

# Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools

## 2007-2008 Annual Report

### **A Legacy of Giving**

#### **This year, the Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools:**

Allowed elementary students to build fuel cell cars, construct wind turbines and explore alternative energy sources

Provided funding for classroom technology that was accessible to students with special needs

Allowed elementary school students to study and conduct guided tours of Clementine Hunter's artwork

Supported efforts toward fostering non-fiction reading and sponsored Math Nights for students and their parents at various EP schools

Provided \$12,000 in scholarship funds to four former Eden Prairie High School Students

Recognized teachers, staff, students, alumni and volunteers who are making a difference

#### **The Foundation had an impact on students' lives!**

#### **Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools**

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This is the Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools' second Annual Report. The Foundation is thrilled to be able to share with you the many ways it influenced the lives of students and staff alike during the 07/08 school year. The photo above was taken at the Foundation's first annual Legacy awards dinner. The faces alone are enough to communicate the joy of that evening where students, teachers, staff and volunteers were honored. The evening was a celebration of all that is right within our district and the Foundation was honored to be able to recognize those pictured.

During the past year the Foundation:

- Awarded \$30,500 in grants to teachers,
- Provided a \$3,500 scholarship to an Eden Prairie senior and \$12,000 in total scholarships to four Eden Prairie High School students,
- Provided a \$3,500 grant to the Teacher-of-the-Year honored at the Legacy Awards dinner, and
- Provided \$2,100 to various Eden Prairie Schools through the Foundation's "Present With a Future" program.

That's \$48,100 in total support which is more than double last year's figure. The Foundation had an impact on students' lives. This would not have been possible without the support of individual and corporate donors and the efforts of many volunteers who helped make the year's events so successful. The Foundation is grateful to all who provided their time, talents and financial gifts during the year.

The Foundation is embarking on an ambitious program to raise a \$3,000,000 endowment fund over the next five years. This program, which is further described in this report, will allow the Foundation to change lives for years to come. This is the "Legacy of Giving" that defines the Foundation's purpose. We hope you will participate in further enhancing that Legacy.



## Board of Directors

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Executive Director

## Legacy Award Winners

Teacher of the Year  
**Mike Savage**

Staff of the Year  
**Kathy Palmer**

Volunteers of the Year  
**Ginger Venable &  
Amy Nylander**

Alumni of the Year  
**Joni (Bren) Teschner**

Students of the Year:

K-4th Grade

**Connor Carlson**

5th-8th Grade

**Oak Point Student Council**

9th-12th Grade

**Prachi Mishra**

## **FOUNDATION FOR EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS LAUNCHING \$3,000,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools will raise a \$3,000,000 Endowment Fund over the next five years. This fundraising effort will be in addition to its Annual Fund campaign. The Foundation seeks to have a significant and lasting impact on the quality of public education in Eden Prairie and the Endowment Fund will provide steady and predictable financial resources that can be directed toward pressing needs and innovative ideas within the district. Other Twin Cities school districts have already raised, or are raising similar endowment funds. The Endowment Fund will allow individuals and businesses that value and appreciate the impact our schools have on their lives and community an opportunity to take part in sustaining our school district's reputation. An initial \$100,000 commitment has already been received from an anonymous individual donor.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

To maintain the excellence of Eden Prairie Schools we must continue to invest in our students, staff and programs. Each of us has an opportunity to add our names to the list of those interested in a Legacy of Excellence for generations to come. Please consider making an investment in Eden Prairie Schools. Contact us at 952-975-7205, complete the tear-off form at the back of this report, or see our donations page on our website: [www.foundationforenschools.org](http://www.foundationforenschools.org).

On May 7, 2008 the Foundation held its first annual Legacy Awards dinner. The Legacy Awards are designed to honor outstanding staff, students, volunteers and alumni. The Foundation believes it is important to honor individuals who have contributed to the success and reputation of Eden Prairie Schools. Award winners, nominees, proud family and friends, and various teachers and staff attended. There were over 100 attendees making this first awards banquet a huge success. Local radio host Denny Long acted as Master of Ceremonies. The evening was sponsored by C-Tech, Incorporated as was a generous \$3,500 grant to Mike Savage who was recognized as Teacher of the Year. All the Legacy Award winners are listed to the left.

## **LEGACY AWARDS A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE-MAKERS**



The Taste of Eatin' Prairie was held on February 23, 2008, at the Minnesota Vikings Fieldhouse. Over 20 restaurants provided food and drink to over 500 guests. Ticket sales, financial donations and a silent auction all contributed to the most successful Taste of Eatin' Prairie to date. The Foundation netted over \$30,000 from the event. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and would not be possible without the generous participation of local restaurants, donated silent auction items, and the hundreds of volunteer hours leading up to the event. The Foundation would also like to thank and acknowledge the Minnesota Vikings who donated their fieldhouse for the occasion. Next year's event promises to be bigger and better. Volunteers are always needed. Please email the Foundation if you'd like to participate.



## **FOUNDATION GRANTS HAVE AN EFFECT ON STUDENTS / STAFF**

As a result of the funding provided by FEPS, the "Go Green" project directly and powerfully impacted 58 fourth grade students. These students had the time of their lives designing, building, and testing model wind turbines that produced electricity. Students also used higher level thinking skills to engineer and race model cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells. Throughout their explorations, students examined the complex chemistry and physics principles related to their work.

Families and community members were closely involved throughout the entire project. Students were inspired by real-life scientists, engineers, and high school students who generously and enthusiastically shared their time, expertise, and passion for their work. Parents were excited about the authentic learning experiences. Our students truly saw themselves as successful scientists, and they look forward to the innovative science/engineering classes that await them at our own Eden Prairie High School.

