

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



Enhancing Educational Excellence Since 1997



The Appleton Education Foundation, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, has been working since 1997 to develop a steady source of grant support for now and for future generations of Appleton children.

A volunteer board of directors is guided by AEF's mission:

To creatively enhance education in our community.

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Leadership Message

Reflection. [re-‘flek-shen]

Consideration of some subject matter, idea or purpose.

Compiling a year’s worth of information for this Appleton Education Foundation’s annual report provides a natural time to consider all three: subject, idea and purpose.

Subject matter galore.

When it comes to subject matter, one only need look at the list of grants awarded (pages 34-45) to be assured the Appleton Education Foundation makes a difference for teaching and learning in our Appleton public schools. Grants of more than \$240,000 supported classroom and school projects in all subject areas, as well as funding staff professional development and student scholarships. Cultural projects, special programs to improve student vocabulary, a pilot summer reading program for middle school students, leadership training for high school athletes – these are just a few ways local students benefited from more than 100 Appleton Education Foundation grants.

The Appleton Education Foundation also extended learning in the community. Nearly 200 residents attended Community Education Program events to hear about the importance of singing and storytelling for young children’s optimal brain development, and to learn how communities can best address important issues through social innovation.

The expansion continues. Three families established new charitable funds within the Appleton Education Foundation. Through these funds, they are investing in educational subject matter closest to their hearts for today and for generations to come.

Ideas abound.

Retired district staff members gathered at the Foundation’s spring luncheon to learn how current Appleton Area School District educators transformed great ideas into action. At the event three groups of teachers and students explained how they used funding from AEF to build student leadership skills, improve motor skills and mental flexibility through speedstacking, and combine science and art to tell a compelling story about an environmental issue.

Gary Jahnke, education advocate extraordinaire, received the eighth annual Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Award for his ability to share ideas and build community support for an educational vision.

In the past year, the Appleton Education Foundation tried out some new ideas of its own. Social events with an AEF-funded author and an AEF-funded vocalist provided a way for AEF to say thank you to Club 365 members and members of the Foundation's Legacy Society.


Purpose and determination.

Guided by our mission to creatively enhance education in our community, the Appleton Education Foundation provides funds that encourage educators to test inventive ideas to engage students in their learning. The grants are possible through the generosity of nearly 750 donors who believe in this purpose. Children's expressions of "Now I get it" and "I really can do this" make it all worthwhile.

We live in a truly amazing community. We care about children, from the youngest learners on up. We see needs and we seek opportunities to help – borrowing the words of the Appleton Area School District's motto – we prepare our students for their future.

Giving to the Appleton Education Foundation is an investment in our students' future. Whether you make an annual gift, establish or add to a named fund, or designate a legacy gift, you are making their future brighter.

We hold deep appreciation for your interest in the subject matter of education and your belief that the Appleton Education Foundation can make an important difference in the betterment of our community.



Tim McKeag
Board President



Julie Krause
Executive Director

A background pattern of stylized, overlapping leaves in various shades of green, ranging from light to dark, creating a textured, organic feel.

OUR STORIES

Gary Jahnke Receives 2015 Scullen Leadership Award



Gary Jahnke, second from right, with family members at AEF's Celebrate Education event.

Gary Jahnke, Appleton Education Foundation board member, founder and owner of Huzzard Systems, and an education advocate, received the 2015 Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Award at the Appleton Education Foundation's Celebrate Education dinner event this spring. The award recognizes individuals for their commitment to improving the quality of education in the Fox Cities and is given in memory of Dr. Tom Scullen, late superintendent of the Appleton Area School District.

From East High School to New York City and Back

“It was like watching someone play a magic trick on you. I don’t know how to explain it, I just felt it.”

That was how one captivated student described watching Michelle Seipel perform opera.

Seipel, a New York-based soprano who performs both musical theater and opera, also happens to be a 1996 alumna of Appleton East. She attended UW-Milwaukee, majoring in mathematics and voice performance, and worked in the insurance industry as an actuary before earning her master’s degree in voice performance from The Peabody Conservatory.

Seipel returned to East this spring, thanks to a grant from AEF and the vision of choir director Dan Van Sickle. He wanted to expand high school students’ choral repertoire – often limited by the technical skill level of students at that age. Sharing the stage with a professional performer would let them experience performance without limits.

Appleton East choral students – all 239 of them – began practicing the concert pieces in January. On March 11, Seipel joined the rehearsals in person to put the finishing touches on the March 13 performance in the East auditorium.

“Watching Michelle go through the process of rehearsal allowed students to see how a performance develops in real time – complete with starts, stops, mistakes, re-dos. This allowed the experience to transcend listening to a normal recording,” Van Sickle said.

“Students were spellbound by Michelle’s level of professionalism and performance ability,” he continued. “The students added another level of professionalism when they shared the stage with her, as her presence collectively lifted the ability of our group. The students rose to the challenge.”



Photo by Lori Fahrenholz Photography

Seven students also had the opportunity to take a “master class” with Seipel.

“It was clear that Michelle was there because she wanted to be there, so she could help and inspire young people that are in the same position she was years ago,” said Rachel Bednarowski, now a junior at East. “When she listened to me sing during our master class, she had advice and comments like no other mentor of mine ever had.”

Van Sickle and his colleagues hope to repeat this opportunity sometime in the future, perhaps with one of the students who participated in this event as the guest artist.

Maybe it will be Bednarowski.

“Michelle piqued my interest and left me craving more,” she said. “I want to know more, I want to experience more and I want to learn more. I want to soak everything in now, so that I can use what I learn from practice and what I learned from her and bring it into my future to keep improving my abilities in this craft.”

Education at Winagamie

What job could be better for a high school student who loves golf than working at a golf course?

But Appleton North senior Dalton Schulz's work at Winagamie Golf Course is not the typical high school job experience.

