Poundation 2 September 2017 through August 2018



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From the Executive Director

As the lazy days of summer vacation are behind us, we anticipate fall with back-toschool supply lists, bouquets of freshly sharpened pencils and of course, the rousing pep band and football games. At the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, we are also anticipating another school year and continual ways to work hard to enrich education for our students. By reflecting on the work of the Foundation's past year, we continue to expand educational opportunities for our students.

We started the 2017-2018 year welcoming new Superintendent, Richard Dahman, to the Foundation Board of Directors. We are fortunate to include his resume of leadership, education, skills and experiences to our Board and District. Also in the fall, we were thrilled to roll out \$55,000 to WAPS schools for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities from the 2017 fundraising event. Staff and administrators collaboratively determined educational needs per school for our students by using this gift of money.



Executive Director. Shelley Milek

Next, two grant awards were provided to staff who donated to the Foundation through payroll deduction. Margaret Schild and Cindy Johnson were the winners. Their grant monies went towards educational supplies and a new cello for the students.

The Foundation's annual \$5000 Dare to Dream grant competition flushed the Foundation with an array of remarkable grant applications in the fall. The chosen winner was the Tech Nest Drone Project, written by Jeremy Graves. Look for more detailed information on this project later in this newsletter.

With the anticipation of spring in the air, the 2018 twenty- three member event committee rolled out a World Market event like none other. The sold out global event raised money once again for Academics, Arts, Athletics and Activities for all of our schools. The event proceeds will be allocated to the schools at the beginning of the 2018 school year.

The annual Haake Poetry Prize Competition encouraged our students to express themselves through the art of writing. Due to a past generous gift from alumnus Dr. Paul Haake, the Foundation is able to provide educational programs such as this.

The Foundation worked diligently as a partner to WAPS to ensure the 2017-2018 was a very productive year for students and their education. Students benefit from the management of 106 Donor Advised Funds, 41 classroom and school grants, 23 scholarships, and over \$636,000 directed through the Foundation for WAPS this year. We possess a Foundation Board of Directors who gives their time, money and support to ensure we are doing the very best for our students.

As school budgets become tighter, and the many demands for varied education becomes greater, we take a moment to reflect on the many contributions we have. The abundant support from donors, alumni, staff, community and businesses affords us the opportunity to continue to enrich and expand education for the students of the Winona Area Public Schools. Thank you!!

-Shelley Milek, Executive Director

ighlights of the Uear

The 2017-2018 school year was very active and eventful for the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools. Some of the highlights included:

- 41 classroom and school grants
- "Dare to Dream" grant for "Tech Nest Drone Project"
- \$3000 from fund to purchase treadmill & elliptical for WSHS
- Japan Ambassadors to Misato
- Concordia Language Village Trip
- Florida Band Trip WSHS Band performances & Big 9 Music Festival
- (2) \$250 Teacher Grants to use for educational materials
- 93 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 \$636,000 has been directed this year through the Foundation to projects that enhance public education in Winona
- Over \$56,000 was raised at the 2018 World Market event to support Academics, Arts, Athletics & Activities



The Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors, and 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 possible. Gratitude goes out to each of you, and I hope you will contact us with any questions or ideas you might have for the Foundation and our schools.

Poundation Board of Directors... Coming and Going

The Foundation Board of Directors is comprised of a group of volunteers from the community, business sector and WAPS Ex-Officio roles who lend their leadership, business, educational, financial and policy making expertise to form an organization which thrives to strengthen education in our public schools. The countless hours behind the scenes are that which makes the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools prosperous and strong. Thank you for all you do.

We will be saddened to see Susan Clark and Sue Roehrich ending their terms on the Foundation for WAPS Board of Directors. Susan Clark spent six years on the Foundation Board. She served as Secretary, Vice President, President, on the Executive Committee, and worked hard on committees at every event. Her financial expertise, leadership, and willingness to help out in any capacity will truly be missed.

Sue Roehrich is also a Board of Director who will truly be missed. Sue served in an Ex-Officio capacity for six years as the Retired Educator Representative. Sue brought years of educational and WAPS District historical reference to our Board. She served on the Grants Committee and as Grants Chair where she was able to provide great leadership, had knowledge of the educational curriculum and needs, and helped to form unlimited collaborative discussions with the Board. She was particularly good at interpreting policy and guidelines as set forth by the Board of Directors By-Laws. Thank you, Susan Clark and Sue Roehrich!



New to the Foundation Board of Directors are Shannon Hanzel and Robin Trombetta. Shannon Hanzel comes to us with a rich background of education. She will serve in the capacity as our Retired Educators Representative. Shannon has been a long-time supporter of the Foundation as her husband Jim was the first founding Executive Director. Shannon's energy, compassion for education and the students, is refreshing and we look forward to working with her.

