



## THANK YOU

Thank you for your support of the Education Foundation. Your support has benefited me and my students tremendously. Through the Education Foundation, I was awarded a Classroom Grant the last two years for a project called, "Greenhouse Groceries for Kids." The primary goal of this project is to help students build an understanding of and respect for taking something small and helping it grow into something useful. The garden has become a hands-on learning center for my students in the math, science, and social skills curriculum areas. The garden directly compliments the individual needs and learning experiences for my students in the Life Skills program. Through the Foundation's Partners in Education program, GE Capital volunteers cleaned up and prepared the courtyard areas at Washington Elementary for us to use. Thank you for your gift to my students and my classroom. Please consider giving a gift again this year to the Education Foundation to support classroom innovation and student achievement.

*Kathy Wilkinson*

Intermediate Life Skills, Washington Elementary



FALL/WINTER 2013

*The Education Foundation believes in and stands for:*

- Excellence in public education
- Integrity among our board, staff, & donors
- Innovation in the classroom among teachers & students
- Professionalism at all times
- Passion for learning & teaching

# EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*Creating Opportunities for Student Success*

THE MISSION OF THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.

## HELPING EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS ACHIEVE AND SUCCEED

We can all remember back to our favorite teacher. The one who made learning fun, connected us with ideas and possibilities never imagined, and made a lasting impression on us. The Education Foundation believes that directly supporting our teachers is one of the best ways to help students achieve and succeed. Classroom Grants are designed to meet the following goals.

Increase student engagement, motivation, and exposure to new concepts and ideas.

Create opportunities to allow all students to reach their full potential through enriched learning environments.

Strengthen teaching tools and strategies in core academic subjects, including the arts.

Encourage collaboration and professional development among teachers.

Increase parent and community involvement in our schools.

The Classroom Grants awarded in 2013 demonstrated innovation, creativity, and applicability to the classroom. Classroom Grant recipients receive new technology, as well as supplemental literacy, writing, and math materials for use in the classroom to reach students of all learning abilities and styles. Classroom Grants also provides funding for art and music programs that benefit students in elementary through high school.

## CLASSROOM GRANTS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MY STUDENTS

This spring my Classroom Grant, "Science Water Testing", was selected as a 2013-14 Classroom Grant Award Winner. I have wanted to start a new curriculum of environmental science in my classroom and incorporate technology into student labs. The testing procedures used by my students and I didn't incorporate any current technology and were outdated by more than 10 years. I believe field experience is so important to science. By receiving this Classroom Grant my students can now perform relevant water quality testing. The students will have hands-on opportunities while learning the different components of water quality. This new technology will increase student learning and retention as they use the new Spark Monitor and other sensors to perform inquiry based labs. Not only can I use the new science equipment in my environmental science class, but also in earth science and biology classes. This Classroom Grant will be used for many years by students in my classes. The Education Foundation Grant has given my students the ability to do real world research in the class and in the field. The technology is preparing them for success in higher education and the workforce. Thank You Education Foundation!

*Eoby Hill*

Skyview H.S. Science Teacher



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FOR BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*"Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn."  
- Benjamin Franklin*

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of our individual and business supporters, the Education Foundation has directly impacted the lives of many students this year. Since our founding in 1988, the Education Foundation has strived to promote excellence and innovation in our educational system for the benefit of students and the greater community of Billings.

It is the fundamental belief of the Foundation that all children deserve a quality education to help them achieve their goals. Now more than ever, the Foundation and its donors play a critical role in the success of our students and schools. Our students are not only competing nationally for jobs, but globally. Technology is quickly changing the job skills our students will need to be successful in the workplace and life. It is our duty and obligation to ensure our students have access to the tools, knowledge, and support to prepare them for the future.

Through the continued support of generous donors like you, the Education Foundation provided a record \$90,000 in Classroom Grants this year to foster creativity and excellence in the classroom. Thousands of books were given to children to support early literacy through Reading Rocks. Our signature event, Saturday Live, continues to raise much needed dollars to benefit our schools. The Foundation's student and educator scholarships provide opportunities to improve student learning and career-building. Finally, Partners in Education continues to build relationships between community leaders and the schools.

