



LA CROSSE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Science of Harvest: Community and Classroom Innovation



Longfellow Science Teacher Elizabeth Ramsey Received Grant with Student

When Longfellow Middle School science teacher Elizabeth Ramsey met Sister Lucy Slinger, professor and sustainability coordinator at Viterbo University, an innovative community service and science

collaboration was born. Using funds from a Classroom Innovation Grant, Ramsey started a plant growth laboratory in her classroom last spring. Students tested and measured organic fertilizers and

learned valuable lessons in sustainable food growth.

Students transplanted their “baby plants”—as they affectionately called them—to the St. Joseph Villa Gardens, where Sister Lucy and others nurtured them during the summer before being harvested last month.

“I incorporate World Food Day into our service project,” said Ramsey. “We start with our own perceptions of hunger and then compare to published statistics. My students are able to make many sophisticated conclusions and use a problem solving process to identify a goal, actions, and outcomes. Never underestimate the mind of a 13-year-old!”

Teachers Recognized by Students at Academic Achievement Ceremony

Logan High School English teacher Andrea Kramer and Central High School World Language Teacher John Havlicek each received \$250 classroom grants from the Foundation during the Board of Education’s Academic Achievement Ceremony held at Viterbo University

Fine Arts Center on November 4. La Crosse Public Education Foundation Board President Ann Fowler presented the award to both teachers, who were nominated by students and honored for their exemplary and inspiring work in and outside the classroom. “The

Foundation could not be more proud of the work that these teachers have done—and continue to do—for our schools,” said Fowler.



Andrea Kramer



John Havlicek

Upcoming Events

- > Thursday, December 19
Theatre of the Air presents *Miracle on 34th Street*, a La Crosse Community Theatre production to benefit the La Crosse Public Education Foundation
- > Monday, January 20
6th Annual Grants Award Ceremony and Luncheon

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Report on Giving

La Crosse Community Foundation Supports Compassion Project

The La Crosse Community Foundation awarded the La Crosse Public Education Foundation a \$5,000 grant in support of the La Crosse Compassion Project.

The project involves nearly 6,000 La Crosse School District K-12 art students. Throughout the academic year, participating students will receive a 6-inch-by-six-inch art canvas and be asked to draw or paint

their idea of compassion. Additionally, students will be asked to write a brief statement about their work. The project aspires to teach the practice of compassion through the use of art and writing.

The inspiration behind the project came from Richard Davidson, PhD – a University of Wisconsin-Madison psychology and psychiatry professor and brain researcher whose research

has shown that those who practice compassion have measurably healthier brains, and generally, a happier outlook on life.

Collectively, the 6,000 artworks will be installed in The Pump House Regional Arts Center galleries, where they will be on view to public, from May 2 – June 28, 2014.

Thank you La Crosse Community Foundation!

“We have until 3 p.m. today to make a gift and are looking to help students in need. How can we help?”

**—Ashley Hamby,
Personal Banker,
U.S. Bank**

Random Act of (Corporate) Kindness

In early October La Crosse Public Education Foundation Executive Director Timothy Riley received an urgent telephone call from Ashley Hamby, a personal banker at the La Crosse branch of U.S. Bank. “We have just been notified by our main corporate office that we have been given \$500 to distribute here in La Crosse. We have until 3 p.m. today to make a gift and are hoping to help

students in need. How can we help?” The answer was simple. Make a gift to the Foundation’s Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

Each year the Foundation makes \$20,000 available to purchase essential items for students and families who are experiencing financial hardship.

Principals at each school building use Random Acts of Kindness funds to buy

winter boots, eyeglasses, bus passes, or a host of other items for students in need.

“Random Acts of Kindness funds are intended to remove barriers to learning caused by poverty,” said Foundation Executive Director Timothy Riley. “We are grateful to U.S. Bank for their quick thinking in making this unexpected and compassionate gift to the Foundation.”

Honorary and Memorial Gifts Leave Lasting Legacy

Each year the Foundation receives hundreds of gifts in honor of individuals who believe in quality public education. Gifts can be made to honor birthdays, marriages, retirements, graduations or other special occasions.