Dalton receives special education services and is a member of North's golf team. He attends classes at North in the mornings and works at Winagamie in the afternoons.

"I pick up balls, wash windows and doors, clean carts and mow lawn," Dalton said of his tasks. "And I run people to the maintenance building. Someone always needs me to do that."

A partnership with the Appleton Area School District, Winagamie Golf Course, and Valley Packaging makes the opportunity possible. AASD educators ensure academic goals are met, Winagamie provides the worksite and Valley Packaging provides a job coach, among other services.

As a transition facilitator employed by Valley Packaging, Bob Woodford works with the school district to identify and

Dalton's story is just one example of many beyond-the-classroom learning experiences now taking place at Winagamie.

Since receiving the course as a gift from retired educator and former course owner Mary Beth Nienhaus in December 2013, the Appleton Education Foundation continues to oversee the overall operations of the successful public golf course and encourage educators to think creatively about how to use the course to advance student learning. Area students are participating in hands-on experiences in marketing, science, event management, horticulture, small engine repair and other subjects.

coordinate the resources that students with special education needs require to be successful and independent in the community.

“There is a structure in place among the employees of the business, with support from educators and job coaches. They all help students to learn work skills and overcome challenges so they can be successful,” Woodford said. “Career-based learning experiences – which might be employment or job shadowing, to name a couple – are hugely important for both regular and special education students.

“The experience at Winagamie has been great for Dalton both educationally and personally. He is learning important job-related and social skills and, what he does brings real value to Winagamie, too,” Woodford said.

Winagamie General Manager Dan McGinn agreed.

“Dalton is doing a great job at Winagamie,” McGinn said.

“Everything is going really well and I would like to see the work program expand so we can get more students involved.”

Dalton’s parents, Chris and Bob Schulz, also are pleased.

“We are grateful for Dalton’s work experience at Winagamie,” they said. “Our son is learning skills that will help him obtain and maintain jobs in his areas of interest and, ultimately, maximize his employment potential. This is very exciting for a parent.”

Dalton has gained more than job skills.

“I made a lot of friends,” he said. “Especially Dan (McGinn). I learn a bunch of stuff from Dan about work and about golf.”



At All Costs

Character. The sum of a person's defining qualities. The strength to choose to do what is right.

Appleton Area School District educators brought character into the classroom with a visit from a Medal of Honor winner's son and help from an AEF grant.

"I do not think our students realize and value the importance of character," said Lisa Eastman, history and language arts teacher at Madison Middle School. "They often see heroes through the eyes of Hollywood."

After Eastman and fellow educators Abbie O'Toole, Donna McClelland and John Wuebben participated in the Freedoms Foundation's Teaching American History Medal of Honor Program, they knew they wanted to bring some of the stories of character and heroism to their students in a way that went far beyond what could be taught from a text book.

They decided to invite Cory Etchberger to Appleton to share his father's story with students at Madison and Einstein middle schools and East High School.

"Having someone who can share real experiences gives students a unique way to gain historical perspective and also realize that ordinary people – including themselves – can make an impact on the lives of others," Eastman said.

The grant project brought history to life through presentations by Cory, son of Richard Etchberger. Richard served in the United States Air Force and was killed while on a secret mission in Laos during the Vietnam War. His heroic actions saved the lives of fellow service members but went unrecognized for decades. In 2010, President Obama posthumously awarded Richard the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor the United States can bestow. Cory, along with his brothers and other family members, accepted the award.



Cory Etchberger (center) with students from Madison Middle School and teacher John Wuebben.

“I really believe the stories Cory told about his dad helped students understand an everyday person can be a hero,” Eastman said. “Cory’s dad was an ordinary family man who went off to fight for his country. His character and compassion saved the lives of others, but cost him his life.”

Etchberger’s visit to Appleton coincided with the anniversary of his father’s death, which made the connection even more powerful. “The kids were mesmerized. You could hear a pin drop in an auditorium of 300 students,” Eastman said.

The story of Richard Etchberger’s life and the process his family went through to have his service recognized is detailed in *At All Costs*, a book by Matt Proietti.

“I thought it was an amazing experience to learn about the Medal of Honor and to learn what Cory’s father had done for our country,” said an East High School student. “Mr. Etchberger also showed us some passages from *At All Costs* before it was published. I felt honored to be one of the first people to read parts of the book.”

“Presentations like this give students a tangible connection to history and make learning engaging and approachable,” said Abbie O’Toole, English language arts and social studies teacher at East. “For Cory to simply talk about his childhood memories

Story continues on next page.

At All Costs

Continued from previous page.

of his father and then also tell about the sacrifice his dad made for his family and country, students are automatically connected to deeper concepts and can engage in a higher level of thinking.”

“Cory’s story cements learning about history, but touches on deeper ideas of character development and values like integrity, courage, honor and respect,” said O’Toole. “My students and I had a great class discussion with Cory on the values that Medal of Honor recipients, including Cory’s father, shared.”

“Part of Cory’s story about his father’s secret mission focused on aid and support he received from the people of Laos,” said O’Toole. “Our Hmong students connected with his presentation and story as their parents, grandparents and other family members have been directly affected by the conflict in Vietnam.”

“During the question and answer phase at Madison, one of the veteran visitors in the audience asked all Hmong students to stand to be recognized for the efforts of their family members,” said Eastman. “This was a powerful, and tearful, moment for our community!”

The learning will continue for many years to come. “I am now using *At All Costs* as a mentor text for my English language arts classes and am using a portion of the book as a reflection on Richard Etchberger’s heroism in Vietnam,” said Eastman.

“I think students realized after hearing Cory’s story that an ordinary person can make a difference in the world.”

AEF in the Community

During the past fiscal year, the Appleton Education Foundation again brought early childhood education to the forefront through the eighth annual Community Education Program.

