

## Annual Report 2006

I want to thank each of you here for coming this evening. I would like to highlight some of the Foundation's accomplishments thru the year, briefly update on our Back the Track campaign and lastly address any questions or concerns any might have.

The most labor intensive, learning and stretching undertaking of the year in my eyes was the sweet corn project. This was the brain storm of several local citizens of which Kirk Sauer took the lead. Kirk and many others provided time and equipment to get the crop into the ground. Timely rains and great growing conditions lead to a bountiful crop. This project took many man hours of planning and preparing for and thankfully Eric stepped forward to help get the harvesting going in right direction. The best part of this project was seeing the kids, parents and even a few grandparents out picking sweet corn, manning stands selling corn or helping haul it to places to be sold. It was just neat to see so many people out there working and networking together toward a common goal. We all felt that this was a project that the kids could help take some ownership in and hopefully inspire them and their families to get behind the foundation. The Foundation netted over \$10,000 on this project.

The Foundation established a strong working relationship with the City Council this year. This is such a vital relationship and one we are very thankful for. The foundation wanted to get a well and sewer system in at the site. This project could have been two very high dollar items for us. But, when Bob Berry is quietly at work, you can always count on great things happening. Bob along with homeowner Rick Smith, the city council and probably others brainstormed a way for all to get the public utilities needed to enhance the city, allow the Smith's to move into their home and for the foundation to get a septic system for less than half the original bid cost. Again, this partnering and fostering of positive working relationships which enabled all parties to meet their needs

was awesome. Again, we are all very thankful for the leadership and integrity of those on the council.

The Foundation helped with the Logan McVey Memorial Texas Hold 'Em Tournament in June. This event was the brainstorm of multiple citizens in the district to help raise funds for the family. The foundation was pleased to help in various capacities.

Mike Olinger developed and initiated the Pillars Scholarship Program. The Pillars Scholarship Program rewards three "pillars", or areas of excellence; fine arts, academics and athletics. Last May we recognized our first three winners with \$500 scholarships each at the Senior Awards Night. The foundation will continue with this scholarship program and hope that at some time in the future can increase the monetary amounts.

We again had a presence at Benefit Days with various kids' games. The kids enjoyed the games and prizes received and fun was had by all. We sold a little sweet corn that day as well and by then we were all getting pretty tired of it!!!

In late September we held our Homecoming raffle and Tailgate meal. This event has grown each year and we had a very good turnout. Many nice raffle items were donated by various businesses and we had 19 happy raffle winners.

We received a \$750 matching Branching Out grant from Trees Forever in early spring and planted deciduous trees on the west property line and replaced several conifers as well.

We looked at developing the two softball fields at the foundation site for little league use at this time. Several board members looked into costs and all it would entail to utilize these facilities. Again, we see this as a way to get the facilities being used and getting people out to the site. We have also planned to develop the parking area along Alburnett Road, so that the facilities can be accessed and utilized easier.

Almost every project we have undertaken requires cultivating relationships with others to make these ventures successful. Utilizing the skills and talents of others gives ownership and hopefully some pleasure in working together toward that common

goal. The only down side, is everyone is busy and coordinating schedules difficult and we are at the mercy of others. Needless to say, several things we had hoped to have done by now, have not been completed. But, we will persevere!

If you have not visited our web site, [alburnettfoundation.com](http://alburnettfoundation.com), you need to. Kelly Heims has worked diligently in developing, maintaining and updating this very informative site. We have an electronic donation site, Pay Pal as well. Again, we are very thankful that someone stepped forward to meet this very big need in our organization.

The Back the Track Campaign has finished the first of its three year fund raising campaign. The highlight of the year was securing the Lead Donor gift from the Neighbor Family in the amount of \$150,000 over three years. Al, will be doing a presentation on the Back the Track campaign so I will defer to him.

This organization's existence will begin its sixth year in March. It has been a fast five years. I want to take time to thank all of the board members who have served since the foundations beginnings. To Kelly, Carl, Bob, Jeannie I say a special thank-you. I thank you for your selfless service, time, giving, hard work, suggestions, all the applications and paper work you have done. I thank you for reading all the emails I sent and responding. Most importantly I thank you for all your help directing and guiding this organization.

I want to thank each of the board members for their selfless giving and sacrifice of time and effort that they have given to help see this effort become a success. WE all share a common vision and dream for the kids, school and communities of this district. The foundation wants to be a beacon, a light that makes a difference in the lives of many. Only with each of us working together and reaching out to encourage others to partner with us, will we bring people together and dreams to life.

Any questions I or other board members can address?

Patty Shaffer - President