

Grants Award Luncheon Jan. 18, 2019

Join us in honoring teachers and other grant recipients on Jan. 18 at LPEF's annual Grants Award Luncheon. For information or an invitation, please contact our office: (608) 787-0226.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation Newsletter

Fall 2018



LPEF's Gold Star Grants are now awarded twice a year, with surprise deliveries to teachers like PaHoua Vang, who celebrated in April 2017 with her Hintgen pre-kindergarten students after receiving a \$2,500 grant for a school garden project.

LPEF celebrates 30 years of grants to spur innovation in La Crosse classrooms

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation is celebrating an important milestone: 30 years since it first began awarding grants to teachers in La Crosse public schools.

In that time, the Foundation has provided about 650 grants to teachers, students and community members working in our schools. The grants have touched every school and every program in the District, and totaled more than \$720,000 -- including nearly \$200,000 in just the past three years alone.

"Congratulations to the Public Education Foundation on 30 great years of supporting learning in our community, supporting public education, supporting our students, families and our staff," said Superintendent of Schools Randy Nelson.

Over the years, grants have run the gamut from an "Animal Library" with live animals that could be checked out by any teacher to the purchase of cutting-edge technology (such as computer modems in 1992) to various programs to bring cultural diversity into our schools.

Review highlights from 30 years of grants on Page 2.

Anniversary dinner - RSVP by October 24

Join us Thursday, Nov. 1 at the La Crosse Country Club to celebrate the 30th anniversary of LPEF. A cash bar begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 and a short program to follow. Tickets are \$35 for either steak or salmon dinner. **You must RSVP by October 24.** For more information call our office at (608) 787-0226 or purchase tickets online at: <http://bit.ly/LPEF30th>

Share love of reading at Nov. 9 Give-a-Gift event

Community members will have a new opportunity to help instill a love of reading in La Crosse school students at this year's "Give-a-Gift" event at the La Crosse Public Library on Nov. 9.

For the first time, the Library is partnering with the School



District of La Crosse and the La Crosse Public Education Foundation to provide books for elementary school classroom libraries, putting a variety of great books right at the fingertips of students.

At Give-a-Gift, donors browse the displays, select and purchase titles, and donate them to the library. This year, donors can buy books to stock shelves of 5th grade classrooms. The partnership will continue annually until the need for books has been met in all elementary classrooms.

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.

WHERE: La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main St.

For more details, or to give now online, go to:

<http://bit.ly/give-a-gift2018>

LPEF Grant Highlights 1988 to 2018

1988 - Nancy McMullin, Andrea Mekkelson, Dorothy Paulikas and Kathy Fitzpatrick (Roosevelt, Hamilton and Jefferson) - \$1,060 for "Literature Kits" to buy books and motivational items to develop a joy of reading among 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students.

1989 - Linda West (Central) - \$432 to create an "Animal Library" with various live animals that could be checked out by other District teachers at any time during the course of the year.

1990 - Sondra LeGrand, Elizabeth Nutter, Betsy Stannard, Becky Post, Sue Schettle, Ed Dornack and Ruth Mick (Jefferson, Roosevelt, Franklin and Summit) - \$1,550 for "Raising Readers" to bring author George Shannon to schools to work with students, talk about his books and tell stories.

1992 - John Whitsett and David Whiteley (Central) - \$596 for "Connecting With The World," to provide equipment and telephone links so students have access to computer bulletin board services and cooperative databases.

1993 - Elizabeth Nutter (State Road, Hintgen, Emerson, North Woods and Hamilton) \$510 for "Technology Makes the Grade," for five elementary schools to purchase Apple Smart Keyboard Lap Tops to be used in classrooms.

1995 - Tim Fladhammer and Nancy McMullin (Roosevelt) - \$336 for "Pioneer Village," to build a log cabin to help students understand pioneer life.

1998 - Alex Vaver (Central) - \$1,826 for "African Drumming Ensemble," to purchase 10 authentic African drums and train students on African drumming techniques.

1999 - Daniel Lee and other teachers (Logan High) - \$1,825 for "Shakespeare In The Park," to construct a replica of the Globe Theater to be used as the centerpiece of a 3-day Elizabethan Festival.

2002 - First Richard Swantz Endowment Fund staff development grant awarded - \$500 for Parents as Educational Partners.

Jeanne Halderson, Jon Morschhauser and Liz Krohn (Longfellow) - \$500 for "Discovering Hmong Culture" to create Hmong history and culture kits for use in 7th grade curriculum, helping promote understanding of Hmong culture and reduce stereotyping and racism.

2003 - Mark Lakmann, Nancy Adams, Dan Risgaard, Dean Gunnarson and Bill Sisson (Logan High) - \$2,520 for "Portable Digital Recording Studio," to enable students to be more competitive for college auditions/scholarships and honors band/choir/orchestra auditions.

2008 - First Carol Taebel Fund grant awarded to Nancy Sikorsky (Spence) for "Art Room Projection System" so students can view the District's video collection and web resources on a large monitor.