Addressing an audience of more than 100 parents, educators and community leaders, Jeff Snell, Ph.D., founder of Midwest Social Innovation, discussed what it means to create social value by addressing root causes of social problems. Speaking last fall at the newly opened Community Early Learning Center of the Fox Valley, Snell commended local early childhood advocates and funders, including the Appleton Education Foundation, for collaborating on an effort that will pay dividends for children and the community many times over the initial investment.



Stuart Stotts, award winning singer, author and storyteller, focused on the ways music and storytelling – and the arts in general – support young children’s brain development, creativity, confidence and memory. Through an interactive presentation that had the audience singing along,

Stotts highlighted parents’ goals for their children and how quality early learning experiences help meet those goals.

While the topics were different, the speakers’ main take-away messages were the same: Children’s brains grow faster during the first five years of life than they ever will again. Parents and community leaders should promote quality educational experiences during the early years. Doing so makes a difference for children’s lifelong academic and social success and the community’s economic success.

Now that’s a message that never gets old.

Business Plan to Baking: Appleton Public Montessori Students Are Entrepreneurs

At Appleton Public Montessori, students learn hands-on in an environment that encourages communication, collaboration and creativity.

Last fall, sixth graders at APM took those skills to heart as they became entrepreneurs in the baking industry.

Representatives from Fox Communities Credit Union gave their time to teach students about the banking industry and the process of writing a business plan to apply for a loan.

“When making the business plan, I learned valuable writing, presenting, and thinking skills,” said one APM student. “It helped prepare me for more things like it that I will have to do in the future.”

Another student pointed out that it was “imperative to cooperate and work together” when creating the business plan.

Funds APM received from the 2014 AEF Knowledge Open golf event supported start-up costs of the bakery. AEF also approved a student-written grant request for additional equipment.

With funding in hand, students took the next step: learn how to bake. They met with Rosalie Misco, aka “Grandma Rose,” founder of Natural Expressions 100% Whole Grain Bakery, in Appleton.

“Students learned how she started her business, how she made her special muffin mix, and the basics of mixing muffins,” said APM teacher Sarah Strand.

Perhaps most important, one student recalls learning “that you should never over-price your muffins.”

The students learned hands-on about all aspects of the business. They researched recipes and healthy ingredient substitutes, like replacing oil with applesauce. They compiled grocery lists, practiced their baking skills and used math skills to ensure customers received correct change. They even “hired” fifth graders to help with marketing and dishwashing.

One student’s favorite aspects of the bakery experience were “the feeling of independence I felt when I made a bakery item, saw it getting sold, and the things we were able to do with the profits we earned.”

By spring, bakery profits were enough to fund the sixth-graders’ class trip to Chicago, where they visited The Field Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry.

“This project truly embodies our practices as a Montessori school: an emphasis on hands-on learning and collaborative work,” Strand said. “Without the support of AEF we wouldn’t have been able to offer such a unique experience to our students.”

The 2015-16 “batch” of sixth-grade students will run the bakery this school year.



Leaving a Legacy

We can't control what happens to us, but we can always control how we choose to respond.

This life lesson is not lost on Dianne Lang.

After her son Erik passed away unexpectedly in 2013 at age 34 of natural causes, Dianne chose to turn her loss into something that would help others in his name.

“Erik loved the outdoors, especially fishing,” Dianne said. “He had never been a particularly good student. That all changed his junior year of high school when we finally discovered he had an attention deficit disorder. That discovery and his interest in his business classes and DECA, a high school club focused on business and marketing, made his final two years at Appleton North High School his most productive and successful. He found real value in being able to apply what he was learning. That motivated him both in and out of school.

“After Erik passed away, a business education fund in the Appleton Education Foundation seemed the perfect way to honor his memory while doing something positive for others,” she said. “His business experiences through school and work while at Appleton North were the foundation for his career in the retail and hospitality industries.

“I’ve been involved with the AEF since the late ’90s. The funds are well-managed and the grant monies definitely have been put to good use in the AASD, giving kids experiences in the classroom they otherwise might not have,” she said.

The Erik J. Lang North High Business Education Fund now provides financial assistance for students who need a boost in order to participate in business-related learning opportunities, including DECA competitions and conferences. The fund is endowed, so there will be a source of support for business-minded students for years to come.



Erik J. Lang

1979-2013

Erik was an accomplished fisherman. While in high school, some of Erik's friends began to join him for the Lang boys' annual gathering at the cottage in Manitowish Waters on the first Saturday in May,

opening day of walleye season. They started a tradition of hitting the dock at 12:01 a.m. to kick off the season. Despite Erik's passing, the tradition continues. Each year at 12:01 a.m. on the first Saturday in May, Erik's best friends and his Dad head to the dock, walking past the weeping crab tree they planted in Erik's memory, to kick off another season and re-live memories of their best fishing buddy.

Dianne appreciates knowing the fund is making a difference for students like Erik, who might find their niche in the business world because of their high school experiences. "The AEF sends me the thank you notes from the many students who are benefiting from Erik's fund," she said. "I know Erik would be very proud to be helping students begin to build a foundation for their future careers."

Story continues on next page.

Leaving a Legacy

Continued from previous page.

Dianne also plans to establish a fund in the Appleton Education Foundation in her own name someday. As a proud AASD alumna and someone who spent her career teaching the elementary grades in AASD schools, Dianne would like to encourage girls' interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

"Mathematics and science were my favorite subjects in school," she explained. "Being one of very few girls in advanced math and science classes in high school and college, the need to encourage girls in these areas has always been evident to me."

"My intention is to establish a charitable fund in AEF that will support elementary girls' interest in STEM. That increased emphasis needs to begin early, so girls will be comfortable with STEM and enjoy the same opportunities as their male counterparts."

A past board member of the Appleton Education Foundation, Dianne continues to serve on the communications and retired educator committees. She trusts the Foundation will help make her STEM Fund idea a reality when she is ready.

