

HELP GET LPS STUDENTS

FUTURE READY!

402.436.1612 ph

402.436.1692 fax

www.foundationforlps.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I can hardly believe that my daughter Beth graduated from LSE in 1995 and my son Chris in 1998. What is not hard to believe is how well they've done since graduation, due in large part to their fine education through LPS.



Sharon with Kooser Elementary students, Maddie and Jimmy.

My peers would be surprised to see how much the Lincoln student population has changed in the last 15 years. Not only are 40% on the free or reduced lunch program but also around 52 different languages are spoken in our 61 schools. The increasingly diverse student body must be prepared to meet the challenges of the high-tech, high skills global economy.

That is where private donations are needed. Our taxes pay for a solid school foundation but now we know that much more is needed to ensure student success.

Tax-deductible private donations are given to the Foundation for LPS and pay for college scholarships, student emergency needs and classroom grants to enrich the curriculum.

Please consider giving a gift for student needs! Today's students will be leading our community in the not too distant future and we want them to be "Future Ready"!

Sharon Wherry
Foundation for LPS President

A Gift That Keeps On Giving

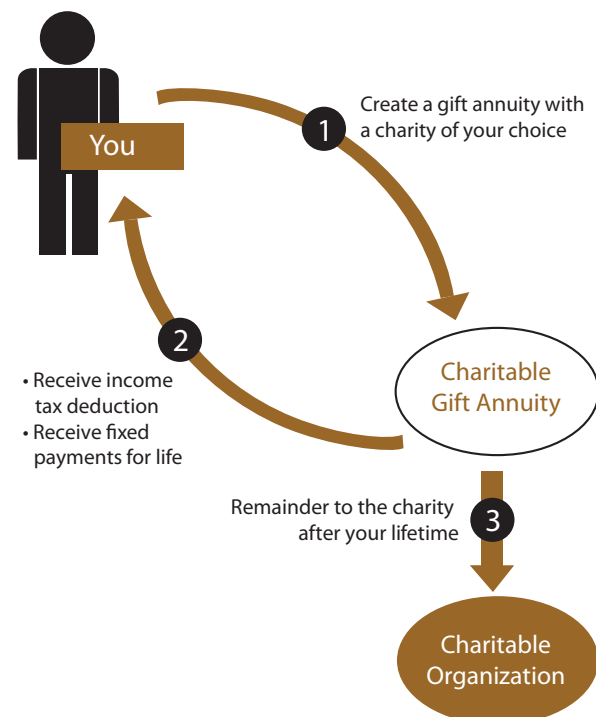
A charitable gift annuity benefits you today and students of LPS tomorrow

The concept of the charitable gift annuity in America dates back to 1843 when a merchant in Boston first donated a gift of money to the American Bible Society in exchange for a flow of income. Today, the concept includes valuable tax benefits for donors. But even more valuable than the financial advantages is the satisfaction donors gain by helping LPS students.

Charitable Gift Annuity

A gift annuity is a simple contractual agreement between a donor and the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools in which assets are given in exchange for receiving payments for life.

To learn more, contact your financial advisor. To estimate the income benefits and tax savings of your charitable gift annuity, go to www.foundationforlps.org and click on Gift Planning Ideas and then Gift Calculator. Or you can contact Ruth Gerber at 436-1859 or rgerber@lps.org.



FOUNDATION FOOTNOTES

Fall 2010

GETTING LPS STUDENTS FUTURE READY

This Issue:

Kooser Elementary Endowment

Fund-A-Need

Recognizing Excellence In A New Way

Announcing Gift Annuities



Kooser Leading the Way in School Endowments

On September 2nd Former Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and his wife Kathleen Rutledge, former Editor of the Lincoln Journal Star, made a very generous \$25,000 lead gift to establish the Kooser Elementary School Endowment Fund.

We hope others are inspired to contribute to this or any other school endowment fund to provide needed additional financial support for schools like Kooser.

What a great way to start the school year! Many donors want to support their favorite schools by giving to an endowment fund that benefits their school for decades.

For 21 years the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, much like the University of Nebraska Foundation, has been raising private dollars to bridge the gap between what taxes provide and what's additionally needed to help students be successful in the future. The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools partners with LPS to provide:

- College scholarships
- Student emergency needs
- New opportunities for students such

as: cutting edge technology in the classroom or a new experience: perhaps a trip to the theatre, a farm, concert or recycling plant.

Two years ago endowment funds were established at each of the four oldest high schools. Every year the funds will pay out money to teachers and principals for items not covered by tax dollars. Now we can add Kooser Elementary to our list of school endowments.



Endowments are becoming increasingly important in our current economy. As budgets are further scrutinized and competition is high for a limited amount of funds, endowments are a tool that can be used to sustain and enhance programs.

The Foundation is grateful for the forward-thinking generosity of Ted and Kathleen who now support Kooser Elementary for years to come!

Endowments bring stability to valued programs, ensuring that they will continue in the future, regardless of budget cuts or deficits.

If you are interested in learning more about gifting to LPS, please contact the Foundation at (402) 436-1612.



