

2019-20 Annual Report

“ENHANCING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT’S ABILITY TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS”



[MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR]



Dear friends of the Foundation,

I joined the Foundation in February 2020, shortly after the departure of our former Executive Director, Dawn Hank. After five short weeks of working in the office to train and meet with community partners, supporters, and donors, the COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing and we started working from home.

New challenges were introduced to the school district, area nonprofits, and the business community. It was a time to be creative and to think of new and innovative ways to collaborate with students, teachers, business partners, and the community. The mission of the Foundation stood strong throughout the hardships our community, state, country, and world faced. We were able to support the school district in providing an excellent education to the thousands of WBLAS students and over 600 teachers.

In the 2019-2020 school year:

- The Foundation granted nearly \$35,000 in student scholarships that assisted them in pursuing their post-secondary education goals.
- The Foundation awarded \$45,000 in teacher grants that provided district educators with opportunities to provide new and creative teaching experiences in their classrooms along with professional development opportunities.
- We are thankful for the popular Angel Fund that allows district students and families access to clothing, food, shelter, and other basic needs at no cost. In Spring of 2020, we added specific

funding for COVID-19 relief for the families needing additional assistance. Some of the expenses we were able to cover included food, internet, utilities, and clothing.

The Foundation is strong, thanks to the support of all of you, our friends, business partners, donors, volunteers, and constituents. As the board of directors continues to implement the Foundation's goals and initiatives, we are committed to our mission to all students and teachers in the district.

Many years ago, I read a quote that has had a significant impact on me: *"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth."* (Diogenes, n.d.). This quote guides my work each day and brings meaning to each task we complete together. The teachers and students are the reason we do our work. We are here to support and encourage them to reach their full potential. We are a community and together we will work to provide all students the opportunities they need to succeed and thrive.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and that you are inspired by the stories, successes, and highlights!

Regards,

Lori Arnold, Executive Director

Diogenes Quotes. (n.d.). BrainyQuote.com. Retrieved February 1, 2021, from BrainyQuote.com Web site: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/diogenes_100801

WBLAEF 2019-20 STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Our board is comprised of leaders and supporters of the WBL area with each committing their time, talents and effort to the success of the WBLAEF.

[STAFF]

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

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KATHY STONE**



We recognize
that success
is founded on
partnership...
The Foundation is
no exception.

[ABOUT THE FOUNDATION]

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation is a Nonprofit Corporation Organized Under Chapter 317A of Minnesota Statutes.

Our Mission

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation is to enhance the White Bear Lake Area School District's ability to provide excellence in education for all students.

Our Goals

- To support educational programs and services in School District 624 by providing funds not available through local, state, or federal sources.
- To involve the community in the support of high-quality public education.
- To provide a perpetual source of funds through gifts from individuals, businesses, alumni, and other foundations.
- To encourage student achievement and skill development, and support and recognize teachers for exemplary teaching.

Our Future

Through our commitment to students, educators, the District and community, the Foundation continues to be an outstanding resource for supplemental funds to support various educational initiatives in the District. The Foundation values service, educational excellence, innovation, enhancement, and outreach to meet the needs of the District and community. With the support and involvement of families and businesses in this community and alumni from all over the country, the Foundation aspires to be a reason people will want to live and work in the School District and have their children graduate from the White Bear Lake Area School District.



“Let us remember:
One book, one pen,
one child, and one
teacher can change
the world.”

— Malala Yousafzai

**WHY WAS THE WHITE BEAR
LAKE AREA EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION FORMED?**

The Foundation was created in 1993 to provide a vehicle through which community members could contribute to the educational opportunities for students in White Bear Lake Area School District 624.



[OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE]

**IN 2019-20,
THE WBLAEF
AWARDED OVER
\$141,618**

**to students, educators, and families
in the White Bear Lake Area School
District, making a positive impact in
the community and helping to achieve
excellence in education for all students.**

SOME OF OUR LARGEST GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020 INCLUDE:

\$19,447



AWARDED IN TEACHING GRANTS TO 15 EDUCATORS TO ENCOURAGE CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO ENHANCE CURRICULUM THROUGH THE BROSIOSUS GRANT



\$36,450

PRESENTED IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO 31 WBLAS GRADUATING STUDENTS

\$24,986

GRANTED TO 13 TEACHERS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE GLASRUD FELLOWSHIP



\$7,234

PROVIDED TO 12 COMMUNITY MEMBERS, STAFF AND STUDENTS TO ENCOURAGE INITIATIVES AROUND INNOVATION, CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL PROJECTS THROUGH OUR BEAR GRANT

GRANTED OVER \$5,519

TO 6 EDUCATORS TO FOSTER ELEMENTARY ART EDUCATION THROUGH THE RYAN FAMILY ART GRANT



\$4,474

WAS AWARDED TO 3 EDUCATORS TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCES AND AWARENESS FOR STUDENTS THROUGH OUR E3 GRANT



OVER 100 FAMILIES HELPED BY PROVIDING

\$24,938

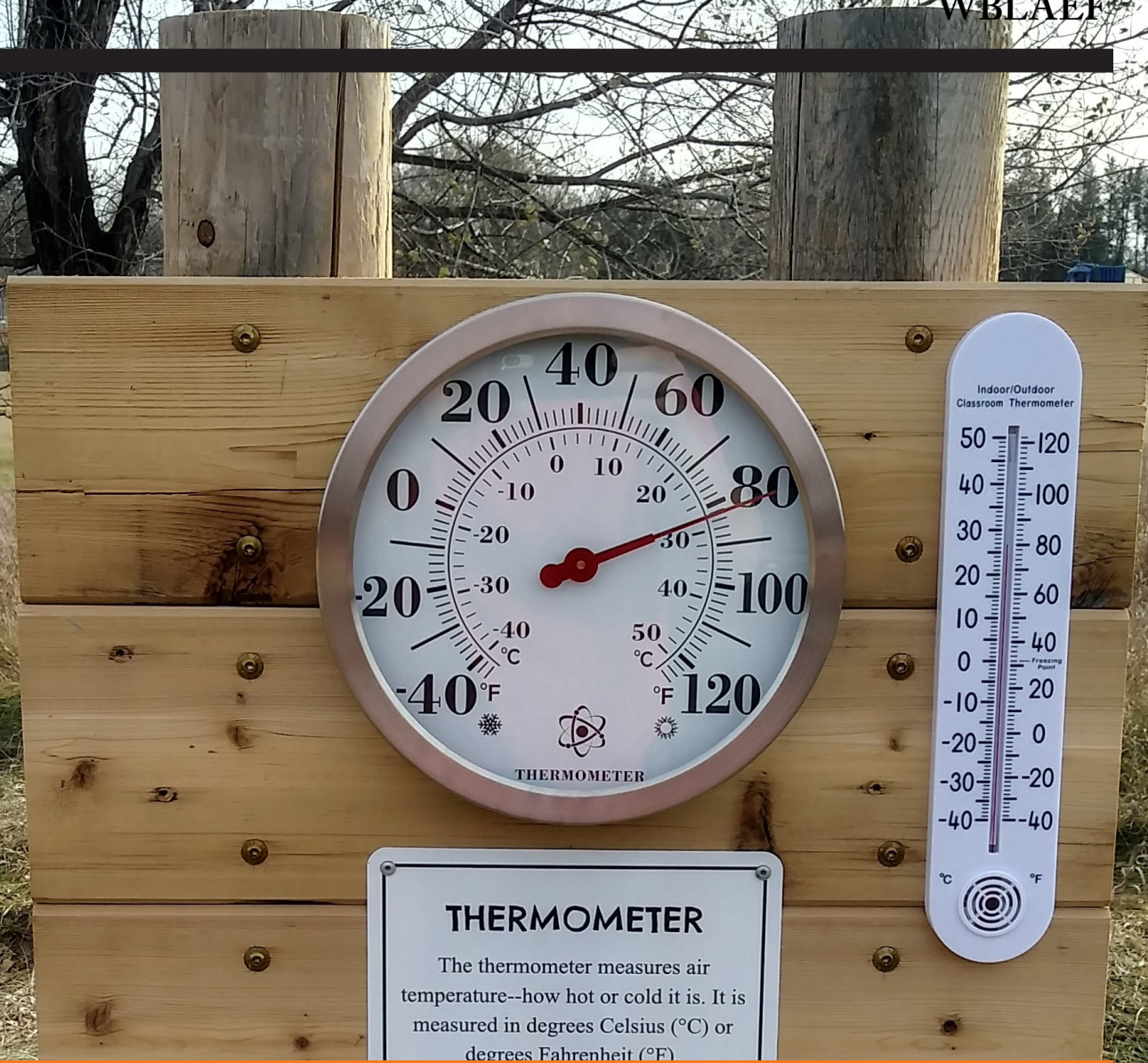
IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE ANGEL FUND TO HELP FAMILIES WITH EVERYDAY NECESSITIES, FOOD AND HOUSING SECURITY

