

Foundation Newsletter

... because education is a shared experience

District 279 Foundation-11200 93rd Avenue North-Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369

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district279foundation.org



Our Mission

We are citizens in partnership with Independent School District 279 to support and enhance the district's dedication to learning for all.

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WHY WE GIVE



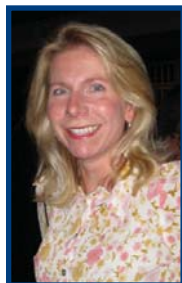
Students of District 279 - Osseo Area Schools have an incredible amount of public support from business leaders and community members. A few of the leaders, the officers of the District 279 Foundation Board of Trustees, were asked why they support the foundation both financially and with the gift of their time. Their responses follow below. I cannot think of a finer group of individuals with whom to be associated. Thanks to each of you for your continued support of the Children in our school community.

Michael Looby, Director



I accepted a position on the Foundation Board because this group of community members, regardless of their backgrounds, has a common goal to help our community's youth to have the best educational opportunities in and out of the classroom. This group raises money and gives it all back to our schools where it can be used in the most innovative way in the classroom. The Foundation also purchases books for our communities most at risk kids. Kathy and I have seen the wonderful ways the Foundation has enhanced the educational opportunities for our grandchildren. That's why we support the Foundation financially and with the gift of our time.

Russ Funk, President



I joined the Foundation Board because I am so proud and excited for the extra special opportunities the Foundation provides to our students and teachers. The Foundation is like the frosting on the cake to our children's education. We provide additional funding for special projects when public funding is tight. We reward creative and enthusiastic teachers through our classroom grant program and reinforce learning through memorable field trips or projects. I really appreciate that the Foundation helps students in all our buildings in a wide variety of ways depending on their needs or requests. It is an honor to be a part of the Foundation working side by side with some of the most dedicated and caring volunteers that I have known.

Shelly Korby, Vice President



I have chosen to support the Foundation with "time and treasure" for many years because I firmly believe in the importance of trying to provide a good educational experience for everyone. For some people, education provides an escape from what can be a vicious cycle of poverty. Both the "Classroom Grants" and "Reading is Fundamental" programs offer additional opportunities that support and enhance the excellent work done by the school district.

Don Waletzko, Treasurer



There is nothing more fulfilling for me than to be a part of enriching our students' educational experience. So, when I was asked to serve on the Foundation Board, I accepted the invitation without hesitation. As a graduate and beneficiary of Osseo Area Schools, it is my pleasure and privilege to help all of our students learn, and to give back to our community through financial support of the Foundation, as well as through service on it's Board.

Lin Myszkowski, Secretary

Please share your reason for giving with your donation.



I am the Library Media Specialist at Edinbrook. In cooperation with several teachers, I have twice been a 279 Foundation Classroom Grant recipient. Last January, I received a grant as part of a graphic novel unit that I wanted to do with our sixth graders. My goal was to provide them with materials they would be highly motivated to read. With the help of Leia Grundei, Sue Cvek and Michelle Rasmussen, about 35 of our sixth grade students learned about the history of graphic novels, had access to a variety of graphic novels and comic books and made their own cartoons using a web application called ToonDoo. When I first introduced the graphic novels to the students, they were really impressed. I had gotten all of these books just for them! Last April, Jeremy Lewis, Leia Grundei and I received a grant to buy iPods for Edinbrook's sixth grade classrooms. We are excited to be able to provide access to Internet resources and education related apps. The iPods will be used across the curriculum and to supplement Project Copernicus, an initiative that allows students to bring their own computing devices to school. I believe the 279 Foundation Classroom grants allow teachers who have creative and innovative teaching ideas to get financial support for the benefit of their students.

Dawn French Edinbrook Elementary



Students in a 5th grade classroom at Zanewood Community School participated in a Pen Pal Program with students from the Mary Mother of Good Counsel School in Accra, Ghana. Goals of this program included breaking down any barriers between continents, cultures, perceptions, and misconceived beliefs through the students communicating with each other to learn from and appreciate each other. The students started by sharing about their school environment and family life through letters. The District 279 Foundation generously provided grant money to purchase two web cams: one for our school and one for our sister school in Ghana. The students continued dialogue with the use of the web cams twice during the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. During these conversations, the students shared more about their cultures and home and school life. They also had the opportunity to ask questions to learn more from each other by comparing the things they found similar and different living in different countries. We are very grateful towards the District 279 Foundation for their generosity in helping us to provide this indescribable opportunity for our students. We look forward to continuing this program with our sister school in Ghana during this school year 2010-2011.

