



# The A+ Foundation

## 2012-2013 Report to the Community

Achievement, Athletics, Academics, Alumni and the Arts

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## Letter from the President

If you are keeping a file of our reports to the community, you will note that there was no 2012 report. The majority of the content of our annual report deals with programmatic articles that track with the 2012 – 2013 school year rather than calendar year 2012. The financial and donor reports at the back of our current report continue to be presented on a calendar year, as of December 31, 2012. This may raise a question or two as to why sponsors of one or more of our spring activities are acknowledged in articles about those events, but are not listed as a donor in the donor section of our report. The answer is that their gift was received in 2013 and will be reflected in next year's report to the community.

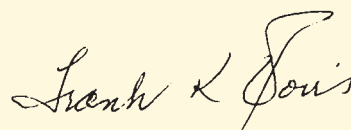
Through the generosity of seven Gold Level Sponsors, the Excellence in Education and the Hall of Honor programs were underwritten. The Excellence in Education recognition banquet recognized the top five percent of the 2013 graduation class, their parents and the teacher that had the greatest influence on their development. We thank Artlip & Sons; Aurora University; Emerson Network Power; Kelmscott Communications; Mickey, Wilson, Weiler Renzi & Andersson; R.J. O'Neil and Waubensee Community College for their Gold Sponsorships.

Our primary program of financial support for 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. During the 2012-2013 school year, 36 grants in the amount of \$42,000 were funded. This compares with 23 grants in the amount of \$23,000 during the 2011-2012 school year. We thank the members of the community who joined with the A+ Foundation to fund these enriching programs.

These are difficult times for all organizations that depend on the State of Illinois for funding.

No effort is more important to the short and long term success of our community and our great nation than K-12 education. We thank all who have taken the time to read to a child, help tutor a student or given dollars in support of an enriching program. Your efforts and commitment are truly appreciated. At our Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor celebration in April, we recognized two couples for their commitment to the students of District 129. Jim and Betty Carson were recognized for their eighteen years of reading to students and tutoring students in math. Brent and Jean Wadsworth were recognized for their many years of financial support, thereby making significant enrichment programs available to the students of the district. To the Carsons and Wadsworths and all of the hundreds of community members who help to make the difference, we salute you and say THANK YOU.

With appreciation for your interest and support,



**Frank K. Voris, President**

*A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools*

### SAVE THE DATE

**Banding Together**  
Saturday, August 31, 2013  
Two Brothers Roundhouse

**Hall of Honor**  
Friday and Saturday,  
April 11-12, 2014

# 2013 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor

*A Project of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Supporting District 129 and its Achievements, Athletics, 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](mailto:info@aplusfoundation.org).

## Past Honorees

- Frank H. McWethy, '01
- Ruth VanSickle Ford, '15
- H. Ashley Barber, '29
- John Drury, '45
- Arthur R. Wyatt, '45
- Richard Olson, '47
- J. Allison "Al" Binford, '48
- Edward Ochenschlager, '50
- Max Baratz, '52
- Martha (Evans) Sloan, '57
- Albert Alschuler, '58
- Phillip E. Johnson, '58
- Walter Bothe, '59
- William C. Gifford, '59
- H. William (Bill) Habermeyer, Jr., '60
- Dr. George Everett, '61
- Pam (Kohn) Hait, '61
- Arthur Lage, '61
- Robert Taggart, '61
- Thomas F. Gallagher, '62
- James Groninger, '62
- Wendell Minor, '62
- Raymond W. Reed, '64
- Paul Ormond, '67
- Thomas C. Ewing, '69
- Randy Shilts, '69
- Stephen F. Sundlof, '69
- Eric Halfvarson, '70
- Thomas Skilling, '70
- Michael Cavender, '72
- Bruce Kammenzind, '76
- R. Lawrence Hatchett, '77
- Kathleen L. (Forsell) Caldwell, '79
- Jacqueline Pongracic, '79
- J. Scott Jordan, '80
- Annbritt (Gemmer) duChateau, '83



## 2013 Honorees

**Neil Foster**  
Class of 1938

**Robert Garrison**  
Class of 1954

**Carol Cauldwell McElroy**  
Class of 1961

**Michael Oros**  
Class of 1980





# 2012-2013 Fund-A-Need

Fund-A-Need offers an opportunity for you to connect with classroom needs. District 129 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 proposals. Donors receive thank you notes from the classroom teacher and students and a letter of acknowledgement from the Foundation for their sponsorship.