As the Foundation continues to work with our donors, community leaders, and the schools, we see the critical needs facing our students. We must continue to work together to fund technology integration in every classroom, support the science and math curriculum, enhance social studies and the arts, and promote special needs programs.

Please read our enclosed material, visit our website, and think about how you can positively impact Billings Public Schools. Together, we can make a tremendous investment in our community's students as well as the future of Billings. Thank you for your support.

*Eric Nord*  
Board President



## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 student** can change the world
- 15 students** received support this year to attend the college of their choice
- 53 business partners** donate time and resources through Partners in Education
- 116 classroom grants** given for teaching innovation were awarded
- 212 technology teaching tools** supporting student learning were provided
- 392 volunteer hours** were given over the summer to support summer literacy
- 2,107 books** were given to students attending Reading Rocks this summer
- \$92,209** was raised at Saturday Live to benefit schools across Billings
- \$138,500** was provided by one man's legacy gift supporting student learning

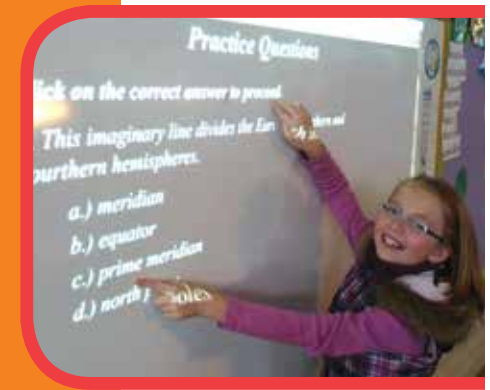
**Most importantly . . .**  
**16,453 STUDENTS WERE IMPACTED BY YOUR GIFT TO THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

## MAKE A LASTING GIFT TODAY TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE

Consider making a lasting gift to the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools. Our Endowment Funds are part of a vision to provide sustainable funding for educator classroom grants, teacher and student scholarships, and special projects that benefit Billings Public Schools students and educators. Your gift can create a new endowment fund or be added to an existing one.

Additionally, your endowment gift can provide Montana and federal tax benefits. Montana offers a generous tax credit to individuals and businesses that make qualifying contributions to our endowments. An individual can earn a 40% credit of the present value of a donation through a planned gift and businesses can earn a 20% credit for a direct gift. Most endowment gifts also qualify for a federal income tax deduction. Take advantage of the Montana Tax Credit and give a lasting gift to education.

Another way to benefit public education in Billings would be by leaving the Education Foundation a legacy gift in your will. It's easy and you will be making a permanent difference in the lives of our students. Need more information? We can help, contact the Foundation office at 245-4133.



*"We know reading is a critical skill for success in school and life so we decided to fund a program to provide summer tutoring at Newman Elementary. Results from the program have been very impressive. We were thrilled to learn that many students in the program made great gains!"* John and Jan Wheeler, Donors

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Yes! I want to support public education in Billings Public Schools.

My contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

My contribution is:  dedicated to and/or  in memory of

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Please send acknowledgment of my memorial/dedicated gift to:

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My gift will be matched by \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my employer's matching gift form. All contributions are gratefully acknowledged in our newsletter.

Please check here  if you would like your gift to remain anonymous. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

# FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

No gift immediately improves the life of a student like a scholarship. Scholarships encourages academic excellence and perseverance. Education beyond high school is critical to the quality of life for our future workforce. A scholarship can make an extraordinary difference in the health and potential of the students and community in which they live.

*"Steve and I are proud to give a student scholarship each year to suport a student who has a passion for music. By providing a deserving student a scholarship to attend college, we are investing in their future and in our future. As retired educators, we know one of the greatest gifts in life is an education and the support to continue to pursue a higher education," shared Steve & Lorrain Marsh.*

*"The Marsh Music Scholarship not only recognized my dedication to music in high school, but gave me the financial support to pursue my dream of becoming a musician," shared Lauren Reineking.*

The Education Foundation is fortunate to work with supportive donors throughout our community who provide funding to support student and educator scholarships. Scholarships held at the Education Foundation are unique to the donor's interest and wishes. We fund a variety of scholarships ranging from students pursuing a degree in music, earning a 2 year technical degree, and attending a school within Montana to name a few.