Kendra Kuhlmann Zanewood Elementary



Fair Oaks staff firmly believes that 'families make significant and measurable contributions to all students achieving the mission and strategic objectives.' Grants provided by the District 279 Foundation have enabled us to provide Family Literacy Nights. By making this a family learning event, we have affirmed to parents that we believe they have a significant impact on their children's academic success. The grants have helped us empower parents with books and practical tools to use at home to make learning to read fun. One parent wrote, "It was a fun family night. You made me understand how important it is to read." Another commented, "I liked the program. I learned a lot, I hope you continue to keep on having events like this one."

Cheryl Piotraschke & Martha Debelak
Fair Oaks Elementary



The International Baccalaureate (IB) has a very intense lab regimen, similar to or exceeding an AP or other college prep course. This lab sequence requires higher technology than a regular biology class, at additional expense, even greater than other IB funding sources initially contemplated. Therefore we need to continue the development of the Biology lab program. To be successful in the Biology world of 2010 we need to generate high-quality DNA and PCR instruction and lab techniques. The stakes are higher and the technology ever increasing. With the new PCR machine our students will not be left in the dark about the strong DNA technological advances in the past 20 years.

Colin Kemmis Park Center High School



Student leaders at MGSB organized the 2nd annual Run for Darfur, which the \$1,000 District 279 Foundation Grant made possible. As a result, the lives of refugees in Darfur, Sudan were changed. The money raised is being used to build wells and schools in refugee camps throughout Darfur. We stepped up as a community to help rebuild the lives of these refugees. The impact of the grant was not just limited to the refugees; MGSB students and community members who participated in any aspect of the event learned that they can make a difference in the world community. Thank you, District 279 Foundation.

Wendy Loberg Maple Grove High School

M & I Bank Maple Grove
Member of the District 279 Foundation
Legacy Circle



The District 279 Foundation's logo is the image of a never-ending circle of community, locked in a dance. It serves as a reminder of what we can do when we work together for our community's youth.

The Legacy Circle has been created as a tribute to the many individuals and businesses that have provided significant financial support over time.

Pictured left to right are Corey Piekarski, M&I Bank of Maple Grove was presented with a Legacy Award by Don Skoglund, District 279 Foundation Trustee.

Yes, I/We want to *Invest in Our Children - Our Future*

Name(s): _____
Please print name as it should appear for recognition purposes

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email address _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$500.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 \$10.00 Other _____

Method of Payment Check (Please make check payable to District 279 Foundation)
 Visa Mastercard Card # _____ - _____ - _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____ Customer Code _____
(The three digit code on the signature side of the card)

Name as it appears on my card _____

Signature _____

I would like my gift to the District 279 Foundation to go towards:

Classroom Grants Reading Program All Programs 279 Endowment Fund

My company has a matching gift program, the appropriate form is enclosed.

I wish my gift to be anonymous.

Please mail this form in the envelope provided or to:

The District 279 Foundation • 11200 93rd Avenue North • Maple Grove, MN 55369



District 279 Foundation
11200 93rd Avenue North
Maple Grove, MN 55369-6605

Nonprofit Or.
U.S. Postage
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Osseo, Minnesota

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Experiencing Environmental Conservation

Amy Raschke, a sixth grade teacher at Park Brook Elementary in District 279 – Osseo Area Schools, provides 45 sixth grade students with an unforgettable experience at Camp St. Croix, exploring the river, reading topographical maps, teaching outdoor survival skills, and conservation.

Students learned how the water cycle works, examining the effects of glaciers and rivers on the earth's surface and how they are connected to each other, and the effects humans have on our world's water supply. They learn the basics of compass use and direction by finding items on a course and working together as a team through the course. They learned valuable survival skills by constructing a shelter in the woods as well as building and maintaining a fire; something these kids cannot do in the city. The sixth graders were also challenged to produce less waste. After each meal, the waste food was measured and the students tracked the amount with the goal to have less waste after every meal.



The Xcel Energy donation helps provide scholarships for students who otherwise would not be able to participate in this life changing experience.

Thank you Xcel Energy for teaming up with the District 279 Foundation in making a difference in the learning experiences for Park Brook Elementary students.

District 279 Foundation Classroom Grant applications are accepted three times a year. Grants are read by Foundation Trustees and it is a competitive process. Last year the Foundation funded over 63 classroom grants enhancing over 13,300 children's learning opportunities.