



Rockford Education Foundation

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

P.O. Box 777, Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 863-6317

Volume No. 10

*Promoting Excellence in Education
Since 1991*



Rockford Education Foundation Board of Trustees

REF Announces the Newly Established Rockford Public Schools Hall of Fame

The Rockford Education Foundation and the Rockford Public Schools are excited to announce the establishment of the Rockford Public Schools Hall of Fame. The newly established Hall of Fame will celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of Rockford Alumni and Rockford residents in the categories of Cultural/Performing Arts, Academic/Career Accomplishments, Service to Rockford Public Schools/Community and Honorary Achievement. The first group of inductees will be selected and announced in early August.

Hall of Fame Inductees will be honored at a weekend of events October 1st-3rd, 2010. These events will celebrate honored Rockford Alumni and Rockford residents who have made their mark on the world and will provide them an opportunity to inspire students and residents with a sharing of their stories. Classroom visits, the dedication of the new Hall of Fame Commemorative Monument and an induction dinner have been planned to make this a memorable community event.

The Hall of Fame dinner will serve as a fundraiser for the REF. To make a reservation, please call 616.863.6317 or visit our website at www.rockfordschools.org/ref.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Calendar of Events....page 1
- New Happenings.....page 1
- Chairman's Article.....page 2
- Event Sponsors.....page 2
- 2009-2010 Grants.....page 3
- The Capitol Steps.....page 4

Did you know...?

- You can give to REF through your United Way drive at work by designating us as your donor of choice.
- You can make your charitable gift go twice as far if your employer participates in a Matching Gift Program. Ask in your Human Resources Department.
- For a \$100 donation you can have a name placed on a seat in the Rockford Fine Arts Auditorium. Balcony seats are still available. Call us for a form.
- Our website is full of information about the REF, ways to get involved, our events and the grants we have funded.
- You can donate on our website using Paypal. Visit www.rockfordschools.org/ref to make an online donation using your credit card.
- Next year we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. Thanks to a handful of people who once had a vision...

2010-2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September	24	Fall Grant Applications Due
October	15	<i>The Capitol Steps</i> Tickets Available
October	16	Farmer's Market Booth
October	18-19	Large Grant Presentations
October	25	REF Night at Corner Bar (5-10 p.m.)
January	12	Winter Grant Applications Due
January	15	<i>The Capitol Steps</i> at RHS
January	24-25	Large Grant Presentations
February	15-17	Phone-a-thon
March	9	Grant Recognition Event

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.rockfordschools.org/ref

A word from our new Chairman, Jim Bogart

With thanks to Marianne McWatters for her leadership the past two years, it is truly an honor to be chosen to serve as Chairman of the Rockford Education Foundation for the next year. Having served on the Rockford Board of Education with Carol Muth when she first introduced the idea of an Education Foundation, I consider it a privilege to follow in her footsteps.

Thanks to your support, Carol's dream has become a major supporter of educational opportunities in Rockford. Elsewhere in this Annual Report you will find a summary of grants that were awarded last year. These grants will benefit Rockford area students and the community, as a whole, not just for today but for many years ahead. Thank you!



For REF the 2010/2011 year offers some exciting new ways for you to become involved. With the support of Rockford Community Services REF will present the inaugural inductees to the new Rockford Public Schools Hall of Fame. Nominations have been received and a committee of educators and community leaders will shortly announce the first honorees. Induction ceremonies will be held the first weekend in October with a series of activities planned. Tickets for these activities will be available in the near future.

Another exciting facet of the year ahead is REF's 20th Anniversary. Founded in 1991 the Foundation will turn 20 next October. You will be hearing much more about our anniversary as 2011 approaches. One anniversary theme that you'll be hearing often during the year is "Add 20"; where donors will be asked to increase their normal donations by 20 nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars or even 20%. These additional donations will help increase our endowment and, in turn, the amount of funds that REF can commit to future grants.

Finally, let me recommend that you save Saturday January 15 for our Annual Event, which this year will feature the "Capitol Steps." After another typically long, contentious and muddy political campaign this fall it will be enjoyable to sit back and watch the "Capitol Steps" make fun of politicians of all brands. As former Congressional aides, several of the cast members will be able to share humorous insights into our elected leaders. So, once you have received your last robocall we invite you to plan on joining us to take a look at the lighter side of politics. Tickets for this event will go on sale October 15.

As you can see this will be a busy and exciting year for the Rockford Education Foundation. But there is one fact that won't change this year or any year...We can't do it without YOU! Thanks for your continued support.

Jim Bogart, Chairman

Donors Make It Happen....The Foundation recognizes these people and businesses for sponsoring our events in 2009-2010:

Wolverine Worldwide Foundation & United Bank, Underwriters

- Acme Insulation Inc.
- Ameriprise Financial
- Blakeslee, Fry & Scales, PLC
- The Bostwick Lake Inn
- Choice One Bank
- The Corner Bar
- Design Plus
- Herremans & Bosscher PC
- Independent Bank
- I.S. Fiber Services, Inc.
- Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.
- Prudential Preferred, Realtors
- Reds On The River
- Rockford Food Services
- SoundTech Inc.
- Trendwell Energy Corporation
- UBS—Palmore Consulting Group
- Van Dyken Mechanical
- James & Shirley Balk
- Bill & Trish Cutler
- Rick & Jill Ericksen
- Steve & Janet Gulis
- Ron & Nancy Hager
- Paul & Marianne McWatters
- Jon & Carol Muth
- Steve & Sandy Peterson
- Jim & Kim Zeitter

New faces at the Foundation

In the past year, the REF welcomed Beth Dornan, right; Gerilyn May, bottom left; and Steve Peterson, bottom right; to our Board of Trustees. All of these new trustees share in our passion for education. Welcome aboard!



