

ALBURNETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

Enriching the quality of life for the greater community by bringing people together and dreams to life.

2011 Annual Report

The Alburnett Community School District Foundation, now in its tenth year of existence, continued to carry out its purpose of providing greater educational, social and recreational opportunities for the school, students, faculty and members of the communities within the Alburnett Community School District.

Anonymous Matching Gift Campaign is a Huge Success!

Opportunity presented itself in March when a community member stepped forward with a strong desire to accelerate the Foundation's fundraising efforts for the Back the Track project. This person, whom wishes to remain anonymous, is a supporter of the Alburnett community and school district as well as the Foundation's plans and efforts to develop the Martin Complex, including the yet to be completed track and football facility. This person wanted to challenge and inspire Alburnett community members and alumni to support the Back the Track project with a meaningful monetary donation.

The anonymous donor pledged to donate \$1 for every \$3 donated to the Foundation's Back the Track project, with a maximum match of \$25,000. To receive the maximum match, \$75,000 would have to be donated by December 31st through monetary donations as well as profits from Foundation fundraising events.

Challenge issued. **Challenge met and surpassed!** The total amount raised from this fundraising campaign, including the \$25,000 matching donation, was **\$135,856!**

The Foundation would like to thank the anonymous donor and everyone who donated to the Anonymous Matching Gift Fundraising Campaign.

Employer matching gift contributions, especially from Rockwell Collins and Quaker Oats/PepsiCo, contributed greatly to achieving our goal in this campaign. It is an easy way to double your contribution with little effort on your part. Please keep this in mind when making future donations to the Foundation. A list of participating employers can be found on the Foundation website.

Awareness/Fundraising Events

Awareness/fundraising events are a major source of our funding each year for scholarships and development of the Martin Complex.

Thanks to everyone who attended, donated auction items and/or purchased raffle tickets to the **4th Annual Gala** held on Saturday, March 12th at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. The sold out event was a huge success and raised nearly \$23,000! The proceeds benefited the Pillars Scholarship program for graduating seniors as well as the “Back the Track” project at the Martin Complex.

The **5th Annual Gala** will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. This year’s theme is Purple and Gold Celebration. We hope to see you there!

The **1st Annual Men’s Alumni Basketball Tournament** was a successful new fundraising event for the Foundation in 2011, raising just over \$1,000! Special thanks to Foundation Board member Katie Johnson for providing the idea and organizing the event.

Other annual fundraising events in 2011 included **Drive Smart, Children’s Benefit Day** (Pirate Dash, pancake breakfast and bingo), **Alumni Softball Games, Run, Pass & Kick** and **Homecoming Tailgate Meal**.

Please contact a Foundation board member if you have an idea for a fundraising event.

Grants

In 2011, the Foundation and Pirate Playground Project received the following grants for development of recreational facilities at the Martin Complex:

- \$1,400 grant from the Linn County Board of Supervisors Witwer Trust Fund for enhancement of the community picnic area.
- \$500 York Children’s Foundation Grant benefiting the Pirate Playground project. Thanks to Mike Olinger, Murdoch Funeral Home and Matthews Casket for their sponsorship of the grant application.

Scholarships

The following Alburnett seniors were awarded \$500 scholarships:

- Academics – Jennifer Freeland & Jordan Neighbor
- Athletics – Kaleb McBurney & Jill Sadler
- Fine Arts – Cody Stick & Kayla Hanson

If you have an interest in creating an endowed scholarship for an Alburnett senior, please contact a Foundation Board member. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization.

First Ever Horizon Awards Winners

At the Gala, the Foundation bestowed Horizon Awards to three individuals for their outstanding community service. The Horizon Awards were created as a unique way to recognize a few of Alburnett's unsung heroes for their volunteerism at the school and/or in the community. First year recipients Dixie Boyse, Jennifer Wehrkamp, and Lauralea Wander, all received certificates of recognition, etched glass awards, and standing ovations from the audience.

Nomination forms for the 2012 Horizon Awards are available in the high school office or on the Foundation website at www.alburnettfoundation.com.

Financial Report

We continued to improve our financial position in 2011. Please see the 2011 Financial Report (statement and narrative) for more details.

Martin Complex Development

Considerable progress was made during 2011 on projects at the complex:

- Erected a shell for the concession/restroom building as well as the crow's nest for the varsity softball diamond. Subfloor plumbing/drains, concrete floor, heating ductwork, metal-clad ceiling, attic insulation, doors and windows are also completed for the concession building.
- Final grading and compaction of the track sub base has been completed. Required compaction and hydration testing will be done at a later date.
- Installed a portion of the gravel base for the track creating a temporary running surface and preventing erosion of the infield grass area along the track.
- Built up the ground west of the track to direct runoff water away from the track and for the future elevated home sidelines.
- Constructed benches at several fitness stations along the walking/running trail as part of Chris Kovar's Eagle Scout project.
- The football and practice soccer fields were inter-seeded in the spring.
- The infield of the upper ball diamond was filled with lime and bases were set.
- Gravel was applied to the driveway through the complex.
- Additional millings were added to low areas of the walking/running trail.

