

# A Message from the President





Dear Friends,

Wow! What a year! The support that this community provides for our students, through the Olathe Public Schools Foundation continues to amaze me. Whether by helping out through recognizing teacher achievements; providing funds to make classroom grants available; helping those who are most vulnerable in times of need; donating school supplies; or volunteering to help at various events...you have shown the kids of this community just how much you care.

We've captured the highlights of the past year in this annual report. Take a few minutes to learn more about how Olathe teachers have taken an innovative idea, applied for a grant, and used the proceeds to prepare students for their future.

Our work is not yet done. With each kindergarten class entering school larger than the last...our ever-expanding district continues to be challenged by the state funding plan, a growing level of poverty among our families, and a world that expects more from graduating seniors.

Please be an active supporter of our efforts. Sponsor the Autumn Breakfast or the Golf Classic. Make a contribution to an area of greatest need, or one that you may feel most inspired by. Consider a planned gift as part of your legacy for the kids. Please stay involved with the OPSF as we continue to help the Olathe students prepare for their future.

I personally would like to say, THANK YOU...as an Olathe citizen, as a parent with Olathe students, and as the past president of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors.

Cheers!

Brian Geary

**OPSF Board of Directors** 

President, 2014-15





## **2014-15 Financial Statements**

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2015

#### **Assets**

Checking Account	\$37,272
CD	\$93,352
Money Market Account	\$9,164
Money Market Restricted Funds	\$191,477
Investments	\$2 ,870,615
Other Assets	\$7,850
Total Assets	\$3,209,731

#### Liabilities

Funds held on behalf of others.....\$19,780

#### Net Assets

Unrestricted Endowment	\$1,223,750
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,929,018
Increase in Unrestricted Assets	\$37 183

Total Liabilities and Net Assets . . . . . \$3,209,731

\*unaudite



# District-wide Innovation Grant

# Rachel's Challenge

# Rachel's Challenge

Focusing on the concept that each one of us can make a positive difference in the lives of those around us, Rachel's Challenge reaches Olathe students at all grade levels with a message of hope and compassion. The Olathe Public Schools Foundation remains committed to providing resources to help staff guide students thru making positive choices. The focus in the 2015-16 school year will be the continuation of staff training and completing the elementary student program and establishing Kindness and Compassion (KC) Clubs at the elementary level. A culture shift is occurring in our Olathe schools. The new norm is treating others with respect, with kindness, with compassion.





**Choose positive influences!** 

Speak with kindness!

Start your own chain reaction!







# **Wimmer Student Care Fund**

## Student Care Fund It's hard to focus on science

homework when you worry about how your mom is going to get to chemo treatments in a car that won't run. Trouble at home weighs heavy on some students and makes learning difficult. The Wimmer Student Care Fund helps meet the need when families of our most vulnerable students face financial hardships. Established as a tribute to former superintendent Dr. Ron Wimmer, the fund allows the current superintendent flexibility to direct these non-taxpayer funds to families within 24 hours.

Backpacks Farmers Insurance, Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, and Veterans United Foundation. It's easy to assume that all students who show up at school ready to learn. However, for a growing number of Olathe students and their families, back-to-school expenses are a real hardship. This year, OPSF volunteers stuffed 1,650 backpacks with school supplies donated by the community and purchased with grants from the above organizations.

#### **Student Care Fund**



# The A.L.L. Fund

Students who start their college transcripts while still in high school are more likely to attend college upon graduation, be successful at college, and graduate from college. A college education can end the cycle of poverty for a hard-working, financially challenged student.

As part of Olathe's rigorous AVID curriculum, students are encouraged to take the ACT test and enroll in AP-level courses or College Now classes which allow them to earn college credit while still in high school. These options are fee-based and challenging for students who come from families that struggle

financially. Some AVID students find themselves taking the advanced level class, but not getting college credit because they can't afford the fees or tuition.

With your support, the ALL (AVID Lifetime Learners) Fund last year provided \$22,115 in scholarships and test fee stipends...to give these students a hand up towards a better future. To support the ALL Fund, visit our website at www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org.





Recognizing Excellence

## **Educator Excellence/CEERA Awards**

Each year, outstanding Olathe district educators and support staffers are chosen to receive the Educator Excellence and Classified Employee Excellence Recognition Awards. These valuable team members are nominated by their colleagues, students, parents and community members for excellence in meeting the needs of students in the classroom and for their work supporting our outstanding education system.