\$1,400 PROVIDED IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

\$889

AWARDED TO ENRICH OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES





[GRANT PROGRAMS]

Grant Summaries and Spotlight Stories



SPOTLIGHT: OTTER LAKE ELEMENTARY WEATHER STATION

The Outdoor Weather Station at Otter Lake Elementary is a large interactive display of weather instruments. It will help students have access to scientific tools in order to measure weather conditions during all types of weather and learn about the environment of Minnesota. The instruments are fixed in place and located at heights that are easy for children to read and aid them in making weather observations. Students have access to the Outdoor Weather Station during recess, playtime, BEAR Breaks, and when using the Otter Trail & the Prairie School Outdoor Classroom.

E3 GRANT

The E3 Grant, created from Legacy Funds was established to further WBLAS students' understanding and attitudes toward science, the outdoors, our community, and the world. Additional environmental learning opportunities can transform our students by endowing them with increased academic skills, civic and community leadership, environmental stewardship, and global awareness. Our goal is to provide opportunities for the students in our district to become inspired and responsible environmental leaders. The Foundation awarded \$4,474 to this team for the **Outdoor Weather Station Grant Project** in the 2019-2020 calendar year. An additional \$12,000 was distributed to Elementary Schools for Environmental Camps.



Stephen Gravley
Otter Lake Elementary



Jen Oyen
Otter Lake Elementary
Sue Welsh (not pictured)
Otter Lake Elementary



John Barnes
Otter Lake Elementary

2020 LYNN MIELKE DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

Lynn Mielke was a speech clinician and Special Education Coordinator in the White Bear Lake Area School District. Lynn's compassion and love for children was at the forefront of all she did. She was known as a warm and loving person who worked to create a positive environment for everyone around her.

This award was established to recognize an individual who has exemplified Lynn's dedication and care for the students and staff in our district. Educators are nominated by their colleagues, supervisors, students, parents or community members. Each year many wonderful, deserving people are nominated for the Lynn Mielke Award.



SPOTLIGHT:

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation presented its 2020 Lynn Mielke Distinguished Educator Award on June 5 to Ryan Kehoe, Custodian at Central Middle School. *“Ryan constantly seeks opportunities to serve others and has taught those around him how the little things a person does can make a big difference. On top of all the exceptional work Ryan does, Ryan is a man of character. His smile lights up the work environment and inspires others to be exceptional.”*

Kehoe was nominated by Terry Hayes, on behalf of Jim Stoffel, Rick Bernier, Virginia Price, Bob Arnsdorff, Kathy Robinson and Kathy Younker.

BROSIOUS GRANT

The Brosious Teaching Grant is designed to enhance the rigor of the curriculum or instruction within the classroom, providing a rich learning experience for all students. The Foundation awarded \$19,447 in the 2019-2020 school year to the recipients here below:



Abby Willemssen
Central Middle School

This project was designed to enhance the learning experience of the students by providing them with an inspiring setting and expanding range of opportunities in the Media Center as WBLAS transition to a system that ensures students are the primary agent in their learning. This grant helped provide funds to purchase flip top nesting tables, orange sled base stack chairs, and overstuffed bean bag chairs.