*To see proposals that are still seeking funding, please visit [www.aplusfoundation.org](http://www.aplusfoundation.org) and click the "Fund-A-Need" button.*

## 2012-2013 Approved Fund-A-Need Programs

### **FREEMAN ARTS –**

#### **ART REACHES TALENTED STUDENTS**

Funding helped support the Big Top tent/Circus Theme for students to learn about circus animals, painting techniques and the creation of a safe learning environment and a pleasant place for students to learn. *Funds were provided through the generous support of Nancy Hopp Smith, Mary Weis, and the Wadsworth Family Endowment*

### **GREENMAN SCHOOL –**

#### **AUDIO BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT**

Funding for this program purchased books on CD, which gave all students an opportunity to listen to fluent reading with inflection. *Funds were provided through Doug Zolper memorial funds*

### **GREENMAN SCHOOL –**

#### **LITERACY BAGS FOR P.A.L.S**

P.A.L.'s is a family literacy program that teaches parents literacy strategies used in the classroom. Parents and children attended classes after school, and after the five-week course was completed, the students received literacy bags and paperback books. *Funds were provided through Doug Zolper memorial funds*

### **HERGET AND HALL SCHOOL –**

#### **AUTHOR VISIT: MARK CRILLY**

Funding was provided for Author Mark Crilly as he presented to both Herget and Hall students on how to brainstorm for story ideas, how to give character voice, how to add conflict to a story, and the importance of revisions.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of Janice Bodily and The Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund and the A+ Foundation*

### **HERGET MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

#### **HUSKY PRIDE**

This program would provide a special breakfast and ceremony to honor student achievement and honor those who have demonstrated excellence academically as well as character and pride in their educational community.

*A portion of the funding was provided through the support of Catherine Veal*

### **HILL SCHOOL –**

#### **FIFTH GRADE BOY'S AND GIRL'S CLUB**

This proposal desires to provide important life skills to fifth graders at Hill School through an after school club. *Funds were provided through the generous support of the Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund*

### **HILL SCHOOL –**

#### **DIGITAL CAMERAS FOR ART CLASS**

This proposal would support a new art medium for the students. Students would work with a partner to produce digital art. The photos could be used in the school newsletter, local newspaper, and various community events.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **HOPEWALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL –**

#### **SOCIAL BOUNDARIES AND PERSONAL SAFETY**

This program purchased a program which included a teacher's guide, DVDs, circle graphs and a book to teach students social boundaries and personal safety.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

#### **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The funding for this program provided magazine subscriptions for approximately 60 students who are struggling readers.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

#### **SENIOR CITIZENS BREAKFAST AND BAND CONCERT**

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*

### **JEWEL MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

#### **GET INVOLVED/GOT INVOLVED**

The Student Council is encouraging various groups of students to provide leadership for a Community Service Project where students can work with outside organizations to do at least one project during the school year. The project is designed to build leadership in more students and also learn organizational skills and volunteerism.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **JEWEL MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

#### **3D PRINTER FOR SCET**

The 3D Printer program offers opportunities for students to learn about the manufacturing of aircraft parts, medical implants and many prototypes. This program will give students the opportunity to create objects using an AutoCAD type program and then print these objects, helping them to develop skills in problem solving, mathematics and engineering. *Funded through the generous support of Marianne Morgano, Julie Esparza, Brian Ritzheimer, Leah Druzgala, Saule Matriciano and the A+ Foundation*

### **JEWEL SCHOOL – WWII UNIT**

This program provided students with instruction on WWII, along with field trips to Cantigny War Park, trainers to run a boot camp for the students, gift cards for speakers and/or NJROTC performers.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of Neal and Mary Clark Ormond, Frank and CharVoris and the A+ Foundation*

### **McCLEERY SCHOOL –**

#### **BIRTHDAY BOOK PROGRAM**

McCleery would like to bolster their literacy curriculum with additional reading motivation in the form of a book for each child's birthday. They have close to 700 students and request \$1200.00 to cover the cost of the books.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of Martha Egeland, Kay Johnson and the A+ Foundation*