Dianne hopes others will follow her lead and establish endowment funds in AEF to benefit the areas of education most important to them.

"Establishing a fund with AEF is the perfect way to recognize a loved one and support a particular educational interest, passion or need," Dianne said. "It is a way to make a forever contribution and an investment in the future."

The background of the image is a soft, out-of-focus photograph of green leaves and branches, likely from a tree or shrub. The leaves are various shades of green, from light to dark, and are scattered across the frame, creating a natural and organic feel. The text is centered over this background.

**“It is a way to make a forever
contribution and an
investment in the future.”**

Preventing the Summer Slide

Summer slides can be detrimental to learning. No, we're not talking about the slide at the park. We're talking about the summer reading slide.

Studies show that students who do not read during the summer months "slide" back in their reading ability. To combat the slide, AASD literacy coaches Amy Didreckson and Samantha Sawitski created SOAR – Students Of Ascending Reading. An AEF grant helped them pilot the program with Roosevelt and Wilson middle school students this past summer.

Didreckson and Sawitski followed University of Tennessee Prof. Richard Allington's suggestions in creating the program:

- Students must have high-interest, self-selected books in their home;
- They must be able to discuss the books with an adult.

Each of the 100 students who signed up for SOAR selected three books they wanted to read over the summer. Thanks to a grant from AEF, those books were ordered and given to students before the 2014-15 school year ended.

"It was important to allow students to have the books in their hands when they walked out the doors for summer. Access to books is key," said Didreckson.

"The students targeted for SOAR generally do not have positive experiences with reading, and therefore do not go to the public library or participate in any reading programs," Sawitski added.

Students were then matched with one of 25 reading mentors. Classroom teachers, principals, literacy coaches, guidance counselors and technology integrators volunteered to discuss books with students. Talks occurred face-to-face in small-group settings and via social media or text – whatever was best for the student.

Students and mentors gathered at the Appleton Public Library in July to socialize and share about the books they were reading. The most popular titles included *13 Reasons Why*, *Can't Look Away*, *Out of My Mind* and *Paper Towns*.

Participating students now are in eighth grade. Didreckson and Sawitski plan to compare their spring 2015 and fall 2015 Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores in reading to evaluate SOAR's success. Even before the fall tests are administered, they know their program made a difference.

“When we spoke to the students at the beginning of the school year, they were able to describe the books they read,” Sawitski said. “More importantly, they showed interest and a liking of reading – this is huge!”

According to a survey at the beginning of the school year, 88% of the student participants liked having school staff contact them throughout the summer, and 75% said they would not have read during the summer if not for SOAR.

“These results would not have been possible without funding from AEF,” Didreckson said. “Bottom-line is we couldn't have done it.”



Students and teachers met during the summer to discuss books they were reading and to enjoy time together.



CHARITABLE FUNDS

The Appleton Education Foundation manages endowment and other charitable funds to help individuals, families and businesses support education in Appleton.

Since the principal dollar amount is rarely touched, the endowed funds ensure a steady, permanent source to support grants now and for many future generations of Appleton school children. The AEF also makes it easy for people and businesses to designate their gifts for specific programs or projects.

At the end of fiscal year 2015, the AEF managed the following funds to enhance educational excellence:

Endowment Funds

Appleton Bilingual Charter School Fund

Supports curriculum and instructional needs of Appleton Bilingual Charter School.

Appleton Career Academy Endowment Fund+

Will support needs of Appleton Career Academy Charter School.

Appleton Education Foundation Fund

Earnings generated from this unrestricted endowment are used in the Appleton Education Foundation's competitive grant cycles to fund creative projects that enhance education for students in a variety of academic disciplines, and to fund professional development opportunities for AASD staff members.

Appleton West High School Endowment Fund

Supports projects that benefit Appleton West High School.

Appleton West High School Historical Fund

Supports the study of events of American history leading up to WWII, WWII itself, and the aftermath of WWII on our world.

AWSHS Class of 1941 Fund

Supports creative projects and programs for the benefit of students at Appleton West High School.

* Indicates new funds established July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

+ Indicates future funds

Charitable Funds

Gene Britton Memorial Scholarship Fund

Supports scholarships for graduating seniors from Appleton public high schools.

Columbus Elementary School-Fred Hoffman Memorial Endowment Fund

Provides general support for Columbus Elementary School and a scholarship for an AASD high school senior who is an alum of Columbus.

Elementary Reading Restricted UFRS Fund

Supports the United for Reading Success tutoring program.

Thomas Haag-Appleton East Class of '79 Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for graduating seniors from Appleton East High School.

Earl W. Harder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Supports scholarships for graduating seniors from Appleton West High School.

Bob and Gerri Heffron Family Endowment Fund

Supports programs and projects that enhance the educational experience for AASD students who have special education needs or who are English Language Learners, or for continuing education opportunities for staff members and parents who work with these children.

Gerald E. Hoffman Memorial Fund

Provides general support of the arts at Appleton West High School.

Paul E. Hoffman Fund for Foster Elementary School

Supports projects and programs at Foster Elementary School.

Kaleidoscope Academy Endowment Fund+

Will support curriculum and instruction to address the mission of Kaleidoscope Academy Charter School, including staff development, curriculum development, technology and equipment.

* Indicates new funds established July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

+ Indicates future funds

Charitable Funds

Ellen Kort Endowment Fund

Enhances education in our community, especially through the media of poetry and writing.

Erik J. Lang North High Business Education Fund

Supports Appleton North High School students who need financial assistance to attend local, regional and national business-related learning opportunities, such as DECA events.

Tom “Love all” Teachers Fund for McKinley Elementary School*

Supports teacher-driven ideas to enhance the educational experience for students at McKinley Elementary School.

Betsy Melzer Endowment Fund

Supports projects and programs that benefit students with exceptional educational needs.

