

# 2012-13 Annual Report



Olathe Public Schools  
**Foundation**  
*meeting the need*

# A Message from the President



Dear Friends,

My wife and I grew up in Olathe and we chose to raise our two daughters here for a reason. Olathe schools are outstanding and the cost of living in Olathe is affordable. An excellent, not simply adequate education is what I want for my kids and yours, too.

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation partnered this past year with the district in fostering a generation of readers thru the F.R.E.D. (Families Read Every Day) program. We have also teamed up to shift the culture of our schools to one of kindness and compassion thru the Rachel's Challenge program.

We continue to recognize that it takes every staff member in the district to educate our kids, to be positive role models, to create a safe and nurturing environment. To that end, we continue to recognize outstanding educators and support staff each month with our Educator Excellence and C.E.E.R.A. (Classified Employee Excellence Recognition Awards).

Our work is not yet done. You, the Olathe community, are a huge part of what makes this place and this school district so very special to our family. With a growing level of poverty in our neighborhoods and a world that expects more from graduating seniors, we need the support of our engaged community now more than ever before.

Please join me in supporting Olathe's students and teachers with your gift. Include the OPSF in your company's sponsorship budget for 2014. Consider a planned gift which will help students long after we are gone. Include OPSF in your family's annual giving plans. Find a way that works for you...so that together we can work for the future of our kids.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Wickliffe".

Shannon Wickliffe  
OPSF Board of Directors  
President, 2012-13



315 N. Lindenwood Dr. • Olathe, KS 66062 • 913-780-8222 • [www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org)



# 2012-13 Financial Statements

## The Olathe Public Schools Foundation Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2013

Assets	
Checking Account .....	\$129,245
CD .....	\$92,583
Money Market Account .....	\$173,516
Investments .....	\$2,439,218
Other Assets.....	\$19,000
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$2,853,562</b>
Liabilities	
Funds held on behalf of others.....	\$30,545
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Endowment .....	\$1,056,521
Temporarily Restricted .....	\$1,634,953
Increase in Unrestricted Assets .....	\$131,543
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets .....</b>	<b>\$2,853,562</b>

\*unaudited



# District-wide Innovation Grant

# Rachel's Challenge

## Rachel's Challenge

Sparking a chain reaction of kindness and compassion in Olathe schools, the Foundation brought the Rachel's Challenge program to all 14,000 middle and high school students in September, 2012. Motivational assemblies, Friends of Rachel leadership clubs, and evening community events were presented to each middle and high school community.

Elementary students across the district recorded their acts of kindness in record numbers. In a follow-up activity to the Rachel's Challenge assemblies, K-5 students built their own chain reaction of kindness with each link in the paper chain representing a random act of kindness. Students displayed resulting chains at two high school football games in October, 2013.

Because a culture shift doesn't happen overnight, the OPSF is continuing to invest in Rachel's Challenge programming at the district's request. The district's 5th and 6th graders took part in special Rachel's Challenge activities in the fall, 2012.

**Dream big!**

**Choose positive influences!**

**Speak with kindness!**

**Start your own chain reaction!**







# District-wide Innovation Grant

## F.R.E.D. Families Read Every Day

With funding from the Foundation's district-wide innovation grant program, the district's media specialists launched F.R.E.D. at all 34 elementary schools in January, 2013. This literacy program is based on the national program "One District – One Book" and has been used successfully across the United States.

F.R.E.D. is designed to foster a love of reading, to allow adults to model positive reading behaviors, to help students read for comprehension and to connect the community to the schools.







**"This was a great experience! My son really enjoyed helping dad, who is Georgian (Republic of Georgia, former Soviet Union), learn more English vocabulary words while we all read as a family. I really enjoyed the story too! What a great way to educate a community. It was even pretty cool to discuss the book with my son's friends at basketball practice from neighboring Olathe Schools, knowing many were reading the same thing we were."**

**– Melissa Eker, parent**



# 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.







“Thank you to the Foundation for recognizing these amazing teachers who touch our children’s lives every day!! Not a day goes by that I don’t say a prayer of thanksgiving that Donna Chapman came into our lives. What a true blessing she has been to Chloe!!

– Carolyn Nelson Chaffin, parent

# AVID Lifetime Learners

## 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 \$17,000 in scholarships and test fee stipends...to give these students a hand up towards a better future. **While \$17,000 is a great start, we were not able to provide support for all deserving candidates. To support the ALL Fund, visit our website at [www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org).**







"Our AVID students work so hard to make it to college. Donors to the A.L.L. Fund are really giving the gift of a brighter future to these AVID kids... because sometimes the only thing standing between some of our students and a better life is the cost of a college education."

– Tammie Milke, Olathe North counselor



# Classroom and Extended Learning Grants

Olathe students benefit when their teachers apply for OPSF grants. Their innovative ideas pave the way for learning excellence. Our donors fund classroom and building grants which support teachers and students in a wide range of learning opportunities such as Lego Mindstorm kits, leveled reading books, active learning tools, ukuleles and bells for music class, or funds to start a school garden to teach lessons on sustainability and nutrition. You will find a complete list by visiting our website at [www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org).







