# The A+ Foundation 2013-2014 Report to the Community









Achievemen

The Arts





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Past Board Members 2013-2014 Angie Smith

# President's Letter

# 2013-2014 Report to the Community

It is with pride that we share our 2013-2014 Report to the Community with you and say THANK YOU for your interest in and support of the A+Foundation for West Aurora Schools. With your help, we are making a difference.

The 2013-2014 Report to the Community shares results of our programmatic efforts for the 2013-2014 school year and financial and donor information for the calendar year ended December 31, 2013. As a result, a sponsor of a spring program, who made a financial gift in 2014, will be acknowledged as a sponsor but will not be listed in the 2013 donor listing since their gift was received after December 31, 2013. Our objective is to share with you school year activities of the A+ Foundation while continuing to present financial information on a calendar year basis.

These continue to be difficult times for all organizations that depend on the State of Illinois for some portion of their funding. The A+ Foundation is pleased that you share our conviction that there is no activity more important to the future of our great country than the education of our young people. We thank all who have taken their time to read to a child, help tutor a student or given dollars in support of an enrichment program. Your involvement is helping to make a difference. We encourage you to continue your commitment.

At our Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor celebration in April, the A+ Foundation honored a woman and an organization for their on-going commitment to the students of District 129. Janet Momper was recognized for her work with FAAP (Friends of Aurora's After-School Programs) which provides trained, one-on-one reading mentors for over 250 children each week. The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley was recognized for their commitment to and support of education in the Aurora area and to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools in particular.

In closing, I want to extend the A+ Foundation Board's well wishes to Jim and Jo Rydland in his retirement as District 129's Superintendent of Schools. His commitment to, vision for and friendship with the A+ Foundation have been a significant force in our development and continued growth. They will be missed.

With appreciation for your interest, support, and confidence,

Frank K. Voris, President
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

# SAVE THE DATES

Banding Together
Saturday,
September 20, 2014
Two Brothers Roundhouse

Hall of Honor Friday and Saturday, April 17-18, 2015

# 2014 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 annual spring signature event celebrates the induction of former West Aurora High School graduates into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor. 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. The distinguished alumni are feted on both Friday and Saturday of the Hall of Honor weekend, meeting with students at the high school and being honored at a banquet dinner. During the Hall of Honor weekend, inductees are honored with plaques which include 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 schools

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 <code>info@aplusfoundation.org</code>.



... as 2013 honoree Mike Oros honors Carol Beschorner, accepting for her late husband, Dr. Beschorner, 2014 honoree.



... as Kittie Barton Frantz shares her enthusiasm with Child Development students at West High.





... in the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor Wall of Inductees!



... when Bruce Scafe, 2014 honoree, jams with Jazz Band.

# Past Honorees

Frank H. McWethy, '01 Ruth VanSickle Ford, '15 H. Ashley Barber, '29 Edgar Neil Foster '38 John Drury, '45 Arthur R. Wyatt, '45 Richard Olson, '47 J. Allison "Al" Binford, '48 Edward Ochsenschlager, '50 Max Baratz, '52 Robert Garrison '54 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 Everitt, '61 Pam (Kohn) Hait, '61 Arthur Lage, '61 Carol (Cauldwell) McElroy '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 Michael Oros '80 Annbritt (Gemmer) duChateau, '83

# 2014 Honorees



Kittie Barton Frantz Class of 1961

Kittie Barton-Frantz, Class of 1961, is an internationally renowned breastfeeding advocate, pediatric nurse practitioner, educator, and film maker. Called the 'mother guru of breastfeeding,' she was designated a "national treasure" by Mothering Magazine.



William Beschorner Class of 1965

Dr. Beschorner (deceased), Class of 1965, was a pioneer in xenotransplantation, the science of transplanting organs from one species to another. He established Ximerex Inc., a biotechnology company, whose purpose is to identify and develop platform xenotransplant technologies for the treatment of patients with organ failure.



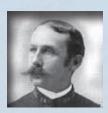
James Edward Puklin Class of 1959

James Puklin, M.D., Class of 1959, is a retina specialist and fellowship-trained ophthalmologist who specializes in vitreo-retinal diseases. He is a Professor of Ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, and a retina expert at Kresge Eye Institute.



Bruce Scafe Class of 1960

Bruce Scafe, Class of 1960, has an illustrious career as musician, television director, producer, and teacher. His most noted accomplishment is the creation of the longest running music television program, Austin City Limits on PBS. The pilot of which, directed by Scafe in 1974, featured a relative unknown, Willie Nelson.



