congratulations Class of 2016!**





## Mission

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is an independent, non-profit, 501©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 to the many projects that have benefited our students, such as field trips, student speakers and enrichment programs. The Foundation also holds over 88 donor advised funds created by individual supporters to benefit specific educational causes of interest.

### How You Can Help

Donations can be made online, ([www.foundationwaps.org](http://www.foundationwaps.org)), in person at our office at WMS, or by mail at 1570 Homer Road, 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](mailto:support@foundationwaps.org).

[www.foundationwaps.org](http://www.foundationwaps.org)

*Mark your Calendars!*

**Look for information on our upcoming event!!!**

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



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