

Plano ISD Education Foundation

May/2011

Issue: 5 Vol 3



Plano ISD
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

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Special Thanks

Valedictorian - \$50,000+:

Alliance Data, Employees of Plano ISD and Texas Health Presbyterian Plano

Salutatorian -

\$20,000 - \$49,999:

Bank of America, Capital One; Communities Foundation of Texas, ExxonMobil, Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C.; Huawei, Park Place Lexus Plano, Texas Instruments Foundation, Verizon

Distinguished Achievement -

\$10,000 - \$19,999:

Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano; Dollar General Foundation; EnCana Oil & Gas Ericsson; InTouch Credit Union; THE HEART HOSPITAL Baylor Plano; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Heffernan, James and Betty Muns Foundation, Plano Wildcat Quarterback Club; and, Transamerica Life and Protection

With Honors -

\$5,000 - \$9,999:

Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd, & Joplin, P.C.; ATMOS

Plano ISD Education Foundation recognizes investors in PISD students, staff and programs

The board of directors of the Plano ISD Education Foundation reaffirmed last Tuesday evening the community's commitment to the Plano Independent School District, as Foundation Board President Michael Urtsos proudly announced that the Foundation has raised more than \$900,000 this year. Approximately 100 attendees celebrated the investment in public education at a donor recognition event held at Gleneagles Country Club. Major donors of \$5,000 or more received special recognition and honorariums were made to Plano ISD libraries in their names. As part of the celebration, the Plano ISD Education Foundation revealed their new logo. The logo is part of their five-year strategic plan to build a recognizable brand in the community. The logo is comprised of multiple hands forming an apple to illustrate the many hands in the community lending a helping hand to Plano ISD. The logo was designed pro bono by Capital One.



Michael Urtso, 2010-11 Plano ISD Education Foundation president; Missy Bender, School Board secretary; Janeen Browning, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano (Distinguished Achievement donor); and Jim Hirsch, associate superintendent for academic and technology services.

Energy; Bonser-Philhower Sales, Inc.; Franklin I. Brinegar Foundation; Central Market Plano; Ebby Halliday REALTORS®; Flextronics Foundation; Fossil, Inc.; Innovative Solutions for Education; Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Miller; Kathy and Greg Nelson; Plano ISD Council of PTAs and Local PTAs; SHW Group, LLP; Texas Instruments; ViewPoint Bank; and, M.B. & Edna Zale Foundation.

[View Donors from \\$1,000 to \\$4,999.](#)

PWSH & Bowman Teachers Capture TI Foundation Innovations in STEM Teaching Awards

Karen McNeil, Bowman Middle School science teacher and department chair, and Kathy Fritz, Plano West Senior High School Advanced Placement Statistics teacher, captured the 2011 Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Teaching Awards and were recognized at the April 5 meeting of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees. Karen and Kathy were among six PISD teachers honored for superior teaching by the TI Foundation and the Plano ISD Education Foundation. [Read more](#)

To complement the new logo, the evening's theme was "lending a helping hand," which Mr. Urtso said was especially fitting as the Plano ISD Education Foundation celebrates its 18th year of lending time, talent and treasure to the Plano Independent School District. "Since our inception in 1993, the Foundation has gifted more than \$7 million to the district thanks to community partners like those we are honoring tonight," Mr. Urtso said. "It is exciting to see the difference community support has made to education."

The Plano ISD Education Foundation has more than doubled its fundraising results over the past five years to help Plano ISD maintain its high standard of excellence. In light of recent budget reductions, Mr. Urtso stated, "Our community wants Plano ISD to remain one of the best public school districts in the nation and is willing to invest in our schools through private donations as well as local taxes. The Foundation provides critical private support for our students and teachers that is important to our schools and to our region."

Plano ISD Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto said, "The Plano ISD Education Foundation is an important partner with our school district. The Foundation engages thousands of donors each year, all to help Plano schools. Funds raised by the Foundation stay in Plano ISD and address important academic programs our school district has identified for which tax dollars are not available. The Plano ISD Education Foundation helps our district address funding gaps for priority needs. Meanwhile, our Plano educators keep the bar high for our graduates, while ever-mindful of closing any achievement gaps."

The year's most significant donation was the collective contribution of \$120,350 made to the Plano ISD Education Foundation by more than 3,278 Plano ISD employees as a result of a Valentine's Day employee campaign chaired by Plano ISD Deputy Superintendent Danny Modisette. Individual employee gifts ranged from \$5 to \$1,000 and raised more than one-tenth of the Foundation's annual goal.

Foundation Programming

With the support of thousands of donors throughout the 2010-2011 school year, the Plano ISD Education Foundation funded:

\$206,000 in grants for schools and classroom teachers across the district to enhance student learning through instructional projects, professional training and other special needs. The Foundation's signature Grants to Educators program grows more important to teachers with every year - funding \$70,000 to over 52 teams of educators in 2010. In addition, the Foundation funded more than \$136,000 in special needs of the district, schools and departments, including: \$5,000 in professional development for school leadership, \$50,000 fitness pilot program, \$58,000 in various campus needs including TAKS tutoring, fine arts supplies and more; \$23,000 for expanded AVID program-equipping students with college readiness skills, and much more.

\$97,000 for programs that improve science, technology and mathematics instruction (STEM) for secondary students. Support includes funding for a secondary science specialist position and rewriting of middle school science and chemistry curriculum to support the dramatic improvement of all Plano students' performance in middle school and high school science. Also funded was a the Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in Outstanding STEM Teaching Awards, recognizing exemplary PISD secondary STEM teachers.