Colonel Adam Slaker Class of 1873

Colonel Adam Slaker (deceased), Class of 1873, As a member of the fourth graduating class from West Side High School, Slaker entered West Point, graduating in 1877 as a 2nd Lieutenant. Slaker authored "Steel as Gun Metal," and his conclusions in that treatise were aligned with the U.S. decision to make its weaponry of steel.

# 2013-2014 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 submitted by staff and select a proposal they wish 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 and click the "Fund-A-Need" button.

# Freeman Partnership Playground Supplies

Funding provided balls, jump ropes and other equipment for indoor play.

Funded through the generous support of Jim and Kathy Navota and the A+ Foundation

## Goodwin Elementary— 3 Ways to Read A Book

Funding provided hard cover books, folders and brochures that would help in the teaching of incoming kindergarten parents on how to read to their children.

Funded through the generous support of Sandra Bauer Lay

### Hall Elementary Girls' Club

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

Funded through the generous support of Neal and Mary Clark Ormond

# Hope D. Wall Media Center

Funding provided for the updating of the Media Center for students of Hope D. Wall School.

Funding was provided by the generous donations made in memory of Shirley Yingst

## Jefferson Middle School Anti Bullying Program

Funding provided a Stand for the Silent and/or Rachel's Challenge assembly to the school.

Partial funding was provide by the A+ Foundation





... with Certificates of Appreciation for faculty and staff.





... for students and their media center at Hope Wall.



school champions at the Jefferson Band Concert and Breakfast.

. for the elementary student audiences as they see the drug free message of

Zachary Daquiri.

### Jefferson Middle School Makers Club

Funding provided for supplies, materials and technology for middle school students to make/invent things as part of a club that uses wood shop, computer lab and the hopeful addition of an electronics lab.

> Funded through the generous support of George Malina and the A+ Foundation

## **Jefferson Middle School Providing Magazines** for Struggling Readers

Funding provided the purchase of magazine subscriptions for targeted students.

Partial funding was provided by the A+ Foundation

### Jefferson Middle School Senior Band Concert and Breakfast

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.

> Partial funding was provided by Kally Klose, John and Barbara Williams, Neal and Mary Clark Ormond, Jane Davis and Jim and Clare Toynton



Since 2009, eighth graders at Jewel Middle School have participated in an interdisciplinary unit that covers events surrounding and including World War II. The coursework includes a field trip to Cantigny, a simulated boot camp and a USO show with

student performers and the West High Jazz Band.

Funded through the generous support of the A+ Foundation



# Jewel Middle School—3D Printer for SCET

Funding provided students the opportunity to create objects using an AutoCAD type program.

> Funding provided through the generous support of Catherine Veal

#### Nicholson School—Classroom Guitar

Funding provided guitar instruction to supplement the music curriculum at Nicholson.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation





# 2013 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 donations match with the appropriate Foundation project to best align with the interests of the deceased. The Foundation expresses its appreciation to all who made memorial gifts to the A+ Foundation in memory of loved ones and cherished friends. Memorial gifts were received in memory of the following individuals:

Frank Brown
Kurk Buschbacher
Melissa Zolper Davidson
Francis Evers
Dorothy Fowler
Mary Grace Harkness
Sean Harris
Carl Heubeck
Robert Hester
LaRee Jacobson
Sally Ridley James
Ann Kaltofen
Beverly King
Carol Kruse

Michelle Lage
James "Ed" Lyons
Jeanne Moecher
Barbara Morrow
James Pittman
Larry Porter
Dean Schroeder
Donald Schroeder
Stephen Wilson
Richard Wyatt
Shirley Yingst
Doug Zolper



MEMORIAL GIFTS HELP US REMEMBER ...



... Grandparents on Grandparent Day.

 Friendships made in after school clubs and activities.

## Schneider School—Taste of the World

Funding provided a whole-school event for students, parents and staff after studying different countries.

Funding was provided through the Janet Kircher Isler Endowment Fund

#### Todd School—A Visit From Miller's Petting Zoo

Funding provided the ability for early childhood students to experience a visit from the Miller Petting Zoo.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation



.. the joy of dancing during the Fine Arts Festival.





... as teams Volley for a Cure.

GENERAL JOG

#### ... as the community celebrates 50 years of Washington Middle School.



... as the Marching Blackhawks remind us about school spirit.