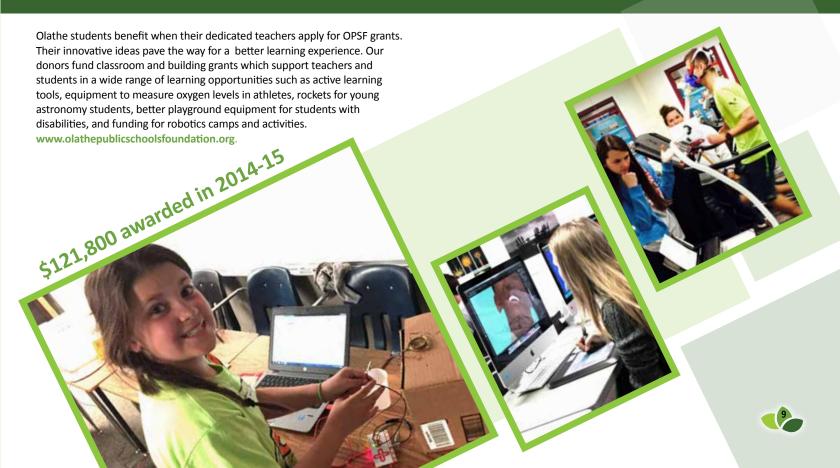
Each month, the OPSF Prize Patrol surprises two educators and two support staffers by bringing together the school staff, students, family and community members who present the unsuspecting recipients with checks for \$500.







# **Classroom and Extended Learning Grants**





# Women's Giving Circle

Powerful things happen when women gather. The OPSF Women's Giving Circle is testament to that statement. Twice last year, 100 women each gave \$100, which became \$10,000 grants to fund projects benefitting Olathe students.

In October 2014 the group funded Healthy Ravens, a project designed to address the physical and mental health needs of students at Olathe Northwest and its feeder schools. Last spring, the group helped launch the far-reaching Girls Mentoring Girls Mentoring Girls project. High school students at Olathe North and Olathe Northwest's 21st Century programs will be mentoring 6th graders from Oregon Trail and Indian Trail Middle Schools,

with a goal of inspiring them to explore a career in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (S.T.E.M.)

Future gatherings will be held twice each year. Membership in the Women's Giving Circle is \$100 per cycle, with Sustaining Members making the ongoing commitment of \$200 a year. For more information, please contact the Foundation office at (913) 780-8222.











# 17th Annual Autumn Breakfast

Nearly 600 district supporters gathered in October for breakfast to hear Dr. Marlin Berry's State of the District address and to celebrate the contributions of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation to the success

Guests at the 17th Annual Autumn Breakfast helped raise more than \$106,000 which will directly benefit Olathe students and teachers though programs like Rachel's Challenge, the FRED (Families Read Every Day), classroom grants, summer school and college scholarships, and various need-based funds. Empowered to make a difference by contributors, the Foundation provided more than \$893,197 last year to directly support Olathe students and staff.

of Olathe students and teachers.





**Gold Sponsors** 

Bank of Blue Valley **Capitol Federal Savings** City of Olathe Community America Farmers Insurance First National Bank First Student Garmin LifeTouch Mainstreet Credit Union McCownGordon Robert Brogden Buick/GMC

Shawnee Mission Health



**Silver Sponsors Assisted Transportation** AT&T CBIZ Children's Mercy City of Lenexa Commerce Bank **Emporia State University Enterprise Bank & Trust** Gilmore & Bell Hollis + Miller Architects JCCC Foundation MidAmerica Nazarene University Olathe Fire Department Olathe Police Department Ricoh Thomas McGee, L.C. TVH Parts Co. YMCA of Greater Kansas City

The Foundation highlighted innovative grant recipients from the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The Olathe North Drum Line started off the morning with a high-energy performance. The Bentwood Elementary Blue Jay Singers sang "When the Lights All Shine" to close the breakfast.

Breakfast guests granted more than \$6,000 in wishes submitted by Olathe teachers. The wishes, which were displayed on the breakfast tables, included welding boots for technical students, iPad applications for classroom learning, and CD players with headphones for reading exercises. It was announced during the breakfast that Commerce Bank would match the first \$5,000 in donations granting teacher wishes while McCownGordon Construction added another \$1,250, extending the total of wishes granted to more than \$12,000.