North Booster Club Endowment Fund

Established to support the athletic facilities and programs of Appleton North High School.

Connie Pitt Memorial Endowment Fund

Supports projects that benefit Appleton Area School District children who have special needs.

Hazel Pope-Franklin School Fund

Established with a gift from the estate of Hazel Pope, the fund provides support for student activities and/or student instruction at Franklin Elementary School.

SAACC Endowment Fund

Supports the education and training of AASD student or coach participants in co-curricular activities.

Scheuerman Family Fund*

Supports educational programs and projects initiated by teachers who are in their first three years of teaching in the Appleton Area School District.

Charitable Funds

Tim Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides post-secondary scholarships for graduating seniors from Appleton East High School.

Thomas G. Scullen Leadership Award Fund

Established in honor of Dr. Thomas G. Scullen to support an annual award for an individual residing in the Fox Cities who is recognized for exceptional leadership in the field of education.

Dan Spalding Academy Endowment Fund

Supports enhancements of the educational experience for at-risk youth who attend the Dan Spalding Academy program.

Forrest and Roberta Sprowl Fund+

Will support the Appleton Education Foundation's unrestricted grantmaking, with special preference for projects or programs at Madison Middle School.

Vira and Alan Stoner Education Fund

Supports innovative learning opportunities for AASD students, with preference for middle and high school levels.

Talented & Gifted Fund

Supports scholarships and other special needs of the TAG program.

Valley New School Fund

Provides general support for the programs of the Valley New School Charter School.

Valley New School Scholarship Fund+

Will support post-secondary scholarships for graduating seniors from Valley New School.

WCA Thomas Scullen Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for Wisconsin Connections Academy Charter School graduates who attended an accredited high school and plan to pursue a degree at an accredited university, technical college or trade school.

Charitable Funds

Brad Wiese Family Fund for Literary Arts

Supports programs and projects that enhance the literary arts for students attending Madison Middle School.

Pass-Through Funds

Appleton East Library Campaign Fund

Established to support improvements to the furnishings, materials and equipment, and expansion of the physical space of the Appleton East High School library.

Appleton East H.S. Patriot Athletic Club Improvement Fund

Supports the athletic facilities and programs of Appleton East High School.

Appleton Public Montessori General Fund

Supports educational enhancements for students attending Appleton Public Montessori Charter School.

Appleton West-Addition to Tradition Fund

Established with an initial gift from the West High School Terror Backers to support athletic facilities improvements at Appleton West High School.

Appleton West High School Class of '45 Fund

Provides annual Academic Achievement Awards for students at Appleton West High School.

Appleton Youth Education Initiative Fund

Supports programs or projects that help to prepare AASD high school students for the challenges of higher education and the transition into adult life.

B.G. Society Fund

Provides financial assistance for low-income students attending Appleton West High School to help them participate in school activities.

* Indicates new funds established July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

+ Indicates future funds

Charitable Funds

Jinny Bosser Memorial Fund

Provides assistance to low-income Appleton West High School students to help them overcome personal problems.

Pete Carlson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides art scholarships to graduating seniors of Appleton West High School.

Diversity Fund

Provides funding for programs that support diversity within the Appleton Area School District.

Early Childhood Fund

Promotes common knowledge of brain research and development to stimulate Birth to Five early childhood activity within the Appleton Area School District and the community.

EMMA Nobel Education Fund

Provides opportunities for area students, educators and community members to learn from the world's foremost scholars and researchers.

Ferber Elementary School Compassion Fund

Supports programs and projects that enrich the learning experience for students attending Ferber Elementary School and provides supplies or other basic needs items for at-risk students.

Fund '59

Established by Appleton West High School's Class of 1959 to support projects and programs at Appleton West.

Horizons Elementary "Reading is a Gift" Fund*

Supports a book give-away program for students at Horizons Elementary School, so that each student, regardless of income, receives one new book each year.

* Indicates new funds established July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

+ Indicates future funds

Charitable Funds



Jeff Steers, Appleton North High School Class of 2015
Dave Hussey Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Dave Hussey Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides an annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior, rotating yearly among Appleton East, West and North high schools.

Friends of Johnston School Fund

Provides funding to enhance the classroom experience for students at Johnston Elementary School.



Students from Johnston Elementary attended the Foundation's spring retiree luncheon to share how they brought speedstacking to their school with the help of AEF grant funds.

Here, a student gives Appleton Area School District retirees an up-close demonstration.

Charitable Funds

Friends of Madison Middle School Fund

Enhances the educational experience for students at Madison Middle School.

Tim Meyer Memorial Fund

Provides equipment or other materials for the Technical Education Department at Appleton West High School.

Mile of Music Fund

Established to support teacher-driven ideas to enhance musical opportunities for Appleton Area School District students.

Money Smarts Summer School Program Fund

Supports curriculum development and materials for the district's Money Smarts Summer School program.

NEW Apple Corps Robotics Team Fund

Supports needs of the district's robotics team, including materials or equipment for building robots, and other team-related expenses.

Opportunity Fund

Supports the overall ability of the Appleton Education Foundation to do its work in managing charitable funds, assisting with grant requests and fulfilling other administrative and development functions.

PAC Student Support Fund

Supports the attendance of Fox Valley-area elementary school children at performances at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

Patriot Athletic Club Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for graduating seniors at Appleton East High School.

Albert & Mary Rhoades Scholarship Fund for Appleton East High School

Provides post-secondary scholarships to Appleton East High School graduates.

Charitable Funds

Albert & Mary Rhoades Scholarship Fund for Appleton North High School

Provides post-secondary scholarships to Appleton North High School graduates.

Seeds for Learning Fund

Established in memory of Jane Garvey to provide extra-curricular opportunities for at-risk students who attend Jefferson Elementary School.

Teacher Idea Exchange Fund

Funds sessions for Appleton's public and parochial school teachers to share best practice ideas with one another in a comfortable, relaxed setting.

