

Annual Report

2016-2017

Our Mission

FLPS believes that all students should have what they need to reach their full potential. We engage our community to inspire students and educators, and create educational opportunities that enhance academic and personal success



Distributed over
\$994,000

Over
400 funds

3,431 Gifts
from our generous donors

RAISING THE BAR:

New and Improved! Fund a Need makes a big splash

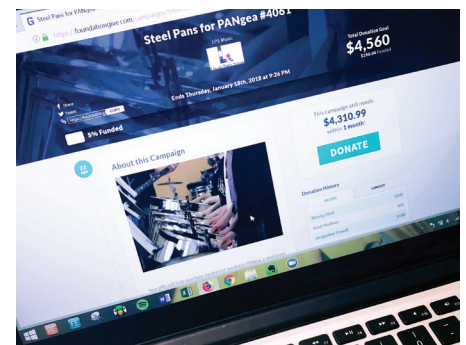
SUCCESSFUL CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM GETS A NEW LOOK AND BETTER FUNCTIONALITY.

When the Foundation rolled out Fund a Need in 2003, it was on the cutting edge of crowdfunding. This fall, in partnership with FoundationGIVE, we have launched a faster, friendlier version of the platform. The new platform helps teachers use photos and videos to tell their story and donors find projects where their gifts will make the greatest impact.

"In this era of ever-increasing expectations for students, Fund a Need donors continue to show us their support of public education," said teacher Tiffany Young. "It is exactly this type of community-level support that makes a difference in kids' lives. We are so thankful for the generosity of our donors."

Since going live in early October, teachers and administrators have created 40 campaigns and already raised over \$30,000. Building on this early success, the next phase of the project will be to launch an in-kind marketplace that helps community and business partners support the needs of Lincoln classrooms.

FoundationGIVE, created through a partnership with Nelnet's Innovation Hub, is a great example of a public-private partnership that helps benefit the Lincoln community. "What we've created with the Foundation solves compliance, visibility, and marketing problems that all public schools face," says



Casey Winkels, Product Co-Founder with FoundationGIVE. "We're excited to work alongside the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools to help LPS teachers do what they do best – inspire kids to learn."

Foundation for LPS President Wendy Van is excited about the possibilities. "It's fantastic seeing what our parents, grandparents and community partners are able to make happen for kids using this fantastic tool."

See more at
www.foundationforlps.org/fund-a-need

FUND A NEED

- ➔ 121 classroom needs met
- ➔ 44 Schools served
- ➔ \$117,830 raised to support classroom needs

Strong, Stable Families

Addressing basic and emergency needs so all students come to school ready to learn.



Emergency Funds

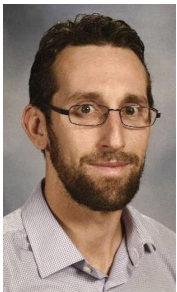
Did you know that just over 46% of students in Lincoln Public Schools live in poverty (qualify for free or reduced lunch)? It's hard to learn in school when you are hungry, cold or scared. Each year, our donors help students in need so they can come to school ready to

learn. Many families are one unexpected expense away from homelessness. These funds assist families and students when emergency needs arise, helping close the gap.

We assist families like Marie's. When she left her home due to domestic violence, she and her children were uprooted and had nowhere to turn. It was a time full of uncertainty and anxiety for all of them. Five-year-old Alex and his 10-year old sister Anna had a hard time understanding why they couldn't sleep at their old house. Marie reached out for help — she wanted stability and a place to call home where her family could feel safe. Thanks to generous donors to the Foundation, LPS had the resources to coordinate with agencies in Lincoln to find a new home and give much-needed assistance with the deposit and first month's rent. Now, Marie is able to go to work at her new job and knows that her children are safe.



- ➔ **\$39, 286 provided for emergency needs**
- ➔ **217 Families supported in times of crisis**
- ➔ **201 Families helped through 2Gen Program**
- ➔ **\$34,502 provided for 2Gen Program**