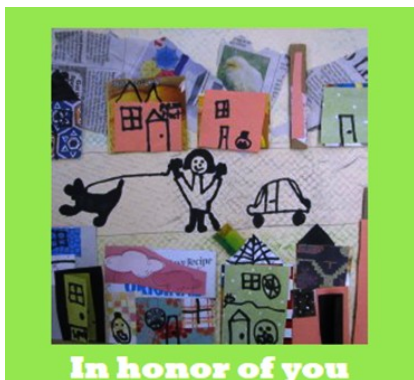
When the Foundation receives a gift in honor of someone, the donor is

acknowledged and a card is sent to the honoree informing them that a gift has been made.

Similarly, gifts can be made in memory of a loved one, colleague, or friend. Whenever possible, family members are notified when memorials are received.

Gifts can be designated to particular funds within the Foundation or left unrestricted, allowing the Foundation to use those dollars in the areas of greatest need.

The next time you are looking for that perfect gift, consider honoring someone with a show of support for the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.



The Foundation sends cards to individuals in whose honor gifts are made to support public education.

Maureen and Robert Freedland Fund for Study of the Shoah



Student artwork from Logan Middle School

In 2007, Maureen and Robert Freedland established an endowed fund in memory of their families and all others who perished in the Holocaust. The fund was established for the benefit of La Crosse Public School District students to advance their understanding of the “Shoah,” the systematic genocide

against the Jewish people and other so-called undesirable groups targeted for destruction by the Nazi regime in World War II. Grants are awarded for educational projects with priority given to activities concentrating on the Shoah, but related topics may be considered as long as a connection to the Shoah is maintained.

Join Maureen and Robert Freedland and Make a Gift to the Fund for the Study of the Shoah

Help to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten. By making a gift to the Fund for the Study of the Shoah you are helping to teach a new generation important lessons in tolerance, forgiveness, and compassion.



Fred Feran with his daughter and son-in-law, Maureen and Robert Freedland.

Make a gift securely online at <http://lacrosseeducationfoundation.org/make-a-difference/>



Teachers Jill Gorell and Dani Harman attend the Teaching Holocaust Workshop at Viterbo University.

“Thank you so much for all the help, support, and funding for the 8th grade teachers so as we can incorporate this unit into our literature classes.

We are so honored to do what we are doing and to share this very important time in history with our students. It is the piece of the puzzle that can never be excluded.”

—Jill Gorell, History Teacher,
Logan Middle School

Social Media and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Do you follow the La Crosse Public Education Foundation on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube?

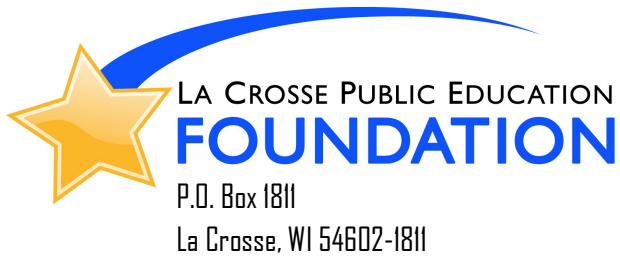
When you do, you get the most recent news and information about grants, events, volunteer opportunities and much more.

Twitter: @LaCrosseEdFdn

Facebook: facebook.com

YouTube: LaCrosseEdFdn





State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off and Benefit Performance of *Miracle on 34th Street*



On October 12, a picture perfect autumn afternoon greeted thousands of people who came La Crosse's Riverside Park for the 22nd Annual Chili Cook Off presented by State Bank Financial. Proceeds from this year's event bene-

fited D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) as well as the La Crosse Public Education Foundation.

Twenty-four teams competed—including a

team organized by the Foundation—in this popular culinary cook-off for a cause. Congratulations to Longfellow Middle School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Team for winning the popular vote! The event raises thousands of dollars annually thanks to the generosity and talents of the staff at State Bank Financial.

On December 19, we will shift from heartburn to heartwarming when State Bank Financial hosts a benefit performance of the La Crosse Community Theatre's Playhouse on the Air Presentation of *Miracle on 34th Street*.



This holiday classic will be performed as a staged radio production complete with sound effects, musicians and actors at the Weber Center for the Performing Arts.

"We have another great opportunity to raise some additional funds for such great causes—D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T.

and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation," said Wayne Oliver, Executive Vice President at State Bank Financial. "We look forward to seeing you there!"