### **McCLEERY SCHOOL –**

#### **READING MENTOR SCHOLARSHIP**

Friends of Aurora After-School Program provides scholarships to high school and college student workers in the Hope for Tomorrow Scholarship Mentor Program at McCleery. The scholarships are paid directly to the college where the student worker is in attendance and is used for tuition or book fees. *Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **McCLEERY SCHOOL –**

#### **BOLSITAS DE LECTURA PARA LA CASA**

This program provided books and book bags which were sent home with students in the bilingual classes for parents and children to read together and to discuss comprehension questions.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of Erin Holland and Marcus Moreno*

### **SCHNEIDER SCHOOL –**

#### **ENRICHING STUDENT LEARNING WITH SMART BOARDS**

This proposal requested funds for Smart Boards to enrich student learning.

*A portion of the funding was provided through the support of Ed and June Young*

### **SCHNEIDER GOES AROUND THE WORLD**

Schneider will host a multi-cultural evening where each grade level focuses on a country, displaying artifacts, demonstrations, languages, food samples and student work. This event was held in the spring and prior to that, the information about the country was contained in the daily curriculum.

*Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation*

### **SMITH SCHOOL –**

#### **GIRLS ON THE RUN SHOES AND GEAR**

Girls on the Run is a positive youth development program for girls in grades 3-5. The program inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experienced-based curriculum which integrates running.

*A portion of the funding was provided by Deborah Konopka, Margaret Hardy, Neal and Mary Clark Ormond, Julie Oberweis, Melanie Vidlak-Herrmann and Nancy Weisse*

**SMITH SCHOOL –  
SCHOLASTIC NEWS SUBSCRIPTION**

Funding for this program provided weekly subscriptions of Scholastic News for each student. Funds were provided through the generous support of Isla "Tish" Evers

**SMITH SCHOOL – SING, SING, SING**

This program provided matching t-shirts for the school choir and costumes/props for their spring musical. Funds were provided through the generous support of Carolyn Kerkla and the A+ Foundation

**TODD SCHOOL –**

**FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT – PIZZA FUN**

Funds provided pizzas to be served for Family Reading Night as part of their Parent Program at Todd Early Childhood Center.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**TODD SCHOOL – STORY BUS VISIT**

Funding provided a full day visit from the Story Bus to enhance the language development and reading program.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**TODD SCHOOL –**

**JIM GILL FAMILY CONCERT**

Provides opportunities to enrich the literacy experience for parents and students. Books are provided for the students and parents receive a "tip sheet" which focuses on ways they can support their child's educational success.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**TODD SCHOOL – READING IS MAGIC**

Funds for this program helped to enrich the literacy experience with a visit from Richard Landry, Magic That Motivates.

Funds were provided through the generous support of Isla "Tish" Evers

**WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL –**

**"MADE FOR EACH OTHER"**

**PAIRED TEXT FOR COMMON CORE**

Common Core standards emphasize the importance of high quality non-fiction across the curriculum. Students and teachers from 6th – 8th grades will benefit through reading a diverse array of classic and contemporary literature as well as challenging information texts in a range of subjects.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL – TEAM BUILDING**

Sixty sophomores participated in team building activities at a facility in Crystal Lake to help low level reading and math students to be more successful.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the Wadsworth Family Foundation

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**ENGINEERED BRIDGE CONTEST**

Funds were provided to purchase wood bundles to build 600 bridge building kits and 9 trophies for 350 to 400 students to participate in the project.

Funds were provided through the generous support of Professor Art Wyatt

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**PARENT SUPPORT/INCENTIVE**

Funds were used to purchase incentives for parents to attend parent support meetings throughout the school year.

Funds were provided through the generous support of Archie Needam

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**PBIS BLACKHAWK PRIDE STORE**

The program purchased items for PBIS. Students use Blackhawk Bucks (earned by positive behavior) to purchase student ID's, gym uniforms, and basic school supplies.

A portion of funding was provided through the generous support of Joseph Kott

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**INVESTIGATING THE BODY  
THROUGH CADAVER DISSECTION**

Funding provided full-day immersion experience in cadaver dissection for 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.

A portion of funding was provided through the support of Amie Thompson and the A+ Foundation

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**MATH STUDENT TUTORING**

A peer-based tutoring program in Instructional Resource classes and Algebra Study Halls at West High School. The funding will allow for the program to include 35 tutors assigned to all 8 hours of the school day.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**FRESHMAN ACADEMY CANOE TRIP**

This program allowed students to experience team building through a canoe trip down the Fox River. The students were involved in a program to clean up the river banks and bike trails.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the Aurora Rotary Club Members

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION**

Funds provided guest speakers and lunch for the USAF band.

