



ROCKFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Left: First graders, Isabel Schaumburg & David Bills enjoy learning with iPads.

Right: Junior, Robert Bloom plays low notes with the new bass trombone.



The Rockford Education Foundation is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to supporting valuable educational experiences and innovative projects in the Rockford Area Schools.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks to all the support we have received from district families, community members and school staff, we have had our most successful year ever! We have recruited a few new members this last year who have brought motivation, time, and much needed talent to the organization. We intend to build on the successes of 2011 as we plan our fund-raising efforts in 2012.

One undertaking for 2012 is to help fund the high school STEM initiative, Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW is a national pre-engineering program that gives students the chance to earn college credit. We have voted to support the computer lab that is integral to the program.

It is our hope that we can reach out and encourage new families to step forward and donate towards the many new innovative ideas and programs in the district. There are still many requests from the district that we hope to fund in 2012. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 at our 2012 annual event in November.

Now, more than ever, with the fiscal crisis we face in the Rockford schools, we need your help. Please consider donating and/or joining our team as we strive to help our schools meet the needs of our students. Thank you in advance for your support. With your help we're building something spectacular at Rockford Public Schools.

Regards,

Cheryl Nelson
President
Rockford Education Foundation

FUN FACTS

\$525,000

total donations to date

\$89,000

top contributor

\$30,000

biggest one time donation

427

households who have donated

55

businesses, associations or clubs who have donated

127

computers funded

13

promethean activboards funded

9

high school mini-grants awarded

2011 FINANCIAL REPORT

Monies Received	\$82,923
Transferred to Endowment Fund	\$7,215
Operating Expenses	\$11,447
2011 Items Funded	\$39,732

2011 ITEMS FUNDED

District Wide	
Marquee	\$3,500
Promethean ActivBoards	\$3,900

Rockford High School	
Cannon Camera with Accessories	\$2,478
iPads	\$1,500
Library Books	\$750
Physics Class Force Plate (Mini Grant)	\$237
Promethean ActivBoards	\$3,900
Trombone for Jazz/Concert Band	\$1,500

Rockford Middle School	
Cannon Camera with Accessories	\$2,478
Clean Water for Sudan Effort	\$500
Library Books	\$500
16 Handheld GPS Units, Digital Camera, & Garden Tools	\$4,933
Promethean ActivBoards	\$3,900
Statewide Health Plan (SHP) Activity Challenge	\$2,500

Rockford Elementary School	
1st Grade iPads	\$2,500
Library Books	\$257
Mini Grant Winner - iPad	\$500
Promethean ActivBoards	\$3,900

\$39,732

KEY ITEMS FUNDED DISTRICT WIDE

Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

Education Foundation funds purchased five iPads for EXCEL - Rockford Area Schools' new gifted and talented program. The iPads have been used as a learning tool that provides students with opportunities to enrich and extend their learning through a variety of experiences! Thank you!

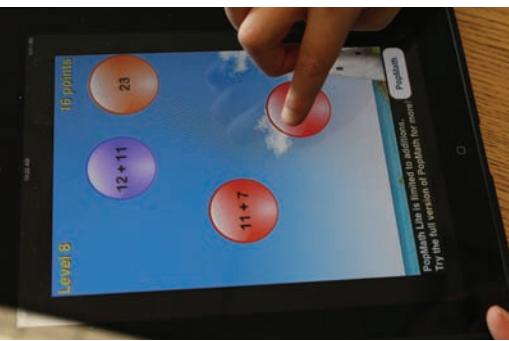
- Amy Denneson, EXCEL Coordinator

Students find the iPads to be exciting, yet conducive to learning. The technology we have in first grade is helping to prepare our students to be successful in the technologically advanced world that we live in.

- Amanda Rasset, First Grade Teacher

iPad Benefits in class:

- manipulate photos
- record scavenger hunt clues
- apps enable students to write and illustrate
- practice multiplication
- explore visual and spatial patterning
- build language & vocabulary skills
- access information quickly



iPads make math problems fun.

Cole Virnig and Andrew Schulz planting a rain garden at RMS-CES.



Rockford Middle School - Center For Environmental Studies

The equipment funded by the Education Foundation has become a part of the daily operations at RMS-CES. Students use this equipment to collect data, track progress, and work with nature.

The **GPS UNITS** have been used by 7th grade mathematics students to help them understand slope. Students measured angles outside using the GPS, and found different slopes on hills and on the school campus. Students learned about the types of slope needed for ramps to make buildings accessible.

The **CAMERAS** have been used on a weekly basis to document events, track progress, and keep evidence of projects. Students have become experts on using macro and close up shots, action shots, and colorful filters. They have especially liked taking underwater pictures as the cameras are waterproof!