Also new to the Foundation is Robin Trombetta. Robin will be jumping in feet first with her involvement with the Board of Directors as she takes on a Co-Treasurer role and part of the Executive Committee. She comes to the Foundation with a rich background in Finance and Accounting. She will be leading our Investment/Audit Committee which monitors financial activities of the corporation and recommends policies for dealing with financial matters. Welcome, Shannon and Robin!!

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.

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



World Market ... A Global Event Raises over \$56,000 for Winona Public Schools!!

* Next year's event date will be February 23, 2019 *

A world class event, sponsored by the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, could not be stopped by the ice and snow storm that occurred on February 24th as 263 people came out to celebrate and support public education. The "World Market... A Global Event" campaign raised \$56,000 for Academics, Arts, Athletics & Activities.

Lines of longitude and latitude decked the walls and tables as world maps and historic globes, up for auction, filled Visions Event Center. Guests trekked through the event enjoying ethnic food and drink while discovering new cultures with global appeal.

Each year, the Foundation's Board of Directors presents the Legacy Award which is given 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 2018 Legacy Award was presented posthumously to Donna Helble. Donna was a Foundation for WAPS contributing Board of Director and on the event committee. She had a stellar career with the Winona Public Schools where she was a 2nd grade teacher at Goodview Elementary School. She received her doctoral degree and was a professor for many years at Winona State University. Donna Helble passed away on March 13, 2017. Beyond her many professional and civic contributions, Donna will be remembered as an energetic, witty, loving and giving friend to many people locally and around the world.

Lead sponsors once again were Merchants Bank and Winona National Bank. Their continuous support is a key reason for the success. An event such as this could never be a success without the many sponsors, business donors, silent auction donors, and event committee members that gave time and money to make the 2018 World Market event an overwhelming success.

The Foundation for Winona Area Public School's single purpose is to enrich and expand educational opportunities in the Winona Area Public Schools by supporting important programs and projects that would otherwise not be funded through normal district resources. The Foundation is here to support the kids! For more information about the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools, contact Shelley Milek at 494-1004 or email www.foundationwaps.org



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Event 2018

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Scholarships

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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 IRA's, 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.

Society Founders Include:

Judy Bodway Susan & John Eddy Gayle Goetzman Mark Godsey Norma Grausnick Harriet Green Carmen & Scott Hannon Shannon & Jim Hanzel Dr. Donna Helble* Susan Hoffe* Neva King* Pauline & Harland Knight Ruth Kottschade* Leone & Tom Mausycki

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(*deceased)

Teacher & Staff Payroll Deduction Participants 2017-18

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is not only proud to partner with the WAPS schools, but also the staff. Each and every day, we see teachers who give up not only their personal time to ensure the students have a mentor and the best education that can be provided, but also their personal money. Thanks goes out to the nearly 100 WAPS staff members who participate in the Foundation's Payroll Deduction Program benefitting the Winona Area Public Schools. Your support provided nearly \$12,000 for our student's education. It is an honor to know and work with you! We are so grateful!

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

Gloria Alatorre Courtney W. Anderson C. Shannon Bechly Fred J. Blacklock Paula L. Braaten William L. Braun Janet K. Bridwell Carolyn L. Bruels Joel G. Bruels Kathleen A. Calvey **Emily R. Cassellius** John F. Cassellius David R. Chapman Kristin K. Coudron Eileen M. Dahlin Richard W. Dahman Mary K. Dickey Tufvesson

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2017-18 Grant Awards

Spanish Immersion Artist in Residence WMS 8th Grade Celebr8 **ECFE Transportation Grant** Weight Training Program at YMCA-WALC Kalahari Band Festival

Bilingual Reading Night SLIP Program-Madison

Physics Day at Valley Fair Breakout EDU for WALC

Spring Sing-Community KIDS Preschool-**Bright Beginnings**

After School Book Club-WK English 9 Romeo & Juliet Field Trip

Vocabulary Games

Kindergarten Summer Activity Packets 7th Grade Science/Social Studies Field Trip Big 9 Music Festival Young Writer's Conference at WSU WMS Motivational Speaker 5th Grade MN Zoo & IMAX Field Trip Makers Space I-Pad Vocabulary Development at WMS-6th Grade Science Review Games Japan Ambassadors to Misato WALC- LEP Program WSHS Honors Econ & Stats Trip to MOA Concordia Language Village Trip

Project Breakout EDU for WK Trills & Thrills Music Festival WSHS Florida Band Trip SLIP Night at Madison **WALC Physical Education** Mayo Health Fair

Nicaraguan Children's Book

WMS History Day Activities

Elementary Author Visits



Poundation for WAPS 2017/2018 Dare to Dream Winner- Tech Nest Drone Project by Jeremy Graves

Payroll Deduction Grants

The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools started the Dare to Dream project as a way to encourage and support the creative spirit within the District. The goal is to provide an opportunity to apply for a grant for up to \$5000 to completely fund a new innovative program that will support ideas to enhance learning or provide new opportunities for students of the Winona Area Public Schools.