How we grew

Year	# of grants	\$\$ awarded
1988	11	\$3,935
1993	14	\$5,961
1998	25	\$12,021
2003	19	\$17,249
2008	23	\$23,363
2013	24	\$46,533
2018	50	\$81,133

First Dr. Gunnar and Mary Baldwin Gundersen grant awarded to Richard Frost (Longfellow) for "Developing a Sense of Place," to help students develop a stronger and deeper awareness of the land and rivers of our area through field studies, reading, writing, art and photography.

2009 - First Maureen and Robert Freedland Shoah Fund grant awarded - \$433 for "Voices of the Holocaust," for Logan Middle to buy material to help students understand the Holocaust.

2014 - First Judy and Randy Eddy Sr. Fund grant awarded to Steve Johnston (Logan High) for "Logan Ranger Underwater Remote Vehicle" to purchase materials for students to design, build and operate an underwater remote vehicle.

2015 - First McGavock Family Music Education Fund grant awarded to Alana Seddon (Logan Middle) to help bring composer Michael Colgrass to La Crosse to work with students, including help with improvisation and composition skills, leading to a public performance.

2016 - Christina Fenton (Logan Middle) - \$3,856 for "Gathering Fireflies," to purchase 7 sets of the book "Gathering Fireflies" written by Mai Chao Duddeck to be used in the middle schools as part of the Hmong Culture unit.

2017 - Shelley Shirel and staff (Spence) - \$4,400 for "Spence Outdoor Classroom," to provide start-up funding for outdoor classroom and garden space at Spence Elementary.

2018 - Summer Elston (Emerson) and Jocelyn Buxton (Spence) - \$6,480 for "Trauma Informed Self Care," to send two teachers to a 4-day training program, allowing them to provide training to District staff on topics related to Trauma Informed Schools.



Teaching mindfulness: A \$3,000 grant from LPEF helped bring hip-hop artist JusTme to Northside Elementary School last spring. With music and dance, JusTme helped students develop mindfulness techniques, including breathing exercises and other ways to calm themselves and get better prepared for learning.



Participants in the Legacy Keepers trip visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Inspiring black youth: LPEF provided \$4,100 toward an August trip for 43 black, biracial and multiracial students. LPEF's grant complemented \$50,000 from the La Crosse Community Foundation.

Legacy Keepers' mission is to empower youth, families, and communities of color to continue to push forward and build toward collective goals in education, economics, and wellness.



'A part of what we do as educators is we plant the seed, and then as students move along in life, they begin to kind of blossom.'

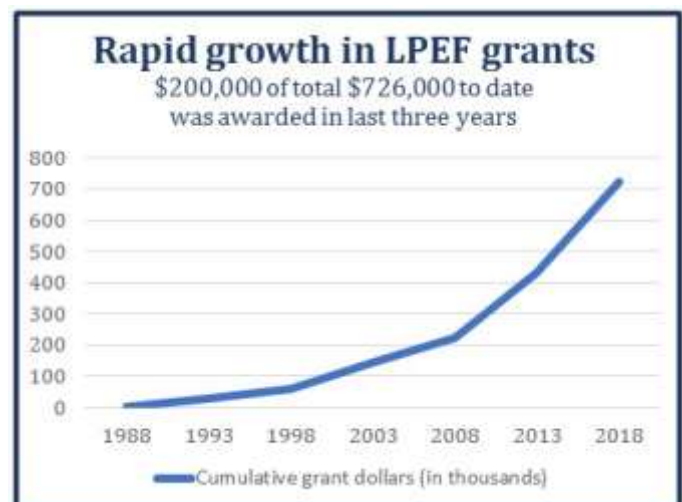
- Shaundel Spivey, a leader of Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge, which organized the Legacy Keepers trip. Shaundel is also a cultural liaison for the School District of La Crosse.

Grants foster innovation and professional growth, teachers say

Dirk Hunter, Summit Elementary principal and a recipient of a grant in 1988 as a teacher: "When this first became available, my teaching partner and I, Tim Fladhammer, were both pretty excited about coming up with some type of project we could do with our kids." Now projects funded at Summit "get kids excited about learning ... Clearly, there's no way we'd be able to fund the kinds of things that we're doing right now without support from the La Crosse Public Education Foundation."

Steve Johnston, Logan High Technology and Engineering Teacher, recipient of six grants: LPEF funding "has allowed me, at least professionally, to grow. There's things that I would not have been able to do within my classroom due to the budget, that we can now do."

Sondra LeGrand, retired Roosevelt and Longfellow teacher, who received seven grants: Applying for grants "was a huge opportunity for me. I was able to first of all see what a student needed and think about 'what if?' - What if I had a program that would read to this student? What if I had textbooks where the print was larger?"



Amoreena Rathke, Northside Elementary art teacher, recipient of seven grants: "I was using a lot of my own money (to do projects) ... so I wrote a grant my second year in the District" and now apply every year.

"My focus has been on providing different experiences for our students that they wouldn't have opportunity to have otherwise."

