



SALINA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Fall/Winter 2012

Classroom grants to enhance student learning • Exceptional teachers to staff our classrooms

## From Our Chair

Wow! Here we are - well into a new school year, nearing the holidays, and enjoying beautiful fall weather. Life is good in Salina, Kansas. Part of the reason that the school year is an exciting time for students is the creative, interesting, and dynamic professionals who make up the Salina Public Schools. Regardless of the positions of our classified and certified professional staff, children across the community are benefiting from their personal dedication.



As a retired educator, I have witnessed first-hand the power of combining community resources to support our public schools. Historically, the Salina Education Foundation has taken a leadership role in identifying and working with area business partners and local individuals to ensure excellence in our schools.

This year, the Salina Education Foundation once again pledges our support to teachers and their students. Whether our involvement is helping train teachers through the LIFT program, assisting in funding opportunities for teachers through our 21st Century Advantage Grant and Outside-the-Box Grant, or providing quick Sudden Opportunity Grants, we are committed to providing our teachers and staff the resources they need. As a supporter of the SEF, YOU ARE HELPING TO MAKE SALINA SCHOOLS THE BEST THEY CAN BE!! Thank you for your support.

Gail R. Konzem, Chair

## Celebrating Twenty-Five Years

The SEF hosted a 25th birthday celebration August 28 at the Salina Country Club. Wonderfully creative decorations by Lou Ann Dunn of Artful Parties and Events, Central Strings with teacher Andrew Book, cupcakes with sprinkles, and special guests made the atmosphere festive!

We took a walk down memory lane and recognized past directors and trustees. Mike Soetaert described how he learned that he would be the first executive director of the Salina Education Foundation when Superintendent Andy Tompkins handed him a notebook and said, "By the way, you are also director of the Foundation." Margy Hogarty represented her mother Betsy Scholten, who was director in 1992. Carol Exline, executive director from 1993-1996, spoke of the community's support of the SEF following the defeat of the local option budget, and Vicky Price, first chair of the board of trustees, talked about her



Jenny Maring, Trustee and Pam McIntyre, Director

"dream" for the foundation. That dream became focused when she asked a neighborhood child what she would like in her classroom. "Butterflies!" was the child's enthusiastic answer. Today, because of the vision of Mike, Betsy, Carol, and Vicky, butterflies have hatched from cocoons, chicks have hatched from eggs, and students all over the district have experienced hands-on learning in hundreds of different projects funded by the SEF.

Pam McIntyre, current director, recognized audience members for "great ideas" that have defined the work of the SEF:

Connie Burket and Martha Rhea led the SEF's efforts in gathering information from community members, developing strategies for funding,

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Teacher Andrew Book and Central High Strings

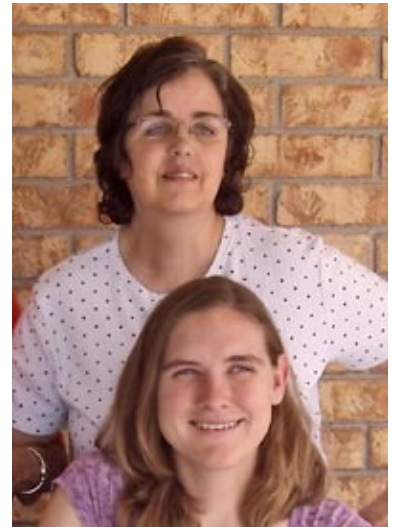
## Teacher Honors Mother

In September, 2011, Darcy Bartz Leech, Central High English teacher, lost her young mother to a genetic disease, myotonic dystrophy, which also took her brother Dustin's life. Darcy and husband Daniel had just welcomed baby Eli into the family when JoLyn became critically ill. How to turn a tragic loss into something positive?

Darcy, a LIFT recipient, knew that her mother valued education. JoLyn had taught five years in San Antonio before quitting to take care of Dustin, and she supported Darcy's decision to become a teacher. A memorial scholarship honoring a Central High graduate seemed a perfect way to

honor a life devoted to education.