From a larger perspective, students became aware of sustainability issues, alternative energy sources, and current events pertaining to our scientific inquiry. In the end, these young scientists impressed their teachers with their knowledge, creativity, patience, questioning, and perseverance.

Finally, in addition to the two classes of fourth graders directly involved in the project, many other students were impacted indirectly. All 850 students at Cedar Ridge were enthusiastic witnesses to a 26-turbine wind farm at work, displayed at the entrance to the building. Our fourth graders were proud to be a part of a project that elicited comments from other students such as, "Wow!" "Awesome!" "Do we get to do that when we're in fourth grade?"

Thank you for making all of the above possible. We look forward to another great year of refining and expanding our work so that even more students can be a part of this incredible experience.

Sincerely,  
Katy Anderson & Matt Hardy

## **FOUNDATION GRANTS \$30,500 DONATED TO SIX RECIPIENTS**

The Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools received 24 grant requests totaling \$190,000 during the fall of 2007. The Foundation was able to fund six of those grants totaling \$30,500. Grants ranged from \$4,000 to \$7,000 and affected hundreds of students at a variety of grade levels and abilities. The Foundation seeks to make large grants that foster innovation and result in projects that engage and motivate students. This year's grants clearly meet these criteria. Briefly, this year's grants allowed for:

- An interdisciplinary exploration of alternative energy sources including fuel cell technology (see teachers' comments in the sidebar),
- Smaller, more accessible Smartboard technology for special needs students,
- Purchase of non-fiction reading resources in support of a strategy to integrate non-fiction reading with elementary school lessons,
- Trial use of stability chairs (ball chairs) for ADHD students at Oak Point and CMS,
- Further development of an art program at Forest Hills which included training for grade-school-aged docents (tour guides) who conducted guided tours for parents and students, and
- A series of Math Nights allowing hundreds of parents and students to explore fun and practical applications of math together.

Clearly there is room to do more. The Foundation is limited by its financial resources, but not by a lack of teacher innovation or creativity.



The Foundation's Present With a Future program allows parents to recognize staff who

## **PRESENT WITH A FUTURE \$3,600 DONATED TO RECOGNIZE STAFF**

have had a significant and positive impact on their children. This past year, \$3,600 was donated, of which, \$2,100 was passed back to recognize staffs' schools and \$1,500 was received as a donation by the Foundation. This is a win-win-win program. Staff members receive much-appreciated recognition for their work, schools receive a financial gift that may be used at their discretion and the Foundation utilizes one-half the amount donated to further its mission. Please see the Foundation's website for additional information on the Present With a Future program.

## **FEPS SCHOLARSHIP ADDITIONAL \$54,000 DONATED TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Holasek-Griffiths Scholarship was established in 2000 with a \$140,000 donation by Mr. Harold Griffiths, whose wife graduated from Eden Prairie High School. Last summer, Mr. Griffiths generously donated an additional \$54,000. As a result, the Foundation was able to increase the Holasek-Griffiths scholarship to \$3,500 per year for four years. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student interested in studying business, engineering or computer science. This year's recipient was Kyle Knutson. Past and current recipients will receive a total of \$12,500 in scholarship payments this fall. The Foundation is grateful to Mr. Griffiths whose generosity clearly demonstrates how "A Legacy of Giving" can help to shape the lives of Eden Prairie students. If you are interested in establishing a legacy gift please call our Executive Director, Mike Frischkorn, at 952-975-7205.

# DONORS

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 Sales Partners, Inc.  
 Signature Bank  
 Thunder Communications  
 Design, Inc. (Jody Russell)  
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## TASTE OF EATIN' PRAIRIE RESTAURANTS:

Bayside Grille  
 Bearpath Golf and Country Club  
 Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano  
 Buca Di Beppo  
 Champpps  
 Culvers  
 D'Amico & Sons  
 D Brian's Deli and Catering  
 Eden Prairie Schools Catering  
 Erbert & Gerberts  
 Subs and Clubs  
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 Kabuki Japanese Restaurant  
 Kabobi  
 KEF 1-23  
 Kowalski's  
 Let's Dish!  
 My Sausage Sister and Me  
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 Starbucks  
 Timber Lodge Steakhouse  
 Wildfire Restaurant

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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## A Legacy of Giving

Year Ended June 30, 2008

Change in unrestricted net assets	
Support and revenue	
Special events	
Revenue*	\$47,768
Cost of special events	(13,906)
Net special event income	33,862
Public support	6,277
Interest and other income	1,818
Total unrestricted support and revenue	41,957
Functional expenses	
Grants Made	36,151
Administrative	11,282
Fundraising	2,020
Total functional expenses	49,453
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(7,496)
Change in Restricted Net Assets	
Support	54,000
Investment Income	(14,872)
Scholarships Paid and Expenses	(11,520)
Change in Restricted Net Assets	27,608
Change in Net Assets	20,112
Net assets, beginning of year	237,035
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$257,147</b>

\*Includes individual and corporate donations tied to Legacy Awards and Taste of Eatin' Prairie

## I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT THE LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE IN EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS!

### PLEASE ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING GIFT:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 and above | Partners in Excellence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 and above | Gold Sponsor           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 and above  | Silver Sponsor         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 and above  | Bronze Sponsor         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ Other    | Friend of EP Schools   |

- 550 Club (a multiyear commitment)
- Please contact me to discuss a donation to the Endowment Fund.
- I would prefer that my gift remain anonymous.
- My company will match my gift.  
 Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed (payable to FEPS)  
 Please charge my gift:  VISA  MasterCard  
 Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous support !!**  
 Your gift is tax deductible.



**Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools**  
 www.foundationforepschools.org  
 8100 School Road; Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344