

2011 Report to the Community

Achievement, Academics, Alumni and the Arts



Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Supporting District 129
and its
Achievements, Academics, Alumni and the Arts

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Foundation for West Aurora Schools

*Supporting School District 129
and its
Achievements, Academics, Alumni and the Arts*

Thank you for taking the time to peruse our 2011 Report to the Community. If your name or the name of the organization you represent is listed in one or more of our *sincerely appreciated* donor listings, we thank you. If your name should have been listed and somehow we missed including you, we apologize. Please call this oversight to our attention. If you are reading about the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools for the first time, we would appreciate your support in the future.

Our 2012 A+ Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor celebration was held on Friday and Saturday, April 13th and 14th. Friday's activities brought our Distinguished Alumni into the classroom at West High where they interacted with students, sharing their experiences and challenges they had on their road to success. The induction ceremony was held on Saturday evening as part of our annual *Legacy of Lights* dinner.

Our primary program of financial support of the district is our Fund-A-Need program where, in combination with members of our community, grants to support staff-initiated classroom enrichment projects are funded. This past year seventeen of these grants were awarded and are summarized in our Report to the Community.

Emerging from a strategic planning effort undertaken by our board, the A+ Foundation will be embarking on a mentoring program. This strategic planning effort benefited greatly from the participation of several focus groups which included high school students, parents, alumni, and citizens living in the school district. We extend our appreciation and thanks to those of you that participated in the process. In coordination with guidance counselors at the high school, we will be identifying mentors who will work with students on a variety of issues including their career and college considerations. If this is an activity in which you would enjoy participating, please let us know.

With appreciation for your interest and support,

Frank K. Voris, President

A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

2012 | Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor

A Project of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Supporting District 129 and its Achievements, Academics, Alumni and the Arts

The A+ Foundation's signature event celebrates the induction of West Aurora High School graduates into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor. The distinguished alumni are honored at a banquet dinner in the spring.

The Hall of Honor, which began in 2006, recognizes those alumni who have distinguished themselves beyond their high school years through their significant accomplishments or service. Inductees are honored with plaques along with biographies displayed prominently in the high school auditorium foyer.

The Hall of Honor program has two goals:

- To honor distinguished alumni for their achievements
- To raise the self-expectations of West students with the realization that the distinguished alumni grew up in their neighborhoods and attended their school

Our foundation continues to seek distinguished alumni to add to our Hall of Honor. If you would like to nominate someone, please fill out the online nomination form or contact us at info@aplusfoundation.org.

2012 HONOREES

Martha Evans Sloan, Class of 1957

Walter Bothe, Class of 1959

William C. Gifford, Class of 1959

Raymond W. Reed, Ph.D., Class of 1964

Bruce Kammenzind, Class of 1976

J. Scott Jordan, Class of 1980



PAST HONOREES

Frank H. McWethy, '01
Ruth VanSickle Ford, '15
H. Ashley Barber, '29
John Drury, '45
Arthur Ramer Wyatt, '45
Richard Olson, '47
J. Allison "Al" Binford, '48
Edward Ochsenschlager, '50
Max Baratz, '52
Albert Alschuler, '58

Phillip E. Johnson, '58
H. William (Bill) Habermeyer, Jr., '60
Dr. George Everitt, '61
Pam (Kohn) Hait, '61
Arthur Lage, '61
Robert Taggart, '61
Thomas F. Gallagher, '62
James Groninger, '62
Wendell Minor, '62
Paul Ormond, '67

Thomas C. Ewing, '69
Randy Shilts, '69
Stephen F. Sundlof, '69
Eric Halfvarson, '70
Thomas Skilling, '70
Michael Cavender, '72
R. Lawrence Hatchett, '77
Kathleen L. (Forsell) Caldwell, '79
Jacqueline Pongracic, '79
Annbritt (Gemmer) duChateau, '83

2011-2012 | Fund-A-Need

Fund-A-Need offers an opportunity for you to connect with classroom needs. District 129 Public Schools teachers use the Fund-A-Need program to enhance opportunities for their students. Individual donors browse through the proposals and select a proposal they want to fund.

