

FALL/WINTER 2014



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.

INSPIRING STUDENTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

What our students learn today, is where they take tomorrow. Today's schools need to be able to support teaching and learning, make connections for our students, and provide for an education that will prepare them for successful futures in an ever-changing world. We know that today's educators must engage new technologies, provide rigorous hands-on coursework, and foster innovation, creativity, and collaboration in the classroom.

Through the generous support of our donors, the Foundation has embarked on a journey that will directly impact our educators, students, and community in a way that will position all students to be workplace, career, and college ready. Through purposeful investments at our elementary schools in technology such as 1:1 student iPads and interactive tools, as well as educator professional development, we have seen students surpass literacy, math, and technology standards for their age. Because of these results, the Foundation is committed to working with our donors and alumni to support more classrooms in our district.

Also, the Foundation is working in close partnership with SD2 to provide funding and support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum in our schools. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that STEM jobs will grow 17 percent by 2018 and the US will have more than 1.2 million unfilled STEM jobs because of a shortage of qualified workers. By investing today in our classrooms, our students will have the needed skills to successfully compete for future jobs.

Thank you to Phillips66, ExxonMobil, SM Energy, Stillwater Mining Company, Cloud Peak Energy, and Dr. Enrico and Martha Arguelles for their investment in STEM education for our students.

DREAM BIG – EMPOWERING INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Teachers “Dream Big” when talking about their students’ futures but often times lack the needed support to bring these ideas to life. It is that spark of ingenuity, great idea, aha moment that a teacher has to improve teaching and learning for students. The Education Foundation’s belief that directly supporting our teachers is one of the best ways to help students achieve and “Dream Big”. 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 2014 Classroom Grant award recipients demonstrated innovation, creativity, and knowledge in how to improve student learning achievement and opportunities. Classroom Grant recipients received needed technology, as well as supplemental literacy, writing, and math materials for use in the classroom to reach students of different learning abilities and styles. This year’s Classroom Grant program impacted over 3,000 students in 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

Wow, what an exciting year we had! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools has directly impacted the lives and futures of many students this year. The Education Foundation began in 1988 with the mission of providing opportunities and resources to our Billings public school students.

A lot has happened since 1988, overhead projectors have been replaced by interactive touch boards, students can learn handwriting on devices that provide instant feedback and jobs, such as app developer, social media expert, and nanotechnologist will need to be filled. Now more than ever, the Foundation and our donors play an increasingly important role in our students' futures.

Through the continued support and involvement of generous donors like you, the Education Foundation invested \$675,000 in programs directly benefiting learning opportunities for our students. Classroom Grants continued to provide funds for innovative and needed resources in the classroom. Thousands of books were given to children this summer to bridge the summer reading gap at *Reading Rocks*. Continuing on with tradition, *Saturday Live* raised needed dollars for our schools. Student learning and career opportunities were made possible through investments in educator and student scholarships. Finally, Partners in Education continued to build relationships between our schools and businesses.

Understanding and seeing the need for critical improvements in science, technology, engineering, and math education for our students, the Foundation made significant strides this year in providing technology, hands-on learning tools and curriculum for our students. There is still much more to do. We must continue to work together to fund technology integration in every classroom, support science and math curriculum, enhance social studies and the arts, while continuing to invest in special needs programs. It is our obligation to ensure our students have access to the tools, knowledge, and support they need.

This annual report celebrates our 2014 successes and gratefully acknowledges the donor generosity that made them possible. Through your generosity this year, we will continue to expand and grow the direct impact we make on our students' futures. Please read the enclosed material, visit our website, and think about how you can positively impact the lives of 16,000+ students in our community. The investment we make in our classrooms today will pay huge dividends for our community in the future.

Pam Hofferber
Board President



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN AT SATURDAY LIVE



Where can the entire community come together to support our students and schools? Saturday Live, of course! Saturday Live made its 22nd appearance in Pioneer Park this year, showcasing over 80 carnival games and live entertainment throughout the day. The entire

"Billings Public School Peer Support students benefit from interacting in the community and working together. Saturday Live is a great place to be visible, practice our drug free lifestyle and have a great time! It is a perfect time of year to meet each other and work towards a common goal." –Tammy Perkins, Peer Support Counselor

Billings community continues to participate either as one of the 1,000 volunteers supporting the event or as one of the 10,000 carnival goers. It truly takes the entire community to make this event a success for our public schools.



The day kicked off again with the 8th Annual Fun Run winding around Pioneer Park. Kids and families continued the festivities

throughout the day playing games and watching non-stop live entertainment on the main stage. The highlights of the day included the many legends of Saturday Live such as the troll bridge, haunted house, dunking booth and face painting. It was a day full of laughter and fun at Saturday Live!