Tesla Engineering Education Fund

Supports equipment and materials for programs and projects that enhance the educational experience for students attending Tesla Engineering Charter School.

United for Success Reading Tutor Fund

Used to fund efforts of volunteer reading tutors in Appleton Area School District elementary schools.

Wisconsin Assessment Consortium Fund

Supports trainings and other activities focused on specific aspects and issues related to student assessment.

* Indicates new funds established July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

+ Indicates future funds

A background pattern of stylized, overlapping leaves in various shades of green, ranging from light to dark, creating a textured, organic feel.

GRANTS AWARDED

In the past fiscal year, the Appleton Education Foundation awarded more than \$240,000 in grants to support the following classroom and community projects, educator training, student scholarships and program enhancements not covered by the Appleton Area School District budget.

Grants are from the Appleton Education Foundation Fund – an unrestricted endowment fund – unless otherwise noted.

Appleton Area School District

AEF grant funding supported a district-wide program based on the book *A Long Walk to Water*. Books and activities for all grade levels were designed to increase student understanding of water issues around the world. In-person visits with author Linda Sue Park helped students gain a deeper appreciation of the book's topic and the writing process.

AEF funding supported a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Exhibit at UW-Fox Valley: small problems/Big Trouble. AASD high school art and science students paired up to create art pieces and scientific text panels focused on environmental and climate issues. This mirrored a collaborative exhibit between UW-Fox Valley painter Judith Waller and American Meteorology Society education director James A. Brey.



More than 100 AASD middle and high school students attended WE Day in Chicago. Celebrities including Selena Gomez participated in the event designed to encourage young people to make a difference.

Grants Awarded

Appleton Area School District (continued)



While in Appleton for presentations about A Long Walk to Water, author Linda Sue Park spent time with AEF board and Club 365 members during a social gathering at Copper Rock Coffee Company.

A grant from the Alan and Vira Stoner Education Fund supported the attendance of more than 100 AASD middle and high school students at WE Day Chicago. WE Day presents a full day of inspirational speakers and performers and is designed to help young people find their passion and then act to improve their community and world.

Grant funding from the Betsy Melzer Endowment Fund was used to purchase aeromat discs for use in AASD's early childhood classrooms. The discs are air filled, soft cushions. Their use can be calming and regulating for the brain and nervous system, which is expected to help children who have difficulty focusing on school tasks.

Appleton Bilingual Charter School

AEF grant funding helped students learn about the lives and culture of students in El Salvador.

Appleton Public Montessori Charter School

AEF funded enhancements to a student-run bakery where sixth-graders learn about baking and team work, and gain business-related skills.

Berry Elementary School

A grant from the Betsy Melzer Endowment Fund supported a new reading program for students with disabilities.

AEF funding brought in singer and songwriter Randy Peterson for a week-long residency. Peterson taught students about creative writing and musical performance, and focused on the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) initiatives.

Columbus Elementary School

AEF supported expenses related to MinecraftEdu, a program built specifically to help teach students about online privacy and safety, as well as online ethics and etiquette.

Grants Awarded

Columbus Elementary School (continued)

Funds from AEF were used to create literacy centers in the library. Centers offer a kinesthetic way for students to learn about literacy. They feature magnetic poetry, Lego sentence building kits, magnetic crosswords and an audio book listening area.

A grant from the Connie Pitt Memorial Endowment Fund was used to purchase a social skills curriculum that combines social skills lessons with movement breaks designed to improve core strength. Some research suggests improved core strength helps increase reading levels.

Community Early Learning Center of the Fox Valley

Grants from the Appleton Education Foundation Fund and Elementary Education Fund positioned AEF as one of the founding donors of this new center, which is home to the Appleton Area School District's 4K program and diagnostic center, as well as other agencies and programs serving young children.

East High School

AEF supported expenses of bringing East alumna Michelle Seipel to work with choral students in the classroom and to perform with them at a school concert. Seipel is a New York City-based performing artist.

A grant from the Bob and Gerri Heffron Family Endowment Fund purchased Android tablets and accessories to increase independent reading among struggling readers. With the new equipment students can read and listen to the book simultaneously.

Edison Elementary School

Funding from the Appleton Education Foundation Fund and Connie Pitt Endowment Fund supported the purchase of hokki stools for an early childhood classroom. The stools provide the core strengthening and movement benefits of a stability ball without the bouncing and rolling. This is a pilot effort and data will be gathered to learn whether or not use of the stools improves students' time on task and other factors.

Einstein Middle School

Grant funds will help pay for a guest artist and supplies for students to create a story, depict the story in clay tiles, create and glaze the tiles, and then install the work in the school's recently renovated LMC.

Grants Awarded

Foster Elementary Charter School

Support from the Paul E. Hoffman Fund for Foster Elementary School was used to purchase new curricular materials.

Fox River Academy Charter School

AEF funding was used to purchase special tool kits for use by students on bi-weekly environmental field trips.

Franklin Elementary School

Funds from the Hazel Pope Franklin School Fund provided support for various school programs and projects.

AEF grant funding was used to purchase the Expanding Expression Tool, a mnemonic device that uses visual and tactile manipulatives to help students build their oral and written language skills.

Highlands Elementary School

AEF funds support the school's Community Day, which celebrates diversity through a day of educational activities and a keynote speaker.

A grant from the Betsy Melzer Endowment Fund was used to purchase an iPad for exclusive use by the speech-language program.

Houdini Elementary School

AEF grant support helped bring drummers from Lawrence University to school for a drumming demonstration.

Huntley Elementary School

AEF funding helped implement the Recess Buddies program. Students in fifth and sixth grades put leadership skills into practice as they modeled positive social play and helped teach games to students in Kindergarten through fourth grades.



The Lawrence University Percussion Ensemble visited Houdini Elementary School to demonstrate music and dance unique to other cultures.