Funds provided through the generous support of the City of Aurora Aldermen and Mayor's offices

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**INVESTIGATING WATER QUALITY**

This problem-based program enabled students to learn firsthand about water at the wastewater treatment center and trips to the Fox River and Waubesa Creek.

Funds were provided through the generous support of the A+ Foundation

**WEST HIGH SCHOOL –**

**YOUNG HEARTS FOR LIFE**

Midwest Heart Foundation brought the Young Hearts for Life (YH4L) Cardiac Screening program to West Aurora High School.

Funds were provided through the generous support of Greg and Angie Smith, Donna Pocius and matching funds from the Oracle Foundation

# About A+ Foundation

We are an all-volunteer organization with an eye to the past, our heart in the present, and a mind to the future.

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools serves as your way to connect with and give back to the District 129 school community. In order to do that, we serve as the district's alumni association, and we also fund 'wish' programs for the district's schools.

The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools is proud of School District 129's tradition of excellence and we are committed to see that tradition continue.

## 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

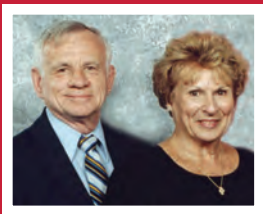
- Enrich the curriculum
- Inspire excellence in students and staff
- Expand opportunities for community involvement
- Foster alumni connections



Like  
A+ Foundation  
on Facebook







## Dick Wyatt

Dick Wyatt, a member of the class of 1948, passed away last September. Dick was an avid supporter of West High, particularly boys' basketball and boys' and girls' tennis. His family asked that, in lieu of flowers, memorials be directed to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools.

Gifts from more than fifty friends and business associates of Dick's, along with contributions from his family were used to establish our Foundation's sixth endowed fund, the Richard and Carole Wyatt Endowment Fund. Income from this fund will be used to support athletics at the high school and middle schools with an emphasis on boys basketball and boys and girls tennis. The endowment agreement in part states, "Such support may include grants for user fees for students who otherwise would not be able to participate in a given sport and grants for sports equipment."

Our thanks go out to Dick's family, Dick's brother Art who is a member of the Class of 1945 and a member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor, and all who contributed to Dick's memorial fund. While Dick's presence in the stands and on the sidelines will be missed, support of our student athletes in his name will continue for generations.



# A Year of Fostering Connections and Accomplishments

The 2012 - 2013 year has been a fulfilling one for the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools. Our Executive Board is peopled by dedicated and enthusiastic members; we've added donors and an up and coming mentoring program led by Cherie Esposito and Pat Perez; our annual, A+ events were attended by record numbers. Each event illustrated the wealth of time, talent, and creativity that graces District 129 through participation in the A+ Foundation.

The summer of 2012 showcased our first annual Banding Together, an alumni performance event which helps fund our Meg Papadolias Endowment for the Arts. Current students as well as chorus alumni (Soloists, bands, and choral groups) performed for an audience of 100+ at Ballydoyle. The monies raised went into the Papadolias Endowment which will continue to fund our musical arts programs. Former A Cappella students and friends, going all the way back to classes in the 1970's, "rocked" the audience with classical, nostalgic, and current favorites. The audience joined in and the evening proved to be a festival of music which was uniquely West!

The A+ Alumni Tent was up and running this year, hosting 80+ alumni at each of the home football games. Located in the north endzone, the A+ Alumni Tent hosted raffles, give-a-ways, snacks, and provided A+ seating on bleachers positioned right in the end zone. Friends reconnected and new friendships were forged. The East / West game featured historical

memorabilia, gift basket raffles, and a bit of good natured rivalry among the attendees under the tent.

A+ Board members also visited our elementary, middle and high schools' Open Houses and major events where they met the teachers, staff, students, and community. These connections broadened the community's knowledge about A+ through one-on-one contacts, brochures, and fun little give-aways. A+ has the goal of becoming a household name in order to generate support of all of our students through augmenting curricular and extracurricular programs.

