

## From U-46 students to our donors...



## for Investing in Educational Excellence!

### ***New and Noteworthy at the Foundation***

Your generosity allows the U-46 Educational Foundation to provide resources for programs and activities to enhance education across U-46...opportunities that may be “beyond the budget.” Recent grants support some exciting, innovative programs happening around the District.

The student led National Biodiversity Teach In connects classrooms to scientists, lawmakers, artists, and others interested in protecting biodiversity. With support from Foundation grants, the Teach In has impacted over 100,000 participants from 27 nations through its webinars, including over 3000 U-46 students each year.

DrumFIT is a middle school physical education program—a unique, cutting edge way to teach students about rhythm and movement while also providing cardiovascular fitness. Teachers describe the program as engaging, fun, and a workout all at the same time.

Elementary art students now benefit from Sensory Kits; the kits help keep students on task while also enhancing opportunities to play, explore, and engineer innovative ideas in an organic approach.

The Foundation also partners with other groups, such as United Way and the Elgin Cultural Arts *(continued on back)*

## ***New and Noteworthy*** (continued from front)

Commission, awarding grants for several annual events. One favorite is TalentFest, an evening at the Hemmens each spring showcasing the varieties of talent in the U-46 student body in a competitively healthy and entertaining program. Other grants have supported Project Backpack, providing those in need with backpacks, school supplies, and health services to successfully start the school year. The annual Getting Ready for Kindergarten calendar is distributed to over 10,000 families annually and is full of activities that will build readiness skills and prepare students for success in school.

The Educational Foundation directly supports U-46 schools and students, bolstering student success and lifelong learning in every building in the District.

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

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

**For more information or  
to donate, visit**

**[www.district.u-46.org/foundation](http://www.district.u-46.org/foundation)**



*Lords Park Fourth Graders attend an ESO Kidz Concert thanks to a Foundation grant.*

## ***Why They Give to the Foundation***

Elgin's Golden K Kiwanis Club is "dedicated to serving the children of the world" so the question of whether or not to donate to the U-46 Educational Foundation was a bit of a no-brainer.

"If we're going to be true to our motto of helping children, we thought this was the perfect kind of donation to make," said Tom Peterson, president of the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

"We see it as a worthwhile cause and very helpful to the kids within the School District U-46," Peterson said, adding that he hopes the Kiwanis donation can become seed money that inspires other prospective donors to give. "If they see what we're donating, maybe they'll look at what we've done and see that as a place to make a donation where it will do some good."

The W.R. Meadows Company has consistently provided unrestricted gifts to the U-46 Educational Foundation for many years. Merrie Derderion, vice chairman of the company and granddaughter of its founder, says even though the W.R. Meadows Company is now based in Hampshire, it got its start in Elgin and it remains committed to the Elgin community.

"It's a worthy cause to give back to," Derderion said. "The best thing you can give children is their education. They're the future leaders."

**U-46 Educational Foundation Mission**

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