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Please thank and support these major sponsors of LPEF

2018 Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic
 presenting sponsor



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Bowtie Classic raises more than \$31,000 for LPEF



The sixth Charlie Miller Bowtie Classic Golf Outing and Knowledge Open teed off on Saturday, Sept. 1 with 112 golfers at Forest Hills Golf Club. The event — the largest annual fundraiser in support of classroom grants and other programs of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation — raised more than \$31,000 after expenses, plus \$1,000 in prize money distributed to schools.

OTHER MAJOR SPONSORS OF THE 2018 BOWTIE CLASSIC



Special thanks to the family of the late Dr. Charles Miller III for supporting the Bowtie Classic, including helping at the event and underwriting the cost of golfing for two teams of La Crosse school students.

LPEF's 2018-19 Foundation for Learning Sponsors



2018 RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS SPONSOR



New fund in memory of Claire Jandt will support Northside library

A new endowed fund will help Northside Elementary School students discover the joy of reading through a grant to be awarded in perpetuity.

The fund with the La Crosse Public Education Foundation was established in memory of Claire E. Jandt, who died June 5 at the age of 70. A Minnesota native, Claire received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, and her master's degree in library media, from the UW-La Crosse. Claire became the media specialist at Franklin Elementary School, serving more than 30 years until she retired.

The fund is designed to provide an annual grant for the Library Media Center at Northside, which includes students from the former attendance areas of Franklin and Roosevelt elementary schools.



Claire Jandt

The grant may be used at the discretion of the school principal and LMC specialist to provide a wide and inclusive range of materials and/or technology, including books, audio-visual resources, reference materials, or other instructional print or non-print resources to promote and instill the joy of reading among children.

Readers needed to promote peace

Volunteers are needed to read books to children as part of the World We Live In, a program that promotes understanding and peace between peoples and our world. This peace effort requires a keen understanding of our multicultural world. Reading a variety of books to children addresses this need.

The group was founded in 2003 by grandmothers concerned about the state of our world following the attacks of Sept. 11. They wanted grandchildren to understand that respecting all people will lead to peace and respect among ourselves and how we treat our earth. In coordination with a K-5 teacher, the volunteer reads a picture book based upon the themes of respect for our global neighbors, our fragile environment and respect for each other despite our differences.

To volunteer or provide a donation, please contact Sondra LeGrand at: sondralegrand@gmail.com

Teacher appreciation efforts receive permanent support from Carol Taebel "Thank a Teacher" Fund

For the past four years, Carol Taebel has been supporting the annual Thank a Teacher Day event organized by the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Baked goods and fresh fruit are delivered to nearly 1,000 district employees across 15 school buildings on that day, with funding via grant support from the La Crosse Community Foundation's Carol and Duane Taebel Family Fund.

Now, Carol has set up a new permanent designated fund at the La Crosse Community Foundation called the Carol Taebel "Thank a Teacher" Fund. It will generate an annual grant to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation to be used in supporting teacher appreciation activities, such as Thank a Teacher Day held in early May to coincide with National Teacher Appreciation Week.

"I think so much is expected out of teachers, more and

more and more, and they get so little credit," Carol says. "They are with kids all day long and I just needed to do something" to show appreciation for all school staff do on behalf of children.

Carol taught for 21 years, including 15 years at Spence Elementary School. Two of her children are teachers. Her daughter, Heidi Morris, is an English Language Learners teacher at North Woods International School. David Taebel teaches at Holmen Middle School. Her son, Scott, is an attorney in Milwaukee.



Carol Taebel with North Woods student Kareena Ramakrishnan at 2018 Thank a Teacher Day.



LPEF benefits from State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off

Many thanks to all of the cooks and chili lovers who helped at the 27th annual State Bank Financial Chili Cook Off at Riverside Park on Oct. 13. Proceeds go to support LPEF and the local DARE program.



Legacy Keepers: 43 black students took a tour of colleges and civil rights sites with grant support from the La Crosse Community Foundation and LPEF. The trip was designed to inspire academic achievement and leadership development. **More details inside.**

Support a school. Raise a community.

La Crosse Public Education Foundation
PO Box 1811
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

In the News

Central High Class of 1968 raises nearly \$6,000 for student needs: Central High School's Class of 1968 — the first class to graduate from the then-new high school on Losey Boulevard — celebrated its 50th reunion Sept. 7-8, and provided a major boost for current students through fundraising on two special projects.

Class members wanted to raise funds to support existing programs that serve those most in need. Two separate funds, **each with a goal of raising \$1,968**, were used for the Random Acts of Kindness program and for Central's La Cocina food pantry.

Class member Dan Aspenson, who is president of Interior Systems International in La Crosse, provided a final report showing the class had raised \$2,901 for Random Acts of Kindness and \$3,063 for La Cocina — a total of \$5,964. In total, this was more than \$2,000 above the original goal.

Help LPEF while doing holiday shopping at Amazon.com: If you are a regular shopper on Amazon, you can combine your holiday shopping with a bonus gift to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases, all at no extra cost to you. Just start your shopping by logging in through AmazonSmile — <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1610700>

About LPEF

The La Crosse Public Education Foundation (LPEF) was created 30 years ago to enhance learning opportunities for students in the School District of La Crosse. LPEF expects to provide almost \$300,000 in support to District programs in 2018.

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