In April, A+ hosted its annual Spaghetti Dinner in conjunction with the Incoming Freshman (future class of 2017!) Orientation at West High. The A+ Board, members of the central administration team, and fun-loving volunteers served spaghetti dinners to more than 250 moms, dads, and kids. Arbor Food Services generously donated the great food and the Student Ambassadors, West's elite service organization, gave tours of the ever-expanding high school and all its incredible features. The Registration Raffle added more than \$800 to A+'s ability to provide quality programs for our students.

April also saw the first annual Excellence in Education Dinner. This event was a joint effort between District 129, the A+ Foundation, and the generosity of members of the Aurora business community. The dinner honored the top 5% of our high school

## 2012-2013 Financials

### A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Fund Activity For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2012

Fund	Beginning Balance 1/1/2012	Receipts				Investment Earnings		General
		General	Fundraising	Transfer	Other	Earned	Change in Value	
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Endowment Fund	214,478.33	1,111.40				3,845.33	13,084.65	50.99
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Fund	186,132.26	19,118.04	2,027.60	11,295.00				13,400.88
Dr. Sherry R. Eagle Education Endowment Fund	71,724.73	50.00				1,261.80	4,405.50	
Sten & Lucile Halfvarson Endowment Fund	11,788.06	100.00				244.10	731.97	
Janet Kircher Isler Endowment Fund	109,915.41	24,997.97				2,145.72	5,514.86	
Meg Papadolias Endowment Fund	2,197.47	1,190.00	6,775.00			59.25	142.16	8.47
West Aurora High School Fund in Memory of Richard J. Dorsey	2,312.85	200.00						
Checkbook balance	7,529.55	5,118.00			62.50			2,176.82
<b>Totals</b>	<b>606,078.66</b>	<b>51,885.41</b>	<b>8,802.60</b>	<b>11,295.00</b>	<b>62.50</b>	<b>7,556.20</b>	<b>23,879.14</b>	<b>15,637.16</b>

students, their parents, and distinguished educators who have made an impact on each of these students. Accomplishments were applauded as each student honored an educator, coach, sponsor, or another adult that inspired him/her to strive for excellence.

It was an evening filled with reminiscences, stories of accomplishment, as well as an evening which reminded all present of the importance of the bond among the student, parent, and educator -- a team that is ultimately one which guarantees academic success. 175+ individuals attended the banquet award ceremony. The total number impacted, however, is unquantifiable as each attendee left with those memories which will last a lifetime and will be related time and time again through the years.

The capstone event of the A+ calendar year is the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor Banquet. The two day event honored our 2013 inductees: Edgar Neil Foster, Jr., Class of 1938 - magician and visual artist; Robert Garrison, Class of 1954 - astronomer and author; Carol Cauldwell McElroy, Class of 1961 - educator and philanthropist; and Michael Oros, Class of 1980 - orthotist and prosthetist. On Friday, April 19, our honorees visited West High and were feted with a continental breakfast, interviewed by West's Red and Blue newspaper journalists, toured the building with the Ambassadors, spoke to classes about their experiences, lunched at our

Blackhawk Cafe with luncheon prepared by our own Culinary Academy, spoke to a student assembly of 500+, and were honored by the unveiling of their plaques on the wall of honor.

On Saturday, April 20, the honorees, their family, friends, members of the School Board, District Administration, A+ Board, and community members attended the Legacy of Lights Banquet at Aurora Country Club. More than 130 individuals applauded the accomplishments of the four honorees. Also honored were Betty and Jim Carson and Jean and Brent Wadsworth. The Carsons received the Black Hawk Maquette Donor Award for the time spent in our schools, volunteering as mentors by working on reading and math skills with our elementary level students. The Wadsworths were similarly honored for their significant financial contributions which funded a number of programs in Art, Reading, and team building. The banquet featured the West High brass quintet, A+ videos, as well as a mesmerizing magic performance by Dale Salwak, representing Neil Foster. The evening sparkled with fond memories, amusing anecdotes, and rekindled friendships.

The A+ Calendar of Events is a full one. The A+ Board is committed to providing our students and schools with those little, but irreplaceable, extras that make each individual leaning experience special. Look to next year for opportunities to participate in these and many more events!

## Alumni Activities

The *Alumni Corner* button is prominently displayed on the home page mast of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools' website - [aplusfoundation.org](http://aplusfoundation.org). Materials and links are available on our website which will support the efforts of class reunion organizers. These materials include contact information for local hotels, dinner venues, and points of interest.