## Todd School—David Herzog's Marionette Visit

Funding provided a Family Reading Night at Todd School.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation

#### Todd School—Pizza Fund

Funding provided a program to increase family attendance at events held by the school.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation

## Todd School—Reading is Magic

Funding provided for a Pre-K program which incorporated Snowball the Magic Reading Rabbit, highlighting the importance of reading.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation

## Todd School—Story Bus Visit

Funding provided a program which stresses the importance of reading and provided a book for each family attending the program.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Scott and Michelle Voris and the A+ Foundation.

## Todd School—Winter Break Reading

Funding provided a book and an activity to go home with each child.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Jim and Kathy Navota and the A+ Foundation

## Washington Middle School— 50 Year Celebration 5K

Fundin provided materials for a 5K run to raise funds for the school to visit museums to enhance the science curriculum.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Neal and Mary Clark Ormond and the A+ Foundation

## West High School—Data Collection Analysis Equipment

Funding provided for 15 PASCO SPARKlink interfaces to be used in the science classes.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Tish Evers, Scott Robowski, John and Ann Marriner, Dr. James Swedler, George Malina

#### West High School—Peer Mediation

Funding provided materials for students who are trained mediators.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. James Orchard and the A+ Foundation

## West High School—Book Club

Funding provided for the purchase of books for monthly reading meetings.

Partial funding was provided by Judith Bunch and the A+Foundation

### West High School—Zachery Daquiri

Funding provided for the ability of the Student Assistance Program to visit elementary schools to provide education on drug, alcohol and bullying prevention.

Funding was provided by the A+ Foundation

## West High School—Famous First Words

Funding provided for materials to entice struggling readers to spend more time reading.

Partial funding was provided by the generous support of Nancy Hopp.

### West High School—Investigating Water Quality

Funding provided 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 was provided through the generous support of the A+Foundation for West Aurora Schools

# West High School—Success Academy Incentive Program and RSSP program

Funding supported two evening programs which provide students the core curriculum via online learning, which will increase student success in academics, behavior, attendance and success in the school environment.

Funding was provided through the generous support of LuAnne Kelsey

# West High School—Tumbling Support for the Cheerleading Program

Funding provided for outside coaches who specialize in tumbling techniques to help cheerleaders prepare for future events and competition.

Funding was provided through the generous support of Greg and Angie Smith





... as Smith students celebrate the winter holidays.

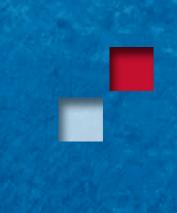
# **Our Vision**

Enrich the curriculum

Inspire excellence in students and staff

Expand opportunities for community involvement

Foster alumni connections



# About A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

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

A+ 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.

A+ is proud of School District 129's tradition of excellence, and we are committed to see that tradition continue.

# 2013 Recognition and Celebration Gifts

For

Dr. James Rydland Lila Fagan Robert Garrison Eric McLaren Family From

Board of Education Jim & Clare Toynton Al & Rita Doud Sherry Eagle

# 2013 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.

Sean Luke Harris Ed & Ruth Holt Kathy Holt Bruce Scafe Michael Schaschwary Ruth Solomon Shirley Yingst

# Excellence in Education and Hall of Honor Sponsors

GOLD

Alarm Detection Aurora University BMO Harris Durham School Services Frost Electric Kelmscott Communications
Old Second National Bank
Robbins Schwartz
Waubonsee Community College

**SILVER** 

Artlip and Sons, Inc. Clear Perspective Advisors Crowe Horwath Anonymous

**BRONZE** 

Central States Bus Sales

eChalk

**FRIENDS** 

Driessen Construction Mickey, Wilson, Weiler, Renzi & Andersson Pike Systems

# **Banding Together Sponsors**

Hipp Temporary Luigi's MB Financial Neal Ormond Anthony Glorioso Hollywood Casino Leondardi Appliance Arnold Lies Company Painters District Peskind Law Firm Cordogan & Clark

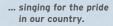
# Healing Field



... tagging flags in honor of our service men and women.



The A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools was proud to have played a supporting role in making the Healing Field come to life. We congratulate Rudy Keller and all who were involved in bringing the Moving Wall to the West High campus and creating the inspirational Healing Field.



Moving Wall

... remembering those who gave their lives to enrich ours.



... reverencing the fallen.





