



HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
— FOUNDATION —

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# Momentum

*Funding Imagination. Impacting Education.*



FALL/WINTER  
2006

### *Upcoming Events*

- Foundation Gala – March 31, 2007
- Spring 2007 Grant Application Deadline – April 16, 2007
- Grant Winners Announced – May 2007

For more information, or to apply online, go to [www.hastingspsf.org](http://www.hastingspsf.org).

### *New on the Web Site*

As news and events are announced, we will post them on the Foundation web site, [www.hastingspsf.org](http://www.hastingspsf.org). Also, in the coming weeks, look for 2007 Gala details, including information on live and silent auction items.



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# Gala 2007

## Save the Date

Please set aside the evening of  
**Saturday, March 31, 2007**  
for a very special event.

Plan to join us for "An Uncommon Gathering."

Location: Hastings High School Commons Area  
200 General Sieben Drive – Hastings, MN

Join featured guest Ben Utecht and his wife, Karyn, as we gather with old friends, and welcome new ones, for an evening of fine dining and spectacular entertainment.

Invitations will be sent out in February. In the coming weeks, look for more information on the Foundation web site, [www.hastingspsf.org](http://www.hastingspsf.org).



### *Letter From the President*

*Funding Imagination. Impacting Education.* In a nutshell, our tagline tells it all. It spells out what the mission of the Foundation is.

In the early years, our focus was on raising the funds needed for the initial endowment. Upon reaching that first goal of one million dollars, our attention turned to awarding grants from the earnings that will have long-term impact on the educational experience for students and teachers. It really is a two-pronged effort – raising funds and distributing funds. One feeds the other. As the grant requests continue to grow in numbers and dollar amounts, we need to continue to add to the endowment fund. More money invested reaps more money to award to innovative learning opportunities.

Having just finished the fall round of grant awards, we sense the increasing interest and excitement from teachers and students. This fuels our desire to more completely fulfill our mission by continuing to raise funds and award grants.

We are very excited to announce our next gala fundraiser – scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2007. An Uncommon Gathering will be held in the Hastings High School Commons and will feature Ben and Karyn Utecht, as well as others. Bringing back local talent –

products of our school system – is really a fulfillment of what the Foundation is all about. As your donations provide innovative learning opportunities, the students who gain from those will continue to grow and produce the fruit of the efforts we make on their behalf.

Ben's successful high school career – in academics, athletics, and the arts – led him to the University of Minnesota and now into the ranks of pro football with the Indianapolis Colts. His wife Karyn, Miss Minnesota 2005 and a gifted pianist, is also an accomplished athlete having competed with the U of M golf team. Ben has performed vocally for two United States presidents and at numerous professional sporting events. If you attend the gala, he will perform for YOU!

Please watch for your personal invitation. As the date approaches, our website will provide more details about the evening and the stars coming back to showcase their achievements. We look forward to another great time of gathering with old friends and welcoming new ones. There will be friendship and laughter as we together continue our work to *Fund Innovation and Impact Education*.

**Sharon Avent**  
President

### *Foundation is Honored with Building Bridges Award*

On May 17, the Hastings Public Schools Foundation received the Building Bridges, Building Futures award from District 200 and Superintendent Tim Collins. It is not given on an annual basis, but rather at the discretion of the Superintendent. Having only been awarded three other times, the Foundation was thrilled with the honor!

The award – first presented to Sharon Avent, the current HPSF president – was created in 2001 to honor individuals or organizations based on the following criteria: Vision, Commitment, Financial Commitment, Caring Attitude Toward Others, Leaving a Legacy, Giving Back to Others, Creating Enthusiasm and Vision in Others, and Allowing Others to Dream. On behalf of all the dedicated volunteers who have made the Foundation dream a reality, the Foundation board was very, very pleased to accept the Building Bridges, Building Futures award.

We thank the donors who share our vision for innovation and greater learning opportunities in our schools. We also thank the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make our shared dreams a reality, allowing us to be energized to continue our work so that teachers may dream bigger and students have unique and memorable learning opportunities.

Our community has something very special to be proud of. Together we have created an impressive fund that is impacting students in more ways than we can even imagine.

