



FOCUS

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Spring 2009

North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.



Dr. William Mackley ('79)

2009 Testimonial Dinner a Success

The Endowment's *Alumni Committee* didn't have to look far to find outstanding alumni to feature at the 2009 Testimonial Dinner. In fact, this year's speakers; Dr. Bill Mackley ('89) and Diane Hinde Ferguson ('84), served as a great example of treasures in our own backyard. Dr. Mackley is a partner at Platte Valley Physical Therapy in North Platte and Ms. Ferguson is a 5th grade instructor and coach at McDaid Elementary.

On Saturday May 2nd, Bill and Diane joined nearly 200 friends and school supporters at the St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall to celebrate our Catholic Schools and the 32-year anniversary of the Endowment-Trust. Former Endowment Director Jerome Gilg served as emcee for

the event and two of the Endowment's founders; Jim Schneider and Bill McCormick were special honored guests.

Dr. Mackley and Ms. Ferguson provided excellent testimony to the benefits of Catholic education. Though neither claimed to have been perfect students through their entire careers at St. Pat's... they both credited our school system for laying a strong foundation for their future success. Both Bill and Diane are now parents of students who attend the North Platte Catholic Schools.

A goal for the Testimonial Dinner is always to spread the good news about our schools and to generate funds to help the Endow-

ment supply 1/3 of the overall school budget. This year, an anonymous donor pledged to match the first \$30,000 raised with this event.

Thanks to Bill, Diane, and the generosity of all in attendance this goal was surpassed. The result will be close to \$62,000 for McDaid and St. Pat's. The Endowment is extremely thankful to all who attended, participated, sponsored, and volunteered for this event. What a success!



Diane Hinde Ferguson ('87)

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Teacher Appreciation

The first week in May is recognized as national Teacher Appreciation Week. At the North Platte Catholic Schools, this means a yearly celebration of our outstanding educators. This is also a very fitting time to recognize the many sacrifices that our teachers make in order to teach at our Catholic schools. A number of staff members at McDaid and St. Patrick's hold Master's De-

grees and devote countless hours outside of school time to coach and assist with student activities. Though they would likely earn a higher salary in a public school system, they choose to share their talents with our students because of their faith and the great things that happen because of faith in the classroom. We salute our teachers and the impact they have on all our students.

The Endowment offers a number of ways to assist our teachers in their vocations. Donations to the Great Teaching Fund help instructors pay for continuing and higher education opportunities. Gifts made to the G.R.E.E.N. Teacher Wish List provide classroom items that are outside the regular budget. Gifts to both of these funds can be made at any time. Visit www.npcset.org for more information.



From the Director

I have now come to the point in my tenure as Endowment Director where I've experienced each of our "major events" at least one time. I've had the pleasure of being at the helm for two G.R.E.E.N. events, 2 Irish Fests, two senior awards assemblies, one school year from start to finish, and now... one Testimonial Dinner. Though I am certainly not claiming to be an expert at my job, I will say that with each experience I am gaining more insight into what works, what doesn't work, and most

importantly... what incredible support we have in our family of parents, alumni and friends. How wonderful it is to simply ask for help, and to have it be there—in abundance. How wonderful to see the St. Patrick's Parish Hall full of people who are simply there to support our schools. The 2009 Testimonial Dinner was such a great affirmation of the success of our schools and all who have built their careers upon the foundation they received here. For me, it was proof that my work matters... proof that

every penny we are able to raise serves such a worthwhile and necessary purpose.

Guests at the Testimonial Dinner were treated to a wonderful and heartfelt DVD presentation featuring our students, faculty, parents and former parents. Please contact the Endowment office, 308-534-5939, for information on receiving a copy of the DVD. Thank you for allowing me to do this amazing work, and thank you for supporting the Endowment's mission.