To ensure the accountability of Fund-A-Need, volunteers from the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools work closely with District 129 officials to review and approve all proposals. Donors will receive thank you notes from the classroom teacher and students and a letter of acknowledgement from the Foundation for their sponsorship.

This new donation opportunity is closely modeled on the award-winning program developed by the Foundation for Lincoln, Nebraska Public Schools. We appreciate their cooperation on offering this opportunity to our community.

To see proposals that are still seeking funding, please visit www.aplusfoundation.org and click the "Fund-A-Need" button.

2011-2012 | Approved Fund-A-Need Programs

Who Wants to be a Reading Millionaire

Fearn Elementary School

Funding will provide whole school reading incentive support of family literacy. Students and staff will chart minutes reading both in school and out of school, with progress being charted by the student data team. Once one million minutes have been achieved, a celebration will be scheduled with a guest storyteller.

Funded through the A+ Foundation in Memory of Dr. Richard Green

Parents and Teachers Together

Freeman Elementary School

Funding will provide parent reading nights, including three books for every Freeman student. Students and their parents will learn about a variety of careers, participate in story time, enjoy a fun night and allow an ISAT night for families.

Funded through the generous support of the Wadsworth Family Foundation and the A+ Foundation

SS Friendship

Goodwin Elementary School

S.S. Friendship is an after-school program for at-risk first graders that focuses on reading and math achievement. The project pairs students with a senior citizen mentor who meet regularly in the library.

Funded through the generous support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Girls' Club

Hall Elementary School

Funding will provide for a 5th grade Girls Club to help develop self-esteem and confidence.

Funded through the generous support of Neal and Mary Clark Ormond

Author Visit: Jeff Hirsch

Herget Middle School

Jeff Hirsch, a New York resident, is a first-time author of *The Eleventh Plague* and will talk to students about publishing a novel and his struggles and successes with writing.

Funded through the generous support of the Class of 1945



PASS – Providing After School Support

Herget Middle School

Funding will provide for transportation costs for student after-school programs in order to allow participation in the tutoring and remedial teaching aspects of the program.

Funded through the generous support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Senior Citizens Breakfast and Band Concert

Jefferson Middle School

In what has become a tradition at Jefferson Middle School, sixth grade band students serve as greeters and host/hostesses and 7th and 8th grade band students perform special musical selections for more than 250 senior citizen. After the concert, students and senior citizens have breakfast together.

Funded through the generous support of Neal and Mary Clark Ormond and the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

After-School Reading Program

Smith Elementary School

Funding will allow for the purchase of a scholastic reading kit to enhance children's reading who are below 2nd grade reading level, but currently are in 2nd grade. This is a flexible, year-long program that builds vital language arts, vocabulary and comprehension skills with high-interest selections and exercises.

Funded through the generous support of the Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund

Scholastic News

Smith Elementary School

Funding will provide for a monthly subscription to Scholastic News with 50 copies in English and 25 in Spanish which will assist in comprehension and fluency with second grade students.

Funded through the generous support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Technology in the Classroom

Washington Middle School

Funding will provide three document cameras and six AVerPen starter kits to enhance technology in the classrooms for Language Arts and Foreign Language programs. This technology will enable students to interact with the camera from anywhere in the classroom.

Funded through the generous support of the Wadsworth Family Foundation

Project Excellence Tutors

West High School

Project Excellence offers peer-based tutoring in all subject areas at West High School. The funding will allow for an expansion of the program to include 59 tutors assigned to all 8 hours of the school day.

Funded through the generous support of the Wadsworth Family Foundation

Book Club

West High School

Funding will provide an after-school Book Club where students can receive paperback books and conduct monthly meetings. This program will encourage reading for pleasure, critical thinking and discussion skills, help students see the connection among the written word and an author's ideas and develop good relationships between students and the library staff.

Funded through the generous support of the Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund

Investigating Water Quality

West High School

Funding will provide two field trips to investigate the impact of urban development on local waterways and the relationship between wastewater treatment and environmental degradation that has the potential to impact human health. The unit integrates topics from biology, chemistry, physics and earth science.