In addition, our Alumni Director can coordinate tours of the high school, middle schools, and elementary schools should members of a class want to revisit "their" old schools. A+ can also assist in making arrangements for musical ensembles to perform at reunion functions, should the reunion committee so desire. A+ stands ready to assist class reunion committees as they work through the myriad of details involved in organizing an energized class reunion.

A+ also works with Donor Perfect to update our alumni contact information. Keeping class contact information current is a significant undertaking but, we believe, an important one as we work at keeping our alumni records up to date.

## Receipts and Investment Earnings

Disbursements			Change	End Balance 12/31/2012
Projects	Transfer	Other		
	8,595.00		9,395.39	223,873.72
112,818.89			(93,779.13)	92,353.13
2,717.00	2,700.00		300.30	72,025.03
			1,076.07	12,864.13
			32,658.55	142,573.96
			8,157.94	10,355.41
60.00			140.00	2,452.85
4,173.73			(1,170.05)	6,359.50
119,769.62	11,295.00	-	(43,220.93)	562,857.73



Disbursements





# 1994 - 2012 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

Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.  
Dunham Fund  
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  
Emerson Network Power and Energy Systems  
Herget Family\*  
Neal and Mary Clark Ormond\*  
Old Second National Bank  
James & Jo Rydland  
Frank and Char Voris\*  
Ralph and Linda Voris\*  
W. W. Grainger, Inc. Matching Gifts Program  
West Aurora School District  
Odd Cents Fundraiser  
Arthur Wyatt

## SILVER STAR

\$5,000 and above

Caterpillar Inc.  
Gary & Mary Jewel\*  
Peter & Judy Kerl\*  
Edward and Sharon Stredde

## BRONZE STAR

\$2,500 and above

Community Foundation  
of the Fox River Valley  
Sherry Eagle  
Bruce and Margot Goldsmith  
KelmScott Communications  
LuAnne Kelsey  
Mark and Nina Menis/  
Kayton Family Fund  
Mickey, Wilson, Weiler,  
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West Aurora School District 129,  
Board of Education, Administration and Staff  
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](mailto:info@aplusfoundation.org) or writing to*

**The A+ Foundation  
for West Aurora Schools**  
c/o Randi Ochsenschlager,  
80 S. River St., Aurora, IL 60506.

*\*West Aurora High School Alumni Association Charter Members*



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The following list reflects donations made during calendar year 2012.  
Thank you to again to all our contributors for their support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools!

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\$1,000 and above

Aurora Kiwanis Foundation  
Aurora Rotary Club  
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Emerson Network Power  
Energy Systems  
Isla "Tish" Evers  
Gary and Mary Jewel  
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Matching Gifts Program  
Wadsworth Family Endowment Fund  
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Oracle Matching Gifts Services  
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## 2012 Recognition and Celebration Gifts

Anne Beatty and Judith Bunch  
from Michael Zabelin  
Fran Shepard Davis from Daniel Hess  
Sherry R. Eagle from Ed and Sharon Stredde  
Erin Holland from Capella University  
Donna Letzter, Whitney Martino,  
Randi Ochsenschlager from  
Frank and Char Voris  
Neal and Mary Clark Ormond –  
from the District 129 Board of Education  
and Aurora Kiwanis Foundation  
Neal Ormond from Grainger Foundation  
Meg Papadolias from former students,  
friends and community members  
Dr. James Rydland and Morgan Rydland  
from the District 129 Board of Education  
Frank and Char Voris celebrating their  
50th Wedding Anniversary from family and  
friends

## 2012 Pathway of Honor

*The following individuals have been honored with a brick placed in the Pathway of Honor at West High School. These bricks have been purchased by family, friends and colleagues to celebrate their contributions.*

Barry Butler  
Dennis Cromien  
Marie Hessling  
Adam, Eve and Jacob Huppert  
Kathryn Johnson  
Nina Menis  
Christopher Patterson  
Debbie Philipchuck  
Jerry Pigatti  
Brian, Mike, Pat and Cathy O'Connor  
Charlene O'Connor  
Charlene Quinn  
Richard Wyatt  
Emily Streeter Zilly