Amy VanAckernecht
Cassandra Krenz
Lakeaires Elementary

The Special Education Tier 2 program at Lakeaires Elementary created and ran a popcorn stand for students to learn mathematics, life/adaptive and community service skills. This grant helped purchase the necessary supplies to make this a reality, including the purchase of a popcorn maker, popcorn and salt.



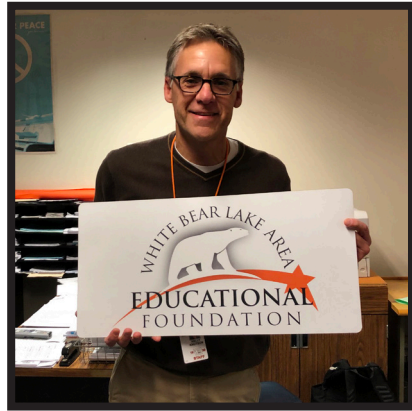
Ann Zettel
Normandy Park

This grant provided funds for the creation of multilingual books to be used in the Family Literacy class. Photo books will be created so that young learners can see themselves in the books and parents can read the books to their children.



Michele Norcross, Seth Salenger
Area Learning Center

Kao Kalia Yang, a Hmong American writer and author of *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, spent the day at the ALC for a day of workshop after the students read her book.



Kelly Knutson
South Campus

This grant helped students purchase appliances, including a coffee grinder and espresso machine/brewer for the student run *School Grounds* Coffee shop that will be housed in the new combined all campus high school.



Becky Klier
Jessie Prissel
Transitions Plus

This grant helped fund eight touchscreen Chromebooks, to be used by Transition Plus students with more complex and limiting disabilities that have academic, interpersonal, physical, and communication challenges. Being able to learn through touch screen technology will ensure students are able to design and create their own future and engage in interactive instruction.

BROSIOUS GRANT



Karin Hagen



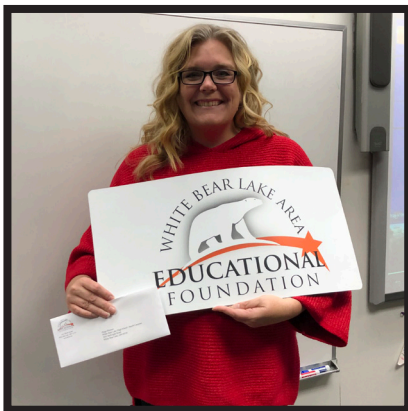
Erin Tarnowski, Amber Rustand



Katie Nohr

Central Middle School

This grant allowed Language Arts teachers to purchase five document cameras and will impact almost 1,000 students.



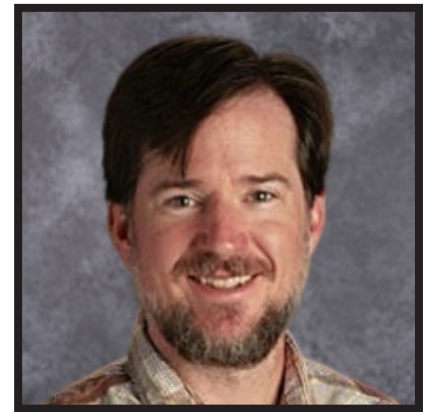
Paige Pinnow
South Campus

This grant helped provide upgrades needed at the apartment at South Campus, for special needs students to teach daily living skills, and will help fund the purchase of several new appliances for the apartment.



Phil Sundblad
Sunrise Park

This grant helped fund a Vinyl Cutting Machine for 6th and 7th grade students to produce a two-dimensional projects and print them.



David Melvin
North Campus

This grant helped fund a Guitar Club that will be formed at North Campus during Bear Time (a relationship building/club activities/academic support during the school day) for a group of 6-15 students from both general education and special education backgrounds. Students will gain knowledge and instruction on playing techniques, theory and music reading while playing together to compose music.

GLASRUD FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

The Glasrud Family Fellowship is a beloved grant, intended to assist educators in pursuing opportunities or experiences for personal and professional growth that would not otherwise be possible. The Foundation awarded \$24,986.04 in the 2019-2020 school year to the recipients here below:



Leah Armstrong, Amy Pollard
Hugo Elementary

*Declined due to pandemic.



