2018-19 YEAR IN REVIEW
**We are BVEF!**

For 29 years, the Blue Valley Educational Foundation has supported the Blue Valley Schools with $5.2 million in grants, scholarships, and special programs for teachers and students. Our mission is simple: enrich educational excellence for our students.

BVEF empowers teachers to go beyond traditional classroom limits to enable our students to innovate, lead, and most importantly, learn for their futures. We accomplish this through the generosity of our community partners that support our outreach, financial development, and ongoing funding of extraordinary educational programs. Through grants we award, the Foundation provides the support needed for our teachers and staff to personalize their approach to teaching, maximizing outcomes for each and every child in our district. We proudly partner across all parts of our community to ensure students have the tools they need to be successful.

**Month-by-Month Snapshot**

**August...**

*Welcome New Blue Valley Teachers!* BVEF surprised new teachers by providing “Welcome to Blue Valley” teacher packages at their orientation in August. More than 200 new district teachers were given monetary gift cards of $100, discount cards/coupons to area businesses, and special teacher-only shopping opportunities to help mitigate out-of-pocket expenses to set up their classrooms. The Dixon Family Foundation, Bank of Blue Valley, US Toy, and Staples all made this grant possible.

**September...**

*The Best of Blue Valley: It Begins With US* was the theme for the 28th BVEF Annual Community Breakfast in August, where more than 1,000 community leaders, business partners, educators, students, and parent groups packed the room to hear where the district was heading for the coming year. The breakfast included a celebration of BVEF’s Sunflower Ambassadors, student music performances, and a roundtable discussion focused on the mental health and wellness of our students and staff comprised of Blue Valley Schools Superintendent Dr. Todd White, Reverend Adam Hamilton of Church of the Resurrection, Ms. Mandy Shoemaker BVEF Board member and President of BV Well, and Blue Valley Northwest student Cynthia Dong. The roundtable was moderated by Mr. Nick Haines of KCPT Public Television. New this year was a “text to give” donation option to support mental health and wellness initiatives throughout the district. Another highlight included the induction of Mr. Kevin Timmons of Nick and Jake’s restaurants into the BVEF Best of Blue Valley Hall of Fame for his significant support and contributions to the Foundation.

BVEF employees stepped up for the Payroll Donation Campaign in September. More than 850 employees participated to help the Blue Valley Educational Foundation support district teachers and programs. As a campaign incentive every year, schools at each building level compete to see who can achieve the highest percentage of staff participation. The reward? A $500 grant from BVEF presented to each of the top two schools at each building level during National Education Week in mid-November. Winning schools were: Elementary: Cedar Hills and Sunrise Point; Middle: Blue Valley Middle and Leawood Middle; High: Blue Valley North and Blue Valley West. New this year, every employee who increased their donation to $5/month received a free t-shirt from BVEF!

**November...**

The Surprise Squad was on the move in November! District office employees helped kick off the day-long festivities with an interactive game hosted by Fox 4’s John Holt before the Surprise Squad team boarded three
busses to travel the district to make dreams of unsuspecting teachers a reality! Nearly $300,000 was awarded to support educational excellence in the Foundation’s largest one-day giveaway to date, and EVERY school administration received a $3,000 building grant to fund their individual school needs. These funds were used for educational tools such as: collaborative work spaces, social and emotional learning, and visiting artists, authors and composers. In the 2018-19 school year, the Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling more than $475,000 bringing our historic total to just over $5.2 million.

And, the Parent Membership Campaign brought in hundreds of first-time donors thanks to targeted marketing efforts. The campaign raised more than $120,000 and new members were given a colorful window cling in appreciation for their donations and to help bring awareness of BVEF to the community.

November’s Milestone Donor and Loyal Volunteer Recognition was an evening enjoyed by all who attended. Fifty-five milestone donors were recognized for their continuous support to BVEF and received beautiful ceramic hand-painted plates created by talented students at Blue Valley Academy. Top milestone achievement went to Baron BMW and the Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation and this celebration gave us the opportunity to give them special thanks for those long-term partnerships. We also honored the many volunteers who give their time to supporting the Foundation. Harrison Pittman was recognized as our Volunteer of the Year and joined many notable community leaders with that honor.