Jeremy Graves from the Winona Area Public Schools Tech Nest group wrote a Dare to Dream application to begin a Tech Nest Drone Project. In Mr. Grave's application, it notes that drones are increasingly becoming a part of everyday life and the market for their uses in society and education are increasing, too. The Tech Nest is looking to use the drone's aerial camera capabilities to create videos and clips for current LIVE stream and video production events.

Graves plans to explore drone uses for other classes and content areas throughout the district. The Tech Nest Group will look to engage science teachers to explore and study the Mississippi River environ from a bird's eye view over the course of every season. The group also plans to help math teachers and their classes to measure the natural and physical surrounding. Social studies teachers, and their students, could work with the Tech Nest Group to map out the local river valley. Additionally, students in the Tech Nest could begin to learn how to fly and operate this drone for real world commercial/job purposes.

Congratulations Jeremy for daring to dream!!



Poundation Grant Money at Work......

Year after year the Foundation is taken aback by the generosity of our donors. To see how the staff is able to enhance education with your gifts and to see first-hand how we can make a difference in a student's life is priceless. The Foundation is working hard to shorten the gap of budget shortfalls by providing modern equipment and resources and play a role to help students reach out and build on that next level of education. Here is a glimpse of some of the things that happened this year:

Event Proceeds At Work In Your Classrooms.....

Event dollars were distributed at the beginning of the school year proportionately to each school or special department in our District. Staff and administration worked collaboratively to determine the best use of the dollars distributed and how they could help to engage our students and enhance their education. Of course space does not allow me to list all items, but here is just a glimpse of your Event dollars at work. We could not do it without YOU!

- Musical Instruments (Cello, Drums, Mallots, Piano Repair...)
- Exercise Equipment (Treadmill, Elliptical, Mats)
- Globes and Maps
- World History Books
- Classic Novels
- AVID Supplies
- Sports Equipment (Balls, Nets, Paddles, Floor Hockey Set...)
- Makerspace
- Bit Coding Robots
- Discovery Ramps

- Spelling City Membership
- Field Trips
- Podium
- Rocket Science Kits
- Science Packages
- Computer Supplies
- Creative Legos
- Art Supplies
- Math Supplies





Special Athletic Competition



Twenty-three schools and communities came together with camaraderie giving every athlete the opportunity to feel like a winner!! On May 18th, the Winona Area Public Schools hosted the Special Athletic Competition. Two hundred twenty-four athletes, regardless of ability or disability, came together for one athletic competition which allowed them to discover new strengths, abilities and skills. To be a spectator meant seeing athletes make new friends, find success in their accomplishments, and find a new sense of courage and empowerment.

Happiness, glee and warmth filled the stands in anticipation as athlete, Jillian Fredrickson, kicked off the event by singing the National Anthem. Schools from Lake City to Hokah lined up to join in the parade

with signs, banners and cow-bells all showing off their school spirit. Each athlete in the event received a participation ribbon, as well as, each heat winner received a ribbon for first through sixth place.

Molli Kook, Early Intervention Teacher (Birth to 3 year), is one of the many organizers of this amazing competition. Molli stated, "Students are practicing for this event months in advance and are eager to participate and show off their skills." Molli said her highlight was, "seeing the kids grow each year with this continued competition." Kook explained that there is a core group of five people who work hard each year to put on the Special Athletic Competition. Molli also noted that it takes many more people working hard together, as well as sponsors and donors, to ensure they can continue to put this competition on for the students.



The Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools is proud to support the Special Athletic Competition. Memories and friendships from each school will truly live on within each of these athletes. Projects such as this, find success through continued enhancement of education which is truly the mission of this Foundation.

Dare to Dream Vegetable Garden Grows On...



The Foundation for Winona Area Public School's Dare to Dream winner from a couple of years back continues to grow and educate the students of WAPS. Anne Simon, WAPS staff, is teaching ALC summer students about growing fresh vegetables and eating healthy. Kellie Holte, also WAPS staff, is teaching an Extended School Year (ESY) class this summer. Her students tended to the garden and also donated and planted many of the vegetable beds and accessible herb and tomato beds outside of the Ag building. It is one of the student's favorite activities during the summer school. They pick veggies and herbs to cook and eat for a snack. They also made breakfast burritos and pesto this summer!! Yum!





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. Using the emails collected from the Alumni Directory update, the Foundation for Winona Area Public Schools has started to reach out to alumni to share with them what is new at school and the work of the Foundation to enrich and enhance learning for students and teaching for our faculty.

If you, or a family member, are a WSHS alumni and you are not receiving an emailed newsletter, please use the online form, found on the Foundation website at www.foundationwaps.org/alumni, to update your contact information.

How You Can Help

Donations can be made online, (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

Mark your Calendars!
Look for upcoming event
on February 23, 2019

www.foundationwaps.org

Over the past year, more than than \$636,000 has been directed through the Foundation to projects and programs that have enhanced education in the Winona Area Public Schools through the Foundation.

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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