**Bronze Sponsors** 

**ACI Boland Architects** 

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**Validity Screening Solutions** Westar Energy





**Save the Date!** June 9, 2016 20th Annual OPSF Golf Classic



# 19th Annual OPSF Golf Classic

"The Olathe Public Schools Foundation's 19th Annual Golf Classic was a resounding success, driving in nearly \$90,000 in support of Foundation programs. Initiatives such as Rachel's Challenge, the FRED (Families Read Every Day) Program, and grants for innovative classroom projects are just a few of the ways the Foundation supports Olathe students and teachers.

# **Presenting Sponsor**





### **Tee Box Sponsors**

Arvest Bank of Blue Valley Heritage Electric Hollis + Miller HTK Architects PA KVC Health Systems, Inc. Olsson Associates, Inc. Sir Speedy Printing & Marketing of Olathe Synetic Technologies Thomas McGee, L.C. **Turner Construction Company** TVH Parts Co. Validity Screening Solutions VanTrust Real Estate Virco, Inc.

Overcast skies gave way to beautiful weather on June 11th and 208 golfers at Prairie Highlands Golf Course in southwest Olathe. Nearly every golfer was rewarded for his or her day on the course as there were prizes for almost every hole and over 100 door prizes. In total, the Foundation gave away over \$10,000 in prizes donated by area businesses.

"The annual Olathe Public Schools Foundation golf outing is a first class event," said Dustin Avey, Piper Jaffray, "It is a great way to spend a few hours enjoying exceptional hospitality and a great golf course while raising funds to allow the Foundation to provide opportunities and support for students and staff in Olathe."



## **Corporate Sponsors**

CBI7

Community America Credit Union **Consolidated Communications** 

Delta Services

First National Bank

Garmin

State Farm Insurance (Harlan Parker. Debbie Swinney, and Jason Parker)

### **Special Sponsors**

Lifetouch Mainstreet Credit Union Piper Jaffray Robert Brogden Buick/GMC Shawnee Mission Medical Center

# Olathe Public Schools Foundation Directed Gifts





#### Olathe North Geo-Science Program – Aquatic Research Tanks:

As part of Olathe's 21st Century programming, Olathe North's Geo-Science program preps students to explore careers in a wide-range of science fields. With the addition of a \$66,000 Aquatic Research Tank system, made possible by a grant from the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, students are able to complete university-level research projects as part of their course of study. One of the two systems allows students to vary the environment of marine specimens, and the other allows individual tanks to be brought to tables for small group study.

# \$383,290 in Directed Gifts in 2014-15

Olathe Advanced Technical Center – Help for those in need: With a \$10,000 grant from the R.A. Long Foundation, Olathe Advanced Technical Center (OATC) students who struggle financially have access to the tools they need to participate in the Welding, Auto Tech and Auto Collision programs and to go into the careers for which they have been trained. In some cases, support means welding boots, hoods, and tools to participate in the high school level programs. For others, it means help procuring the set of tools required to get a job or enter post-secondary training after high school.







## **Honor Roll**

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation would like to thank those who have so generously given to support our educators and our students. (Gifts from July 1, 2014) Every effort has been made to make this report as accurate as possible. If you find an error or omission, please accept our apologies and notify the Olathe Public Schools Foundation at 913-780-8222. Thank you.

\$50,000+ Clay Blair Family Foundation Olathe Medical Center

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Capitol Federal Foundation Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust First National Bank Garmin Hispanic Development Fund Mainstreet Credit Union Major Saver Holdings, Inc. Olathe Chamber of Commerce Foundation

R. A. Long Foundation

Buick-GMC Truck

Robert Brogden's Olathe

\$5,000 - \$9,999
Affinis Corp
Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund
Commerce Bank
CommunityAmerica Credit Union
J. R. Albert Foundation, Inc.
Lifetouch
McCownGordon Construction
Olathe Rotary Club Foundation
Shawnee Mission Health

Validity Screening Solutions

Walton Family Foundation

Richard and Susan Worrel

\$2,500 - \$4,999
Bank of Blue Valley
CBIZ
City of Olathe
Consolidated Communications
Delta Innovative Services
First Student
Bob and Mary Fry
Heritage Electric
Steve and Nancy Ingram
Olathe Public Schools Retired
Employees Association
Piper Jaffray
Thomas McGee, L.C.
TVH Parts Co.