# A YEAR OF CONNECTIONS

The 2013-2014 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 a mentoring program led by Cherie Esposito; 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 2013 showcased our 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 Two Brothers. 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 100+ alumni at our homecoming football game. 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.

A+ Board members also visited our elementary, middle and high schools' **Open Houses** 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 conjunction with the Class of 1961, the A+ Foundation is initiating an **A+ Mentoring program** featuring members of our Alumni Hall of Honor, the Class of 1961, and other interested graduates of District 129. In 2014/2015, individuals in these groups will visit with selected classes / extracurricular organizations / teams in person or via Skype to talk with students about potential career interests, future

# AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

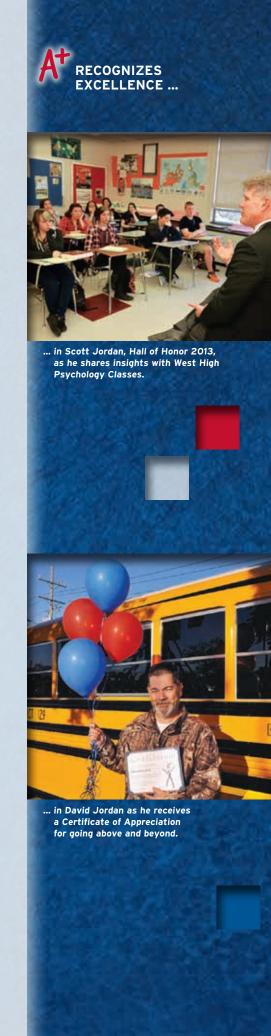
goals and plans, and motivational interests. While still in its infancy, the Mentoring Program is an exciting venture for A+ because it will make connections between former and current students in pursuit of excellence.

In April, A+, in conjunction with the **Incoming Freshman** (future class of 2018!) **Orientation** at West High, hosted its annual **Spaghetti Dinner**. 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 annual **Excellence in Education Dinner**. This event was a joint effort between the A+ Foundation, District 129, and the generosity of members of the Aurora business community. The dinner honored the top 5% of the high school senior class and each of those student's most influential educator. Thirty-one educators, ranging from private music instructors to middle and high school teachers, were honored by each student as being the educator whose impact made a significant difference in his/her life. Each of the thirty-eight students and their parents/guardians received special recognition for their ongoing belief in academic distinction and accomplishment. (See list on page 16-17.)

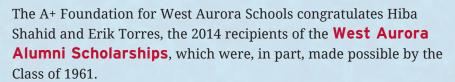
The A+ Certificates of Appreciation had their successful debut! Through these one of a kind, beautifully created certificates, teachers, staff, and administration are applauded by community/ school individuals who, through their contribution to the A+ Fund, congratulate, thank, or encourage these individuals. Each certificate is hand delivered by an A+ Board member to the individual chosen by the donor. Personal messages are included, and the recipients receive balloons (and accompanying hoopla) and are applauded by fellow staff and students during their presentation.

The A+ Certificates of Appreciation have become another way that A+ helps recognize excellence throughout the school year. (See list on page 23.)





... in Dr. Stevens as she is accorded recognition through a Certificate of Appreciation.



Hiba's academics at West were outstanding, and her involvement as a member of the Varsity Badminton team, captain of the Chess team, and Clarinet section leader in Band made her an integral part of West. She was also a Student Ambassador donating her time in a variety of ways. Hiba hopes to attend MIT to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. Erik will attend the University of Illinois, Urbana to study mechanical engineering. He was also very involved during his years at West High. He played varsity football and was a trombonist in the Concert Band. Similarly, his academics earned him a membership in the National Honor Society as well as the French Honor Society. A+ wishes both Hiba and Erik great success in their college careers.

Richard Dorsey was the West High basketball coach for a number of very successful years and a role-model for sportsmanship. It is because of his dedication and excellence that the Richard Dorsey Sportsmanship Awards were established.

This year, Quintez Jones and Emily Stefancic were the recipients of these Sportsmanship Awards. Emily played varsity tennis and will attend Northern Illinois University where she will become an

NIU Huskie and play on a tennis scholarship. Quintez was a member of varsity football at West and will make the green and gold of Northern Michigan University his new home. He will become a Wildcat playing on a football scholarship. The A+ Foundation congratulates both for their participation, success, and commitment to sportsmanship.



.. in Mr. Velasco (and his students) as they smile for his success!