Coming in 2012

Our complex development priorities for 2012 as funding allows include the following:

- Finish the interior of the concession/restroom building. The Foundation is seeking the assistance of community members to complete the interior of the building including wall framing, drywall, cabinets, counters, shelves, etc.
- Install the 800-amp electrical service from the transformer to the building.
- Install pump controls, pressure tanks, plumbing fixtures, furnace and electrical service in the concession building.
- Work with the Alburnett School Board, school superintendent, varsity coach and Sports Booster Club to move the Alburnett Junior/Senior High School girl's softball program to the upper ball diamond for the 2012 season. Lights, bleachers, scoreboard, batting cages and other items will be moved from the existing softball diamond to the complex.
- Finish grading/seeding of park area and areas along the road through the complex.
- Investigate the next steps in development of the football and track complex including affordable options such as used but good condition lighting, loans, etc.
- Spread asphalt millings on the driveway connecting the two entrances.
- Additional Alburnett Boy Scout Troop 504 Eagle Scout projects.

If you, your business or your community organization has an interest in donating funds, labor, materials, equipment and/or services for any of these projects, please contact a Foundation Board member.

“Back the Track” Project Update

While the grass turf should be ready for games in the fall of 2012, a good portion of the required supporting infrastructure such as field lighting, fencing, goal posts, a short retaining wall on home side of the field, crow's nest, scoreboard, sound system, and reel irrigation unit remain unfunded. Bleachers will be moved from the current field to the complex. Donations from the anonymous matching gift campaign will help fund some of these items. Our first priority is to complete work on the concession/restroom building and items needed to ready the complex for varsity softball games.

Construction of the center piece 8-lane all-weather track (including high jump and long jump runways), timing system/display and track equipment also remain unfunded. Material and labor costs for construction of the track itself have skyrocketed since originally estimated in 2005. Three estimates received in August 2010 ranged from \$305,000 to \$355,000!

While over \$400,000 has been raised for the Back the Track project to date, we estimate that **at least \$350,000 must still be raised** in order to complete the above projects including the track. Proceeds from Foundation fundraising events alone will not allow us to achieve our goal within the next few years. Monetary support from the Alburnett Community School District is also not an option at this time as the district is dealing with continued uncertainty in state funding and has other building/remodeling priorities.

Support the “Back the Track” Project with a Sustaining Monetary Gift

While community support for the anonymous matching gift campaign was great, sustaining monetary gifts are needed in order to complete development at the complex in the next few years, rather than many years from now. Our anonymous donor recognized this and decided it was time to challenge the community and alumni to get behind the Back the Track project and see it through to its completion.

If you have been waiting to see what the Foundation could accomplish before making a major financial commitment, I hope you would agree that we have come a long way in a relatively short number of years in terms of development of recreational opportunities at the Martin Complex. The Foundation Board will continue to look for creative ways to construct and finance remaining facilities and equipment purchases, including a loan as we near our funding goal if we can demonstrate a sustainable annual income stream to area lenders.

The Foundation Board encourages you to be part of something bigger than all of us, something that will benefit future generations in our community. Let’s keep the current momentum going!

Please visit our website at www.alburnettfoundation.com for a pledge/donation sheet, a list of employers with matching gift programs, electronic payment options, volunteer opportunities, news items, annual reports, meeting minutes and much more.

Special Thank Yous

- Kelly Heims for her continued design work and content updating for our website
- Katie Johnson for creating and updating our Facebook page (see below)
- Marv Porter for his continued leadership and work on projects to develop the varsity softball ball diamond and concession building
- Alburnett students and teachers that worked at the complex during the school’s Community Service Project Day
- Boy Scouts and parents of Alburnett Troop 504 for their continuing Eagle Scout projects at the complex
- Area businesses and individuals that donated/discounted labor, materials, provided free use of equipment, etc. to complete the above projects
- The Troy Gallagher family for the memorial bench, two flowering crab trees and hostas
- The individuals, businesses and organizations that have sponsored, worked at or attended our awareness/fundraising events
- The individuals, businesses and organizations that have made charitable contributions to the Foundation for the “Back the Track” project, the youth ball diamond projects and our Pillars Scholarship program

Check us out on Facebook

The Foundation is now on Facebook: www.facebook.com/alburnettfoundation 

I want to thank the Foundation board members who contributed their time, leadership, expertise, and monetary donations this past year. There are so many demands of a person's time but the Foundation Board members have chosen to serve on the board because they care greatly about the success of students, the school and the Alburnett community.

Lastly, I want to announce that the Foundation will have new leadership in 2012 at the president and vice president levels (see below). It has been both an honor and privilege to serve as president the last five years.



Al Sorensen, President

Alburnett Community School District Foundation

2012 Officers & Board of Directors

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