



Panther Foundation

2006 Annual Report

Our Mission: To acquire and allocate resources to enrich the educational experiences of students in Spring Lake Park School District 16.

Hear The Roar!

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Panther Foundation
8000 Highway 65 NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
763-795-5155

www.PantherFoundation.org

The Panther Foundation
is a nonprofit 501(c)(3)
organization.

Thanks to a caring, involved community . . .

The Panther Foundation made a difference in the lives of a lot of kids in 2005-06

After two years of operation, the Panther Foundation's membership, commitment, and enthusiasm is growing strong as it works to enrich learning experiences of the 4,500 Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Fridley students in School District 16.

Among the 2005-06 initiatives:

- Successful GrandGala raised over \$40,000
- Increased grant awards by 22 percent
- Doubled the endowment fund
- Added two new Foundation board members

The second annual GrandGala, held April 29, 2006 at the TPC of the Twin Cities in Blaine, surpassed the wildly successful 2005 event, raising more than \$40,000 on a dinner with live and silent auctions.

Generous GrandGala guests also invested \$8,155 in a portable classroom computer lab consisting of wireless laptop computers and docking stations. The lab is now located at the Westwood Intermediate and Middle School complex that serves all of the district's grades 4-8 students.

At the first GrandGala, a campaign was launched to place sound magnification systems in district classrooms. Last year, audio enhancement systems were installed in four fourth grade classrooms. After just four months, an additional 10 percent of the students were meeting typical growth in rooms with these systems, scoring at or above grade level. The teachers reported increased attention by students and said using the system is like standing next to each child and talking with them individually. Students can hear the teachers better and their classrooms are quieter. Similar enthusiasm is being experienced at Woodcrest Elementary where four systems were installed.

2006 GrandGala corporate partners were Friendly Chevrolet, Fridley; Allegra Print and Imaging, Blaine; and Tournament Liquors, Blaine. Table sponsors were Village Bank, Walters Recycling and Refuse, Kraus-Anderson, PMA Financial Network, Inc., and Wold Architects and Engineers. Many thanks for your continued support. If your company would like to become a 2007 GrandGala sponsor, please call today at 763-795-5155.

Thanks to you, our fabulous members and partners, the Panther Foundation continues to make a meaningful difference in the quality of our kids' education. Let's keep the momentum going.

Sincerely,

Terry Dussault,
2005-06 Panther Foundation Chairperson



Panther Foundation chairperson Terry Dussault announces another grant-winner. A total of 26 grants, totaling \$33,156 were presented during the Foundation's first two years. In addition, \$19,955 was raised and used for "Fund-A-Dream" projects in classrooms.

New Adaptive Art Program

This new initiative targets high-risk Westwood Middle School students in need of finding positive ways to express themselves and alternative ways to deal with anger and frustration.

Expanded 5th Grade Band Opportunities

The previous supply of French horns and baritones isn't enough for the expanded band program in the District. The purchase of new horns will be used at the 7-12 grade level. Older horns have moved to the 5-6 grade level.

Mentoring Project Pilot

The Learning Alternatives Community School (LACS) works to improve school attendance with learners who are at risk. LACS is offering a mentor to help students improve school performance, plus facilitate their growth in socio-emotional skill-building.

Alcohol and Tobacco Decisions Program

High school students taking child development classes are trained and used as mentors to teach 300 fourth graders about not using alcohol and tobacco.

Our 2005-06 Grants *A world of good programs, good deeds, great students*

Twelve grants were awarded in 2005-06 totaling \$18,556. This dollar value is up 22 percent from last year! Every dollar the Foundation invests in grants or initiatives comes from community members through a donation, membership, fundraising event, matching fund, or special gift plan. Thank you!

The Voice Peer Education Theater

Students (right) from Spring Lake Park High School and a staff director develop skits and workshops based on real-life stories for performances of The Voice Peer Education Theater. Teen audiences respond to presenters who have experienced the very issues they discuss.



Elementary Kindness Retreat

A new, day-long retreat for all district 4th graders focuses on how to incorporate the values of respect, compassion, courage, and integrity into their personal and school lives. The expected outcome is a drop in bullying, defiance, and willful physical harm.

Panther Den: Safe After-School Options

The Panther Den was re-initiated in March. It provides safe, after-school options for grades 9-12. The activities prevent idleness, which has been a source of many problems for the high school. Youth workers have an opportunity to work on character and leadership development.

Bridges to Adventure and Learning

Enriching summer experiences were offered to sixth grade female students, selected from Targeted Services and the free and reduced lunch program. Hands-on activities focused on increasing thinking skills at many levels.