# Friends of A+ Awards

As part of their fiftieth class reunion, the class of 1958 undertook the project of funding a casting of a life-size bronze bust of BLACK HAWK which now resides in the main foyer of West Aurora High School. This project included extensive research on the man and his life as the legendary leader of approximately one thousand Sauk and Fox men, women, and children who once lived in Northern Illinois. Great care has been given to transforming references of BLACK HAWK from the realm of school mascot to that of a symbol of a man who was highly regarded for his wisdom, loyalty, bravery, and determination towards the interests of his people.

THE FRIENDS OF A+ AWARDS are given to individuals and/or organizations from the Aurora community who exemplify, through their donation of time and talents, the traditions of BLACK HAWK, the man, and our Blackhawk Nation. Each year, at the Hall of Honor banquet, A+ recognizes these individuals and organizations by presenting them with replicas of the bust of BLACK HAWK created by Gareth Curtiss. This year's recipients are The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley / Sharon Stredde and Janet Momper / Friends of Aurora After School Program (FAAP).

The Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley (CFFRV) is the A+Foundation's fiscal agent, holding all cash assets, providing the IRS

required donor communications, the annual audit that gives donors the assurance they seek that financial transactions are being properly accounted for, and the record keeping

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

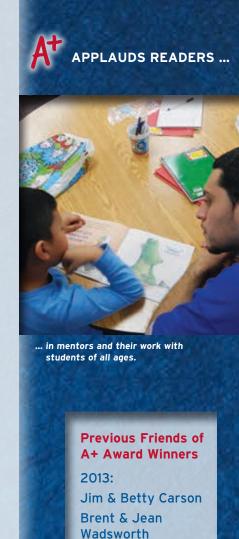
OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY

that minimizes annual federal and state reporting requirements. These CFFRV services give the A+ Foundation great comfort and allow A+ to focus on its mission of serving the students of District 129.

In addition to providing fiscal support, whenever A+ is faced with an unusual request from a prospective donor or have a technical question, Sharon Stredde, the President and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley (CFFRV), is the person to whom A+ turns for answers. Her coaching and mentoring have been invaluable to A+. Her vision and commitment to the mission of the CFFRV serve as a role model for all involved in public service.

Our 'Volunteer of the Year' recognition this year is presented to Janet Momper as the inspiration and leader of Friends of Aurora's After-School Programs. The fact that 'If a student leaves third grade reading below grade level, there is a 74% chance that he or she will never catch up" sparked Janet to work closely with Cherie Esposito, principal of McCleery elementary school, and Amanda Talley, Janet's teaching partner, to create a mentoring program in reading that has trained mentors who work with over 250 at-risk children a week.

The Friends of Aurora's After-School Programs include Lunch Bunch Book Clubs, Family Library Nights, The Hope for Tomorrow Reading Mentor Scholarship, and a Summer Library Program. Janet's efforts as a volunteer have made reading a skill that hundreds of students whom her organization has touched find enjoyable and rewarding.





.. in teachers and their students as they support After School books and reading programs.



## 2014 Influential Educators

SELECTED BY ACADEMICIANS

Victor Anderson, Private Music Instructor Meghan Benear, Psychology Teacher—West Aurora Mary Joe Bheda, Bilingual Science Teacher—West Aurora Jennifer Biggs, Teacher—Jewel Middle School D129 Alice Brown, Private Music Instructor—Bassoon Adam Butcher, Accounting Teacher—West Aurora Christi Castenson, French Teacher—West Aurora Michael DiNovo, Social Studies Teacher, Wrestling Coach—West Aurora Nicole Faulstich, Math Teacher—West Aurora Ryan Gatbunton, Counselor—West Aurora Natalie Gross, Math Teacher—West Aurora Elizabeth Hutchinson, Choir Teacher—West Aurora Robert James, Teacher & Student Council Sponsor—West Aurora Tad Keely, Guidance Counselor, Tennis Coach—West Aurora Jeff Kissel, Private Music Instructor –Percussion Matthew Love, Math Teacher—West Aurora Janet Luberda, Chemistry Teacher—West Aurora Donna Monti, English Teacher—Jewel Middle School D129 Jennifer Pauley, English Teacher—West Aurora Michael Persons, English Teacher—West Aurora Nichole Roberts, Math Teacher-West Aurora