Through donor scholarships, students are not only impacted directly but also indirectly through educator scholarships. Educator scholarships are directed towards educators to receive additional training and expertise to support student learning. Often times, educators who receive educator scholarships are attending workshops presenting cutting edge teaching strategies and curriculum.

Not only does the Education Foundation work with donors to benefit graduating seniors and educators, but students currently in school. Through scholarship programs such as the Newman Tutoring program and Langlas Scholarship program, we are benefitting current students. The Newman Tutoring program provides scholarships to Newman Elementary students to receive small group tutoring after school and throughout the summer months. We have seen students who use the scholarship opportunity maintain or increase their reading proficiency, while students who don't lose up to 50% of the knowledge they gained the previous school year during the summer.



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Nick Staffileno, Billings Senior  
Mackenzie Waterson, Billings Senior  
Colton Marchwinski, Billings West  
Hayden Huff, Billings Skyview  
Kellen Wartnow, Billings Senior  
Lauren Reineking, Billings West  
Kevin Floyd, Billings West  
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Steve & Lorraine Marsh Music Scholarship  
M.A. Lambrecht Vocational Award  
Melissa Hart Weaver Inspirational Award

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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN AT SATURDAY LIVE



Despite the soggy weather prior to event day, once again the sun came out to shine on the largest school carnival in the region. Saturday Live made its 21st appearance in Pioneer Park this year, showcasing over 80 carnival games and lively entertainment throughout the day. The entire community continues to participate either as one of over 1,000 volunteers supporting the event or one of more than 10,000 carnival goers. It truly takes the entire community to make this a successful event for our public schools.

*"As educators, parents, and community members we are showing when we all gather together we can make good things happen for our kids. This is all about kids. Without Saturday Live, we would be in a world of hurt, not just our program but across the district," shared Joe Barbero, Jobs for Montana's Graduates program director.*

The highlights of the day included the many legends of Saturday Live such as the Haunted House and the Troll Bridge as well as "Da Voice" singing competition on the Main Stage. Children of all ages were heard throughout the park laughing, shrieking and singing!

School groups earned over \$95,000. Their earnings will be used to purchase classroom materials, performance uniforms, playground and school equipment, library books, technology updates, and field trips. The Education Foundation raised an additional \$48,000 from sponsorship and carnival revenues from which \$15,000 will be used for Classroom Grants. Thank you for continuing to support Saturday Live!

*"Saturday Live is our major fundraiser of the year. We are using this year's funds to help pay for new performance dresses for the girls and vests for the boys. Beyond the fundraising aspect, Saturday Live has become a tradition for Senior High students. Preparing the Haunted House for Saturday Live is a great way to kick-off the school year. Every choir student gets involved in supporting the program and has fun along the way," shared Darren Small, Senior High Choir Director.*

# READING ROCKS

Many children lose ground in reading over the summer, and begin the school year at a level lower than what they achieved the previous year. Reading Rocks seeks to reverse this trend by providing books and volunteer mentors to children in our community throughout the summer program. In its tenth year, 2,107 books were distributed and 392 volunteer hours were shared with children in our community.

*"Thank you for the opportunity. My love of reading was further fueled by the kids' enthusiasm and joy for books." Meagan McBride, Reading Rocks volunteer*

Participation is fun and an easy way for children to build a personal library. Reading Rocks is offered four days a week, for six weeks in four community parks. Guest storytellers

capture the attention of the many children participating in the program. Volunteers engage the children in reading and help them select a book to take home. The volunteers at Reading Rocks come from all parts of our community and range in age from high school students to retired senior citizens. The program is successful because of their commitment and desire to share their love of reading with children. Reading Rocks creates a fun atmosphere that puts an emphasis on the importance of reading at all age levels.