Cantus Music Education

Cantus, a group of professional young adult singers, visited the district to help 245 seventh and eighth grade singers learn about singing and proper care of the vocal mechanism.

Baby Bags for New Parents, Future Students

Information on school and community resources, valuable parenting tips, and free gifts are packaged in a canvas bag for new parents. Many families who receive bags become involved in the school district's Early Childhood Family Education programs.

Historical Sites Pilot Program

A pilot project at Westwood Middle School integrates American Studies with the High Potential English class. Students work in groups to research local historic sites.

The Hot Zone

Seventh grade Life Science students will link real life to their school work by reading excerpts from *The Hot Zone*, a book about scientists working to determine the cause of an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Virginia.

Panther Foundation Members and Partners

We couldn't do it without you. Here are the Panther Foundation's "Lifetime" members, "Gold, Silver, and Bronze" members, and our "Partners" who have contributed time, goods, and services.

Lifetime Members

Jim Amundson
Theresa Berset-Klis
Hollis & Catherine Cavner
Marilynn & Fred Forsberg
Jim & Barb Hasling
Joel & Jolene LeVahn
Al Yee Litt
Nancy Yee Litt
Glenn Martin
Friendly Chevrolet, Inc
Roger Moody
Allegra Print & Imaging
Tom Newland
Jay & Denise Onstad
Craig Poeschl &
Barbara Lind
Kathy Serpinas
Tryone Transportation
Leo Luskey
Lance & Julie
Vandenbrook
Village Bank
Don Kveton
Barbara Nellesen
Walters Recycling &
Refuse Service
George & Sue Walter
Don & Cathy Weiss

Gold, Silver, and Bronze Members

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Dave & Anne Alto
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Pete Anderson
Mary Bacha
Keith Barnes
Jeanne Bennett
Janet A. Benson
Judy Burkey
Big River Consulting
Group
Bruce Miles
Jill Brown
Joel & Jan Burda
Ann Bryz-Gornia
Charles Bryz-Gornia
Mike Callahan
Jane Cash
Tom Cash
Michael & Holly Donato

Cheryl Gustafson
Julia Corneil-Smith
Ann Corrigan
Jim Corrigan
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David & Rebecca Crislip
Craig & Alexandra
Johnson
Brad & Kelly Delfs
Jill Driscoll
Terry Dussault
Mary Mueller
Jim Elert
Gary Erickson
Julie Fahey
Austin Felix
Zaiga Felix
Gallagher & Associates
Tom Gallagher
Kandi Gerding
Tim & Julie Gotham
Claudia Hagberg
Wendy Hatchner
Michael Hartman
Michael Hay
Don & Linda Helmstetter
Erik Hendrickson
Frank Herman
Mark Heule
Paula Hoff
Ken Hoffman
Marcia Hoffman
Mike Hoyne
Jeff Jensen
Noreen Johnson
Van Jordahl
Ryan Julien
Jeanne Kalien
Mark Kenney
Caroline King
AnneMarie Klimek
Pete Klimek
Jane Krepela
Knutson, Flynn & Deans
Joseph E. Flynn
Charles Koethe
Brain Kovar
Scott Kranz
Ed & Sharon Krumme
John Kvidera
Sue Kvidera
Paula Lanoue
Tom Larson
Alison LeVahn
Erik LeVahn
Jacob LeVahn

Julia LeVahn
Jodi Lichtsinn
Randy Lichtsinn
Pete & Chris Lindquist
Sue Lund
Richard & Marianne
Matlon
Brooke Magid-Hart
Mary Mueller
William Neiss
Wendy Nelson
Robert Neilsen
Jeanne Nolby
Cheryl Norman
William Norton
Jo Norton
Mike & Lisa Ojille
Michelle Pagel
Cathy & Kevin Palmer
Angelina Palumbo
Connie Palumbo
Genevieve Palumbo
Marianne Paulos
Steve & LaVerne
Poniatowski
Tom & Mary Polta
John & Dianne Proulx
Sue Pyatt
Ron & Kathy Rauschke
Jason & Shannon
Roeske
Jeff & Jill Ronneberg
Geoffrey Rootes
Tonya Rootes
Jodi Ruch
Nate Ruch
Spring Lake Park Lumber
Company
Dann Francen
Karen Schaub
Jerry Slepica
Jean Slepica –
Thimmesch
Michael Steel
John Szurek
Jeffrey & Diane Tesch
Kathie Thorne
Andrew Tortora
Candace Vittorini
Dessie Walter
Grant Walter
James Westrum
Brian & Kristin Whitwam
Shelby Woodring
Kevin Wika
Lynn Wika
Jeff & Carol Williams