Funded through the generous support of Catherine Veal

Investigating the Body through Cadaver Dissection

West High School

Funding will provide full-day immersion experience in cadaver dissection for 30 high school seniors enrolled in the Human Anatomy and Physiology class. Students involved in the class have shown motivation and interest in pursuing further education and employment in the health care profession.

Funded through the generous support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Listen to the Music

West High School

Funding will provide necessary equipment for West High music students to listen to music in the classroom, and then assess and analyze their own singing. This will allow the teacher to gauge the student's level of musical performance, reinforcing the tenets of musical literacy and critical listening skills present in the vocal music curriculum.

Funded through the generous support of the Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund and the Sten & Lucille Halfvarson Endowment Fund

Preservation of Ruth VanSickle Ford Paintings

West High School

Donated by the Class of 1951, four paintings by Ruth VanSickle Ford, West High Alumna) are in need of cleaning, repair and reframing to preserve each for the long term. Having such artwork from such a renowned artist on display at West High enhances the Fine Arts program and aspirations of the students.

Funded through the generous support of the Class of 1951, Neal and Mary Clark Ormond, Nancy Hopp and memorials received in honor of Charlene O'Connor

Teen Mother's Support Group

West High School

Funding will provide caps and gowns for students involved in this program for their graduation celebration.

Funded through the generous support of Angela Smith in honor of her daughter, Malley

How Can You Support the A+ Foundation?

Your support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is crucial. Regardless of the size of your donation, be assured that it will be gratefully received and put to work for the maximum benefit promoting educational excellence.

There are a number of ways that you can support the A+ Foundation:

- Support specific classroom needs through our Fund-A-Need program
- Support an existing A+ Foundation Fund by donating to the following funds through the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
 - A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Endowment Fund
 - Dr. Sherry R. Eagle Educational Endowment Fund
 - Sten & Lucille Halfvarson Endowment Fund
 - Janet Kircher Isler Endowment Fund
 - A+ Foundation Alumni Scholarship of West Aurora High School
 - A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Fund
 - Meg Papadolias Fund
 - West Aurora Community Field of Dreams Fund
 - West Aurora High School Fund in Memory of Richard J. Dorsey
- Consider a planned gift or pledge through the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley
- Consider organizing a Class Gift

Gifts can be made in memory of a colleague, in honor of a friend who has made a difference in your life or just in support of excellence in education. In whatever way you would like your gift recognized, it will be deductible for tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools maintains funds within the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. This partnership enables our Foundation to save valuable charitable dollars that otherwise would be expended for administrative needs.

Donations to our Endowment Funds benefit our foundation and District 129 in perpetuity. Only the interest earned by the fund is distributed while the principle remains intact as a permanent resource for the future charitable needs of our schools.





Former District 129 Teacher Leaves \$110,000 to A+ Foundation

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools has received an \$110,000 gift from the estate of the late Janet Kircher Isler, who taught in District 129 schools for a quarter century until her retirement in 1968.

Janet was born in 1918 in La Crosse, Wis. and began teaching in Aurora in 1942 at Greenman Elementary School. She also taught at Lincoln, Freeman and Smith Elementary Schools and was president of Lincoln Elementary School's PTA in 1953.

Janet was active in sports and was a bowler on several championship teams in Aurora. She enjoyed music and sang in the choir at the New England Congregational Church in Aurora.

She died on Dec. 6, 2010 in La Crosse, Wisconsin at the age of 92.

The Foundation has received the first distribution of \$110,000 which was deposited with the Community Foundation to establish an endowment fund under the A+ Foundation in her name.

"With this gift to her beloved school district, Janet Kircher Isler will now contribute to the enrichment of education of District 129 children for generations to come. Many of those students who will benefit, fittingly, are the descendants of the children she herself taught," said Frank Voris, president of the A+ Foundation Board of Directors.

For more information on the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools, visit www.aplusfoundation.org.