Allison McCann, Cassidy Wegwer
North Campus

*Delayed due to pandemic.



Amy Johnson, Kelly Neff
Area Learning Center

*Delayed due to pandemic.



Ann St. Martin
Hugo Elementary

*Cancelled due to pandemic.



Janet Carlson-Casa De Calvo
Early Childhood Development



Kari Thimjon
Vadnais Heights Elementary

*Delayed due to pandemic.



Natalie Huffman
Oneka Elementary

*Delayed due to pandemic.



Ryan Clark
Sunrise Park Middle School

*Delayed due to pandemic.

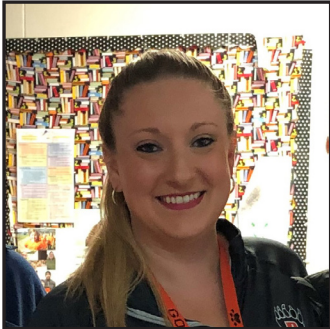


Todd Weinhold
Sunrise Park Middle School

*Delayed due to pandemic.

RYAN FAMILY ART GRANT

The Ryan Family Art Grant awards elementary teachers typically up to \$500 per teacher or team for the purchase of art supplies, instructional materials, or to assist with the expenses of an Artist-in-Residence. The Foundation awarded \$5,519 in the 2019-2020 school year to the recipients here below:



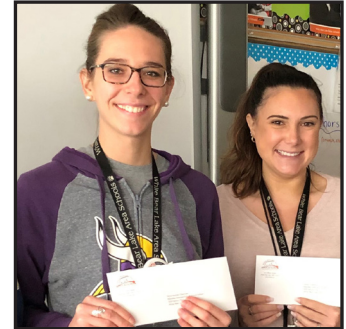
Erika Jagiella
Otter Lake Elementary

This project allowed students in Special Education to be given an opportunity to be involved in a project using clay combined with an act of kindness. *Delayed due to pandemic.



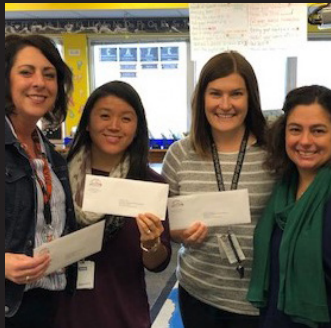
Theresa Stender
Otter Lake

This project benefited special education students on the autism spectrum while expanding student's interest in being able to explore new projects with various art activities.



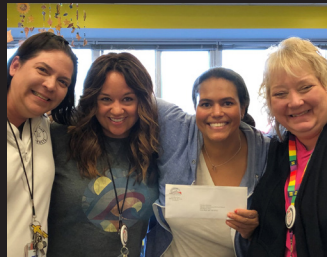
Kyra Scanlan Duzynski,
Ashley Peterson,
(Kim Jeske-Walfoort - not pictured)
Matoska

The project will enable 3rd graders to continue working with Sean Burns, an artist in residency from the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. *Cancelled due to pandemic.



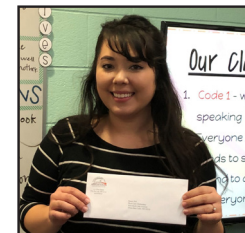
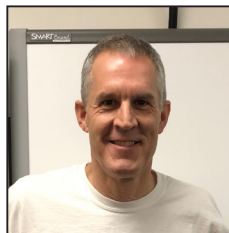
Shannon Fulton, Allison Davies,
Kelly Coorough, Kelly Plykas-Bock
Matoska

This project conceptualized the central idea that people use art to express feelings, points of view, and to connect with the world around them. Progressive mini-lessons were designed for students to experiment with the elements and principles of art in a variety of visual mediums. Students were asked to create three-dimensional work based on historical artists or art movements. This year the project was to be expanded to include Ojibwa Bags to enhance Native American connections. *Delayed due to pandemic.



Karla Harding, Alyssa Larson,
Christina Hayden, Pam Winkler
Matoska

This project involved focusing on color and how it impacts and expresses emotion, while working with the White Bear Center for the Arts to come up with choices for students to utilize their skills in their projects (painting materials, colorful paints colorful paper and glue or colorful recycled material).