January 2019’s Battle of the Bands was a fun adult night out as Blue Valley parent and teacher bands competed for top bragging rights. It was the eighth year for this BVEF event and audience members had a chance to enjoy great live music, bid on a two-year lease for a BMW generously donated by Baron BMW, and show school spirit by voting for their favorite bands. Mark Olthoff, parent of two BVW graduates and one BVW junior was the lucky winner of the BMW. Honorary Chairs were KC Chiefs’ Trent Green and his wife, Julie, and celebrity emcee, Joel Goldberg, Voice of the KC Royals, added a special touch to the evening. New this year were auction baskets provided by several BV schools, a light appetizer buffet, and an after-party! Battle of the Bands raised more than $43,000 for the Foundation to use toward district-wide music grants like Performing Arts Day and the Band Together program, which was designed for district families to lift the financial barrier associated with playing an instrument.

February kicked off the annual Major Saver Campaign which raised a grand total $78,592 for BVEF. Nearly all BV elementary and middle schools participated in selling the cards, which offer discounts to multiple area restaurants and businesses. Half of the Major Saver funds go directly back to the participating school Parent Teacher Organizations and/or the school principal for worthy initiatives for staff and students.

March…

BVEF was proud to underwrite the second annual Performing Arts Day which included every elementary school. This interactive half-day event gives students in grades 4-5 the opportunity to explore performing arts at a critical time when they are deciding what their participation will be in those programs for the following year. The 1400 students enjoyed many different genres of performing arts including vocal music, instrumental music, and creative theater play.
BVEF LAUNCHES BV WELL

One of the most timely and impactful initiatives the Blue Valley Educational Foundation is proud to support is the launch of BV Well, which is a parent group focused on educating and supporting families in the Blue Valley area as they navigate mental health and wellness with their children.

During the year, BV Well hosted numerous parent events with attendance being as high as 400 people per session. Special events/speakers included topics such as mitigating anxiety with back-to-school transitions, important conversations about kids and drugs, and navigating our children through the age of digital technology.

Another important resource through BV Well is parent support groups. These are held throughout the school year, open to all parents in the community, and cover a wide variety of topics for multiple age students. They are facilitated by trained specialists from Children’s Mercy.

BVEF also partnered with SPEAK UP and Keep the Spark Alive Foundation to fund social and emotional wellness and suicide prevention curriculum in all schools. All BV high schools and one middle school implemented the Sources of Strength program, which is a national initiative to connect teens to trusted adults and trained peers to break the codes of silence about at-risk students.

For more information about BV Well, visit their website at fundbv.org/bvwell

April...

We ordered perfect weather for BVEF’s third annual Night of Lights! More than 3,000 attendees in addition to 200 volunteers enjoyed this free festival with student musical performances, high school art and robotics exhibits, food trucks, corporate sponsor booths, yard games, and a Glow Show at sundown. New this year were glow wands for a donation to BVEF, multi-cultural booths/activities, and a fireworks display to cap off the evening. Night of Lights raised more than $30,000 and gave the entire Blue Valley community a central place to come together to celebrate our incredible schools!

May...

May signals the end of the school year, and with it, graduation. BVEF funded Project Graduation/After Prom festivities for participating high schools. In addition, BVEF awarded multiple scholarships totaling $15,000 to select members of the Class of 2019 to ease their transition to work or school after graduating from high school.
This is the 21st year of BVEF’s special character education program which celebrates students and staff members in our schools who exemplify the Blue Valley Virtues of respect, responsibility, honesty, self-discipline, compassion, courage and perseverance. Ambassadors are nominated in essays written by their peers and selected by a panel of community leaders and educators. Ambassadors and nominators are honored in April at school assemblies and recognized in August at the Community Breakfast. For a complete list of this year’s Sunflower Ambassador winners, visit the BVEF website at fundbv.org.

EDUCATOR Awards

The Dr. David Benson Teacher of the Year Award was created by BVEF in 2004 to honor retiring BV Superintendent Dr. Benson. The awards were expanded in 2010 to include the BV NEA Master Teacher of the Year and the district’s Kansas Master Teacher of the year finalists. Since 2005, these awards have been generously funded by Commerce Bank. The 2019 awards are as follows:

Dr. David Benson Teacher of the Year Awards
Spencer Anduss    Cedar Hills Elementary School
Caitlin Defilippo  Lakewood Middle School

Master Teacher of the Year Award
Linda Vena        Mission Trail Elementary School
Laurie Rue        Blue Valley High School

Ms. Sherrie Stuckey Welsh!

The Innovative Educator Award was created with BVEF by Blue Valley North High School parents Ken Selzer and Deb Grimes to honor classroom educators using innovative and creative teaching practices. In 2014, the award was expanded to honor two recipients.

