

U-46

EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION  
Investing in Educational Excellence

# Foundation Focus

<http://district.u-46.org/foundation> 2016

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**Now is the time to  
give back.**

**Make a difference for  
the children of U-46.**

You may contribute to the foundation in general—or to honor a teacher, a staff member, child or parent.

For more information or to donate, log on to the website: <http://district.u-46.org/foundation>

## Foundation Funds Fitness Monitors for Forty Eight Schools

U-46 elementary and middle school students can now monitor their heart rates in physical education classes. The U-46 Educational Foundation, along with a grant from the EFS Foundation, donated \$9,500 to fund programs that reach students in 48 schools.

The pulse monitor sticks provide students with quick, easy pulse measurements. The feedback allows student to understand what their target heart rate zone feels like and is an incredible motivator. Students work to develop personal fitness goals—skills that can lead to health and wellness for years to come.

"Students are now learning how to self-assess their activity level based on the heart rate monitor," said Tracey Jakaitis, Student Wellness/ K-12 P.E. Coordinator, "Students will be able to check their pulse during activity to

determine if they need to increase or decrease their activity level."

"We saw this program as an opportunity to enhance student learning while using technology in physical education class," said Jaime Garcia, U-46 Educational Foundation Past-President.



## President's Note

Incorporated in 2006, the U-46 Educational Foundation is celebrating its tenth anniversary...a relatively young age for any organization. As we reflect on past accomplishments and plan for our future endeavors, several strategic adjustments have become clear. First and foremost, we recognize that generosity in U-46 is abundant. From Parent Teacher Committees to Booster Clubs to independent service clubs donating money and volunteering, there is much to celebrate. As the primary 501c3 in

the district, the Foundation plays its own role. As we move forward into our second decade, we look to recognize District giving in all its forms, and hope you'll enjoy—and be inspired by—some of the examples shared in this newsletter. At the same time, we continue to look for ways to support this generosity, partnering with other groups as well as fundraising independently, and enhancing education for all U-46 students.

**E. C. "Bud" Wilson, President**

## Generosity Abounds Throughout District U-46

**Elgin High School's** active alumni group from the **Class of 1960** has raised funds for an **Alumni Hall of Fame**. Plaques featuring pictures and brief biographies of notable alumni are now prominently displayed in a school hall—beginning with Max Adler, EHS Class of 1883. Adler was a Vice President of Sears, Roebuck and Co. and benefactor of Adler Planetarium. Visit [http://www.edline.net/pages/Elgin\\_HS](http://www.edline.net/pages/Elgin_HS) and click on the alumni button in the left column to view all featured alumni...and click on the individual name for a full biography.



**JPMorgan Chase** has a partnership with **Hillcrest Elementary** that goes back to the mid 1990's – when they were Firstcard. Throughout the years, JPMC has sponsored field trips, family fun events, book fairs, field days, and more. In 2014 and 2015 alone, 154 JPMC volunteers contributed 481 hours of community service for Hillcrest Field Days, Fall Festival—Literacy Night, and School Supply Drive. 2016 events include a Bully Prevention and Perseverance show and Field Days. Since 2013, JPMorgan Chase has donated over \$4000 to Hillcrest; coupled with their extraordinary employee volunteer hours, the group clearly represents JPMorgan Chase's ongoing commitment to support its communities.

The **Fox Meadow Elementary School PTO** in South Elgin raised nearly \$10,000 at their **Summerfest** event in September. In addition, local businesses donated most of the food, concessions, and prizes. The funds raised support the school in many ways such as books and interventions for students and support for math instruction.



Since 2011, **U-46 Educational Foundation** has partnered with **Elgin Symphony Orchestra** to sponsor field trips for thousands of students to attend **Kidz Konzerts** at the Hemmens Cultural Center. These symphony performances, designed specifically for children, expose students to unique musical experiences that encourage connections across a wide array of other subjects, including science, technology, engineering, and math.