*"I always leave Reading Rocks in a great mood. Reading with the kids makes me so happy." Lorrie Niles, Reading Rocks Volunteer*

*"Thank you for providing Reading Rocks this summer. My children have built a library of books in our home they are proud of and I learned the importance of reading with my children." shared a parent of 2 toddlers.*



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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 Debt Reduction Services, Inc  
 David and Jan Dietrich  
 Earl and Darla Radonski  
 Mark and Christine Randak  
 RBC Foundation  
 Dennis and Judy Redden  
 Jane Reger  
 John and Shauna Reichelt  
 Dorothy Rimmer  
 Justin and Jennifer Rudolph  
 Keith and Nancy Rupert  
 B.J. Russell  
 Matthew and Katherine Russell  
 Cindy Sanders  
 George and Jorae Sarsten  
 Linda Saunders  
 Gayle Schanck  
 Holly Scheie  
 Steven and Nancy Schieno  
 Roy and Patricia Schoessler  
 Barry and Arlee Scott  
 Joleene Senini  
 George Simonton  
 Casey Slough  
 Gladys Smith  
 Michael Smith  
 Dr. Ron and Karin Smith  
 Linda Snider  
 Eileen Sparks  
 Robert and Bonnie Speare  
 Curtis Starr Charlotta Eaton  
 TAU Chapter Delta Cappa Gamma  
 Robert Terry  
 The Jase O Norsworthy Trust  
 Ruth Towe  
 United Way of Yellowstone County  
 Miep Van Krieken  
 Mary Vaughan  
 Fern Vonderheide  
 Patti Waddell  
 Randall and Kerri Wagner  
 Wallinder Mortgage Brokers, Inc  
 George and Jane Wallis  
 Charles Ward  
 Gene Wasia  
 Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign  
 Dana and Clarene Westburg  
 Western Security Bank Heights Branch  
 Jerry Wheeler  
 Bruce and Julie Whitworth  
 LeAnne Wickum  
 James Wiggins  
 Michele Wilcox  
 Rodney Willson  
 John Wilson  
 Rick and Lora Wingenter  
 Winterholler Dentistry  
 Charles and Patricia Wittnam  
 Kurt and Laurie Wohler  
 Women of Good Shepherd Church  
 Berry and Zanya Wood  
 Ray and Kelly Wright  
 Curt Wyss  
 Yellowstone Valley Chapter of SHRM  
 Michael and Monica Zieske

## Partners \$1000-\$4999

Allegra Printing  
 Enrico and Martha Arguelles  
 Billings Clinic  
 Billings Education Association  
 Billings Gazette  
 Billings West Rotary  
 David and Kay Brooks  
 Builders Exchange of Billings  
 Centennial Youth Foundation  
 CenturyLink  
 Cole Law Firm  
 Richard and Cheri Cox  
 Crist, Krogh & Nord LLC  
 Diamond B Companies  
 Double L, Inc  
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 EBMS  
 Exxon Foundation  
 First Interstate Bank Foundation  
 Friends of Billings Parnly Library  
 Dale and Jennifer Haarr  
 Dayle Hayes  
 Chuck Hingle  
 Dan and Arlene Holen  
 Homer & Mildred Scott Foundation  
 Hulteng CCM, Inc.  
 Huntington Learning Center  
 Janet M. Carpenter Trust  
 Royal Johnson  
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 Martin Family Foundation  
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 Midland Claims Service, Inc.  
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 Montana Assoc of Realtors  
 Optimum Communications  
 Patricia C. Remmer 1995 Charitable Trust  
 Pierce Homes and RV's  
 Pizza Hut  
 Donald and Carol Roberts  
 Scheels Sport Shops  
 Shiloh United Methodist Church  
 St. Thomas Catholic Church  
 Stillwater Mining Co.  
 Stockman Bank  
 Sysco  
 Target  
 The Sample Foundation  
 Valley Federal Credit Union  
 Vincent W. Carpenter Trust  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
 Wells for the Heights  
 Wendy's of Montana  
 Tom and Erin Zimmer

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

Best Buy  
 Bill and Anne Cole  
 Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation  
 First Interstate Bank  
 William and Liz Fulton  
 Eric and Sue Nord  
 Pepsi Cola Bottling, The Dimich Family  
 PPL Montana, LLC  
 Joan Reed Kimball  
 St. John's Lutheran Ministries/Mission Ridge  
 St. Pius X Church  
 St. Vincent Healthcare

## Principals \$10,000 & Above

Connoisseur Media  
 ExxonMobil Corporation  
 KTVQ-2  
 Phillips 66  
 Sodexo, Inc & Affiliates  
 Tom and Susan Wardell  
 Western Security Bank  
 John and Jan Wheeler

# GREAT SCHOOLS AND GREAT COMMUNITIES

Mentor, leader, volunteer, and friend are words used to describe our many community volunteers who are connected to our schools through their employer. Each day our businesses make an investment in our schools.