# Wimmer 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.

Last year, donors gave over \$12,000 to provide assistance with needs such as winter utility bills, emergency rent payments, before- and after-school care and transportation. In all cases, it helped ease the burden of the student, while district social workers explored community-based resources to support the family. To help, you can go online at [www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org) to donate or mail a check to:

**Student Care Fund**  
c/o OPSF  
315 N. Lindenwood  
Olathe, KS 66062







## Backpacks

Through generous donations from Farmers Insurance and supporters throughout the community, the Foundation provided **1,300 backpacks** filled with school supplies for Olathe's most vulnerable students.



# meeting the need

## Scholarships

With an endowment surpassing the \$2.5 million mark, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation provides oversight and management of 33 scholarship funds, disbursing \$105,000 in scholarships to 73 Olathe students this past year. New this year were scholarships for debate and forensics students, children of veterans, visual artists and students heading to Johnson County Community College. For a list of our scholarship opportunities, check out the OPSF website at [www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org).









# 15th Annual Autumn Breakfast



The assembled district staffers, local dignitaries and corporate sponsors raised a record \$93,000 in support of Olathe students and staff at the 15th Annual Autumn Breakfast in October, 2012. In addition, event attendees opened up their hearts and granted an additional \$7,500 in teacher wishes at the event. With a matching gift by Commerce Bank, the generosity of our guests went a long way in showing our teachers how much their community cares about their success.

Dr. Marlin Berry, Olathe superintendent of schools delivered the State of the District address. He outlined several district programs that help students with transitions including the middle school WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program, the Link Crew, which welcomes freshmen to the high school experience, and Camp Kindergarten. He also emphasized the small-town community feel the district continues to exhibit with our large “family” of caring citizens.

## Gold Sponsors

Aldi  
Capitol Federal Savings  
City of Olathe District Schools  
Enterprise Bank & Trust  
Farmers Insurance  
First National Bank  
First Student  
Garmin  
LifeTouch  
Mainstreet Credit Union  
Major Saver  
Robert Brogden Buick GMC  
Shawnee Mission Medical Center



## Presenting Sponsor Olathe Medical Center

## Silver Sponsors

AT&T  
Baker University  
CBIZ  
Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics  
City of Lenexa  
Commerce Bank  
CommunityAmerica Credit Union  
Emporia State University  
Gilmore & Bell, P.C.  
Harlan Parker/Jason Parker  
State Farm Insurance Agencies

Hollis+Miller  
JE Dunn  
JCCC Foundation  
MidAmerica Nazarene University  
Olathe Chamber of Commerce  
Olathe Police Department  
Thomas McGee, L.C.  
Turner Construction  
YMCA of Greater Kansas City

## Bronze Sponsors

APAC - Kansas, Inc.  
Ash Grove Charitable Foundation  
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City  
City of Overland Park  
Henderson Engineers, Inc  
HTK Architects  
Bob & Barb Jewell  
Kansas State University – Olathe  
Metcalf Bank  
OfficeMax  
Olathe Chamber of Commerce  
Olathe Fire Department  
Olathe NEA  
Payne & Brockway  
United Manufacturing, Inc.  
University of Saint Mary  
Validity Screening Solutions



# 17th Annual OPSF Golf Classic

Add up a gorgeous June day, award-winning course, abundant hospitality and prizes donated by local vendors and 200 relaxed golfers and you end up with over \$75,000 raised to support Olathe teachers and students. This year's 2-flight tournament was a great success.

**Presenting Sponsor**  
**Olathe Medical Center**



## Corporate Sponsors

Aldi  
CBIZ  
Garmin  
Major Saver

## Special Sponsors

CommunityAmerica Credit Union  
First National Bank  
JE Dunn Construction  
Lifetouch  
Mainstreet Credit Union  
Shawnee Mission Medical Center  
SureWest

## Tee Box Sponsors

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Paychex, Inc.  
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Synetic Technologies, Inc.  
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Validity Screening Solutions  
VanTrust Real Estate LLC



**Save the Date! June 12, 2014**  
**18th Annual Golf Classic**

# 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, 2012)  
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+

Keith E. Barnes Estate  
Olathe Medical Center

## \$10,000 - \$49,999

Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen  
Charitable Trust  
Capitol Federal Foundation  
Clay Blair Family Foundation  
Farmers Insurance Company, Inc.  
Garmin  
Mainstreet Credit Union  
Thrive4Life Foundation

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Robert and Kathy Brogden  
Commerce Bank  
Major Saver Holdings, Inc.  
Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund  
Olathe Chamber of Commerce  
Foundation  
Olathe Rotary Club Foundation  
Robert Brogden's Olathe  
Buick-GMC Truck  
Shawnee Mission Medical Center

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

CBIZ  
City of Olathe  
CommunityAmerica Credit Union  
Enterprise Bank & Trust

First Student  
Gilmore & Bell, P.C.  
Harlan C. Parker Insurance Agency  
Hollis + Miller Architects  
JE Dunn Construction Company  
Lifetouch  
Olathe Chamber of Commerce  
Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
Retired Employees Association  
SureWest  
Thomas McGee, L.C.  
Turner Construction  
Validity Screening Solutions  
VanTrust Real Estate, LLC