Darcy set about to raise the \$5,000 needed to establish a permanent scholarship. Her mother's memorial gifts started the fund and friends were asked to donate. On May 25 and 26, 2012, Darcy held a garage sale that put the fund over the top. Recently, Darcy's father Randy became employed by USD 305 and is donating monthly to the fund through payroll deduction. You can donate to the Jolyn Bartz Memorial Scholarship by sending a donation to the SEF, Box 797. Need information about establishing a scholarship? Call Pam McIntyre, 309-4729.



Darcy and her mother, Jolyn

## 305 LIVE Sponsors and Donors

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	Cozy Inn	Salina Country Club
	Domino's	Sam's Club
	Gutierrez	Sbarro Pizza
	Hickory Hut	Scheme
	Hog Wild Bar-B-Q	Speakeasy
	Jimmy Johns	Tucson's



## Celebrating from page 1

and speaking to donors about the community's vision for a "grow your own teacher" program. The LIFT Program was born.

Jeff Ingles suggested the need for a grant that could provide immediate support for projects that come up unexpectedly. The Sudden Opportunity Grant was born.

Carol Brandert suggested that kids need to learn about their community, state, and world by actually getting outside the classroom and exploring! The Outside-the-Box Grant was born.

Marcy Roth believed that project-based learning enables children to problem-solve, collaborate with others, and retain what they have learned. We committed to make project-based grants our priority when funding the 21st Century Advantage Grant (our flagship grant program, started in 1993).

Gary Denning was excited about a fundraiser that would showcase our student talent. On October 13, 2012, the rock band Joe's Pet Project and over 200 middle and high school students performed an amazing rock concert at Central High Auditorium.

The SEF has evolved and prospered because of the vision and strength of our community. Can't wait to see what the next 25 years will bring!

## SEF Presents 305 LIVE

What do you get when you combine a rock band with 200 middle and high school students? 305 LIVE!

Meet the rock band Joe's Pet Project (JPP): Nathan Tysen, lead singer and Broadway lyricist; Ryan McCall, keyboard; John Hobson, guitar; Lance Gilchrist, drums; and Jason Hammond, bass. The SEF hired these Salina grads (who now live in New York, Chicago, Oklahoma, as well as Kansas) for a week-long residency that involved student musicians and vocalists. And what a week it was!

The excitement began on Saturday, October 6. Nathan Tysen, Ryan McCall, and special guest Emily (Thompson) Afton, who is pursuing a professional musical theatre career in New York, provided a creative experience that 40 students will not forget. They worked with two groups of 20 students (high school in the morning, middle school in the afternoon) to write two original songs, which were to be unveiled at the concert on October 13. The process started with deconstructing the Beatles song, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" into verse, chorus, bridge, and hook. In two hours, each group wrote a song, complete with lyrics and music. The high schools' song, "The Other Side," had a powerful equality message. The middle schools' song "Pop Explosion" was an anthem to what can go wrong in a single day of a middle schooler's life.

JPP worked with students in classrooms throughout the week, loaded in technical equipment at Central High Wednesday night, set up complicated sound equipment, and began rehearsing with quartets on Thursday. Friday and Saturday were full-out rehearsals (two full run-



throughs on Saturday). By the time the concert rolled around, students were rock stars!

Saturday night, a torrential downpour did not stop people from coming to experience this "School of Rock" concert. People loved the door prizes, which included an Alvarez Guitar donated by Midwest Music and over \$400 in restaurant coupons. When the concert started, the walls of Central High reverberated with sounds of quartets and duets, guitars, cellos, violins, basses, trumpets, saxophones, and drums.

Thank you to the music and theatre teachers who gave hours of their time to make sure their students could participate in the project. We hope to make 305 LIVE a biannual event to benefit the arts in our schools. To see more photos of 305 LIVE, check out the SEF's facebook page.



## Our Mission

*To promote and support educational excellence by providing resources to enhance opportunities for the students and staff of Salina's public schools.*

As part of this mission, the trustees of the Foundation

Manage and grow endowment funds, grants, and gifts for specific schools, programs, and scholarships

Award grants to teachers seeking to enhance instruction

Identify and support, through forgivable loans, outstanding Saline County residents seeking to become teachers in USD 305

Build community awareness and support of the Salina Education Foundation

## Our Vision

*Uniting the community to support excellent public schools*

## 2012-13 Board of Trustees

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- \$100-499 **SEF Supporter**
- \$10-99 **SEF Friend**
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