\$1.000 - \$2.499 **ACI Boland Architects** American Legion Riders -Olathe Chapter #153 APAC - Kansas City Arvest Bank Assisted Transportation Atmos Energy Corporation Marlin and Judy Berry Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City Children's Mercy Christ Community Evangelical Free Church City of Lenexa Colonial Presbyterian Church David and Jane Conner

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Todd Wheat

Thomas and Nancy Whitacre Robert and Linda Wilhelm James and Jane Wilson Ty and Carol Winters Michelle Wittenborn Brent Yeager Mistie Yearout

Pi Zeta Pam Zoller



## **Memorial Gifts**

When an individual has passed away, friends and relatives many honor that individual by making a memorial gift to the Olathe Public Schools Foundation.

## John Anderson, Jr.

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Thank you for your continuing support!

## **Tribute Gifts**

Throughout the year, there are many occasions that offer the opportunity to honor a student, teacher, principal, school, individual or couple. You are invited to participate in our Tribute Gift Program by simply indicating the honoree on your gift form or check.

Linda Armstrong Heather Schoonover

Dr. Marlin Berry
Carl and Debora Daniels
Olathe Association of Elementary
School Principals

Royce and Deanna Bohnert Bill and Debbie Pflumm

Brougham Elementary Staff
Jolene Prochko

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**Brian Geary** Pamela Bradley

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Dr. Lloyd Letcher Heather Schoonover

Mission Trail Middle School Teachers
Dawn Peterson

Michael Mosier and Family Mike and Kory Norris

Joyce Newbanks
Stephen and Nancy Keel

Olathe District Schools Staff Dr. Alison Banikowski

Olathe ELL and Interpreting Staffs R. L. and Jan Heinen

Harlan Parker Heather Schoonover

**Dr. Gwen Poss**Jeff and Cindy VonFeldt

Sherry Rakes Melanie Morgan

Andrea Sorrels Leslie E. Laemmli

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Cindy VonFeldt Amy Herman Linda Voyles Heather Schoonover

Becky Vrbas Larry Katzif

Shannon Wickliffe
Jordann Ashley Wickliffe

Stefanie Wickliffe Jordann Ashley Wickliffe

Ron and Linda Wimmer Dr. Alison Banikowski

Brent Yeager
Olathe Association of Elementary
School Principals

Stacey Yurkovich Larry Katzif



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Foundation

#### Staff:

Cindy VonFeldt, Executive Director Cody Kennedy, Community Outreach Specialist Sharon Friesen, Executive Assistant

<u>Mission:</u> Connecting financial and volunteer resources to the Olathe Public Schools to recognize and enhance educational excellence.



# You can help meet the needs of Olathe students.

Gifts can be made through the OPSF, which is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In most circumstances, donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible.

# Ways YOU can contribute...

# **Annual Fund Contributions**

A gift to the OPSF Annual Fund Campaign supports the programs listed in this annual report. Gifts may be made throughout the school year, via check, credit card or pledge.

#### Bequests

An attorney can advise you on the many ways to leave a gift to the OPSF while saving estate taxes and/or providing for a survivor.

#### Fund-A-Need

Tax support isn't always available to fund items for a top-notch education. Fund-A-Need is a window into the classroom for teacher's needs.

#### **Gifts in Memory**

Pay tribute to someone who valued the Olathe School District or whose life was changed for the better by a district employee. The Foundation will acknowledge your thoughtful gift with a letter to the honoree's family.

#### **Tribute Gifts**

Consider a gift to support the OPSF for a graduating senior, teacher or that special someone who has everything. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by a gift letter to the honoree.

#### **Staff Campaigns**

District employees can support the Foundation with automatic payroll deductions. Contact an OPSF representative for details.

# Women's Giving Circle

Powerful things happen when women gather. 100 women give \$100 to fund a \$10,000 grant for Olathe District Schools programs

For more information contact Cynthia VonFeldt at 780-8249.



Public Schools Foundation

315 N. Lindenwood Dr. • Olathe, KS 66062 www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org • 913-780-8222