Innovative Educator of the Year
Gillian Bush      Overland Trail Elementary School
Chris Brodersen   Overland Trail Middle School

Each year, BVEF awards an individual who has supported the Foundation with the Julie Miller Volunteer of the Year Award. This award was established in 2006 in honor of Julie Miller, who was a former board member, and dedicated many hours volunteering for the Foundation. This year’s award winner serves as a School Liaison, chaired Night of Lights committees, and volunteered many hours sharing her marketing expertise with BVEF. Congratulations and thank you to the 2019 BVEF Volunteer of the Year—
PARENTS AS TEACHERS GRANT BUILDS STRONG FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

The youngest students in the Blue Valley district were the beneficiaries of a very creative grant written by Michelle Kelly, Parent Educator Coordinator, at Hilltop Learning Center. The grant centered on social-emotional initiatives that helped parents connect with their children by increasing their understanding of parenting the whole child and supporting their child’s social and emotional development. BVEF is proud to have awarded this grant for $1918.42 to the Parents as Teachers program.

Q. What are the different components of this grant and how do they impact our youngest families?
A. There were several unique pieces to this program and all of them impact social-emotional wellness. One thing that each family received was a ring of “I Love You” rituals and every month we added a new one and taught the parent how to share it with their child; a second piece offered a parent book club with resources and tips for successful parenting; and a third offering was the parent/child yoga events.

Q. The yoga event must have been very interesting with little ones! Can you explain the benefits to families and how that worked?
A. We had great turnouts for these sessions and were impressed by the children’s ability to do the poses and learn new breathing techniques. Each family left with a different children’s book each week that incorporated the yoga positions, so it was easy to continue those at home. These were Zoo Zen Yoga, Yoga Bug, Good Night Yoga and ABC Yoga, which were definitely child-friendly! Families reported that they were using the books and reinforcing the poses at home, especially around bedtime. Parents also said they felt calmer, and that when they use the deep breathing with their children, they feel more focused on connecting with their child.

Q. What has BVEF meant to you?
A. We are so grateful for the support of the Foundation for making these activities available to parents through grants. We strongly believe grants like these, which create strong parent-child connections early, will help build resiliency and confidence in these children and lay the foundation for school and life success. Helping children and their parents learn early how to regulate emotions and handle stress in healthy ways is also critical for later success and healthy mental well-being for the parent and child. BVEF is a true partner in this process.
NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

Coming your way... a new and improved opportunity to expand the impact of the Blue Valley Educational Foundation in our School District. Join us in an effort to Reimagine Success for our students by supporting our District-Wide priorities to add exceptional programs to our schools. This $2 million campaign will enhance our schools, will give our students new and different paths to success, and will impact our future workforce by investing in unique ways for our students to grow and learn.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:
1. Provide High School students with the opportunity to be exposed to Career-Ready programming by attending JCCC’s Career and Technical Education Center.
2. Build a STEAM Learning Experience for ALL Elementary students.
3. Update the Wilderness Science Center.
4. Sustain our New Teacher Program.
5. Expand the Blue Valley Robotics program to ALL High Schools.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Joy Ginsburg, jginsburg@bluevalleyk12.org or 913-239-4622.
THE BETA BRINGS BVN STUDENTS TOGETHER FOR THE BETTER

Blue Valley schools are known for providing ‘Education Beyond Expectations’ but BVN Art Teacher and Department Chair, Dr. Alison Crane, really thought outside the box. She applied for a $1994 Beta Expansion Grant to provide mindfulness activities for all students at the high school. The Beta began as a maker-space room, open during specific times of the school day, where students with many different interests could come together to collaborate, problem solve, and just relax. But the BVEF grant made a difference in ways she didn’t imagine.

Q. The maker-space has been in place for a few years, but your idea was to expand creativity and collaboration by offering a variety of ways for students to connect. What kinds of positive impacts have you seen because the Beta is a space available for all students?

A. The most significant achievements included the student participation in the implementation of the space, and they have continued to help direct purchasing new materials to keep adding to what we have.

Q. What kinds of things are being created in the Beta?

A. Using the additional button maker, they made over 1500 buttons with a “Please Stay” message to coordinate with a student-created documentary about the impact of suicide on our school community. Just before finals week in December, Graphic Design 2 and Hacky Sack Club students planned a Maker Jam in the Beta to help students de-stress and invent. The first day was dedicated to mindfulness activities and the second day was for making and creating.

