



La Crosse Public Education Foundation
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Teacher Leaves \$135,000 to La Crosse Public Education Foundation

La Crosse, Wis., Janet Kircher Isler, who grew up in La Crosse during the depression era of the 1930s, passed away two years ago today—December 6, 2010—she was 92. As a girl, she attended La Crosse’s Washington Elementary School (note: building no longer exists), where her father was principal. She continued her studies at Central High School and graduated in 1936.

Having grown up in a “public education family,” Isler went on to study at the La Crosse State Teacher’s College (now UW-La Crosse). After successfully completing her degree, Isler taught briefly in Baraboo and Wauwatosa before settling into a teaching position in Illinois with the West Aurora Public School District. She taught in the West Aurora Schools for 26 years before retiring in 1968.

Janet Kircher Isler never forgot the value of the public education she received in La Crosse and she believed in giving back. And, even though she never made more than \$10,000 annually from teaching, she included a provision in her estate for the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. When the final distributions were made earlier this year, the Foundation learned Janet Kircher Isler had left a total of \$135,000—to be used without restrictions—for the benefit of public education in La Crosse.

“In this season of giving, and for being thankful, we are exceedingly thankful to Ms. Kircher Isler for her exceptional gift. She left a legacy of excellent teaching in other school districts, but she always remembered her own education in the public schools of La Crosse,” said La Crosse Public Education Foundation Executive Director Timothy Riley. “The Foundation’s board has voted to invest this gift and use the earnings to support projects in our schools in perpetuity. It really will be a gift that keeps on giving.”

With this gift, total endowments—restricted and unrestricted—and dedicated trusts for the La Crosse Public Education Foundation are now valued at \$1.1 million.

So far in 2012, the La Crosse Public Education Foundation has given over \$63,000 in grants to support teacher and student projects in the School District of La Crosse.



Janet Kircher Isler, Teacher



Janet Kircher Isler, Alumna
La Crosse Central High School
Class of 1936

For more information about the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, visit

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