



Annual Report

SOLON EDUCATION FUND

President's Report

Welcome to our first annual report from the Solon Education Foundation. We are delighted to share what we have become, thanks to your support and patience with our development. In this report you will find out about our mission, history, goals, grant recipients and organizations that have partnered with us over the last couple of years.

Our subcommittees including Finance, Gifts and Outreach and Grant Making will share a brief report. I hope you take a minute to review this report—it will highlight events, give contact information and most important, tell how your donations are making a tremendous difference for the Solon Community Schools and education in the Solon community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone from the board if you would like us to visit your community group, or if you would be interested in making a gift that will live on through our children.

Sincerely,
Laura Reed
President of SEF Board

Grant Recipient Highlight



"I am immeasurably thankful to The Solon Education Foundation and their desire to promote scholastic success at all levels."

Carissa Engle



Members of the Board at the meeting held on August 8.

August 2005

Board membership

- LAURA REED, PRESIDENT
- DICK SCHWAB, VICE PRESIDENT
- MIKE TURNER, TREASURER
- JULIE DURR, SECRETARY
- CAROL SOLBERG
- TERESA KULPER
- TOM GROSS
- BOB UPMEYER
- TIM BROGHAMMER

SEF Mission Statement

Organized in 2003 as a nonprofit IRC Sec. 501(c)(3) organization, The SEF Foundation is independent from the Solon Community School District and is governed by a volunteer board of directors that elects its officers.

The mission of The SEF Foundation is to maximize opportunities for students, staff and friends served by the Solon Community School District. Our goal is to advance the potential of individual students and the district through obtaining private gift support for SEF while continuously laying the groundwork for future fund-raising success, in order to aid the district in fulfilling its own mission of excellence and achievement in student education and service.

Dear SEF,

I am a strong proponent of integrating technology into the classroom. My goal has been to try and provide optimal learning opportunities for my students. The Solon Education Foundation has greatly assisted me toward that end. The SEF generously awarded each of the four fifth grade classrooms a computer microscope. These computer microscopes have significantly increased the level of teacher instruction and student understanding in the science curriculum. As opposed to having a single traditional microscope which students must wait in line to use, the computer microscope allows me to display images to all of my students at once. In addition, the microscope allows for easy storage and manipulation of microscopic images for school assignments. I am immeasurably thankful to the Solon Education Foundation and their desire to promote scholastic success at all levels. They met a significant need that would otherwise have gone unfulfilled.

With gratitude,
Carissa Engle, 5th grade teacher



Organizational Partner Highlight

Lakeview Project Playground, a capital campaign to raise money to resurface the elementary playground, was a tremendous success thanks in part to the Solon Education Foundation (SEF).

Being affiliated with the SEF helped us in many ways. The first and most valuable is it gave our group 501C3 tax-exempt status. I know getting 501C3 status on our own would have taken a lot of additional time and expense. I applied for and received several grants that were only available to groups with tax exempt status. In addition, many of our donor’s employers had matching programs available only for charities that have 501C3 status.

Another benefit was the bookkeeping the SEF provided. In addition to keeping track of the balance of our account, the SEF sent receipts to our donors that gave over \$100 to use for tax purposes.

Other partners in the past year include: Spartan Stadium Fund, Fund Run, and The Greenhouse.

The SEF invested our money during the campaign and when it was time to pay the bills we were pleasantly surprised by how much interest we earned. I know that without SEF I would not have been able to invest the money and realize the gain that I did.

The Solon Education Foundation also gave a sense of validity to our project for some donors. The foundation’s reputation is growing as a valuable tool for the community and they have spent a lot of time getting the word out about what they can do.

Everyone at the foundation was helpful and available to answer my questions. The financial side of the campaign ran very smoothly thanks to the Solon Education Foundation.

Karen Sherman
Lakeview Project Playground



History of the Solon Educational Foundation

DATE	EVENT
January 2003	Initial bequeath by Irma Zeithamel
March 2003	SCSD board directs to create SEF
April 2003	SEF founding board in place
June 2003	Articles of Incorporation filed
June/July 2003	Bylaws of SEF approved
October 2003	Donor advised funds formed
December 2003 – March 2004	Community participation from Playground, Stadium Fund, Greenhouse project and Fund Run
April 2004	Board approves Iowa State Bank as investment manager
July 2004	501 C-3 approved for the advanced ruling period
December 2004	First SEF grants awarded from board directed funds
January 2005	Hired a bookkeeper for SEF funds

Coming Soon: SEF web page
Look for more information in the Solon Economist.

SEF Annual Report

Reports from Subcommittees



Finance and Investment Committee: Mike Turner, Chair

Investment income is an integral part of the Foundations annual budget and long term viability. Our investment portfolio is designed to attain a reasonable rate of return while minimizing any investment risk. Certainty and consistency of investment income is our primary emphasis. The Board reviews our specific investment instruments semi-annually or more often as needed to *determine if the rate of return or yield on investments* is reasonable under the current economic circumstances. Current annualized rate of return over 18 months for SEF is 6.71%.

Gifts and Outreach Committee: Carol Solberg, Chair

The Outreach Committee has worked to identify individuals and groups in the community who may benefit from association with the Solon Education Foundation, and has developed a power point presentation to clearly explain the benefits of participation in the Foundation and raise awareness of its goals and purpose. The board of directors gave several presentations throughout the year, and worked to assure that all paperwork was completed with interested participants. We were able to meet the goal of funding five grant applications this year. We worked with the high school business class to develop a web site, which should be completed before the start of the coming school year.



We look forward to sharing our mission with other interested community groups and members in the coming year.

Grant Making Committee, Tom Gross, Chair



Our goal for this fiscal year was to implement an annual grant cycle involving the solicitation, review, and prioritization of grant applications. We received 8 applications for this first formal cycle and awarded 5 grants totaling \$2032 to projects from representatives of all three school buildings. Funds were granted to the Win-with-Reading program at Lakeview, an Instructional Technology Server and projection computer microscope for the Solon Middle School, to support student-directed scientific research at the High School, and for a reading assistance program in the Learning Center.

We hope this is just the beginning of many wonderful things to come as the SEF strives to aid the school district in fulfilling its mission of excellence and achievement in student education and service. Our next funding cycle will accept applications from September through November 2005. Applications are available from the SCSD central office or from the SEF website.



SOLON EDUCATION FUND

Solon Education Foundation
P.O. Box 275
Solon IA 52333

**It's easy to make
a donation!**

HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEF

Interested in supporting the Solon Community School District? The Solon Education Foundation is here to help you do just that as the designated 501 C-3 Organization.

Just send in this card with your check made out to **Solon Education Foundation**. Monies will be deposited in the SEF general fund. If you have an interest of how the funds should be used please let us know, and the SEF board will take that into consideration.

Please invest in your children's future today through a tax-deductible donation by sending in your gift to PO Box 275, Solon, Iowa 52333. Also include the information below.

If you have questions, please call, 624-3231.

Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Amount: _____

Designation/Program if applicable: _____

We would like to acknowledge you as a donor to SEF. If you would prefer we did not use your name, please let us know below.

I would prefer you did not list my name as a donor,

Signature and date

*Thank you for keeping our
children's best
educational interests at heart.*