



Foundation Focus

Winter 2012



We make a
LIVING
by what we get.

We make a
LIFE
by what we give.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

2 Director's
Letter

3 Honoring the
Community

4 2012
Outreach

6 Scholarship
Spotlight

7 Thank
You

Foundation Office

20214 Veterans Drive
Suite 400
Elkhorn, NE 68022
elkhornfoundation.org
402.289.1727

Stacey Falk Ext. 202
Executive Director
sfalk@epsne.org

Amy Whorlow Ext. 205
EKC/ACE Program Director
awhorlow@epsne.org

Becky Bazata Ext. 206
Marketing & Events Manager
bbazata@epsne.org

Genice Chochon Ext. 203
Scholarship Coordinator
gchochon@epsne.org

Mission

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation promotes student achievement and the unity of our community and its public schools by encouraging, supporting and recognizing excellence in innovative education, quality school programs and civic involvement.

Board of Directors

Mike Peterson, President
David Knight, Past President
Sarah Morgan, Secretary
Jim Church, Treasurer
Steve Baker
Paul Baumert
Aaron Clark
Joel Falk
Tim Gregan
Mark Kruger
Tia Peterchuck
Scot Ringenberg
Brett Sesker
Todd Stotz
Mike Sufficool
Tammy Sveum

Happy Holidays from the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation!

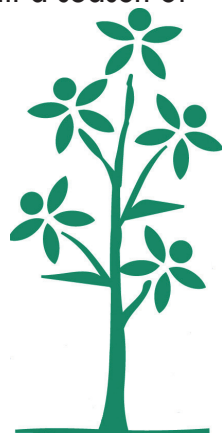
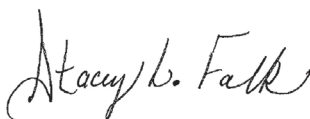
Holidays are a time to look back and reflect on the impact we've made together and look forward to opportunities in the New Year. Looking back on 2012, our Foundation offered many wonderful programs that you'll find highlighted in this newsletter. Because of your generosity, we were able to enrich education and opportunities for over 6,000 students of all ages and teachers within the Elkhorn Public Schools!

As we look toward the New Year, I am so excited for what lies ahead. Our district is growing – soon opening two new elementary schools and a middle school – and, with your continued support, the Foundation will match this growth, keep our mission focused while being open to new ideas, and continue to foster excellence in education in Elkhorn.

I recently had the privilege of helping the Foundation celebrate its 18th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet. It was a special evening of sharing accomplishments and memories with family and friends. I was struck by the generations of families, their pride and devotion to their community and all those that had helped them along the way. These families, along with current and past teacher recipients, support staff, donors and volunteers, really do “make a life by what they give”!

Making my living by working in a non-profit organization, I have many, many thanks to extend -- to sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers! I must also ask for your support again for the upcoming year. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please use the enclosed envelope or call me at the Foundation office at 402.289.1727. Thank you so much for your consideration, and I wish you all a season of good health and happiness in 2013.

Thank You!



HONORING THE COMMUNITY

18th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet

Over 250 people attended the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation's 18th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet, held at Elkhorn South High School on October 21, 2012.

Four educators were honored during the Hall of Fame Banquet. The Carl L. White Educator of the Year was awarded to Suzy Richardson, a Kindergarten teacher at Westridge Elementary. Kiley Bassett, Math and Science teacher at Elkhorn Middle School, received the Golden Apple Educator of the Year. Elkhorn Valley View's accompanist, Alyssa Boche, was the recipient of the Support Staff Person of the Year. And, Former Educator of the Year was awarded to Judy Breed.

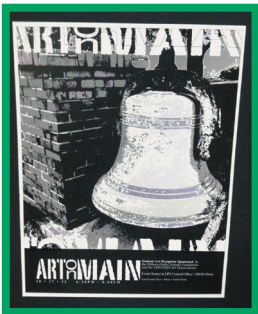
Gene Denker and Patrick Gottsch were both honored as Elkhorn Outstanding Alumni. Jill Dau



Dan Smith, Gene Denker, Patrick Gottsch, Jerry Rainey, Suzy Richardson, Alyssa Boche, Kiley Bassett, Jill Dau, Toni Richmond, and Steve Nichols were inducted into the Foundation Hall of Fame.

Richmond, Elkhorn High School athlete, was recognized as the Outstanding Alumnus Athlete of the Year. Dan Smith, representing D.A. Davidson, was recognized as Community Booster of the Year. Steve and Toni Nichols were named the Volunteers of the Year. Finally, the Partners in Education Mentor of the Year was awarded to Jerry Rainey.

Art on Main



The Art on Main invitation was created by Mr. Jay Thiltgen from EHS.

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation hosted its fourth annual "Art on Main" art exhibit on October 17, 2012 at the Elkhorn Public Schools Central Office in downtown Elkhorn.