## \$1,000 - \$2,499

American Legion Riders -  
Olathe Chapter #153  
Arvest Bank  
AT&T  
Atmos Energy Corporation  
Baker University  
Bank of America  
Marlin and Judy Berry  
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City  
Children's Mercy Hospitals and  
Clinics  
City of Lenexa  
DLR Group  
Emporia State University

Exxon Mobil Lubricants and  
Petroleum Specialties Company  
LeEtta J. Felter  
Frank and Desiree George  
Harmon Construction, Inc.  
Harmony Foundation Scholarship  
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Kansas School Superintendents  
Association  
Keller Williams Realty  
KVC Health Systems, Inc.  
McCownGordon Construction  
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Matt and Kim Trent

TVH Parts Co.  
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Walmart Foundation  
Matt and Laura Wiltanger  
YMCA

## \$500 - \$999

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Dennis and Julia Meyer  
David and Ashley Nimz

Olathe East High School  
Olathe Fire Department  
Olathe National Education Assoc.  
Harlan and Vickie Parker  
Roger Revelle  
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Mike and Lynn Simmons  
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Jay Spaulding  
Patricia Stinson  
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## \$250-\$499

AIG Matching Grants Program  
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Gary and Juliet Stuteville  
Timm and Margaret Twaddle  
U.S. Engineering



*You helped meet the need!*



UMB Bank  
 UMKC Dental Hygienists'  
 Alumni Association  
 Jeff and Lori Voge  
 Jeff and Cindy VonFeldt  
 Thomas and Nancy Whitacre  
 Kelly and Pamela Wilkinson  
 Gene and Betty Wilmoth  
 Michael Wolgast  
 Pam Zoller

#### \$100 - \$249

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 King David and Elizabeth Anderson  
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 James and Janet Bachnick  
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 Gib and Kathy Wood  
 Woodland Elementary PTO  
 Brian and Julie Zitlow

# Memorial Gifts

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

## Dr. Daryl Berry

North Lindenwood Support  
Center Staff  
Kristin Clartz

## Adaline Clark

Debbie Cain

## Curtis Costello

Mike and Kory Norris

## Max Dannen

Mike and Kory Norris

## Kean Meoli

Sarah Allen  
Benjamin and Lacie Anderson  
Jean Ballweg  
Christie Barker  
Joyce Barrett  
Stacey K. Bateman  
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John and Sherry Weber

## Frances Tainter

Dennis and Becky Vrbas



*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.

### Dr. Marlin Berry

Baker University  
Carl and Debora Daniels  
LeEtta J. Felter  
Frank and Desiree George  
Frances Graham  
R. L. and Jan Heinen  
Larry Katzf  
Mainstreet Credit Union  
Amy Martin Photography  
Olathe Association of  
Elementary School Principals  
Harlan and Vickie Parker  
Mike and Joyce Poland  
Rick Schlier  
Kristin Schultz  
Gary and Juliet Stuteville  
Dennis and Becky Vrbas  
Randall Warner

### James and Susan Bilderback

Gerald and Catherine Radek

### Jenna Cain

Deb Cain

### Carl Daniels, Sr.

Carl and Debora Daniels

### Andrew Dimmitt

Dawn Peterson

### Elementary Counselors

Larry Katzf

### Jocelyn Fasulo

Dawn Peterson

### Wayne and Joyce Fick

Gerald and Joan Gilson

### Eric Griffin

Dawn Peterson

### Janet Jones

Dawn Peterson

### Larry Katzf

Gretchen Sherk

### Brenda Ludlow

Dawn Peterson

### Lori McGhee

Britt and Judy Einspahr

### Olathe District Administrators and Colleagues

Dr. Alison Banikowski

### Olathe ELL Department and Interpreters

R. L. and Jan Heinen

### Lindsey Oliver

Dawn Peterson

### Vickie Parker

LeEtta J. Felter

### Sawyer/Rebman Families

Fran and Gail Sawyer

### Secondary Counselors

Larry Katzf

### Gretchen Sherk

Larry Katzf

### Jill Smith

Dawn Peterson

### Molly Templeton

Emily Denadel Emery

### Melissa Thomas

Jennifer Short

### Kathy Waage

Britt and Judy Einspahr

### Brent Yeager

Olathe Association of Elementary  
School Principals



## 2012-13 Board of Directors

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Desiree George, Vice President, *United Manufacturing*

Jennifer Mehnert, Secretary, *Garmin*

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Mike Poland, *Olathe Board of Education*

Cindy VonFeldt, *Olathe Public Schools  
Foundation*

### Staff:

Cindy VonFeldt, *Executive Director*

Cody Kennedy, *Community Outreach  
Specialist*

Sharon Friesen, *Administrative Assistant*

**Mission:** *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.

## 5 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.

### 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.

**For more information contact Cynthia VonFeldt at 780-8249.**



Olathe Public Schools  
**Foundation**

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