Dunham Fund to Help Fund New Career-Readiness Curriculum

The Dunham Fund grant awarded \$95,000 to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools to help fund a new, technology-based career-readiness project in District 129 middle schools.

The funds will be used to purchase computers, SMARTboards, tablets and other technology for the "Global Classroom STEMming from Technology – World of Work" program. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The goal of the new curriculum is to have students apply science and mathematical concepts in real-world situations, as well as understand how to work in cooperative group settings, take pride in the outcome of a project, arrive to the workplace on time, be prepared to work and develop good time-management skills.

Interactive technology purchased with the Dunham Fund grant will allow students the opportunity, for example, to network globally, one-on-one, with career-oriented individuals.

The high school will benefit from the program, as it receives students with greater career exposure and skill acquisition. A resulting advancement of the high school curriculum will allow more students to participate in community-college-level courses while still in high school, with the goal of earning some type of certification applicable to the employment world.

Several of the district's middle school World of Work teachers have pursued engineering STEM master's degrees in preparation for the implementation of this program, which has the support of the Valley Industrial Association in Aurora.

The Dunham Fund grant was awarded to the district's A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools, which will work in concert with the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley to administer the funds.

"The benefits of earlier career and skill intervention will reap rewards for the students and community in the future," says Frank Voris, president of the A+ Foundation. "A better educated student population translates into greater future employment opportunities and higher earning potential, providing a reinvestment back to the community."

Dunham Fund

www.dunhamfund.org

A + Foundation for West Aurora Schools

www.aplusfoundation.org

Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley

www.communityfoundationfrv.org

West Aurora Charter Alumni Donors

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Ralph Voris
Bradley S. Walls
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Please Note: The individuals listed above were life members of the West Aurora High School Alumni Association prior to the 2008 merger of the Alumni Association and the Foundation for West Aurora Schools. We recognize these individuals for their participation in that program and express our appreciation to them for their confidence in our Foundation.

About A+ Foundation

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is an all-volunteer organization with an eye to the past and to the future. The Foundation formed in 2008 is the result of the merger of two strong organizations – the Foundation for the West Aurora Schools and the West Aurora Alumni Association. Board members of both organizations believed that this alliance will result in greater accomplishments and additional resources.

Our Mission

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools supports and promotes educational, cultural and charitable programs for the students and alumni of School District 129. Our not-for-profit foundation provides this support through grants, programs and scholarships to enhance lifelong learning opportunities for their recipients.

Our Vision

- Enrich the curriculum
- Inspire excellence in students and staff
- Expand opportunities for community involvement
- Foster alumni connections

1994-2011 | Lifetime Giving to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

PLATINUM STAR

\$250,000 or above

City of Aurora

GOLD STAR

\$20,000 and above

Dunham Fund

Janet Kircher Isler

Richard and Cleo Jean Olson Family Charitable Fund

The Wadsworth Family Endowment Fund

SILVER STAR WITH DISTINCTION

\$10,000 and above

Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund

Old Second National Bank

Neal and Mary Clark Ormond

Frank and Charlotte Voris

Ralph and Linda Voris

West Aurora School District Odd Cents Fundraiser

SILVER STAR

\$5,000 and above

Caterpillar Inc.

Read With Me Fund

Frances K. Voris

West Aurora Alumni Association

(formerly a separate organization, now part of the A+ Foundation)

BRONZE STAR

\$2,500 and above

Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley

Sherry and Howard Eagle

Emerson Network Power and Energy Systems

Bruce and Margot Goldsmith

Grainger Matching Gifts Program

Gary and Mary Jewel

Peter and Judy Kerl

Frances and William Myers

Edward and Sharon Stredde

Olsson Roofing Company



PEWTER STAR

\$1,000 and above

Mark and Deann Alleman

Alschuler, Simantz, & Hem LLC

American Taxi Dispatch Inc.

Arbor Management Inc.

Aurora Rotary Club Foundation

Aurora Tri State Fire Protection

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Mark and Nina Menis/Kayton Family Fund

Wendell & Florence Minor

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Erin Slater

SunGard Public Sector Inc.