# A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2013

	Beginning Balance		
FUND	12/31/2012	Contributions	Fundraising
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Endowment Fund	223,873.72	100.00	
A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools Fund	92,353.13	70,910.67	70,569.95
Dr. Sherry R. Eagle Education Endowment Fund	72,025.03		
Sten & Lucile Halfvarson Endowment Fund	12,864.13		
Janet Kircher Isler Endowment Fund	142,573.96		
Meg Papadolias Endowment Fund	10,355.41	1,125.00	
West Aurora High School Fund in Memory of Richard J. Dorsey	2,452.85	250.00	
Richard & Carole Wyatt Endowment Fund	-	20,435.00	
West Aurora High School Library Endowment Fund	-	25,000.00	
Checkbook at Old Second National Bank	6,359.50	13,934.00	
Total of all funds	562,857.73	131,754.67	70,569.95
Percentage of total receipts / disbursements (current year-to-date)	50.08%	26.83%	
Percentage of total receipts / disbursements (year ending December 31	56.35%	9.55%	

(1) These funds do not include investment of it's principle and therefore will not include interest income or realized and unrea

Kenneth Ruffalo, English Teacher –West Aurora
Maureen Ryan, Psychology Teacher, FEA Advisor—West Aurora
Patty Sampson, Band Director—West Aurora
Randi Schoon, Spanish Teacher—West Aurora
Rodney Schueller, Band Director—West Aurora
Bill Stanley, Guidance Counselor—West Aurora
Steve Stern, Physics Teacher—West Aurora
Mary Thompson, Band Teacher—Washington Middle School
Teresa Waldinger, English Teacher—West Aurora
Jeffery Wiktor, Science Teacher—Washington Middle School D129

## **Award Recipients**

Miranda Aldrich
Margaret Bailey
Samantha Bennett
Kristen Butler
Matthew Carder
June Castro
Katherine Cheng
Kamolchanok Cheung
Jessica Conner-Strunk
Grace Currie
Alyssa DeBolt
Jacob Dewar
Rebecca Flynn
Emily Kay

Max Kim
Sarah Knauf
Abigail Kott
Laura Kovanic
Emily Krasinski
Sabrina Leal
Dana Lingel
Erin Lisac
Alexandra Martinez
Joshua Morano
Jessica Nguyen
Kerri Olson
Dylan Oncken
Hailini Patel

Natalie Pavlik
Matthew Pilmer
Arvinto Pratomo
Samara Renovato
Reid Roos
Alicia Rotolo
Stephen Ryder
Hiba Shahid
Lisa Stone
Shannon Sullivan
Erik Torres
Kendra Triplett
Matthew Urness
Kimiya Vatani

			DISPUDSEMENTS				
RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		Ending Balance			
Investment Income	(Un)realized Gain/Loss	Transfer	General	Program Services	Transfer	12/31/2013	
4,004.16	24,444.84		4.40		8,849.00	243,569.32	
		8,849.00	17,401.15	127,893.98	9,800.00	87,587.62 (1)	
1,323.19	8,043.41					81,391.63	
233.92	1,436.01					14,534.06	
2,587.21	15,869.82			1,200.00		159,830.99	
222.79	1,243.30	5,000.00				17,946.50	
						2,702.85 (1)	
214.14	1,109.86		18.40			21,740.60	
4.34	10.45					25,014.79	
		4,800.00	1,847.96	14,381.55		8,863.99 (1)	
8,589.75	52,157.69	18,649.00	19,271.91	143,475.53	18,649.00	663,182.35	
3.27%	19.83%		11.84%	88.16%			
8.20%	25.90%		11.55%	88.45%			

lized gains and losses.





... appreciating the arts together at the Fine Arts Festival.



... spending father and son time with each other.

# 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.

The Yingst memorial honors Shirley A. Yingst who served as librarian at Hope D. Wall School. Memorials of over \$6000 were received honoring Shirley and were used to renovate the Hope D. Wall LMC. New tables, chairs, and rugs were purchased. The LMC supports a wide range of ages and unique abilities of students attending Hope D. Wall. The renovations will create individual reading and work centers; also media and books, related to the recently adopted curriculum, will be purchased to complete this facility.

#### **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 West Aurora High School Library Fund was created by the Voris Family, for whom the library was named. This fund was created to provide resources for the West Aurora High School Library to purchase books, DVD's, computer hardware and software, publications, instructional guides and other appropriate materials for use by students and faculty of West Aurora High School.