*"The opportunity for students at Washington Elementary to share their learning with community members is a valuable investment in our schools. GE volunteers spend time volunteering each week at our school, providing other volunteer support, and in-kind gifts to support student learning at Washington Elementary."*  
 Karen Ziegler, principal, Washington Elementary

In its eleventh year, Partners in Education (PIE) continues to grow and link together schools, students, and the community to ensure success for all students. This year PIE added several new partnerships, held the seventh annual Educator for a Day with 112 guest educators, and recognized the graduating valedictorians and business-school partners at the Salute to Education luncheon.

The purpose of PIE is to build partnerships between schools and businesses that result in school improvement, teaching excellence, student achievement, and an appreciation of common goals. The opportunities for partnerships are endless and varied. Our goal with each partnership is to meet the needs of a school by matching the resources a business is able to contribute such as classroom volunteers, funding, or supplies.

*"We are honored to be a part of the Foundation's Partners in Education (PIE) program. The employees at Altana FCU gain much more from the kids at our partner school, Boulder Elementary, than they gain from us. PIE provides enriched learning environments to our students through volunteers, in-kind and financial resources."* Heidi J. Knudson, Business Development Director, Altana Federal Credit Union

The positive involvement from those outside our schools influences our students and increases student performance as well as fosters a better understanding of our community's public schools. Our schools and classrooms are strengthened and enhanced by the expertise, involvement, and interactions between the schools, business, organizations, and individuals in our community.

Partners in Education would like to thank our current partners for creating strong bonds in our community between education and business. These connections make a direct impact on students, educators, parents, employees, and businesses.



## MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFT LISTING

### IN HONOR OF

Duane and Karen Ahlgren  
*Janna Palm*

Karen Ahlgren  
*Janna Palm*

Liam Bowyer  
*Mark and Jill Fenderson*

Mike Follett  
*Billings Clinic*

Dayle Hayes  
*Tammie Nelson*

Karen Moses  
*Judy Johnson*

Eileen Sheehy  
*University of Farmers Education Foundation*

## IN MEMORY OF

Rina B. Moog  
*Flemming and Ellen Jorgensen*

Ivey Barnes  
*Billings Education Association*

Marione Buford  
*Galusha Higgins & Galusha*

Brian and Taylor Cook  
*Jean McNally*

Brian Cook  
*Ronald and Judith Barnum*

Frank Griep  
*Dr. Chuck and Kathy Aragon*

Tammy Harris  
*Cheryl Malia McCall*

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*Larry Lynam  
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Delores Propp  
*Karen Dawson*

Dora Propp  
*Karen Dawson*

Ryan McBride (cont.)  
*Bruce and Joan Smith  
 Travis and Courtney Niemeyer  
 Joseph and Leona Roberts  
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 David and Lori Williams  
 Theresa Derudder  
 Marsha Evans  
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 Dianna Austin  
 Joseph and Laura Berens  
 Billings Education Association  
 Sandra Kucera  
 Glynn and Amanda Maddox  
 Dianne Mattila  
 Samuel Cameron  
 Walter Kinne  
 Dave Kreiter  
 Arlen and Yvonne Kammerzel*

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*Charles and Audrey Reed*

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*Jay and Stacey Lemelin*

Delores Propp  
*Karen Dawson*

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*Karen Dawson*

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*David and Jill Noell  
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 Judie Gage  
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 Michael and Jeanne Kase*

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Adelaide Stricker  
*Kenneth and Karen Hannah*

David Waddell  
*Arlin and Pam Krogstad  
 Mary Jo Grass*

Melissa Weaver  
*Tom and Kim Hauptman*

Back Pack Meals  
 Classroom Grants

Endowment Gifts  
 General Support

Partners in Education  
 Reading Rocks

Saturday Live  
 Scholarships

Technology Innovation  
 Teen Pantry