This year school groups raised \$100,000. These funds will go directly to support classrooms and student activities. The needs are great from library books, uniforms, and musical instruments to field trips; Saturday Live is often a school's biggest fundraiser for the year. The Education Foundation raised an additional \$46,000 from sponsorships and carnival revenues from which \$15,000 is used to support innovative ideas through the Classroom Grants program. Thank you for continuing to support Saturday Live.

READING ROCKS

Summer is the perfect time for all students to relax, but it's also a time when summer reading loss can occur. This learning loss is called the "summer slide", and happens when children do not engage in reading activities during the summer months. Reading Rocks seeks to reverse this trend by providing books and volunteer mentors to children in our community throughout the summer program. In its eleventh year, 2,072 books were distributed and 413 volunteer hours were shared with children in our community.

Reading Rocks is offered four days a week, for six weeks in five community parks. At each session, a guest storyteller captivates the attention of the many children seated on picnic blankets through a special book. Following the story, volunteers and staff engage children in selecting and reading a book. The volunteers also model positive reading habits and skills to the participating parents. The volunteers at Reading Rocks come from all parts of our community and

"It was delightful to go each week and see the children dive into the books and cherish each one they found."

– Reading Rocks Volunteer

"Not only did I gain volunteer hours for college and have something productive to do this summer, but I really enjoyed connecting with the kids and other volunteers. I definitely learned something new for myself each day."

– Reading Rocks Volunteer

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.

We are fortunate to have strong support for literacy in our community through the many volunteers, local media, as well as the grant funds of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Martin Family Foundation, Friends of Billings Parmly Library, Target Corporation, Billings West Rotary, Centennial Youth Foundation, Town Pump Foundation, and Billings Association of Realtors Quality of Life Grant.

"This program fosters to a love of reading in my children. They are excited to read the book that they chose at Reading Rocks at home and are more interested in reading library books."

– Parent



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BRIDGING CLASSROOMS, CAREERS AND COMMUNITY

"Our business partners at CTA serve as role models, mentors, and beacons of humanity as they serve our school and community year to year. They leave a lasting impact on our students' education and reach into their homes with gifts of hope and generosity."

– Travis Niemeyer, Newman Elementary Principal

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, businesses, organizations, and individuals in our community. This is the focus of Partners in Education (PIE). The Education

Foundation's goal with each PIE partnerships is to build partnerships between schools and businesses that result in school improvement, teaching excellence, student achievement, and appreciation of common community goals.

In its twelfth year, PIE continues to grow and link together schools, students, and community to provide support and opportunities for our students. This year PIE added several new partnerships, held the eighth annual Educator for a Day with 96 guest educators, and recognized our graduating valedictorians and business partners at the Salute to Education luncheon. 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, employers, and businesses.

"Partners in Education is a valuable program that gives businesses and the community insight into the challenges and successes of our school system. It also just feels good to be involved."

– Kimberly Cummins, President of Agency Operations
Farmers Insurance Group



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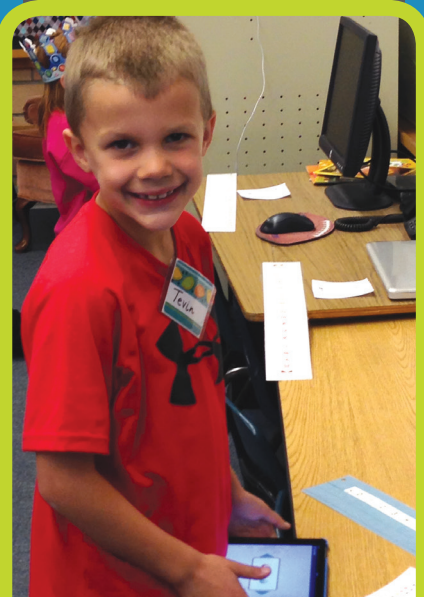
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UNLIMITED INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY – FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS FOR THE FUTURE

It's no secret that higher education – two-year, four-year, or postgraduate degrees – provide a ticket to a better life. College helps families pull out of poverty; these effects of education are felt across communities and through generations. Our scholarship donors recognize no gift immediately improves the life of a student like a scholarship.

Scholarships support continuing education to advance both students and educators. The Education Foundation is fortunate to work with supportive donors and alumni who invest in these scholarships. Scholarships held at the Education Foundation are unique to the donor's interest and wishes. We fund a variety of scholarships that support students pursuing a degree in music, earning a two year technical degree, and attending a school within Montana to name a few. The goal of donor initiated educator scholarships is to allow educators to receive additional training and expertise to support student learning.