#### **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 our schools.

One of the many examples of an annual gift is through the utilization of Fund-A-Need. Tish Evers, District teacher / administrator emeritus, donated the funds to bring updated technology to the High School Science Department. Through the purchase of PASCO Probeware, all high school science students can now utilize high tech equipment for data acquisition and analysis. Students can measure temperature, pressure, pH, force, dissolved oxygen and numerous other qualities. The equipment is used in every course taught in the Science Department reaching over 90% of all students at the high school.

#### **GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT:**

This gift can come in the form of volunteering in the schools , committing to mentoring an individual or classroom, or providing A+ programs with talents unique to the donor. Time and Talent commitments may involve a number of contacts with our students or a yearly commitment to specific events .

The A+ annual Banding Together event raised over \$10,000 for the Foundation. Former graduates, Brooks Lindner, Tom Pearson, Jason Navota, and many others, came from as far away as Colorado to entertain at this year's, Two Brothers' Roundhouse event. The 'final tour' of the band, Julius Seizure and the Roman Candles, was one of the highlights. Former graduates Bob Lisberg, Ingrid (Swanson) Roney, Scott Voris, and Heather (Fairbanks) Lambert were the driving forces in this celebration of the talents of West High students, past and present!

Scott Jordan and Carol McElroy have returned to the Hall of Honor event this year where they shared their experiences and life-work lessons with students at the high school. This continued support by our prior Hall of Honor recipients aids current high school students in career exploration, self-understanding, and pride in their school.

#### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP:**

These gifts are donations by area businesses, big and small, which help fund A+ programs. These gifts are targeted to specific events or their distribution is left to the discretion of the A+ Board.

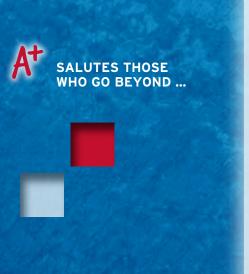
Instrumental in support of this year's major events, Excellence in Education and the Hall of Honor weekend, A+ salutes our generous Gold and Silver corporate sponsors: ADS, Artlip and Sons, Aurora University, BMO Harris, Clear Perspective Advisors, Crowe Horwath, Durham School Services, Frost Electric, Kelmscott Communications, Old Second National Bank, Robbins Schwartz, and Waubonsee Community College.



... attending the Goodwin Fair for the fun of it all!



... watching performances that make hearts sing.





... waving flags and watching the Veterans' Parade.

# 1994-2012 Lifetime Giving to the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools

#### **PLATINUM STAR**

\$250,000 + City of Aurora

#### **GOLD STAR**

\$20,000 +
Alarm Detection
Dunham Fund
Janet Kircher Isler
Richard and Cleo Jean Olson Family
Charitable Fund
The Wadsworth Family Endowment Fund

#### SILVER STAR W/DISTINCTION

\$10,000 +
Sherry R. Eagle Endowment Fund
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and Energy Systems
Grainger Matching Gifts Program
Herget Family\*
Neal and Mary Clark Ormond\*
Old Second National Bank
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Cents Fundraiser
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### SILVER STAR

\$5000 +
Caterpillar Inc.
Gary & Mary Jewel\*
Kelmscott Communications
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Read with Me Fund
Edward and Sharon Stredde
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West Aurora Alumni Association

#### **BRONZE STAR**

\$2500 **Aurora University** Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley Sherry and Howard Eagle Bruce and Margot Goldsmith LuAnne Kelsey Mark and Nina Menis/Kayton Family Fund Mickey, Wilson, Weiler, Renzi & Andersson PC Olsson Roofing Company Robbins, Schwartz Greg & Angie Smith James & Clare Toynton Waubonsee Community College

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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.

# 2013 Donors

## The following list reflects donations made during calendar year 2013. Thank you to again to all our contributors for their support of the A+ Foundation for West Aurora Schools!

#### **VALEDICTORIANS \$1000 +**

Alarm Detection Annoymous Artlip & Sons Aurora University **BMO Harris Bank Community Foundation** Sherry Eagle

#### HONOR SOCIETY \$500-\$999

Central State Bus Sales Crowe Horwath **Echalk** Lucille Halfvarson Scholarship Fund

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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."