Additionally, this spring, students planned the Good Vibes Hacky Sack Tournament and Maker Jam to both raise money for Keep the Spark Alive and provide activities that promote positive mental and physical health. The entire event was planned and implemented through the use of the makerspace, plus the event itself gave students and their families the opportunity to work in the space, creating custom Good Vibes t-shirts and buttons as well as engage in mindful activities including coloring, board games, crocheting, and origami.

Q. High school can be a challenging time. Describe the benefits that expanding the Beta has made on the BVN students.

A. More students have come to enjoy the space for reducing stress and anxiety as well as creating and making things like custom stickers and jewelry using the available equipment.

The Beta is unique in that students from a variety of content areas have come to use the space for their class projects, including creating banners, posters, and buttons for econ classes, brainstorming and gameplay for science classes, and creating products for community service, including making and donating buttons to a local elementary reading program, our Please Stay buttons, and taking our mobile makerspace to the BVEF Night of Lights event.

Students are engaged in their learning in new ways, demonstrating an increased interest in helping others, figuring things out on their own, solving creative problems with one another, and helping each other learn and share their skills.
BETA GRANT CONT.

Q. BVEF is proud to have funded this grant. Why are spaces like the Beta so important?

A. Having students and staff co-create and co-design learning spaces is of utmost importance in creating positive school culture. The expansion of the Beta has been an exceptional way for students who aren't traditionally involved in school to become plugged in and invested. As a result, those particular students found a community, a voice, and several have become reinvested in their academics as a result of having a reason to come to school. Many different kinds of students have been empowered to use their skills to improve the lives of others as well as engage in creative and meaningful activities. That is the kind of experience we want all students to have.

I think it's important to note that the BVEF has helped develop this project from the beginning, and the last three grants have expanded this project in a variety of ways. The first one, our innovative spaces grant from 2016, helped gain momentum and launch the original idea, the second grant helped us create the mobile aspect of the Beta, and our most recent one has helped us expand even further to incorporate our SEL goals. So the entire Beta experience would literally be impossible without the generous support of the BVEF.

COFFEE AND CARDS CAFE

Recipient: Traci Cole
Oxford Middle School
Award: $505

Celebrating Success: Our objective was to teach our students with special needs how to work at a business, and this BVEF grant allowed us to start a coffee and cards business so we could sell items each week. Students had real-life experiences that allowed them to practice their skills such as counting money, communicating with customers and setting up and cleaning at a job. They were able to use their strengths to show others how much they are capable of each day and helped them to practice jobs that they might actually do one day! It was an amazing success!
This adult night out features four bands made up of Blue Valley parents, teachers, and staff, all competing for bragging rights as champion. The winning band receives a $250 grant to award to the Blue Valley school of their choice. Attendees enjoy celebrity chairs and emcees, live music, a silent auction, light appetizers, swag bags, an after-party and vote for their favorite band. Proceeds directly impact Blue Valley students through district-wide music programs.

Thanks to our 2019 sponsors:
- Baron BMW
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Boyer Corporon Wealth Management
- DLR Group
- First National Bank
- Fry-Wagner
- Kendra Scott
- Martin City Animal Hospital
- Meyer Music
- Olathe Toyota
- Synetic Technologies
- Which Wich

2018 Sponsors:
- AdventHealth
- Bank of Blue Valley
- BV Parent Organizations
- Capitol Federal
- Durham
- Garmin
- Holmes Murphy
- Mainstreet Credit Union
- Major Saver
- Menorah Medical Center
- Netsmart
- Price Brothers
- SMART

Night of Lights is a community-wide, family-friendly event to celebrate our amazing Blue Valley Schools. Each spring, our community comes together to enjoy food trucks, yard games, live musical performances, a high school art exhibit and robotics demonstration, multi-cultural booths and more! At sundown, attendees join together with glow wands to participate in a Glow Show and a grand fireworks display at the end of the evening shines a light on all that is great in Blue Valley schools.

Thanks to our 2019 event sponsors:
- Advent Health South OP/Centra Care
- Bank of Blue Valley
- Baron BMW
- Candid KC Photo Booth
- Carney Queens
- 435 Plumbing
- Fire Door Solutions
- First National Bank
- KOMA
- Learning Quest
- Major Saver
- Mathnasium
- St. Luke's
- Walmart

Save THE Date
FRIDAY
April 24, 2020

BVEF YEAR IN REVIEW | 11
The Blue Valley Educational Foundation’s ‘Partners in Education’ program provides local businesses the opportunity to invest in our schools, market directly to Blue Valley families, and provide a special benefit to their target audience. Through our unique e-blast system, our partners are able to communicate directly with every Blue Valley family—over 34,000 emails, up to twice a year—as well as receive benefits associated with our signature events. Our Partners in Education support the Blue Valley Educational Foundation and our classroom and district-wide grant programs.