## 2012 Memorial Gifts

*The passing of good friends and supporters of our Foundation is always a sad time. When significant memorial gifts are received, the Foundation works closely with the family of the deceased to ensure that the memorial project undertaken is consistent with the interests of the deceased and allows the Foundation to fund programs that might not otherwise have been funded. In addition to the Wyatt Memorials reported on page 6, memorial gifts made in memory of Doug Zolper provided funding for two Fund-A-Need projects at Greenman School as reported on page 4. Memorial gifts received in memory of Charlene O'Connor were used to underwrite the cost of refurbishing the Ruth VanSickle Ford art work in the high school library and the support of the high school Theater Department. Memorial gifts received in memory of Sean Harris were used to create a fellowship that allows a junior from West to attend a summer art class at the Art Institute of Chicago and memorials received in memory of Kathryn Johnson will be used to fund a program at Hope Wall School. The Foundation expresses its appreciation to all who made memorial gifts to the A+ Foundation in memory of loved ones and cherished friends.*

Barbara Adkins  
Roberta "Bobbie" Baker  
Hershel Benberry  
Walter Bothe  
Frances Shepard Davis  
Paul Daunheimer  
Michael Didos  
Richard Dorsey  
Howard Eagle  
Gerald Esposito  
Francis Evers  
Wilman Favero  
Harold Fearn  
Frank Gurry  
Sten and Lucille Halfvarson  
Sean Harris  
Elaine Hegy  
Kathryn Johnson  
Pat Kish  
Everett Kuhn  
Justyn Andrew Larry  
Charlene O'Connor  
Evelyn Oncken  
Jack & Elaine Parker  
James Pittman  
Christopher Patterson  
Delois Richardson  
Bill Sorenson  
Jim Twining  
Stephen J. Wilson  
Richard Wyatt  
Doug Zolper  
Melissa Zolper



Visit  
[aplusfoundation.org](http://aplusfoundation.org)  
to "check out" our  
rebranded website.





# 2012 -2013 Organizations Supporting West Aurora 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.”

AAA	Fox Valley Park District	Pockets
American Association of University Women	Fox Valley Therapy Dogs	PNC Bank of North Aurora
American Cancer Society	Freeman PTA	Prairie State Legal Services
Anderson’s Bookshop - Naperville	Friends of Aurora After School Programs	Quad County Urban League: 21st Century After School Program
Astro Auto Repair Service Center	Funway	RAILS
A+ Foundation	Gateway	(Reaching Across Illinois Library System)
Aunt Martha’s	Goin’ for the Green committee	Rainbows
Aurora Advent Christian Church	Golden Kiwanis	Rasmussen College
Aurora Central Catholic -	Goodwin School PTA	Reuland Food Service
National Honor Society	Greenman PTO	Robert Crown
Aurora Fire Department	Hall PTA	(Student/Parent Puberty Education)
Aurora Junior Women’s Club	Hill PTA	Robert Morris College
Aurora Police Department	Hispanic Leadership Fair	Rotary Engineers-math tutoring
Aurora Public Library	Hope Wall PTA	Salvation Army
Aurora to the Rest of the World	Illinois Math and Science Academy	Schneider PTO
and Grooming for Royalty	Illinois Student Assistance Commission	Sci-Tech Museum
Aurora Township Delinquency	Illinois School Library Media Association	School Mall Interstate Picture Studio
Prevention Program	Illinois State Library	SES Tutoring (state funded)
Aurora University	Interstate Photography	Sharing Connection
A & W of North Aurora	Jefferson PTA	Shell gas station on Illinois
Barat Education Foundation	Jewel PTO	Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir Chicago –
Benedictine University: Healthy Table	Dr. Kamal DDS	Hindu Temple
Big Brothers/Sisters	Kane County Regional Office of Education	Smith PTA
Blackhawk Sports Boosters	Kelmscott Communications	St. David’s Church
Katrina Boatright-Smith	Kids Hope and River Valley	Strengthening Families: Parent Café
Mark Bower Family of North Aurora	Community Church	Suicide Prevention Services
Boy Scouts of America	Knights of Columbus	Sunrise Rotary Club of Aurora
BP Amoco: BP Fabric of America Fund	Marmion Academy—school supplies	Taco Bell
Breaking Free	Messenger Public Library	Taking Control
Buffalo Wild Wings	Montgomery Police Department	Target Stores Rotary Club of Aurora
Carrabas	Lewis University	Tinseltown Theaters
Century After School Program	L.I.F.E. Support – Rodney Davis – Athletics	Tuesday Mentoring and support of
City of Aurora-coats	Lifetouch	21st Century After School Program
ComEd	Linden Oaks	US Post Office
Communities in Schools	Lucent Technologies	University Of Illinois Extension Program
Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley	McDonald’s	VNA Clinic
Conley Outreach	Messenger Public Library	Wadsworth Company
Cornerstone Community Baptist Church	Mobil Gas Station on Illinois	WalMart Corporation
Dairy Queen on Illinois	Mutual Ground	Washington PTO
DeVry University	Nicholson PTA	Waubensee Community College
Douglas Carpets of North Aurora	NICOR (SuperReader program)	Wayside Cross
Dreyer Medical	Nobel – donating coats to needy this year	Wendy’s
Everest College	North Aurora A&W	Wesley United Methodist Church
Experience Sales effectiveness –	North Aurora Fire Department	West High Administration
family assistance - gifts	North Aurora Lions Club	West High Band Boosters
Exxon	North Aurora Mother’s Club	West High PTSO
Fairview Dental	North Aurora Police Department	Westminster Presbyterian Church
(free dental screenings for 3rd and 4th graders)	North Central College	West Park Neighbors
Family Counseling	Northern Illinois University –	Westwood College
Family Focus of Aurora	SciMo Research Partnership	World Relief reading club, ESL class,
Fashion Bug—school supplies	Oberweis	21st Century After School Program
Fearn PTA	Parent Leadership Academy Network (PLAN)	YMCA
First Baptist Church	Patrons of the Performing Arts	
First Christian Church: Hope United Mentoring	People For Childcare	