\$94,500 for district initiatives that recruit, retain and recognize the very best teachers. Each year the Plano ISD Education Foundation sponsors the district's job fair; augments travel funds for district recruitment of tough-to-fill positions; offers moving loans to new teachers relocating to Plano; sponsors the district's new teacher orientation, all-employee Convocation; Teacher of the Year recognition; and funds the PISD Employee Crisis Fund that provides grants to employees with short term emergencies.

\$50,000 for student scholarships so that all Plano ISD fifth grade



Michael Urtso, Kathy Fritz, Karen McNeil and Arturo Sanchez

Plano ISD Education Foundation selected 2011-2012 Board of Directors

Board Officers:

Lisa Raskin, President;
Mitch Bramlett, President-Elect and Development Chair;
Dennis Oliver, Treasurer; and **Rebecca Caso**, Secretary.

Board Members:

Sally Bane Plano Economic Development Board

Jaime Beringer Texas Instruments

Keith D. Braley Northern Trust

Chris Brunner Park Place Lexus

Jean Callison Community Volunteer

Windon Chau JCPenney

Mary Jo Dean Texas Health Presbyterian Plano

Samir Deshpande Capital One Bank

David Doyle Brinker International

Harvey Fishero

students can attend the fee-based **Collin County Adventure Camp, a three-day instructional program for all fifth grade students.** Currently more than 25 percent of Plano ISD students are economically disadvantaged. The fifth grade environmental overnight camp experience is a long-standing Plano ISD tradition. In recent years Collin County has experienced dramatic increases in economically disadvantaged families. The district is able to continue this fee-based, Plano ISD instructional program with significant scholarship support from the Plano ISD Education Foundation and local PTAs.

\$202,000 for initiatives that engage community and connect parents and families with schools. Supporting initiatives that engage all PISD parents in their children's learning, the Plano ISD Education Foundation facilitated private support of numerous services currently offered through the Plano ISD Student and Family Services division. In addition, the Foundation annually supports PISD Communications Department's activities with distribution of PISD student academic calendar magnets to all Plano ISD families and employees. [Read More.](#)



Thrill of the Grill 5K A Thrilling Success

The third annual Thrill of the Grill 5K benefiting the Plano ISD Education Foundation was a thrilling success. Special thanks to 1,700 runners that joined us last month to make this year's event a huge success.

The event featured a barbeque competition with 19 entries, live music and wonderful food from Central Market Plano.

Special thanks to the Plano East Senior High Band group that received the award for most runners.

[View event video](#)

[Read race results](#)

Community Volunteer

Robert Fitzgerald
Deloitte & Touche, LLP

Diane Gerstner
InTouch Credit Union

Marshall V. Johnson,
DDS, MS
Periodontist

Robin Joseph-Williams
Robert Half and
Associates

Cathy Larson
Verizon

Don McClure
Encana

Jim McGee
Huawei

Charlie Miller
Patton Boggs

Joa Muns
Community Volunteer

Octavio Ortiz
The Shops at Willow Bend

Kelly Palmer
ViewPoint Bank

Kathy Schell
Community Volunteer

Kandi Sigona
EDGE Tech Group

Ralph Stow
Regenesis Properties

Michael Urtso
Peckham Custom
Builders, LLC

Mary Von Ahnen
Fossil

Kyle Walters
Elliott's Hardware

Beth Webb
Community Volunteer

Foundation Announces Progress of '\$60 Million Reasons to Give' Campaign

The Plano ISD Education Foundation launched a "\$60 Million Reasons to Give" campaign this spring to help Plano ISD, which is facing a \$60 million budget shortfall over the next biennium. The Foundation is half-way toward reaching its \$60,000 goal for the campaign.



Contributions to the \$60 Million Reasons to Give campaign have ranged from \$10 to \$6,000 from 250 donors and have surpassed \$38,000, which is half way towards the \$60,000 goal, reported Monica Shortino, Foundation executive director.



Among the contributors were two Andrews Elementary School students Emma and Noora who opened a lemonade stand in their neighborhood to raise money for the Plano ISD Education Foundation based on a flyer that was sent home from school. Their contributions totaled \$130. Emma's mother Lisa said, "They were very excited and intrinsically motivated to do this, and they wore their Andrews t-shirts proudly that day to show support for their school." The students were recognized at a recent

meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors.

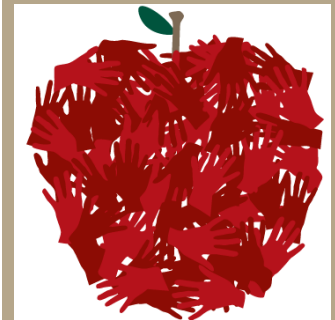
Ms. Shortino with the Foundation noted that, since Plano ISD is facing a potential \$60,000,000 shortfall to its annual budget over the next biennium due to the State of Texas budget crisis, "The Plano ISD Education Foundation launched the '\$60 Million Reasons to Give' campaign, which will continue through June 30, in the hope of raising \$60,000 from individuals in support of our school district. This meaningful pursuit to raise \$60,000 will send a strong message of camaraderie to our students, teachers and school officials that we are in this together." [Track progress.](#)



Teachers may begin applying for "Grants to Educators" program on June 1. The deadline to apply is late September. [More Information](#)



Bank of America recently awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Plano ISD Education Foundation to support critical services offered by the school district to economically disadvantaged families through the Plano Family Literacy Program. [Read more.](#)



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