Our thanks to Superintendent Tim Collins for his unwavering support of the Foundation and the recognition he has bestowed upon it. We will work hard to continue to earn this Building Bridges, Building Futures award.

# Around Town



# News & Notes

## Foundation Fever

The Hastings business community is catching foundation fever! Two local businesses generously ran promotions that generated dollars that were donated to the Foundation endowment.

## Driving Donations

Doug Erickson and his team from Hastings Ford and Hastings Chrysler held an "off-site" sale at the parking lot of Westview Center. With every vehicle sold, \$50 was donated to the Foundation. At the end of the sale, Doug and his crew presented the Foundation with a \$5,000 check!

In a Letter to the Editor that appeared in the Hastings Star Gazette, Doug wrote, "History suggests the definition of marketplace is the coming together of government, education and business. In this case I truly believe that is what happened. I can honestly say it is a lot of fun to own a business in a

community that comes together to help with the success of its marketplace."

## Sweet Reward

When the rest of Hastings was trying to find air conditioned buildings in the heat of July, Patty Zuzek-Ryman decided she would rather stay outside and sell Schwan's ice cream to Rivertown Days' attendees with all proceeds benefiting the Foundation. Patty found a team of willing volunteers to help in this endeavor and ice cream was served with smiles throughout Rivertown Days. The team had a successful two-day run and is looking forward to selling even more ice cream treats next July.

Whether you bought a car or an ice cream treat, HPSF sincerely thanks all of you who supported the Foundation and our enthusiastic local business partners.

## Foundation Grant Helps Preserve Local Sand Prairie

There is less than 1 percent of native prairie remaining in Minnesota. An area known as the Sand Coulee – located just outside of Hastings – is part of that 1 percent. Unfortunately, this sand prairie and its storm water detention pond are suffering health-wise.

But thanks to a grant from the Hastings Public Schools Foundation, and the interaction of several other organizations, efforts are underway to nurse the prairie and the pond back to health.

Three years ago, the Hastings Wetland Health Evaluation Team began monitoring the storm water detention pond located in the coulee. On walks down to the pond, the team started realizing an amazing amount of spotted knapweed that had started to infiltrate the area. This competitive non-native plant has managed to invade large areas of the prairie surrounding the pond. The team's monitoring efforts told them that the pond needed help.

The mucky, almost slippery bottom, the prevalence of Erpobdella leeches, and a host of weedy plant species indicated a very low level of health. The grant money has thankfully enabled dreams of restoration and turned them into reality.

During the Fall of 2005, Hastings High School students in Joe Beattie's field biology class started working with restoration ecologist Karen Schik from Friends of the Mississippi River. Karen helped the students design a management plan for the pond and collect native seed from the coulee.

Over the Winter of 2005, the students germinated the seed in preparation for planting. A mixed group of students, City of Hastings employees, and Friends of the Mississippi River biologists convened in Spring of 2006 to put in wetland plants along the perimeter of the pond.

During the hot summer months, local citizens pulled spotted knapweed from the area at a special volunteer event that the Friends of the Mississippi River hosted. The project came to fruition in Fall of 2006 when students put in their prairie plants earlier germinated from seed.

Students have gained in so many ways through this project. They brushed up on plant identification, worked with field professionals, learned about the science of restoration ecology, worked in collaboration with others and did something great for their community.

This very worthy project could not have taken place without the funding from the HPSF. For that, everyone involved is very appreciative. Perhaps one day you will take a walk in the coulee. Take note of the efforts to control spotted knapweed, enjoy the wetland plants beginning to flourish and let the long prairie grasses brush your legs.



### At Work

Local citizens pulling spotted knapweed from the area at a special volunteer event this past summer.