Grants Awarded

Jefferson Elementary School

Funding from the Appleton Education Foundation Fund and the Bob and Gerri Heffron Endowment Fund supported a new intervention program to benefit students with speech and language impairments.

Kaleidoscope Academy Charter School

Grants from the Appleton Education Foundation Fund and Co-Curricular Endowment Fund supported expenses related to several basketball clinics led by student athletes from Appleton North, West and East high schools who worked with area students with special needs.

Madison Middle School

AEF funds helped to cover expenses related to a space exploration project. This multi-disciplinary project had students working in teams to gather information and use language arts, math and problem solving skills to write the history and constitution for a newly discovered planet. Student groups used Fox Valley Technical College's Fab Lab to design an acrylic robot to explore the new planet.

AEF grant funding brought Cory Etchberger to Appleton to share the story of his father, a Vietnam War hero who posthumously received the Medal of Honor. Etchberger's story helped students at Madison and Einstein middle schools and Appleton East High School learn more about the sacrifices others have endured for their freedom.

Grants from the Brad Wiese Family Fund for Literary Arts supported a Mockingjay trivia contest and associated field trip, as well as a Dr. Seuss-focused fieldtrip and creative writing workshop at the Trout Museum.

McKinley Elementary School

AEF funds helped purchase a portable amplification system for use in a fourth-grade classroom and for school assemblies. The school's diverse student population, including many students who are learning English, will benefit from the increased volume of teacher voices.

Grants from the Bob and Gerri Heffron and Betsy Melzer endowment funds helped provide a variety of tools for use by students with sensory processing or modulation needs.

Grants Awarded

McKinley Elementary School (continued)

McKinley Elementary, Roosevelt Middle and Appleton North High – A grant from the Diversity Fund supported a field trip for new-to-the-country students and their parents. Students learned science, social studies, history and foundational language lessons before their trip to High Cliff State Park. The visit provided an experience to practice these skills in an authentic environment, while also bringing parents, the schools and community together.

North High School

Grant funds were used to purchase recently published science titles as literature choices for students in science classes. The books themselves, along with literature circles, allowed students to learn more about topics that interest them.

A grant from the Erik J. Lang North High Business Education Fund supported student participation in business-related events and activities.

Richmond Elementary School

AEF funds were used to purchase three levels of Word Warm-ups, a program that gives struggling readers a way to practice decoding words and using phonics skills.

Dan Spalding Academy

A grant from the Dan Spalding Academy Endowment Fund supported educational enhancements for at-risk youth attending the Dan Spalding Academy program.



AEF board member Tom Mangold delivered a grant check to Teri Fechter at Richmond Elementary School.

Grants Awarded

West High School

Grant funds from the Betsy Melzer Endowment Fund allowed juniors in a special education language arts class to attend a performance of *The Great Gatsby* at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

A grant from the Gerald E. Hoffman Memorial Fund provided general support of the arts.

Grants from the Appleton West High School Endowment Fund, the AWHs Class of 1941 Fund and the Appleton West High School Historical Fund provided support for a variety of creative educational enhancements at the school.

Grants from the Co-Curricular Endowment will fund the Coach's Academy Series, professional development for coaches, as well as a full day workshop by Craig Hillier to help develop student leaders.

Wilson Middle School and Roosevelt Middle School

AEF funding was used to purchase high-interest books, chosen by students, for use in a summer reading program designed to combat summer reading loss. Students applied to be in the program and were matched with reading mentors (teachers volunteering their time) who engaged them in book discussion and reflections.

Scholarship Grants

A number of AEF funds provided continuing education scholarships for graduates of Appleton high schools.

Appleton East High School Patriot Athletic Club Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for East High School seniors who have participated in Patriot Athletic Club-sponsored activities and are planning to pursue post-secondary education.

2015 Recipients: Gabe Heindel, Bridget Metcalf, Aaron VanDeurzen, Natalie West

Gene Britton Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a scholarship for a graduating Appleton East, North or West high school senior who attended Einstein Middle School and plans to become an educator.

2015 Recipient: Eliza Staszak

Grants Awarded

Pete Carlson Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a scholarship to a West High School graduate with special interest and ability to pursue a college art degree.

2015 Recipient: Reuben Reese

Thomas Haag – AEHS Class of '79 Scholarship Fund

Provides a scholarship to an East High School graduate who participated in a sports activity and who has faced and overcome a personal challenge.

2015 Recipient: Bridget Metcalf

Earl W. Harder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides a scholarship to a West High School graduate who plans to pursue a degree in business.

2015 Recipient: Madison Andropolis

Columbus Elementary School-Fred Hoffman Memorial Endowment Fund

Awards a scholarship to an Appleton Area School District student who attended Columbus Elementary School during his or her elementary years.

2015 Recipient: Kong Meng Ziong

Dave Hussey Memorial Fund

Provides a scholarship to a graduating, college-bound senior. The award rotates annually among Appleton East, West and North high schools.

2015 Recipient: Jeff Steers

Albert & Mary Rhoades Museum and Charitable Foundation Scholarship Funds

Awards scholarships to graduates from Appleton high schools who plan to pursue undergraduate degrees in the arts, humanities, religious studies, education and select social sciences.

2015 Recipients: Emily Madalinski, Allison Vaughn

Tim Schroeder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for graduating Appleton East High School seniors who have participated in school athletics and plan to pursue post-secondary education.

2015 Recipients: Allison Kierzek, Noah Schumerth

Grants Awarded

Valley New School Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for graduating seniors at Valley New School Charter School.

2015 Recipient: Jasper Farin

WCA Thomas Scullen Memorial Scholarship Fund

Provides scholarships for graduates of Wisconsin Connections Academy Charter School who attended an accredited high school and plan to pursue a degree at an accredited university, technical college or trade school.