Robert and Donna Taggart

Jim and Claire Toynton

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. Inc.

Don and Margaret Truax

West Aurora High School Faculty Welfare

West Aurora School District 129,

Board of Education, Administration and Staff

Arthur Wyatt

Douglas and Mary Lou Zolper



The A+ Foundation has made every effort to guarantee the accuracy of this list of generous donors. If an error or omission has occurred, we sincerely apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention by emailing us at info@aplusfoundation.org or writing to The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools c/o Randi Ochsenschlager, 80 S. River St., Aurora, IL 60506.

2011 | Donors

(The following lists reflect donations made prior to December 31, 2011. Thank you to again to all our contributors for their support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools!)

VALEDICTORIANS

\$1,000 and above

Sherry R. Eagle
Dr. Arthur Lage
Mark and Nina Menis/Kayton Family Fund
Wendell & Florence Minor
Neal and Mary Ormond
Perkins Coie
Bob and Donna Taggart
Frank and Char Voris
Arthur Wyatt

HONOR SOCIETY

\$500 and above

Arbor Management
Peter Kerl
William and Frances Myers
Oracle Matching Gifts Program
PMA Financial Services
Angie and Greg Smith

SCHOLARS

\$250 and above

Michael Chapin
Al & Marilyn Freedy
Bruce and Margot Goldsmith
Linda Griese
Joan Telford Herren
Nancy and Jim Hopp
Gary and Mary Jewel
John and Lynn Lies
Bob and Randi Ochenschlager
Jim and Claire Toynton
Christi Tyler
Catherine Veal
Class of 1945
Class of 1951

FRIENDS

\$100 and above

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Judy Collette
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Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dodd
Timothy Gallagher
Jane Davis Gapinski
Melena Gaspadarek
Mardi and Bill Glenn
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R.H. Roberts
Charles Sears
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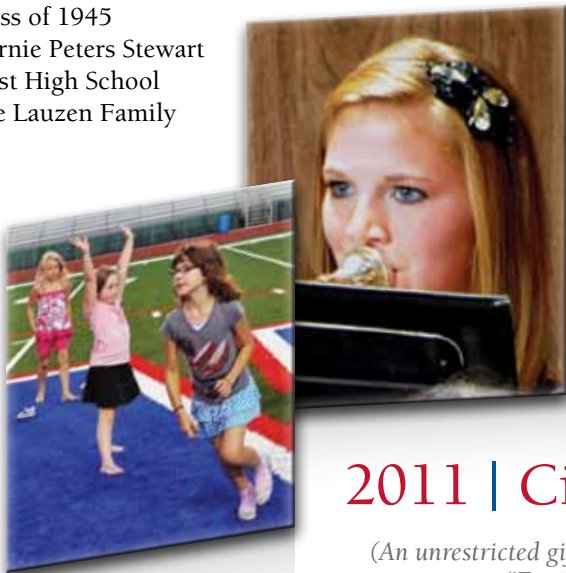
2011 | Recognition and Celebration Gifts

Christi Tyler for West Aurora District 129 Business Office
 West Aurora Board of Education for Dr. James Rydland
 Nancy Hopp for Barbara McCuiston
 Bonnie and Dave Wooten for Sherry R. Eagle
 Ed and Sharon Stredde for Sherry R. Eagle
 Class of 1945 for Class of 1945
 Honoring Meg Papadolias – several donors
 Angie Smith for Malley Smith

2011 | Pathway of Honor

(The following organizations or individuals bought a brick on West Aurora High School's Pathway of Honor in 2011. To purchase a brick, please visit the A+ Website at www.aplusfoundation.org or contact us at info@aplusfoundation.org)

A+ Foundation Board
 Angie Smith and Debbie Nardone
 Diana Michels
 Class of 1945
 Marnie Peters Stewart
 West High School
 The Lauzen Family



2011 | Circle of Excellence

(An unrestricted gift of \$500 or more made in support of the "Fund A Need" Program in 2011)

Kayton Family Fund
 Mark and Nina Menis
 William and Frances Myers
 Perkins Coie

2011 | Memorial Gifts

(Contributions to the A+ Foundation or associated funds were made in the names of the following individuals.)