The event showcased artwork by over 50 students from both Elkhorn high schools and was attended by the artists, their families, friends, and teachers.

Many of the pieces displayed at "Art on Main" were available for purchase at a silent auction that was held in conjunction with the Foundation's recent Hall of Fame Banquet. The auction raised more than \$1,300 to support the Foundation Arts Scholarships.

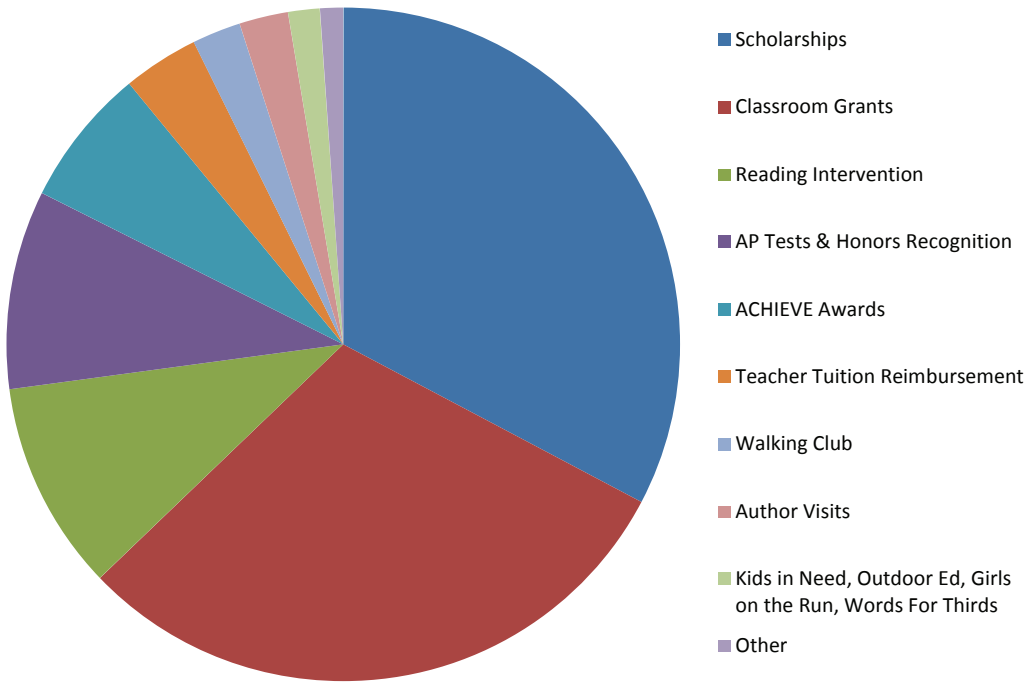
Several of the graphic prints were created using the new Vis Mini Graphic Tablets awarded to the high schools through the Foundation Classroom Grants program. "It is so rewarding to see our grant process come full-circle – from funding an educational need to seeing how it truly enhanced the learning experience!" said Stacey Falk, Executive Director of the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation.



Denna Keilany, EHS student, created this print using the Vis Mini Graphic Tablet funded by the Foundation.



FOUNDATION OUTREACH



IN 2012 OVER \$450,000
was invested in programs supporting students, teachers and schools.

With your tax-deductible gift, we can continue to foster excellence in education and provide greater opportunities for Elkhorn students and families.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS:

Enriching Education and Opportunities



Students from Manchester Elementary learning language through guided practice at Vala's Pumpkin Patch - a Classroom Grant funded by the Foundation.

With your support, the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is able to partner with the Elkhorn Public Schools to enrich education and create opportunities through numerous district programs. These opportunities include continuing education through scholarships and the ACHIEVE program, advancing education for teachers through tuition reimbursement, providing affordable child care through the Kids Campus and ACE Middle School programs, and many more.

Reading Intervention: Over 140 elementary students attend an extended day reading program funded by the Foundation. These students are able to receive extra help from teachers before and after school to save instructional time during the school day. Since the program began two years ago, participants on average increased their rate of improvement by almost 1 word per week - enough to

boost student confidence and close the learning gap. Teachers have noticed that effects from extended day support are being seen in other areas as well - students are more self-assured, more willing to ask questions and participate in the classroom.

Classroom Grants: Technology enhancements, literacy workshops, language and life skills programs, robotics, school plays, anti-bullying rallies, history programs, and science equipment are just a few of the grants that have impacted thousands of students across all grade levels this year. A total of 69 grants worth \$118,000 was awarded for the 2012-2013 school year.

Additional Programs: The Foundation supports many other district programs: Walking Cubs, Author Visits, Battle of the Books, Girls on the Run, Words for Thirds, Kids in Need, AP testing, Honor Roll Student Recognition, Outdoor Education and more.



Students from Westridge Elementary celebrating after completing the Girls on the Run statewide 5k walk/run. The Foundation-sponsored program teaches healthy lifestyle lessons in addition to running/exercise techniques.