2015 Recipient: Marissa Hanson

Professional Development Grants

The Appleton Education Foundation recognizes the importance of ongoing education. Professional Development grants bring speakers into the Appleton Area School District to address staff members on topics of interest.

AEF funding supported the Appleton Area School District's Positively Educating Healthy Kids Summer Institute.

An AEF grant supports the Appleton Area School District's efforts to develop an in-house staff trainer to help classroom teachers better identify and meet the learning needs of their students who are struggling in math.

Pass-Through Grants

Funds also were awarded in the form of pass-through grants (money donated and then immediately granted out) to support the following projects and programs:

Appleton Area School District

Sixteen AASD schools represented at the 2015 golf event, the AEF Knowledge Open, received unrestricted grants from the Foundation. Schools used the funds to upgrade instructional technology, provide additional leveled reading materials, offer staff development and provide support for other programs and activities above and beyond what the site budgets can support.

Grants Awarded

Appleton Area School District (continued)

The PAC Student Support Fund made it possible for Fox Valley-area elementary school children to attend performances at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.

Funding from the NEW Apple Corps Robotics Team Fund helped offset expenses of the district's robotics team, including materials and equipment for building robots, and team-related expenses.

The 2015 AEF Community Education Program was possible, thanks to support from donors through AEF's Early Childhood Fund.

Support from the EMMA Nobel Education Fund gave high school and college students and teachers from the Appleton Area School District, Xavier and Fox Valley Lutheran high schools, Fox Valley Technical College, Lawrence University, and UW-Fox Valley, as well as other community members, the opportunity to attend the 2015 Nobel Conference together to learn from the world's foremost scholars and researchers.

Appleton Public Montessori School

Grants from the Appleton Public Montessori General Fund supported educational enhancements at the school.

East High School

Funds supported the school's a cappella group – the Insongnicacs – trip to compete at the International Championships of High School A Cappella Finals in New York City.

Edison Elementary School

Donor-designated funds were used to purchase guitars and accessories.

Ferber Elementary School

The Ferber Elementary School Compassion Fund supported school projects and programs and provided basic needs items for at-risk students.

Franklin Elementary School

Donor-designated funds supported general needs at the school.

Huntley Elementary School

Donor-designated funds supported enhancements to the school's playground.

Grants Awarded

Jefferson Elementary School

Support from the Seeds for Learning Fund helped at-risk students participate in extra-curricular activities, including basketball and dance.

Pass-through funding also supported the school's IMPACT program. IMPACT stands for: Increasing student achievement through Music, Physical activity/fitness/Arts/performances, Care of self and others, and Technology/creative writing.

Johnston Elementary School

Support from the Friends of Johnston School Fund provided a variety of reusable educational resources for school classrooms.

Madison Middle School

A grant from the Friends of Madison middle school fund supported general needs at the school.

Odyssey Elementary Charter School

Donor-designated funds supported general needs at the school.

Tesla Engineering Charter School

Support from the Tesla Engineering Education Fund supported needs at the school.

Valley New School

Grants from the Valley New School Fund supported the school's programs and operations.

Appleton West High School

Support from the B.G. Society Fund provided financial assistance for low-income students to participate in school activities.

Funding from the Jinny Bosser Memorial Fund helped offset expenses for low-income students to participate in band.



OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, nearly 750 donors contributed to the Appleton Education Foundation. Some gifts established new charitable funds, while others were added to existing funds or were made in memory or in honor of a loved one. We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following donors for their generous gifts during the year.

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IN TRIBUTE

Making a donation to the Appleton Education Foundation is a meaningful way to honor or remember the people who have made a difference in your life.

Honorariums

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, the Foundation received gifts in honor of the following people:

John and Sally Mielke

Sharon Radke

Paula Sween

Student Services &
Special Education Staff

Memorials

Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015, the Foundation received gifts in memory of the following people:

Tyler Baseman

Jerry Boettcher

Kay Chicquette

Jane Garvey

Bill Hartling

Dave Hash

Amy Jahn

Gloria Johnson

Don Laedtke

Erik Lang

Tom Loveall

Gerald McDermot

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bde	Board Development Committee	rde	Resource Development Committee
com	Communications Committee	ret	AASD Retiree Committee
exe	Executive Committee	*	Chair
glf	Golf Outing Committee		

Financials

Statement of Financial Position - June 30, 2015

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$316,902
Contributions Receivable	\$5,810
Investments.....	\$2,628,487
Property and Equipment, Net.....	\$2,502,805
Capital Lease Receivable.....	\$398,643
Other Assets.....	\$14,505

Total Assets\$5,867,152

Liabilities and Net Assets

Note Payable.....	\$105,599
Capital Lease Obligation	\$86,225
Other Liabilities.....	\$93,962
Deferred Interest Income	\$3,539

Total Liabilities\$289,325

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$5,572,017
Temporarily Restricted	\$5,810

Total Net Assets.....\$5,577,827

Total Liabilities and Net Assets\$5,867,152

This is a summarized financial statement presentation. The Appleton Education Foundation is a Supporting Organization of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. A complete audited financial statement of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and Supporting Organizations is available upon request.

Auditors: Schenck SC

Statement of Activities - Year Ended June 30, 2015

Support and Other Revenue

Contributions	\$462,926
Gain (Loss) on Investments	\$76,392
Winagamie Income	\$682,947
Investment Income	\$53,385
Total Support and Other Revenue	\$1,275,650

Grants and Expenses

Grants Expense	\$237,791
Other Program Related Expenses	\$159,113
Management and General	
Investment Manager Fees	\$21,927
Administrative Expenses	\$86,947
Winagamie Expenses	\$807,379
Fundraising Expenses	\$71,918
Total Grants and Expenses	\$1,385,075
Change in Net Assets	\$(109,425)

Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$5,687,252
End of Year	\$5,577,827



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Email: jkrause@cfoxvalley.org

Website: www.appletoneducationfoundation.org