For volunteer opportunities call us at (616) 863-6317 or e-mail ref@rockfordschools.org



GREAT GRANTS ABOUND IN 2009-2010



MeadowRidge received a grant for Snap Circuit kits to build electrical and electronic circuits that teach new magnetism and electricity.



Living, Growing, Learning In Our Community....a grant for students at Parkside to create a mural with hand decorated tiles.



At ERMS, students received scribing kits to help them understand their international peers through stories told by the teens.



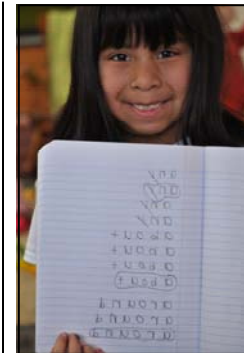
Mrs. Golembiewski's students at Roguewood created a bird habitat with a grant awarded from the REF.

The REF awards three different types of grants. Small Grants (\$0-\$400), Large Grants (\$401-\$3,000), & student grants (up to \$300) can be applied for and are awarded twice yearly (September & January). The Board of Trustees reviews the grant applications and awards the grants. The following grants were awarded this past year.

ORGANIZATION	GRANTS	AMOUNT
Assumption BVM School	5	\$4,035.14
Belmont Elementary School	4	\$2,128.93
Cannonsburg Elementary School	14	\$3,038.32
Community Services	3	\$2,495.44
Crestwood Elementary School	3	\$2,746.55
East Rockford Middle School	9	\$4,382.75
Lakes Elementary School	6	\$3,502.70
Meadow Ridge Elementary School	7	\$1,700.00
North Rockford Middle School	7	\$9,018.75
Our Lady of Consolation	1	\$1,000.00
Parkside Elementary School	2	\$1,290.15
Rockford Area Arts Commission	1	\$775.00
Rockford Christian School	5	\$4,683.00
Rockford Freshman Center	1	\$900.00
Rockford High School	10	\$7,648.91
Roguewood Elementary School	15	\$6,290.36
RPS District	1	\$300.00
River Valley Academy	2	\$765.00
Special Services	1	\$200.00
St. Peter's Lutheran Preschool	1	\$200.00
Valley View Elementary School	4	\$2,763.00
REF Incentive Grants	5	\$2,100.00
TOTAL 09-10 GRANTS	107	\$62,344.00
TOTAL SINCE 1991	1364	\$838,144.27



Students in speech class at RHS benefit from new equipment which enables them to record speeches, then take them home to view and analyze their performances.



"Word Detectives" uses a language arts decoding lab to create a fun and inviting space for children to learn to use new tools to help them decode words.



P.O. Box 777
 Rockford, MI 49341
 Phone: 616-863-6317
 Fax: 616-866-7575
 www.rockfordschools.org/ref

Promoting Excellence in Education Since 1991

REF Board of Trustees

Catherine Behrendt
 Jim Bogart, Chairman
 Doug Derks, Treasurer
 Beth Dornan
 Jill Ericksen
 Jim Fase
 Claire Fawcett
 Nancy Martin, Vice-chair
 Gerilyn May
 Marianne McWatters
 Cathy Newberg
 Steve Peterson
 Carole Richardson
 Jim Scales
 Paul Spindler
 Rick VandeKerkhoff
 Theresa Webb

Ex-Officio Trustees

Mike Shibley, Superintendent
 Miles Postema, School Board Rep
 Lori Sanders & Lisa Schroeder,
 Teacher Representatives

Sue Arend, REF Administrator



To celebrate the newly established Rockford Public Schools Hall of Fame, the REF is taking orders for brick pavers to be engraved and placed in front of Rockford High School near the new Hall of Fame Commemorative Monument.

Engraved on your brick could be your family name or business name, a student or alumnus name and year of graduating class, or you could choose to engrave a brick in honor of someone special (teacher, loved one, graduate).

The cost is \$75.00 per brick and proceeds will benefit the Rockford Education Foundation.

To place an order for a 4x8 brick, check out the events page on our website at www.rockfordschools.org/ref or call the REF office at 616.863.6317

The Capitol Steps

"These people are very funny. They do comedy, they do satire, and they do it extremely well."
 Bernard Shaw, CNN

Over 25 years ago, the Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. In the years that followed, many of the Steps ignored the conventional wisdom ("Don't quit your day job!"), and although not all of the current members of the Steps are former Capitol Hill staffers, taken together the performers have worked in a total of eighteen Congressional offices and represent 62 years of collective House and Senate staff experience.

Since they began, the Capitol Steps have recorded over 30 million albums, including their latest Liberal Shop of Horrors. They've been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC and PBS and can be heard 4 times a year on National Public Radio.

The Capitol Steps were born in December, 1981 when some staffers for Senator Charles Percy were planning entertainment for a Christmas Party. Ronald Reagan was President when the Steps began. The co-founders figured that if entertainers could become politicians, then politicians could become entertainers.

Most cast members have worked on Capitol Hill; some for Democrats, some for Republicans, and others for politicians who firmly straddle the fence. No matter who holds the office, there is never a shortage of material.

Come out and join us on **January 15, 2011** at the Rockford Fine Arts Center, 4100 Kroes, Rockford, Michigan. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for reserved seating and will be available beginning October 15. All proceeds will benefit the Rockford Education Foundation, thanks to our generous underwriters, **Wolverine Worldwide Foundation and United Bank.**

ROCKFORD HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM

**Saturday, January 15, 2011
 8:00 p.m.**



**Tickets on sale October 15.
 \$35, reserved seating. For more information call (616) 863-6317.**



Capitol Steps