



Annual Report

SOLON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

President's Report 2007

Fall 2007

Solon Education Foundation: Funding the Present and Investing in the Future

Another fine year has passed and we proudly present our annual report for fiscal year 2006-2007. We are thrilled with the progress we have made in partnership with our affiliated groups in promoting our goals and missions. As detailed in our Finance Committee report, our assets under management continue to grow, as do the funds returned to the greater Solon community. The annual SEF grant program continues to fund some very unique and exciting projects as detailed in the Grant-making Committee report. Finally, the Gifts and Outreach Committee has designated this next fiscal cycle as "The Year of SEF Growth," striving to increase our public profile and initiate programs aimed at long-term fund raising and endowment growth.

Please take a few moments to read the grant-recipient highlights to appreciate the palpable excitement generated by working to better our school system. Also visit our website, www.solonedfound.org, for a more thorough review of our group, its infrastructure, and history. Finally, please let us know how we may be of assistance to you or your support group as we all strive to "maximize opportunities for the children, staff, and friends served by the Solon Community School District."

Sincerely,
Tom Gross

Grant Recipient Highlight

While many assume the SEF grant program only funds science and technology-related projects, we review any proposal that fulfills our mission with equal interest. Hey, we appreciate culture, too. We were thrilled this year to have the opportunity to support Mr. Foreman's efforts to assemble the competitive vocal jazz choir, 5th St. Jazz. Anyone who heard this group perform during the season or caught the year-end "Jazz at the Station" gig was treated to a well-rehearsed group of talented students who can really cook!

This ensemble, though somewhat costly to begin, is relatively inexpensive to maintain and provides a wealth of musical opportunities for the students and community. Members of the ensemble perform at formal concerts, informal lunches, and competitions throughout the state. They are exposed to a wide variety of jazz/pop literature while perfecting good singing technique. They are also provided creative outlets through improvisational techniques and learn skills and concepts that will serve them well beyond high school. It has been a wonderful experience that we will continue and we are grateful to the SEF for their support!

Joel Foreman
Director, High School Vocal Music Program



SEF Annual Report 2007



Board membership

TOM GROSS, PRESIDENT
 MIKE TURNER, TREASURER
 LOIS GEIST, SECRETARY

TIM BROGHAMMER
 KEVIN BLIND
 LYNDA IRINAKA
 TERESA KULPER
 RODNEY LONEY
 LAURA REED
 ART SCHUT
 BOB UPMEYER



SEF Mission

Organized in 2003 as a nonprofit IRS 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.

History of the Solon Educational Foundation

Date	Event
January 2003	Initial bequest 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
Dec 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
June 2005	Began annual report for community and investors.
July 2005	Completed SEF strategic planning with a focus on outreach and awareness
January 2006	Revised grant application process to include specific criteria for consideration and shared that with applicants
March 2006	Nominated replacement board member to serve as our secretary
Spring 2006	Approved funds to set up SEF website
Fall 2006	Reviewed and updated membership agreement process.
Spring 2007	Revised investment policy and recruited new members for a total board 11 people.

Welcome New Board Members!

Kevin Blind Rodney Loney
 Lynda Irinaka Art Schut

Grant Making Committee, Tom Gross, Chair

Purpose: To implement and maintain a yearly grant cycle involving the solicitation, review, and prioritization of grant applications. The committee prepares applications for presentation to the full board for discussion and approval. The committee also serves as the portal of communication to the SEF for funding applicants, successful grantees, and potential funding agencies.

Achievements: The goal for fiscal year 2006-2007 was to increase our funding budget and applicant pool. This year we received 18 applications seeking nearly \$7500 to support a variety of interesting educator-initiated projects. We were pleased to award 11 grants totaling \$4858 – a 20% increase in awarded funds over last year! Successful applicants included a combined Elementary and Middle School mathematics project, hardware for a new vocal jazz choir (see grant recipient highlight), choreography software for the marching band, science supplies for Biology, Art supplies for interdisciplinary projects at the Middle School, electronic equipment supporting projects in the Lakeview Media Center, the Learning Center, and Chemistry classes, a digital video camera for Language Arts, hardware for Solon’s first competitive robotics team, and materials supporting the High School science fairs.