Richard Young
Joel Young

Partners and Supporters

Addie Lane Floral
Anoka County Parks
Department
Janice Backes
Allegra Printing
Becky Amundson
Gary Benson
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Northtown
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Don & Cathy Weiss
Kenneth Hall Elementary
Kitchen Party
Dan & Kiki Koralwsky
Bill & Wendy Koschak
Kraus- Anderson
Aleesha Kveton
Jamie Kveton
Jackie Lantry
Lori Long
Rose Lundell
Allen & Nancy Mercer
Minnesota Twins

Minnesota Vikings
Minnesota Wild
Nelson Cheese
Kim Norleen
Northern Espresso Café
Lori Nystrom
Kris O'Brien
Old Log Theater
Tom & Sue Ann Olson
Tony Palumbo
Park Place School Store
Colleen Pederson
Penny Peterson
Pier One
PMA Financial Network, Inc
Steve & Leah Price
Marlene Priebe
Royalton Desserts
Salon Mystique
Suzanne Shattuck
SLP Athletic Department
Scott & Christine Sovereign
St. Paul Saints
John & Sue Stroebel
Heidi Symnykwyicz
The Flower Shoppe
Theater in the Round
Jean Thimmesch
Timber Lodge
Time Out
El & Terri Neely Tinklenberg
Tournament Liquor
Trollhaugen Ski &
Snowboarding
Greg & Lisa Walter
Water Street Inn-Stillwater
Glo Westerdahl
Westwood Intermediate School
Westwood Middle School
Wild Mountain
Wold Architects & Engineers
Pete Yelle
Craig & Ann Zemke

The 2006-07 grants program, membership renewal, third annual GrandGala, and a healthy financial picture . . . thanks to you.

The 2006-2007 granting year is off to a great start

Early highlights

■ The Panther Foundation has had granting request of over \$33,676 so far in 2006-07. To date the Foundation has funded over one third of the requests. With our membership drive and the 2007 GrandGala still to come, the Foundation will continue to fund additional requests throughout the remainder of the year.

■ School District staff members contributed over \$11,000 to the Foundation during a fall membership drive.

■ The School District staff also produced and starred in a "Staff Follleeeez" with proceeds of \$2,500 going to the Foundation.

Do you know of a worthwhile project that would benefit students?

Students, parents, and staff are invited to submit grant applications that benefit students to the Panther Foundation. There are three more granting periods remaining this year. The number of grants will depend on the availability of funds.

For copies of the application, visit www.PantherFoundation.org or call 763-795-5155.

Grant deadlines

- January 12, 2007
- March 30, 2007
- June 29, 2007

Send your grant request to:

Panther Foundation
8000 Highway 65 NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

At a glance . . .

2005-06 Panther Foundation financial picture

After two years, the Panther Foundation is a vital, active, and growing organization committed to enriching the educational experiences of students in Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Fridley. Highlights from 20065-06 are:

Grants/Projects Awards	\$ 44,255	27% increase from 2005
Endowment	\$ 8,189	100% increase from 2005
Other Assets (<i>checking account/CD/Money Market</i>)	\$ 59,584	60% increase from 2005
Foundation Membership	139 members	29% increase from 2005
GrandGala Income	\$ 55,245	35% increase over 2005

Time to renew your membership

Current Panther Foundation members are encouraged—if you haven't already—to renew their memberships before the end of the current year. For your convenience, this mailing has a renewal membership form with the address we have on file. Please take time to make sure our data is current before sending it back.

We also included your 2005 membership level on the form to help you to determine a 2006 level of support for the next year. Please consider upgrading your membership today, remaining a member, and continuing to help the Foundation provide grants that enrich our students learning in this school district.

Thank for you for your continued support, and remember your membership is tax deductible!

Third annual GrandGala is February 24, 2007

Mark your calendar today and join the fun! The 2007 Panther Foundation GrandGala will be held Saturday, February 24 at the TPC of the Twin Cities in Blaine. It is open to all. Please consider joining us for great food and guests, fine music, a silent auction, live auction, and a fun-filled evening that will raise funds for the Panther Foundation, and therefore for kids.

For more 2007 GrandGala information, visit www.PantherFoundation.org or call 763-795-5155.

Panther Foundation mission statement

Our mission is to acquire and allocate resources to enrich the educational experiences of students in the Spring Lake Park School District 16.