Students have also been working with **GARDEN TOOLS** in Garden Club, in the School Forest, and in classes to improve the look of the school campus and learn about invasive species, plant growth, and gardening.

- Beth Russell, STEM Literacy Teacher, Curriculum Integration Specialist



Dayton Nelson - using a GPS receiver to locate a waypoint at RMS-CES.

Rockford High School

The **BASS TROMBONE** has been very beneficial to the band program, particularly with the jazz band. In the jazz band, the 4th (or lowest) trombone is supposed to be played by a bass trombone. Until we were able to purchase this one, we did not have the correct instrumentation for the jazz band. We can also use the instrument in concert band as well, covering the lowest trombone parts.

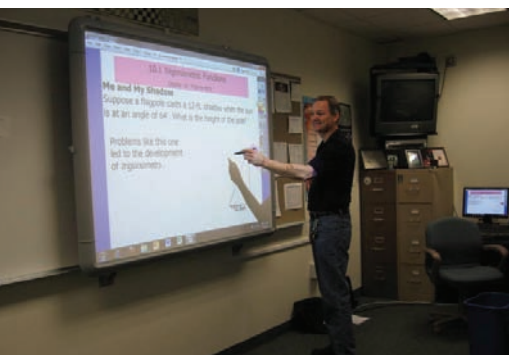
We have a good jazz band at Rockford. Good programs need quality instruments and that's what this instrument is. It gives our ensemble a much deeper and more mature sound. The students really love it!

- Jerald Ferdig, Director of Bands: RHS & RMS-CES

I have had my **ACTIVBOARD** for just over a year. It has been a great benefit for my students and for me. I am very thankful for the Foundation's donation to my classroom.

With the implementation of all new text books, state standard realignment, and teaching a CIS College Algebra class for the first time, the ActivBoard has been a great time saver and way to provide more interesting and complete lessons to students.

- Cheryl Maiolo, RHS Mathematics Teacher



Math teacher, Bruce Koenen, uses an ActivBoard to demonstrate a math lesson.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THE 2011 EVENT!

227 people attended our annual event, Evening in the Orient, this past November! This is an increase of 73 people from the previous year. The event was held at Rockford Township Hall and was catered by China Buffet of Rockford. D.J. entertainment for the evening was donated by Rockford Rick (Rick Martinson). Thanks to all who made this a successful event!

New drawings:

K-5 students colored pictures for a chance to win a \$25 Target gift card (Winner: Dylan Hubbs)

Staff \$500 Mini-Grant drawing (Winner: Jan Larsen, iPad)

Parents, teachers and community members enjoy an evening out while raising money to support Rockford Schools at the annual event.



Raffle items included:

42" VIZIO Flat Screen TV
Digital Camera
Browning Shot Gun
Nook Touch
Notebook with case
iPod Touch

Silent Auction: There were many fabulous items to bid on, such as professional sports memorabilia, student & staff art, tons of entertainment packages and even breakfast with the Principal!

Top Bids:

- One week condo stay in Colorado
- Kitchen Aid Professional mixer
- Vintage Limo ride in a 1932 Hudson
- Log Package (log bench & cribbage board made by Rustic Wood Crafts & Old Log theater tickets)

Thank you!

2011 EVENT SPONSORS

Table Sponsors - \$500

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Rockford Lions Club

Event Sponsors

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SAVE
the
DATE

November 17th 2012 *Event*

Q&A

What are High School Mini Grants?

The Foundation gives high school teachers the opportunity to apply for a grant up to \$250 to fund a need in their classroom.

What does STEM stand for?

A Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) magnet immerses students in a series of learning experiences that fosters interaction and investigation. Students use technology and virtual studies to solve problems in new ways.

FOUNDATION GOALS FOR 2012

- Help fund Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering program
- Increase communications in our community with a new improved website
- Participate in Rockford River Days
- Raise \$35,000 at the Annual Event to enhance learning opportunities

SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

Rockford ISD #883 Education Foundation qualifies as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

Donate by Mail

Write checks to: ISD #883 Education Foundation
Rockford ISD #883 Education Foundation
PO Box 283, Rockford, MN 55373

Donate Online

www.rockfordeducationfoundation.org
Donations are processed via Give 2 Schools

- **Honorariums, Memorials**
- **Matching Donations** - check with your company for matching programs
- **United Way Designation** - choose where your gift will be invested
- **Planned Giving** - future gifts made in your will
- **Attend the Annual Event** - your ticket is a donation
- **Donate to the silent auction/raffle**

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