



SALINA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

# community connection

ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

salinaeducationfoundation.com 785-309-4729

Fall 2017

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

## Fall Breakfast Highlights Field Trips

Over 150 guests attended the SEF's Fall Breakfast on September 12 at the Salina Country Club. Artful Parties and Events set the theme for the breakfast "We Are Going Places!" with some fun and festive decorations. Teacher Nancy Bauer and 20 of her Schilling Elementary students entertained guests with an intricate and impressive drum performance on drums provided with an SEF grant. The SEF was proud to inform guests that Mrs. Bauer was named Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2017-18.



Schilling drummers performed.

This year's breakfast focused on the importance of field trips. Two Outside-the-Box Grants were highlighted. *The OTB grant rewards creativity aimed at expanding students' understanding of their community and world.*

**Brandon Cheeks, Lakewood teacher,** takes all 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Topeka every year. Four of his students accompanied him to the breakfast and talked about touring the state capitol building, the underground railroad, and the Brown v Board of Educa-

tion Museum. Students were impressed by the size and the beauty of the capitol and were shocked that African-American students were not allowed to attend school with white children in Kansas's earlier history. The audience enjoyed one student's comment about the bus—which even had a bathroom! Mr. Cheeks was quick to point out that students appreciated far more than the bus ride.



Lakewood students visit the capitol.

**Gina Turner, Library Media Specialist at Meadowlark Elementary,** has taken students to Emporia, Kansas, the first weekend in October, for a number of years. Students who are selected to go on the trip read at least six William Allen White award-winning books. These students travel to Emporia to witness the ceremony naming the new William

Allen White Book Award winners and meet the winning authors. (See photo, pg. 4) While in Emporia, students visit Red Rocks, White's home, and his memorial in Peter Pan Park, where they eat their lunches and play on the playground. The four students who attended the breakfast reported that White was a journalist, editor of the Emporia Gazette, and friend of US presidents, many of whom visited White at his Emporia home.

**Superintendent Dr. James Hardy** praised the Salina Education Foundation, its donors, and the community of Salina for understanding the importance of a vibrant school district. He praised the LIFT (Loan Initiative for Future Teachers) program that identifies and supports local students who become teachers in USD 305.

The Fall Breakfast, in appreciation of our donors, is held the Tuesday after Labor Day each year.



Students love visiting Emporia.

## A letter from George Troutfetter

I retired from USD 305 in 2013 after spending 41 years in public education as a teacher (14 years), counselor, and finally Assistant Principal at South High School (25 years). Upon retiring, I was asked to be on the Board of Trustees for the Salina Education Foundation. This is an organization that I had supported since its inception. Both my wife Marcia, who teaches regular and special education PE at South Middle School, and I always contributed to the Foundation. Marcia has received several grants that allowed her to provide special experiences for her SPED students at South Middle.



George Troutfetter

Once I joined the Board and became more deeply involved in the SEF initiatives, my appreciation for what this organization does for teachers and students in USD 305 grew significantly. I had the opportunity to read grant proposals from teachers and to hear about the positive impact these efforts had on our students. I interviewed potential LIFT candidates, students graduating from Saline County High Schools who wanted to commit themselves to returning to our community to teach, and then saw them come back to provide excellent service to our students and to our district. I also had the great privilege to be a part of making USD 305 come alive. Middle school and high school students were given the opportunity to work with professional musicians and create a wonderful program called 305 LIVE

that they performed for the community.

Having the opportunity to be directly involved in these activities strengthened my conviction that the SEF is something special. USD 305 does what it can to provide support for our staff. However, money is limited and choices have to be made. The SEF has been able to provide that little extra so our classrooms can be truly rich, and our students can have great opportunities they might not have had. I encourage all members of the Salina community to consider making a contribution to the SEF. Your dollars stay in our community and directly benefit our students.

George Troutfetter  
Board of Trustees Chair  
Salina Education Foundation

## New Scholarship Honors Mother

Loan T. Nguyen was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and was a Salina resident for nine years. She is the mother of Jennifer Tram Nguyen, a 2013 graduate of Salina South High School. Loan passed away in May 2016 at the age of 43 in Salina. During her lifetime, Loan was a loving daughter, dedicated wife, devoted mother, caring sis-

ter, and loyal friend. She genuinely believed in the pursuit of higher education as well as the need to give back to others. The Nguyen family established this scholarship in loving memory of Loan, hoping to carry on her legacy of respect, generosity, and compassion. The SEF is honored to administer the Loan T. Nguyen Scholarship.



Jennifer Nguyen honors her mother Loan T. Nguyen

## Scholarship Guidelines

Gifts of \$10,000 or more can be placed in individually named endowment funds and carry specific donor instructions. Annually, endowment earnings will be allocated to each named account according to the account's proportionate share of the total asset pool (pooled income approach). For purposes of establishing annual scholarship amounts, donors are encouraged to plan for grants of no more than 5% of the principal balance. For example, a \$10,000 donation would fund a yearly scholarship of \$500. The minimum amount required to set up an endowed scholarship is \$10,000.

## Donor Spotlight: Salina Regional Health Foundation

The SRHF's generous donations over the years has supported school nurse funds (Vision, Dental, Respiratory, and Emergency), pre-K initiatives, and healthy lifestyle grants for all teachers and their students. The SRHF most recently provided four Spot Vision Screeners, which allows the 12 USD 305 nurses to screen the vision of all students, regardless of age, medical condition, or cognitive function.

## 305 LIVE Is Back!

The SEF is thrilled to announce that we are bringing back 305 LIVE, a collaboration between the rock band Joe's Pet Project and the students and faculty of USD 305. This will be the fourth time the concert has been presented, and this year the Ed Foundation will again partner with the Stiefel Theatre to give students and audience members a professional rock performance experience. The concert will be held at the Stiefel Theatre on May 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Joe's Pet Project is a five-member rock group, all of whom graduated from Salina Public Schools. They have performed at the Smoky Hill River Festival, Ad Astra and Rolling Hills Zoo, to name a few local

venues. Nathan Tysen, award-winning Broadway lyricist, whose plays Tuck Everlasting and Amelie opened on Broadway, and Ryan McCall, musical director at the University of Kansas, will teach a master class in songwriting. Ten students from each middle and high school will be taught the basics of songwriting by dissecting a few rock and roll hits and examining their structure. After learning the basics, participants will collectively write a song with the band that will be premiered at the 305 LIVE concert on May 23. In addition to the original song, middle and high school students will be involved in all technical

and performance aspects of producing a rock concert.

New this year! At guests' request, reserved tickets will be sold after the beginning of the new year. Updated information about the event will be available on the SEF's website: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com).



## New Website: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com)

Our old website served us well, but we were not able to update photos and events as quickly as we would like. Our new website can do all that and more! When you go to the new site: [www.salinaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.salinaeducationfoundation.com) you will find pictures of grant recipients, photo albums of recent events, information about upcoming events, and access to all scholarship, grants, and LIFT applications. Check out the Fall Breakfast

photo album!

You will also find a prominent link to donate to the SEF, using your debit, credit, or Paypal account. We will be updating information about 305 LIVE regularly after the first of the year.

Even more pictures and grant photos can be found on our facebook page. Friend us to be the first to know about all our activities!

### Breakfast Sponsors

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## 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 Salina Education 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*

## Board of Trustees, 2017-18

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