Foundation for LPS Board of Directors

Jennifer Absalon

Joe Adams, treasurer

Barbara Baier, Board of Education

Bob Barth

Mayor Chris Beutler

Wendy Birdsall

Laurie Boyd Petty

Bob Caldwell

Richard Claussen

Nicholas J. Cusick, vice-chair

John C. Geist

Robert B. Harris

Richard Herink

Mark Hesser

Paul J. Huebner

Steven Joel, Superintendent

Susan Keisler-Munro

Patricia A Koch Johns

Janet Labenz

John F. Maher, chair

Stan Maly

Richard W. Meginnis, Board of Education

Stephen J. Navin

Jeffery T. Peetz

Linda Robinson-Rutz

Jill G. Schroeder

Jan Sheridan

Michelle R. Suarez, secretary

Dean Van Loon

Greg Vasek

Sharon Wherry, President



**FOUNDATION
LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

5901 O Street

Lincoln, Nebraska 68510



Recognizing Excellence in a New Way

A message from our Board Chair, John Maher

The Foundation has been thrilled to recognize student achievement through the Gold Star banquet for the past 21 years. Even though student scholarships and educator awards are presented at their respective schools, the Foundation has always held this signature event to re-present these awards. To increase opportunities for students, the Foundation needs to deepen their relationship with their donors. Instead of an annual banquet, ways of increasing donor engagement with students will be our future focus.

In 2011 we will celebrate and document student achievement through an insert in the Lincoln Journal Star but we will not hold the Gold Star banquet. Instead, we will be tailoring activities and events to build engagement so that donors can experience first-hand the tangible outcomes of their generosity.

The first of our efforts will be developing and conducting "Behind the Scenes Tours" at schools so that donors can hear from students first-hand about the impact their donations are having on achievement.

In this way, we will continue to provide wide publicity regarding student achievement made possible in part by the Foundation AND we're able to commit additional resources to cultivating the gifts that make this performance and achievement possible.

Announcing: Behind the Scenes Tours!

Ever wonder what your gifts mean to students?

This is your chance to hear first hand about the impact of donations on student lives!

This event is designed to bring our donors to buildings, programs, or projects around the district that their generosity has helped fund. Our first event was held on October 14th at the Student Athlete Development Center at Seacrest Field.

Plan now to attend our next 'Behind the Scenes Tour' highlighting the International Baccalaureate Program at Lincoln High on April 7th, 2011!



FUND-A-NEED[©]



- Cultivate an Interest
- Nurture a Talent
- Encourage a Vision

1 Students Learn Healthy Habits

Lack of exercise and unhealthy eating habits lead to overweight and underactive children. This classroom grant offers an after-school club to 4th and 5th grade students which emphasizes staying active and making healthy nutritional choices. Healthy students have better attendance at school and are better able to focus on their school work. Students will see first hand the physical and mental benefits of staying active by learning physical choices for life-long fitness. They will learn to make healthy food choices to fuel their activities.

Randolph Elementary: \$317.00

2 Learning Outside the Box Through Art

Scientific findings have shown that students who are enrolled in the arts from elementary through high school on a consistent basis score higher on their ACT tests. This classroom grant will allow students to experiment with glazes and finishing techniques for their pottery and sculpture creations. By creating a functional as well as an aesthetic piece of pottery or sculpture, students are making choices, judgments, adjustments, and are involved in many problem solving skills in order to reach the final product. These are higher level thinking skills that develop better problem solvers and creative thinkers that can see "beyond and outside the box."

Irving Middle School: \$798.00

3 Training Future Graphic Designers

To help prepare students for a career in graphic arts, Northeast High School offers a class titled Digital Art which is a precursor to graphic design courses in college. A classroom grant is needed to fund digital cameras so that students become familiar with digital technology and can create images for college level portfolios.

Northeast High: \$2,280.00

There are many more Fund-A-Needs available online. Go to www.foundationforlps.org to Fund-A-Need today!

GETTING LINCOLN'S CHILDREN FUTURE READY!

For 21 years the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools has been providing resources to bridge the gap between what taxes provide and what is additionally needed in the classroom to help students become *Future Ready*.

Student needs have changed drastically over the past two decades. Our student body continues to become more diverse economically and culturally. The high tech global economy demands that students become *Future Ready*.

We are needed now more than ever. Call the Foundation for LPS today to see how you can help.



Calling for 2010-2011 Outstanding Educator Nominations!

Now is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding teacher - one that motivates students to reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond - to receive one of the awards.

Nominations are due November 15th in the Foundation office.

To learn more about award criteria and nomination forms, visit FLPS online at www.foundationforlps.org or call, (402) 436-1612.

Senior Scholarships: Applications available online this fall

Last Year We Awarded Over **\$130,000** in Scholarships to LPS Students!

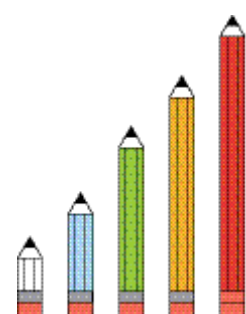
Visit our website to browse all 150 scholarships and download the application form.

www.foundationforlps.org



"Thanks to Pepsi My Students Are Learning In New Ways"

Teacher Matt Oltman on "Learn to Read" at Belmont Elementary



"Belmont is a member of the Reading is Fundamental Program. This program allows us to purchase books at a lower cost.

I wrote a Fund-a-Need so we could purchase books for our students. We make sure that we distribute the books through the year. In the past, we have handed out books on Open House Night and Curriculum Nights.

This year in addition to those nights we will be handing out books to students on their birthdays to ensure that every student in the school gets a book.

It is well known that reading skills strongly affect a child's success in school.

With the money donated by Pepsi, we are able to purchase more than 2,000 books at all different reading levels for our students.

The confidence and pride that comes from a child learning to read is tough to measure but the rewards last a lifetime. On behalf of the 700 students at Belmont I would like to thank Pepsi and the Foundation."