Our donor supported scholarships are not just for graduating seniors and educators, but also for specific opportunities to benefit students currently in school. For example, 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 receive this scholarship maintain or increase their reading proficiency to better prepare them for success in the classroom.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Joseph Zimmer, Billings Senior	Cook Memorial Scholarship
Jennifer Zundel, Billings West	Dewey J. Hansen Scholarship
Wilson Brott, Billings West	Peter & Zella Yegen Scholarship
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Garett Masin, Billings Senior	Peter & Zella Yegen Scholarship
Jorion Lokken, Billings Skyview	Steve & Lorraine Marsh Music Scholarship
Gabrielle Sheneman, Billings Senior	M.A. Lambrecht Vocational Award
Rachel Eaton, Billings Senior	Melissa Hart Weaver Inspirational Award
Timothy Nava-Mascarena, Billings Senior	Rina B. Moog Scholarship
Madeline Emerick, Billings Senior	Bonnie Slough Scholarship
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Brittany Alberson, West High School	Leonardo Smith Diversity Scholarship

PROVIDING FOR OUR STUDENTS IN NEED

The Education Foundation has been involved with the Back Pack Meals program since 2011 and the Teen Pantries since 2012. Both the Back Pack Meals and Teen Pantry programs focus on providing food to our students who are struggling with food security at home. Many principals, teachers, and school personnel have students come to them throughout the school year apprehensive about weekends and holidays because they are unsure of where their next meal may come from.

The Back Pack Meal program is designed to provide four nutritious meals to qualifying children, who have been identified by teachers, principals, and counselors, to take home on Fridays to ensure they are able to continue eating healthy foods during the weekends. Additional meals are provided to students before school holidays. Teachers have shared they see a direct correlation in their students' achievement in the classroom.

The Teen Pantry program is active in our high and middle schools. The purpose of the Teen Pantry program is to provide shelf stable food to students in need, as well as basic hygiene products, and other necessities. The goal of the Teen Pantry is to provide access to what our struggling students need while helping them to stay in school and learning.

MAKE A LASTING GIFT TO BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATION TODAY

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 today 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 have seen the impact our gift is making on teaching and learning in the classrooms. By providing support for technology, we have seen student engagement and excitement for learning soar. We are thrilled about the difference our gift is making for student achievement."

— Tom and Susan Wardell, Donor



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"It was an honor to receive the Cook Scholarship. It means a lot to be recognized for a scholarship that honors two Senior High grads who also loved learning and sports."

— Joseph Zimmer, 2014 Senior High Graduate

PROVIDING A LASTING IMPACT – DEWEY J. HANSEN GIFT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE EACH DAY IN OUR SCHOOLS

In 2010, the Education Foundation received its largest single gift ever totaling \$2.7 million from Billings Senior alumnus Dewey Hansen. Mr. Hansen, whose career as an educator, Air Force Academy liaison officer, and Boy Scout leader, left this bequest to endow the "Dewey J. Hansen and Helen Cothron Hansen Memorial Fund" to honor his mother and to provide financial resources to Billings Senior, West, Skyview, and Laurel High Schools.

This year, the Foundation funded \$141,890 to support school gardens, improve opportunities to prepare our students to be college and career ready, as well as purchase needed tools to improve math and science curriculum. Since 2010, the Foundation has awarded \$440,000 in funding to Billings Senior, West, Skyview, and Laurel High Schools. The funding is split equally amongst the four schools.

"Each year, my Earth Science students are now able to take a field trip in the fall and spring to explore the geography in our area. The kids come back first of all very excited about all they had experienced, but also with a greater sense of their geography of place which has greatly enhanced how I am able to relate what they are learning in class to the world around them. I am so grateful to have the funds available to give my students these experiences," shared Denece Lord, West High science teacher.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

BILLINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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THANK YOU

Billings teachers are rife with ideas, ideas that can change the world! Sometimes, these great ideas are never realized because of funding; your gift to the Education Foundation helps make these ideas become reality!

A few years ago I had an idea and challenged my students to design, develop and build the largest cardboard geodesic dome in the world and, when completed, to transform it into a Planetarium that would engage and inspire anyone who went inside. My students and I applied for, and were awarded, a Classroom Grant from the Education Foundation to help defray the costs of cardboard and other supplies. Within days, my classroom was transformed into a workshop where students were planning, debating over design, building models and straining to overcome the challenges of engineering a dome large enough to fit a classroom of students.

In time, the students were successful in their mission – they created the largest known cardboard geodesic dome in the world and constructed a planetarium to learn about Astronomy! Since the initial construction, more than 2,400 Billings students have taken apart, reconstructed, and visited the dome to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In 2012, The Earth Scientist, professional journal of the National Earth Science Teacher's Association, printed an article about the Billings Senior High Planetarium inspiring other schools across the country to design and build similar domes.

Without the Education Foundation's Classroom Grants program and donations from people like you, this project would have remained an idea, trapped in a teacher's mind. Thanks to your support, the idea transformed into a dome for learning that continues to inspire students, teachers and entire communities across the country! Please consider giving a gift again this year to the Education Foundation for BPS to support classroom innovation and student achievement.

Craig Beals

Billings Senior High Science | <http://bshsplanetarium.blogspot.com>
2015 Montana Teacher of the Year

