Partnering with you to improve the lives of our children and families, and build a better future for our community.
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A Letter From Chris

Pride. If I had to choose one word to sum up my reflections on the 2018-2019 year, it would be that one.

We just came off of a transformational 2017-2018 year at the foundation, during which we redeveloped our mission, changed the name of our organization, created a new logo, and launched a new website.

In 2018-2019 we built upon that important work by developing a new strategic plan with four areas of focus: Stakeholder Engagement, Fundraising, Board Development, and Program Quality & Impact. Thanks to our generous donors, we doubled funds raised to support our schools. We led a capital campaign to support the new TradeWorks Academy program, raising more than $2 million. We made many improvements to our three signature programs, Kids & Company, STARS Scholarship, and Alumni & Friends. I invite you to learn more about these and other achievements from the past year in the pages to follow.

We also developed the following organizational values:

- **Integrity**: We are accountable, transparent, and serve with humility.
- **Excellence**: We strive for the highest standard of performance in pursuit of our goals.
- **Collaboration**: We are committed to community, knowing that with partners we are able to achieve that which is not possible alone.

These values will drive decision-making in pursuit of our mission to support the students, families, and staff of the Council Bluffs Community School District for many years to come.

This work is made possible by our donors, program partners, and community supporters. I look forward to another year of partnering with you to improve the lives of our children and families, and build a better future for our community.

Sincerely,

Chris LaFerla
Executive Director
Classroom Grants

**Educational Excellence Fund**

The Classroom Grants program helps fulfill our mission by providing funding to professional personnel for projects that enhance the educational experiences of students.

$18,000 + Awarded to 27 professional staff at 15 schools.

"With the classroom grant I was awarded I was able to purchase three Google AIY Vision Kits. As an educator, it was very exciting to witness so much engagement in the classroom."

- Denise Hoag, Thomas Jefferson High School

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Early College Academy

**Educational Excellence Fund**

The Early College Academy provides opportunities for high school juniors and seniors to earn a college degree or certificate on the Iowa Western Community College campus while completing their high school diploma.

$10,000 + Granted to support dual enrollment for 36 students.

"Participating in Early College Academy has been incredibly important to me and my academic future. I have been given the amazing opportunity to attend college for free, get experience being on a college campus, and have the free time afforded to college students while still being in high school. I am endlessly grateful to every donor who has supported this program."

- Matt Chaplin, ECA Student
The Foundation is committed to recognizing the talent and dedication of Council Bluffs Schools students and staff.

“Thanks to our donors, the Area of Greatest Need Fund provides an opportunity to reward and celebrate the accomplishments of students, and the commitment of our teachers and staff.” - Chris LaFerla, Executive Director

$11,000 + Dedicated to Staff and Student Recognition

$2,000 + Raised in support of the Student Enrichment Fund.

“At times we have student needs arise that are not funded by a school’s building budget. Through the Student Enrichment Fund we were able to purchase socks, pants, and hygiene items for students who would otherwise go without.”
- Doreen Kunth, Carter Lake Elementary

Funding Sources
Total Donors: 672

*Numbers do not include funds raised or sources for the TradeWorks Academy Project. See next page for details.

Funds Raised Total $76,816
The Council Bluffs Schools Foundation led fundraising efforts to renovate two lab spaces at Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson high schools, now known as the Behrouz and Christiane Rassekh Foundation TradeWorks Academy Learning Facility, named in honor of lead donors Dr. and Mrs. Behrouz Rassekh.

The TradeWorks Academy program offers core courses in five skilled trades areas to freshman and sophomore students, and leads to pathways for juniors and seniors to leave high school with a diploma and another credential. “This is a school-to-career program that will provide opportunities for our students to leave high school fully prepared for a career that pays a livable wage, and opportunities for our local business partners to cultivate their future workforce,” said Chris LaFerla, Executive Director. “TradeWorks is a shining example of what can happen when public and private entities partner to address local challenges, and I am incredibly proud that the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation is a part of it.”

“I’ve been working on cars with my dad my whole life and thought that this would be a good way to pick up some extra elective credits. The teachers have taught me tips and tricks on how to do things that you can’t learn in a driveway.”
- Tyler, Graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School

“We are fortunate to have the Council Bluffs Schools Foundation as our partner,” Superintendent Dr. Vickie Murillo said. “Together, we can provide more opportunities for students. Through the foundation’s tremendous fundraising outreach, our TradeWorks Academy is now a reality.”
Kids & Company provides Caring childcare for children in elementary and middle school, supporting working families by offering before and after school care, as well as full day services during out of school days.

Read and Feed

During the summer of 2019, Kids & Company offered the Summer Read and Feed Program to support early literacy and help address food insecurity by providing students with books for their home libraries and weekend meal packs.

More than 2,500 books were distributed along with 1,200 meal packs. According to survey data, nearly 70% of students who received books read more than they would have otherwise.

This project is supported by the Creche Early Childhood Fund through the Omaha Community Foundation, Ameriprise Financial, Pottawattamie County Community Foundation, the Dodge Trust, & Casey’s General Stores.

920 Students enrolled, and more than 375 families served
82 Families received tuition assistance
40+ Community engagements, field trips or special guests

@cbkidsandco
STARS Scholarship, funded by the Iowa West Foundation, Supports parents in Pottawattamie County on their path to a job that pays a livable wage by providing financial assistance, career planning, and other supports.

Samantha Lee, Teacher

Samantha Lee was a STARS scholar from 2014-2018, while she completed both her associate’s and bachelor’s degrees.

“STARS was more than a financial support, it helped guide me when I veered off my path, empowered me when I had anxiety about student teaching, and gave me someone to talk with when I needed it most,” Samantha said.

When Samantha started the STARS program in 2014 she was a single mother, earning $11.00 an hour. “I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a STARS scholar, it truly is one of the reasons I am able to own my home now,” said Samantha. “STARS kept me motivated to continue pursuing my educational goals.” Samantha is now a full-time teacher with the Council Bluffs Community School District earning over $40,000 annually and pursuing a Master’s degree in Special Education.

Over $197,000 awarded to 50 scholars for expenses including tuition, books, and childcare.
Alumni & Friends Connects alumni, families, & neighbors through reunions and activities, and serves as an information exchange on current happenings and exciting news in our schools.

**Blast From the Past**

Blast From the Past is an annual event hosted by our business partners on the 100 Block. The event brings alumni and friends together to celebrate the Council Bluffs Community School District while raising money for special projects.

"We are happy to have helped raise funds for the stadium, classroom grants, music & arts, robotics and the TradeWorks Academy. My favorite part of Blast from the Past is seeing people having fun and interacting with others as they travel the Block to complete the challenges at each location. It’s a great time whether you are 21 or 71!"

- Donna Schoeppner, Alumni Committee Member

Our 100 Block partners and donors raised more than $3,000 to support the TradeWorks Academy.
THANK YOU

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Providing financial resources and support to benefit the children, families, and staff of the Council Bluffs Community School District.

cbsf.org

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