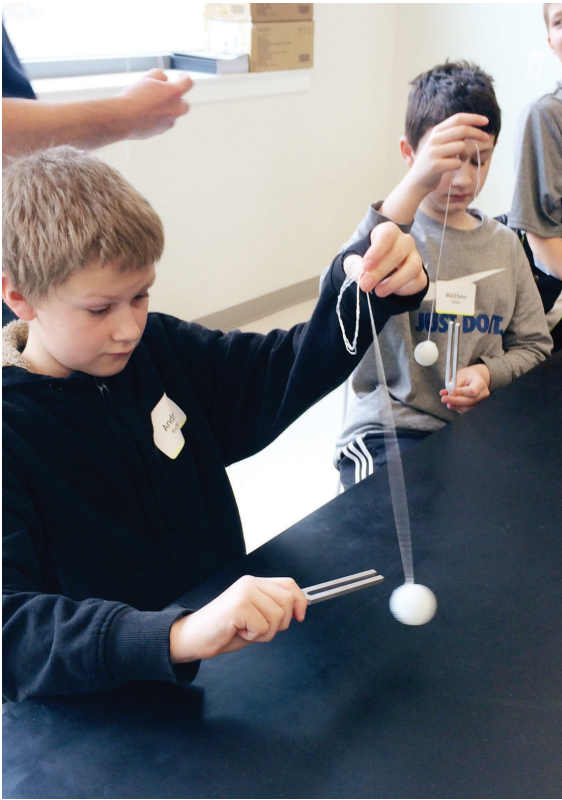
When I think about the work of FLPS I think about its ability to work quickly, to assess the needs of families and to make it happen. The Foundation is able to step up, write that check, get that family to stability, while collaborating with the people who work with the families directly. It's an amazing partnership

- BRYAN SECK. EMPLOYMENT SKILLS DEVELOPER, PROSPER LINCOLN

Next Level Learning

Partnering with the community to enrich student learning.

Saturday Science



Saturday Science is an amazing hands-on learning experience that pairs elementary school students with physics professors at UNL for four Saturdays each spring. Students have an opportunity to experiment and learn from experts at the UNL Physics Department. This opportunity gives kids a chance to open the door to their curiosity, and fosters a love of science.

- ➔ **\$9,742 Library, Books, Media funds**
- ➔ **\$9,041 Arts funds**
- ➔ **\$3,274 Science Funds**

Science Research Awards

With grant funding from the Todd Francis Creative Research Scholarship Award, high school student Garrett Brockman is designing and building an operable quadcopter drone for his senior research project at the Science Focus Program and The Career Academy. This device connects all of the other components of the drone such as the motors and battery. The Pixhawk also works as the gyroscope and accelerometer. He will also be learning and utilizing some of the same software that is used at the UNL drone labs.



Ground-Breaking Musical Curriculum

With help from Foundation donors MarySue Harris and the Pearl Francis Finigan Foundation, Goodrich and Moore Middle Schools are implementing a new Yamaha piano lab. The labs include 15 Yamaha keyboards connected with iPads that are used to deliver a music curriculum for general music and music composition developed and piloted by Dr. Brian Moore from the University Of Nebraska Glenn Korff School Of Music. This cutting-edge curriculum supports the LPS innovative learning initiative where students have opportunities to be creative in music composition and performing. Goodrich and Moore are the first two schools in the world to have these piano labs.

OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Beyond the Classroom

Wrapping resources around extra-curricular activities.



- **\$38,027 Distributed to music programs**
- **\$4,399 Distributed to athletic funds**

Music Rocks Me

This fund was used to sponsor a three-day tour of ukulele expert James Hill for over 800 students at elementary and middle schools, and a workshop for teachers.



A Living History of the Civil War at Lefler Middle School



Eighth-grade Teacher Becky Boswell brought the Civil War to life for her students last year, using resources from Fund a Need. Students researched life during the Civil War era and chose characters to portray, such as a soldier, nurse, landowner, politician or journalist. They wrote scripts, designed murals, painted sets and staged an evening performance.

According to Boswell, "This project pushed some students outside of their comfort zone because they had to wear a costume and perform in front of a crowd. But, there was strength in numbers and it was less intimidating because everyone was wearing Civil War era costumes and it became great fun."

"Overall, the project gave me an interesting view of the Civil War since I played my part through the 'eyes' of a Confederate soldier." Said Loc, an eighth-grader at Lefler. "We heard different stories we've never heard before... I'm so glad to participate in this activity." Commented Natalie, another eighth-grade student.

"Projects like this allow all of my students to shine," said Boswell. "Kids who are artists love creating the mural and other props. Kids who enjoy research, do well with that part of the assignment. Kids who like writing enjoyed writing the script, and kids who have a flair for the dramatic, enjoyed performing. This project allowed different students to be leaders and thrive."

OUR FOUR PILLARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

College and Career

Helping students get ready to thrive.



Scholarships

- ➔ 105 scholarships
- ➔ \$330,778 awarded
- ➔ 84 students

“



LPS schools provide many opportunities for their students, the LPS Scholarship Foundation is one example...I'm honored to be one of the selected to earn a scholarship from the Foundation for LPS.

- LILLIAN NGUYEN, GEORGE AND HELEN THACKER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

”

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN
DECEMBER 18 - FEBRUARY 25TH.