## Grants at Work Fall 2006 winners highlighted in blue.

### Christa McAuliffe Elementary School

- Hastings Reads, Allen Saunders – \$3200
- The Magic of the SMART Board in a Primary Classroom, Lynette Wayne – \$1489
- A Holiday Tradition, Marilyn Tennesen – \$120
- Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat, Dennis Rickert – \$2075
- Guided Reading Books and Literacy Center Materials, Julie Malm – \$350
- Reading Theme: "In the Wild," John Kost – \$425.88
- Guided Reading Resource Library, Nancy Danneker – \$2500
- Parent/School Staff Collaboration for Augmentative Communication, Dayna Strand – \$3000
- Early Intervention: Read, Write and Type, Melissa Jensen – \$1250

### Hastings High School

- I Wish Their Voice Was Heard, Jan Hanson – \$960
- "Body Worlds" Field Trip to the Science Museum, Stephanie Jones – \$5000
- Becoming "Math Smart" With the Interactive Smartboard, Jarl Olson – \$1489
- Scrapbooking: Glimpses of My Life, Heidi Revels – \$300
- Let's Read to Write Part 2 (Vamos a Leer para Escribir Parte 2), Rochelle Nielsen – \$590
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome & Effect, Rosemary Tarnowski – \$550
- Building Kaleidoscopes (Plane and Solid Geometry), Cindy Oppold – \$601.25
- Celebrating Diversity thru National Hispanic Heritage Month, Tim Hasty-Bambenek – \$1080
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect, Rosemary Tarnowski – \$500
- Link Crew "Student-to-Student" Transition Program, Mike Johnson – \$5000
- S.E.E.D. for Youth (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), Katy Linné – \$4981.50
- Multimedia in the High School Science Department, Cynthia Benson – \$1568
- Let's Read to Write (Vamos a Leer para Escribir), Rochelle Nielsen – \$556
- Sand Coulee Restoration Project, Joe Beattie – \$3650
- Literature Circles as a Method to Engage Struggling Readers, Dawn Sahouani – \$400
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Effect, Rosemary Tarnowski – \$520
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Rosemary Tarnowski – \$1100
- Multimedia in the High School Science Department, Cynthia Benson – \$1325
- Accelerated Math Program, Laura Zabel – \$4600
- France Comes to Hastings HS thru Music, Brian Drummond – \$1675
- Bringing the World into the Social Studies, Scott Smallidge – \$2550

### Hastings Middle School

- Gadgeteer Geography, Christy Warner – \$2298
- Dance Dance Revolution, Rebecca Hartung – \$5000
- Dynamic Display = Meaningful Math, Ellie Lundstrom – \$1171.69
- LeDuc Heritage, Jean Johnson – \$384.40
- Middle School Math Success, Kim Rotty – \$5000
- Web Site: "Language Connection," Patricia Rebarchik – \$4955
- Dallas Brass Professional Bass Quartet, Katherine Warren – \$5000
- Tablet Technology Dynamic Math, Lori Best – \$2197
- Digital Cameras All Around, Mark Cernohous – \$4420
- No More Art in the Dark!, Jeanne Mamer – \$2849.55
- OASIS After School Program, George Mithsulis – \$2058.45

### John F. Kennedy Elementary School

- Talking Suitcases, Jodi Glazier – \$699.76
- Talking Suitcases, Jodi Glazier – \$4205
- Audio Library, Kelly Hagen – \$3088.91

### Pinecrest Elementary School

- iPod Listening Project: Phase 2, Michael Fridgen – \$3594
- Literature Circles, Julie Lindquist-Peine – \$1000
- Classroom Posters for Violence Prevention, Beth Nelson – \$214
- iPod Listening Project, Michael Fridgen – \$3435
- Climbing Wall, Gay Wilker – \$5000

### Tilden Kindergarten and Early Childhood Center

- Guided Reading Kits, Kim Smidt – \$1625

### Hastings Community Education & Area Learning Center

- Developing Readers by Providing Engaging Books, Kathryn Wojtalewicz – \$341
- Early Learning Math and Literacy, Michelle Thompson – \$1320

### Tilden, Kennedy, Christa McAuliffe & Pinecrest Elementaries

- Someone in My Class has Asthma, Diabetes, Food Allergy or Seizures – What Do I Need to Know?, Anne Conklin – \$500

## How to Donate

The HPSF continues to grow due to efforts such as these. If you have a project in mind that could benefit the Foundation, please call the HPSF office at 651-480-4989 to share your ideas. We anxiously await the opportunity to welcome you to the team!

If you want to make a monetary donation, please complete and return the attached donation reply envelope, or fill out the donation form at right and drop it in the mail. Thank you!

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  VISA  MC  Check

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (ie: 00 / 00)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation Form

I wish to make a donation to the Hastings Public Schools Foundation in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_