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# 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.

## A+ raises money for the district through a variety of types of gifting...

**Bequests:** A bequest is leaving something from your estate in a gift to the A+ Foundation. Bequests are often made to fund a specific school program or area of interest.

*A+ received a bequest from Janet Kircher Isler, a former teacher in the district. It was her request that the money be used for classroom materials to encourage students to take an interest in geography so they would understand the international relationships throughout the world. The bequest will be used to purchase maps, globes, books and computer programs on cartography and geography.*

**Memorial Funds:** Memorial funds generally begin with a single donation from an individual or group to honor the memory of someone who had been special to the schools in District 129. The donations often come in lieu of flowers at the funeral.

*Kathryn Johnson lived in the Aurora area for almost 30 years. Born in Georgia, Kathryn lost her mother when she was only 1-1/2 and after lived with her grandmother, moving in Illinois when she was seven. Her older sister, Doris had developmental issues, and after Kathryn's marriage to her grade-school sweetheart in 1940, they took responsibility for Doris. "We were taught from an early age to respect Doris and others, regardless of their capabilities."*

*Kathryn worked early in her marriage, then stayed home to be an extraordinary mother to her three children. And, as much as she did and tried to do for Doris, she wanted to do more. Hope Wall is her "more."*

**Endowment Funds:** An endowment is a fund that is created so it will be self-sustaining. That money is invested and the principle remains untouched. The interest or dividends earned on the principle are used to pay for various school programs and activities. When additional donations are made, they grow the principle and in turn grow the program funding.

*The Meg Papadolis Endowment fund was begun to support the school's music program. Meg retired in 2011 after devoting 30 years to the advancement of music in District 129. A group of former high school choral members and others started the endowment to ensure that our student's voices will continue to sing out in concerts and community events. Moneys from this fund will support school choral programs in perpetuity.*

**Annual Gifts:** These gifts are donations of varying amounts from families, businesses, and alumni that are received year to year. Frequently these gifts are given through Fund-A-Need to support a specifically defined program. Contributions large and small have made it possible to offer special activities in all of the schools.

*One of the many examples of Fund-A-Need is the annual Jefferson Middle School Band Senior Citizen Concert. A+ has funded this breakfast concert for several years. The concert is enjoyed by hundreds of local seniors and is a wonderful example of our student's active role in the Aurora community.*

**Gift of Time:** This gift can come in the form of volunteering in the schools or committing to mentoring an individual or classroom.

*West Aurora thanks its hundreds of volunteers who support reading, math and extracurricular activities in our schools. Additionally, the district has launched its latest effort to connect successful alumni and community members with our students to expose the teens to real-world opportunities.*