Steven Hawkinson, Allison Theissen, Susan Fick, Taylor Nelson and David Nestrud
Birch Lake Elementary

Birch Lake partnered with the Hanifl Performing Arts Center and Children's Performing Arts again this year to put on the play "The Jungle Book Jr."



BEAR GRANT

The BEAR Grant provides an inclusive, flexible and expedient means for applicants to apply for funds that encourage initiatives around innovation, creativity, community and global projects in the District.

SPOTLIGHT BIKES FOR BEARS

The "Bikes for Bears" Grant helped fund equipment for the District's TAPP program (Transition and Post-Secondary Preparation) for Special Education students, ages 17-21 with significant learning deficits.

The equipment included: an adult tricycle, bikes, bike helmets, bike locks and outside games including croquet and bocce ball. The equipment will be used to connect Special Education students with real life experiences outdoors, to help improve overall mental health and well being.



FINANCIALS

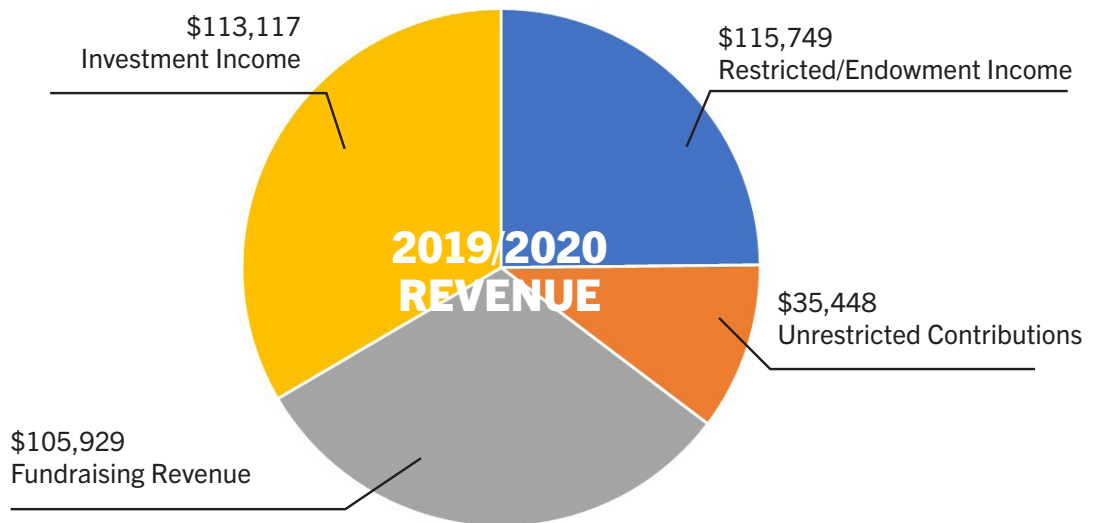
REVENUE:

RESTRICTED / ENDOWMENT INCOME:	\$115,749
UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$35,448
FUNDRAISING REVENUE:	\$105,929
INVESTMENT INCOME:	\$113,117
TOTAL INCOME/REVENUE:	\$370,443

EXPENSES:

RESTRICTED / ENDOWMENT SUPPORT:	\$164,813
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES:	\$29,184
PROMOTIONAL:	\$5,272
ADMINISTRATIVE:	\$42,189
PAYROLL AND RELATED:	\$67,056
PROFESSIONAL FEES:	\$8,257
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$316,771

NET OPERATING INCOME:	\$53,672
OTHER INCOME:	\$40,806
NET INCOME:	\$94,478



ANGEL FUND

The Angel Fund gives our community an opportunity to share with those in need right in our own school district.

White Bear Lake students and their families face challenges everyday; some more than others. The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation is compassionate and committed in its efforts to help families in need.