**SPOTLIGHT:**

**Clay Shafer**

Baron BMW General Manager and Incoming BVEF President

Baron BMW is a generous participant in BVEF’s Partners in Education Program, but Clay Shafer’s ties with BVEF go well beyond serving as a board member for the past two years and agreeing to serve as our incoming president. Despite his busy family schedule and work obligations as the general manager of Baron BMW, his time, talent, and in-kind generosity to the Foundation is what makes him invaluable to our success.

Since Clay’s arrival in KC two years ago, he has generously supported BVEF’s signature events like Battle of the Bands and Night of Lights and helped them be successful. Baron was kind enough to donate a two-year lease on a BMW to be raffled for the past two years at Battle of the Bands, and he also supports Night of Lights as a corporate sponsor. In addition, he serves as a sounding board for BVEF’s marketing efforts.

“When a job opportunity with Baron was presented to me, the top consideration for our family was the quality of research and quickly Valley Schools were schools in the nation. It relocate to the Kansas said Shafer.

“I was quickly impressed in my kids’ schools and I involved and take a leadership role to support the trend of exceptional schools.”

"...I wanted to get more involved and take a leadership role to support the trend of exceptional schools." We did our noticed that the Blue among the best made our decision to City area much easier,” with what I was seeing wanted to get more

We are proud of our continued partnership with Clay and Baron BMW. Thank you for investing in the Foundation and BV Schools!
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2018-19 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
MILESTONE

Donors
2018-19 FISCAL YEAR

The Foundation is able to support our schools, teachers and students because we have loyal donors who have graciously contributed to the organization year-after-year. We honor these loyal donors each year as they reach significant milestone levels. These supporters have contributed over time to BVEF and continue to make an enormous impact on our Blue Valley Schools.
These levels reflect contributions received from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

$50,000 to $90,000
Major Saver

$10,000 to $49,999
AdventHealth
Baron BMW
Bayer HealthCare
Black & Veatch Building A World of Difference Foundation
Capitol Federal Foundation
Dixon Family Foundation
Durham School Services, L.P.
Garmin International, Inc.
JE Dunn Construction Co.
Keep the Spark Alive Foundation
Menorah Medical Center, Inc.
Meyer Music Inc.
Richard and Amara Napper
Dan and Barbara Sanford
Brooks and Carol Sherman
Speak Up Foundation
Walmart Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
Brett and Sarah Baker
Black & Veatch Corporation
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Caravan Ingredients Inc.
Cerner Corporation
Children's Mercy
Commerce Bank, N.A.
DLR Group
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Netsmart Technologies
Nick & Jake's
One Gas Foundation
Overland Park Regional Med Center
Saint Luke's Health System
Kenneth Selzer and Deborah Grimes
Shack
SMART Technologies ULC
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$2,500 to $4,999
American Academy of Family Physicians
Bank of Blue Valley
Blue Valley West PTO
Stanley and Cynthia Bowling
Joanne Bryan
First National Bank
Jesse and Amy Ge
Patricia Logan- Stand Up Blue Valley
Music House LLC
Overflow Story Labs
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Responsive Centers for Psychology and Learning
Spotlight AR
University of Kansas Hospital Authority
V & H Charitable Foundation
Zimmerman Construction Co., Inc.
$1,000 to $2,499

Affinis Corporation
All Point Transportation, Inc.
American Century Companies
Antella Consulting Engineers, Inc.
APAC - Kansas, Inc.
BAC Horn Doctor LLC
BBN Architects, Inc.
BCI Mechanical, Inc.
Judie Becker
Blue River Elementary PTO
Blue Valley Dermatology LLC
Blue Valley North Booster Club, Inc.
Blue Valley Recreation Commission
Blue Valley Southwest PTO
BlueCross Blue Shield of K.C.
BPAG
Carter Energy Corporation
Central Bank of the Midwest
City of Overland Park
Combes Construction LLC
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Reverend Adam Hamilton
Henderson Engineers, Inc.
Hollis + Miller Architects
HTK Architects, P.A.
Indian Valley Elementary PTO
Johnson County Community College Foundation
Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc.
Kansas City Audio-Visual
Kansas City School of Music
Kansas Learning Quest 529 Education Savings Program
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