In an ongoing fund raising effort, we were very pleased to have received \$1000 from West Bancorporation, Inc. Our goal is to establish a dedicated fund the earnings from which will provide long-term cash flow adequate to support Solon’s unique juried science fairs well into the future. Any interested parties are encouraged to contact the SEF.

In response to the teacher’s desire to move up the grant cycle, this year’s cycle will close September 15, 2007. For an application, go to our website at www.solonedfound.org.



Grant Recipient Highlight: iBookTalk

This project supports students, staff and friends by promoting reading and writing, reaching out to diverse learners and offering exposure to technology. The ultimate positive outcome would be three robust booktalk databases, created by staff and students and shared with readers around the world.

Both Media Centers will continue using the iPods this school year, producing additional original material. In addition, the iPods now have additional content including poetry, short stories and interviews downloaded from other podcasting sites.

iBookTalk projects have taken off at both Lakeview and Solon Middle School. Video iPods were purchased and placed in each Media Center in mid-January of 2007. Each iPod was preloaded with audio files produced by Nancy Keane of "Booktalks Quick and Simple" (http://nancykeane.com/booktalks/podcast_list.htm). At Lakeview, the iPod was available for teacher checkout and used during 3rd and 4th grade Media Center Essentials. At SMS, the iPod was checked out to individual students for use in the Media Center. 4th grade students wrote and recorded their own booktalks which were uploaded the iPod.

Nancy Keane will present at the Iowa Library Association annual conference in October and will reference our local project as an innovative use of technology for promoting reading.



Reports from Other Subcommittees

Gifts and Outreach Committee: Teresa Kulper, Chair

2007 Annual Report/outreach committee

Purpose: This committee facilitates the purpose of the SEF by identifying individuals and groups in the community who may benefit from our 501©(3) status and investment capability. This year we laid the ground work and began seeking donations to increase the support available for our grant cycle. We also conduct outreach which explains the benefits of participation in the SEF, and raises awareness for gift giving.

Accomplishments:

1. Designed and produced a brochure to use for outreach purposes.
2. Obtained \$1000 from West Bank to build the endowment for the Science Fair.
3. Supported a back to school fundraiser with the HS/MS PTO.

Report from the Finance and Investment Committee: Mike Turner, Chair

Purpose: Our committee is responsible for the collection, investment, and monitoring of funds on deposit with the SEF. Our primary goals include preservation of capital, asset appreciation and investment income. Our investment portfolio is structured to attain a reasonable rate of return while minimizing our investment risk. The board periodically reviews our investment returns to determine if our rate of return is reasonable under current economic conditions. The long term stability of our foundation is dependent on the financial support of the various groups and individuals within our community who contribute and partner with the Solon Education Foundation. We appreciate the support you have shown during the past year and look forward to helping the children and staff of the Solon Community School achieve excellence in student education and service.

Solon Education Fund		Beginning Funds Balance	\$265,000.00
Balance Sheet		Contributions	62,000.00
June 30, 2007		Investment Income	5,000.00
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,000.00	General and Administrative Expenses	(16,000.00)
Investment Account	\$172,000.00	Donation to Solon Community	(122,000.00)
Total funds under management	\$194,000.00	Ending Balance	\$194,000.00



SOLON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Solon Education Foundation
P.O. Box 275
Solon IA 52333
www.solonedfound.org

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 gift of cash or 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. Making an honorarium or memorial gift will allow tribute to someone's accomplishments while supporting this foundation. If you are interested in planning a gift of that nature, please call (319) 624-3231 for assistance.

Please send your gift along with the information below, to Solon Education Foundation, PO Box 275, Solon, Iowa 52333.

Thank you for your contribution!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

*Amount: _____

All gifts are deductible for tax purposes to the extent permitted by law.

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 do not list my name as a donor,

Signature and date

Funding the present and investing in the future