Vivian Catherine Beebe
 Hershell Benberry
 William Bunch
 Kurt Buschbacher
 Sally Cleary
 Richard Dorsey
 George Drikakus
 Richard Green
 Sten and Lucille Halfvarson
 Thomas Holak
 Gayle B. Hunt
 William J. Johnson
 Lucile M. Kane
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 William Shazer
 Johnny Bill Simmons
 Joan Stavrojohn
 William Sweeney
 Raymond R. Thill
 Don Weiss
 Eddie Weiss
 Jennifer Webb
 Charles W. Whitford
 Bella Zidel
 Douglas Zolper



2011 | Organizations Supporting Our Local Schools

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is proud to include a listing of organizations involved with our schools in our Annual Report to the Community. We include this listing to show the extensive involvement of our community in our schools, which goes far beyond the efforts of the A+ Foundation. It has been said that “It takes a village to raise a child.” The A+ Foundation is proud to be an active, supportive member of “our village.”

A+ Foundation
 AAA
 American Cancer Society
 Anderson's Bookshop - Naperville
 Astro Auto Repair Service Center
 Aunt Martha's
 Aurora Central Catholic High School
 Aurora Advent Christian Church
 Aurora Area Chamber of Commerce
 Aurora Area University Women
 Aurora Fire Department
 Aurora Junior Women's Club
 Aurora Police Department
 Aurora Public Library
 Aurora University
 Barat Education Foundation
 Benedictine University
 Big Brothers/Big Sisters
 Boy Scouts of America
 Boys II Men
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 Buffalo Wild Wings
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 Dairy Queen - Illinois Avenue
 Drama Boosters
 Devry University
 Douglas Carpets
 Everest College
 Experience for Sales Effectiveness
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 Fashion Bug
 First Baptist Church
 Fox Valley Hospice
 Fox Valley Park District
 Fox Valley Therapy Dogs
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 Funway
 Gateway
 Barb Gillette

Girl Scouts of America
 Goin' For the Green Committee
 Golden Kiwanis
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 Kids Hope
 Kirhofer Sports
 Kiwanis - Fox Valley
 Knights of Columbus
 Lewis University
 Lifetouch
 Linden Oaks
 Lucent Technologies
 McDonald's
 Macedonia Church
 Marmion Academy
 Messenger Public Library
 Mobil Gas Station - Illinois Avenue
 Montgomery Police Department
 Mutual Ground
 National Honor Society
 Nicor
 Nobel
 North Aurora A & W
 North Aurora Fire Department
 North Aurora Lions Club
 North Aurora Mother's Club
 North Aurora Police Department
 North Central College
 Oberweis Dairy
 Opera for the Young
 People for Childcare
 Pepe's Restaurant - Lake Street
 PNC Bank of North Aurora
 Prairie State Legal Services
 Prairie View Orthodontics
 PTAs
 PTOs
 PTSOs
 Quad County Urban League
 Rainbows - Itasca
 Rasmussen College
 Reaching Across Illinois Library System
 Jordan Real

Reuland's Food Service
 River Valley Community Church
 Robert Crown
 Robert Morris College
 Rodney Davis
 Rotary Club of Aurora
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 SciTech
 SES Tutoring
 Sharing Connection
 Shell Gas Station - Illinois Avenue
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 Taking Control
 Target Store - North Aurora
 Tinseltown Theaters
 Toyota
 Tuesday Mentoring
 United States Post Office
 University of Illinois Extension
 Program
 Visiting Nurses Association of Fox
 Valley Clinic
 Wadsworth Company
 Wendy's - Lake Street
 Wesley United Methodist Church
 West Aurora Band Boosters
 West Aurora Sports Boosters
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Westwood College
 World Relief
 YWCA





Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Supporting District 129

and its

Achievements, Academics, Alumni and the Arts

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