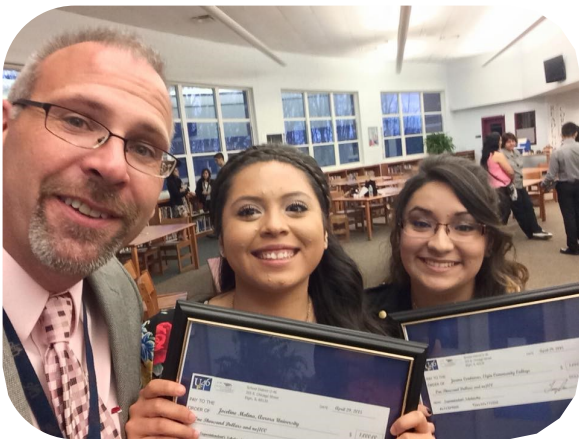
**Gene Michael Greene** was a math teacher at **Kenyon Woods Middle School** when his life was unexpectedly cut short in July of 2012. He began his teaching career with U-46 in 1978 and later changed careers; in 2001, his commitment to the youth and his passion for education brought him back to U-46 where he fostered a genuine mutual respect with his students. As President of the **Elgin Breakfast Rotary Club** in 1996-1997, he made a difference in the Elgin community and made many friends along the way. Through the Elgin Breakfast Rotary club, the G. Michael Greene Memorial Scholarship Program was established to honor his life. Recipients are graduating U-46 students wanting to pursue a degree in teaching or math.

## Scholarship Fund Encourages Recipient to Give Back to Others

In 2013, the three Foell brothers established the Presidents' Scholarship Fund. Each of the brothers graduated from Elgin High School and had the rewarding experience of serving as class president. Appreciative of the impact that EHS had upon their family and the community as a whole, they established the scholarship fund to focus on EHS college-bound students with a strong commitment to careers in science or technology.

Elise Hahn, 2014's recipient, is pursuing an engineering degree at Marquette University. Beyond the classroom (Elise finished her first year on the Dean's List), she's held two research positions, has a new co-op position with GE Healthcare, and was recently accepted into the prestigious E-Lead (engineering leadership) program that requires additional coursework, lectures, and job shadowing. Writes Elise, "...a big part of it is outreach and giving back, which is something I've wanted to do since I received the scholarship...I plan to reach back to Elgin High School and help other students on the path to success."

The Foell's continue to build the scholarship fund and have begun reaching out to other EHS Class Presidents and other school leaders. While scholarships are not a primary focus for Foundation fundraising, several scholarship programs work with the Foundation to facilitate their scholarships.



CEO Tony Sanders and two Superintendent's Scholarship recipients. At the fifth annual reception in April, 25 outstanding students received \$1000 scholarships. The program supports students who are the first in their families to attend college or a post-secondary institution. To date, 125 students have received the Superintendent's Scholarship.

**Thank you for the loyal support over the years  
from the following organizations:**





## Everything Old is New Again: U-46 “Re-launches” WEPS Radio Station

WEPS (for Elgin Public Schools) radio first signed on the air in January, 1950, and is believed to be Illinois' oldest operating educational radio station. Two years ago, U-46 "re-launched" the radio station with technology upgrades and added radio clubs at the high schools. A teacher from each high school assists the students in producing a weekly radio show. Maria Wojnicki of the School and Community Relations Department manages the station and support the schools. "It's enjoyable to hear students venture out of their comfort zone and work together to produce shows for their own high school."



WEPS airs on 88.9FM, weekdays at 7 a.m & 7 p.m. For more information, go to [www.u-46.org](http://www.u-46.org).

### U-46 Educational Foundation Mission

To acquire and dedicate resources to enhance the quality of education for U-46 students.

### What the U-46 Educational Foundation Does

The U-46 Foundation was created to cultivate educational programs and activities **not typically financed with tax dollars**. The Foundation does not replace or duplicate any of the U-46 parent groups or business partnerships. In some cases, projects may be collaborative. The Foundation's focus is district-wide, affecting a significant number of students, to enhance, enrich and complement their education. Additionally, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization—all donations are tax deductible.

### Thoughts From Tony Sanders, District U-46 CEO:

"When I came to U-46 in 2007, I was fortunate to work with a group of community volunteers dedicated to establishing the school district's first foundation. Their goal was to support our students with additional resources—beyond what we could provide with district funds. For the past few years, the U-46 Educational Foundation has funded many projects that benefit large numbers of students across the district such as new programs for the U-46 observatory and the annual Talentfest involving all our high schools. In addition, the foundation partners with organizations such as the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, our public libraries, United Way and various groups providing scholarships. We appreciate the time they devote to raising funds and selecting projects that enrich the lives of our students."