# 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 for West Aurora Schools.

Alderman Mike Seville American Association of University Women American Cancer Society Amplify Youth Amvets Ladies Auxiliary Anderson's Bookshop— Naperville
Apple Villa Pancake
House
Astro Auto Repair Service Center Athletic Boosters Club A+ Foundation Aunt Martha's Aurelio's Pizza of Geneva Aurora Advent Christian Church Aurora Central Catholic -National Honor Society
Aurora Fire
Department Aurora Hispanic Heritage Advisory Committee Aurora Historical Society Aurora Junior Women's Club Aurora Police Department Aurora Public Library Aurora Puerto Rican Fraternal Order Aurora to the Rest of the World and Grooming for Royalty Aurora Sunrise Rotary Aurora Township Delinquency Prevention Program Aurora University A & W of North Aurora Ballydoyle's Irish Pub and Restaurant **Barat Education** Foundation Batavia Creamery Benedictine University: Healthy Table Bliss Creek Golf Big Brothers/Sisters Katrina Boatright-Smith Mark Bower Family of North Aurora Boy Scouts of America BP Amoco: BP Fabric of America Fund Breaking Free Buffalo Wild Wings Carrabas CarX Century After School Program Chick-Fil-A in Batavia Chipotles Chuck-E-Cheese-Batavia City of Aurora-Coats Colonial Ice Cream ComEd Kirhoffer's Sports Knights of Columbus Kohl's Cares Comedy Shrine Communities in Schools Lewis University Conley Outreach Liberty Chiroprtaic

Cornerstone Community Baptist Dairy Queen on Illinois DeVry University Donors Choose **Douglas Carpets** of North Aurora Dreyer Medical Eagle Academy of Martial Arts **Everest College** Experience Sales effectiveness—family assistance-gifts Exxon Mobile Fairview Dental (free dental screenings for 3rd and 4th graders) Family Counseling Family Focus of Aurora Fashion Bug—school supplies Fearn PTA First Baptist Church First Christian Church: Hope United Mentoring Five Below (PBIS) Forel Family Fun Fox Valley Park District Fox Valley Therapy Freeman PTA Friends of Aurora After School Programs Funway Gateway Girls on the Run Girl Scouts Goin' for the Green Committee Golden Kiwanis Goodwin School PTA Greenman PTO Hall PTA Herget PTA Hill PTA Hispanic Leadership Fair Hope Wall PTA Houihan's of Geneva Illinois Math and Science Academy Illinois Student Assistance Commission ISBE Fruit and Vegetable Program Illinois School Library Media Association Illinois State Library Interstate Photography JC Imagination's Jefferson PTA Jewel PTO Junior Achievement Dr. Kamal DDS
Kane County Cougars
Kane County Regional
Office of Education Kelmscott Communications Kids Hope and River Valley Community Church

L.I.F.E. Support— Rodney Davis— Athletics Lifetouch Linden Oaks Lucent Technologies Lyons Club Marberry Cleaners Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry Marmion Academy school supplies McDonald's of North Aurora Messenger Public Library Mobil Gas Station on Illinois Montgomery Police Department Dr. Montimy—Dentist Morning Star Community Church Morton Arboretum Moves Dance Studio Mutual Ground Nicole's Hallmark and Gifts
Nicholson PTA
NICOR (SuperReader program)
Nobel—donating coats to needy this year North Aurora A&W North Aurora Fire Department North Aurora Lions Club North Aurora Mother's North Aurora Police Department North Central College Northern Illinois Food Northern Illinois University —SciMo Research Partnership Oak Street Restaurant Oberweis Dairy Office Depot Panera Parent Advocating Literacy (PAL) Parent Leadership Academy Network (PLAN) Patrons of the Performing Arts People For Childcare Pockets PNC Bank of North Aurora Prairie State Legal Services Quad County Urban League: 21st Century After School Program R Closets and Yours Raging Waves
RAILS (Reaching Across
Illinois Library System) Raimondo's Pizza and Pub Rainbows Rasmussen College Rebuilding Together

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Rotary Club of Aurora
Target—Take Charge of Education Tinseltown Theaters
Tuesday Mentoring
and support of 21st
Century After School Program Two Rivers Head Start Under the Big Top US Post Office University Of Illinois Extension Program VNA Clinic Wadsworth Company WalMart Corporation Washington PTO Waste Management Waubonsee Community College Wayside Cross Wendy's Wesley United Methodist Church West High Administration West High Band Boosters West Aurora High School Prevention Program West High PTSO Westminster Presbyterian Church West Park Neighbors Westwood College World Relief reading club, ESL class, 21st Century After School Program YMCA

YWCA

Aurora

Red Oak Nature Center Reuland Food Service

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... Patrick Watson and all faculty and staff that go that extra mile!



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