Elkhorn South High School students in Chemistry class. The Foundation supports grants for science, technology, special education, reading, arts and more.

With your help, the Foundation can continue to enrich education and create greater opportunities for over 6,000 Elkhorn Public Schools students.

If you are interested in making a year-end gift or tax-deductible contribution at any time, please contact Stacey Falk, Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation Executive Director, at 402.289.1727.

Thank you for your consideration and support of these programs!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Now Available Online

Scholarship Program

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is dedicated to helping students achieve their educational goals - while in the Elkhorn Public Schools and beyond.

One way the Foundation does this is by recognizing students for their leadership skills, academics, athletics and community involvement with scholarships.

In 2012, the Foundation awarded 95 scholarships worth \$155,000 to Elkhorn High School and Elkhorn South High School graduating seniors.

Fund a Scholarship

Funding a scholarship is a rewarding way to give back while investing in the future. If you would

like to sponsor an existing scholarship or create a new one, please contact the Foundation at 402.289.1727 to discuss your tax-deductible gift.

Applications Due February 1st

Please encourage your high school senior to apply today! Scholarship applications are now available online at elkhornfoundation.org and are due back to the counseling centers by February 1, 2013.

Scholarship Recognition Breakfasts

Scholarship recipients and their families will be invited to a recognition ceremony this spring. The ceremony for Elkhorn South High School will take place on May 1, 2013 and on May 2, 2013 for Elkhorn High School.

Spotlight on Scholarships: Legacy Eyecare



Kaslyn Rezac receiving the ESHS Legacy Eyecare Scholarship from Mr. Kalvoda, Principal.

The Legacy Eyecare Scholarship will be awarded to two seniors - one from Elkhorn High School and one from Elkhorn South High School.

Recipients must attend a 4-year college or university with plans to major in a medical or scientific field. The \$500 scholarships will be awarded at the Scholarship Recognition Breakfasts this spring.

Legacy Eyecare Scholarship recipients are so thankful to Dr. Brewer for the help with college expenses. Kaslyn Rezac (ESHS), says, "I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as Dr. Brewer has helped me." Brianne Conover (EHS), adds, "It is an honor to be recognized for being active and achieving academic success in the Elkhorn schools and community. This scholarship is greatly appreciated."



Brianne Conover receiving the EHS Legacy Eyecare Scholarship from Mr. Radicia, Principal.

"Because I live and work in the Elkhorn community, I wanted to give back by offering students a chance to chase their dreams for a better future in healthcare."

Dr. Jeff Brewer, Legacy Eyecare Scholarship Donor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Over 600 EPS Employees Give to the Foundation

Thank you Elkhorn Public Schools employees! A record-breaking 80% of Elkhorn Public Schools staff generously gave more than \$24,000 to the Foundation's TEAM (Together Employees Add More) Campaign to help students and schools.

Skyline Elementary Principal Jan Peterson, states, "The TEAM Campaign is a simple way we can say 'thank you' for all that the Foundation gives to our students. Students have not only benefited from the addition of SMARTBoards to every classroom but also the provision of funds for Robotics, Author Visits, and Walking Clubs for all seven elementary buildings. We value the Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation and the additional academics, technology, and programs students have the opportunity to participate in with their support."

Dr. Don Pechous, Spring Ridge Elementary Princi-



Skyline Elementary was the first of seven district schools to have every employee donate back to Foundation programs through the TEAM campaign.

pal, comments, "I am certain the extra and specialized instruction provided through the Reading Intervention program funded by the Foundation helped our students reach their goals. We can't thank the Foundation enough for believing in our students and making such a difference."

Sponsors Support Hall of Fame Banquet

Banquet Benefactors:



DLR Group

Architecture Engineering Planning Interiors



Dinner Patrons:

Sid & Dawn Dinsdale
Larry & Kathleen Peterson
Publication Printing
Vetter Health Services

Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire.
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
Be thankful when you don't know everything, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those times you grow.
Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.
Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.
Be thankful for your mistakes.
They will teach you valuable lessons.
Be thankful when you are tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.
- Author Unknown.



20214 Veterans Drive • Elkhorn, NE 68022
elkhornfoundation.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL U.S.A.

Save the Date

Scholarship Program

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Applications Online | December 1 |
| Applications Due | February 1 |
| ESHS Breakfast | May 1 |
| EHS Breakfast | May 2 |
| EKC/ACE Registration | |
| Current Families | March 18 |
| New Families | March 22 |
| Golf Fore Grants | June 10 |

ECRWSS
Elkhorn, NE 68022



Reagan from Hillrise Elementary proudly displays the scarecrow she made at Kids Campus.

Are you energetic, creative
and enthusiastic?

Our Elkhorn Kids Campus
Before and After School Childcare
Program has immediate openings for
Childcare Assistants.

APPLY TODAY!

Please email the Program
Director, Amy Whorlow, at
awhorlow@epsne.org with your
resume or to request
an application.