The Career Academy



- ➔ 49 tuition reimbursements awarded
- ➔ \$11,806 Distributed to scholarships
- ➔ \$137,641 Distributed to TCA student experiences

“



One of the key opportunities for students at The Career Academy is the experiences. Through generous donations, TCA students are able to go on multiple field trips each semester. The added value is the time spent at facilities as a talented member of the business points out the incredible opportunities readily available in Lincoln, Nebraska. Incredible experiences like these and the assistance provided to students to compete in student club competitions make TCA the most unique experience in education in the city.

- DAN HOHENSEE, DIRECTOR, THE CAREER ACADEMY

”

Awards

Inspire Awards

63 STUDENTS AND 63 STAFF MEMBERS WERE CELEBRATED AND RECOGNIZED



Inspire School Award

ROPER ELEMENTARY



LPS Outstanding Educators

Lance Kassebaum	Park Middle School	Florence J. Clark Middle School Award
Katie Karabel	Schoo Middle School	Florence J. Clark Middle School Award
Myrna Mooberry-Stanard	Northeast High School	Helen Krieger Outstanding Healthcare Provider Award
Darrell Dinneen	Sheridan Elementary	John Prash Health & Physical Fitness Award
Chris Maly	Lincoln High School	Leola Bullock Multicultural Award
Molly Moller	Sheridan Elementary	Marian Battey Andersen and Charles Wheaton Battey Outstanding Teacher Award
Dr. Chris Deibler	Pound Middle School	Marie Bourke Leadership Award
Jeff Smith	Lincoln Southeast High School	Mike Troester Outstanding Educator Award
Cassandra Seiboldt	Lincoln Northeast High School	Myrtle Clark Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award
Nicole Barnes	Lincoln High School	Nancy Muehlhausen Counseling Award
Carrie Erks	LPSDO & Randolph Elementary	R.L. Fredstrom Leadership Award
Kaycee Perez	Family Educator	Ruth Eickman Early Childhood Educator Award
Jill Martin	ECSE Teacher	Ruth Eickman Early Childhood Educator Award
Lindsay Tillinghast	Southeast High School	Union Bank & Trust Financial Literacy Award
Craig Songster	Lincoln Northeast High School	Victor Vaughan Memorial Award

A New Spark for Summer Learning



Spark Summer Learning is a year-old STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) enrichment program at the Foundation for LPS that looks like a maker's paradise. Created to help working parents find a fun

learning environment for their kids over the entire summer, Spark also gives parents the option for their child to drop in for a week or more, as needed.

In our pilot summer, we took 50 children (aka Sparklers) through 10 different weekly themes. The common thread was developing kids as creative and collaborative problem solvers. Our curriculum built on itself during our 10-week stay at Adams Elementary. For example, concepts that we studied in our textiles week affected our "making" during the film and photography week. We applied principles from our Simple Machines studies during Sculpture and Structure week.

To help identify these parallels within various themes and disciplines, the Spark staff used a five-step design process in our weekly projects. This problem-solving framework encourages collaboration and is easily applied to everyday challenges. The collaborative nature of this process is what makes Spark special - our focus on community. Sparklers were encouraged to think of the needs of other community members as the primary way to enhance their own learning (allocentric thinking), and whether a student was with us for one week or all ten, this created important team building opportunities for the whole group. We also made a concerted effort to anchor these young people's learning in the maker community beyond Spark. To do this we visited UNL's Innovation Studios and brought in Nano scientists, videographers, ethnomusicologists, and architects to help us solve problems.

According to Program Director Matt Tebo, "We made some great connections in the community, and we are excited to do even more this year." Stay tuned to hear more about Spark this coming year. Registration opens January 15, 2018.



STEAM education offers students an interdisciplinary model based on inclusivity, integration, assessment and delivery of useful skills. Kids who learn this way will be better prepared to face real life problems with more creativity, critical thinking and effectiveness.

- WENDY VAN PRESIDENT, FOUNDATION FOR LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Excellence Project Unveiled



The Excellence Project at Lincoln High School last year was an inclusive and collaborative program exploring personal strengths through the arts. It was about self-representation through photography and writing,

and challenged every day biases students encounter by giving voice to underrepresented communities through students' artistic narratives.

"What we do in the classroom should push students to think about

themselves beyond school and what they hope to accomplish with their lives," states Yvonne Meyer, art teacher at Lincoln High School. "I want them to find their unique point of view; to struggle with hard questions, push themselves, take risks, solve problems, and find their best selves."

The artwork consisted of photographic portraits made into sculptures on 4 foot interconnected boards, that were paired with stories by creative writing students along with biographies of the artists written by journalism students. This work was displayed at the Nonprofit Hub and TEDxYouth@Lincoln among other venues, and is to be exhibited by the "Inside Out" Project in Paris, an international participatory art program. Grants, donations, FLPS funds, and Fund a Need combined to make this project possible.



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