OFFERING A HAND UP RATHER THAN A HAND OUT

The relief and gratitude expressed by the families we help goes from a heart wrenching arrival to a very heartwarming departure. If needed, the Foundation’s Angel Fund has stepped up to provide additional financial support to The Closet when we are out of stock or specific sizes. The Angel fund is extremely helpful in meeting various important family necessities. Last fall we serviced a family living out of their car. Amongst their selections we included warm, tied fleece blankets handmade by kindergarteners and elementary students within the district donated from annual service projects. This past spring we helped a family who lost their belongings in a house fire. The list is long of those we have been able to assist.



Left to right: WBL Firefighters Joe Gibb and Brad Beuscher ‘Operation Warm’ Coat Drive that Benefited the Closet

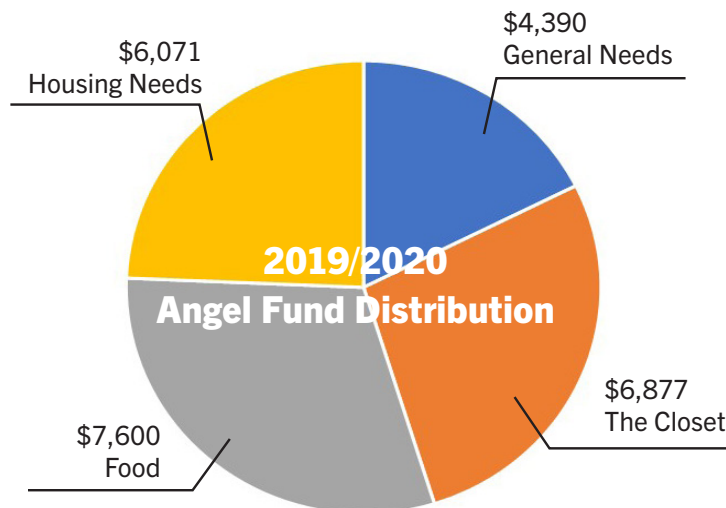


THE CLOSET

In 2011, former board president Kim Schoonover established the Closet to extend an opportunity for families to shop for clothing free of charge in a safe, supportive and confidential environment. Located in the Area Learning Center, the Closet has had a very positive and successful impact within the White Bear Lake community. Research shows students are more successful in their learning when they are wearing comfortable and appropriate clothing. We service an average of 100 families a year and provide clothing needs to approximately 175-200 children and many adults.

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

When our schools closed in March, there was an uncertainty how students on free and reduced lunch would continue to receive their daily nutrition. Several White Bear Lake area restaurants immediately stepped up to serve free breakfast and lunch to those children. The Foundation quickly established the COVID-19 Fund using Angel Fund dollars and partnered with these businesses to help finance the cost of some food for an interim week as the district worked on a plan to meet these needs. The COVID -19 fund continues to be used during these unprecedented times when needs extend beyond The Closet and Angel Fund.



[PARTNER / SPONSOR DONORS]

2019 BEAR LEGACY FUNDRAISER SPONSORS

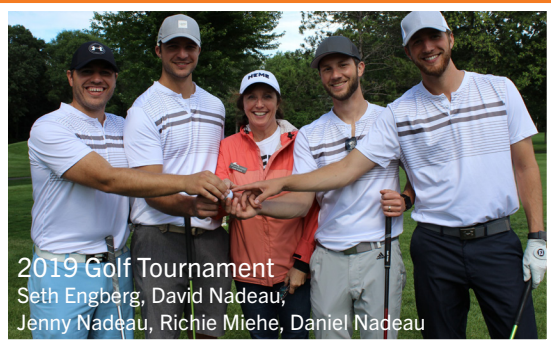
Dick and Kathy Cochran
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Kraus-Anderson Construction Company
Mains'! Services, Inc.
Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.
Mathnasium, White Bear Lake
Rick & Cathy Storey
Walter and Leona Schmitt Family Foundation - Mary Nicklawske
White Bear Animal Hospital
White Bear Lake Lions Club
White Bear Lake Teachers Association
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WBL Principals' Association



2019 BEAR Legacy Fundraiser
Kathy Doucette, WBLAS BEAR Mascot



2019 Golf Tournament
Seth Engberg, David Nadeau,
Jenny Nadeau, Richie Mieh, Daniel Nadeau

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