Wendy Dodson

Annual Fund 08/09 UPDATE

Goal: \$607,000

Received: (through April 30th, 2009)

- \$250,489 (Cash)
- \$10,016 (Phonathon)
- \$90,808 (G.R.E.E.N.)
- \$18,619 (Irish Fest)
- \$13,941 (Testimonial Dinner)
- \$13,609 (Book of Memories)
- \$20,191 (SCRIP)
- \$5,000 (Bequests)
- \$3,000 (Stock Gifts)

\$426,443 TOTAL

*Please help us reach our goal!

Scholarship Recipients

On Sunday, May 11th Graduation Mass was held for the St. Patrick's High School Class of 2009. The Endowment wishes our 35 graduates the very best of luck, and offers special congratulations to those students who were selected to receive Endowment Fund scholarships.

Mary Salcetti Pandorf

Thomas Bradney (\$500)
Matthew Troshynski (\$250)

Chris Waltman (\$250)

Kent Boyer Education Fund (UNL Scholarship)

Leah Bjornstad (\$500)

Sharon Goffena Welton Fund

Colin Brittan (\$500)
Nikita Higgins (\$500)
Aleisha Thomas (\$250)
Kelly McCarthy (\$250)

Robert E. & Margaret E. Rea Scholarship

Brian Pieper (\$500)

Endowment scholarship winners were determined by: specific scholarship fund criteria, student applications, academic achievement, and need. The Endowment is very grateful to the many donors who have provided these scholarship funds and continue to support them.



Bill McGahan
NPCS
Superintendent

Congratulations and Thank You

Did you know that two of our distinguished administrators received very special honors this year? North Platte Catholic Schools Superintendent Bill McGahan was recently honored by the National Catholic Education Association. Mr. McGahan received a Catholic Secondary Education Service Award at the NCEA National Convention in Anaheim, California in April. What an incredible honor for a man who's dedicated over 40

years of service to our schools.

Earlier this year St. Patrick's High School Principal and Athletic Director Mark Skillstad was named "Outstanding Athletic Administrator of the Year" by the Nebraska Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for District IV. It's an honor well deserved by Mr. Skillstad. Thank you for all the time and effort you devote to our students and Irish activities

A thank you is also in order for McDaid parent Krista Heiss. In February, Krista volunteered to host a Silpada Jewelry open house at the Endowment office and donate 25% of all sales to our schools. The result of this one-day event was a check to the Endowment for \$11. Thank you Krista!

Mark Skillstad
St. Patrick's
Principal and
Activities Director



Wendy Dodson Krista Heiss

In Memory...

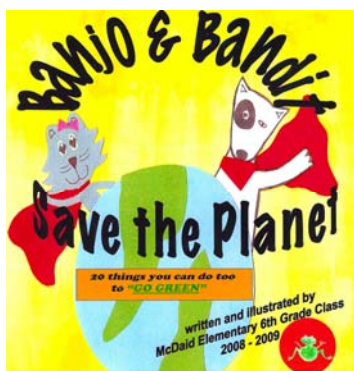
We offer special prayers for the following individuals who were added to the Endowment's Book of Memories between January 1st and April 30th, 2009. All names inscribed in the Book of Memories are remembered monthly at Masses at each of North Platte's Catholic churches. The Book is on display at the Endowment Office daily, and is taken to St. Patrick's, Holy Spirit, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton churches around the Memorial Day and All Souls Day holidays. *A special thank you to those families who chose to list the North Platte Catholic Schools or North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc. as the recipient of a designated memorial.

<i>Date Inscribed</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date Inscribed</i>	<i>Name</i>
1/15/09	Ernest Ray Naranjo	3/10/09	Jewel Wilbourn
1/15/09	*Harry Gilbert "Bud" Gutherless	3/10/09	Myrl Fae Jochum
1/20/09	Lawrence "Gus" Powers	3/20/09	Danella J. Engen
1/20/09	Mildred "Milly" Brouillette	3/20/09	Albert Fletcher
2/4/09	Louis F. Kerkman	3/25/09	Mary Virginia Warren Roy
2/23/09	Rozella McMurtry	3/20/09	Richard P. "Dick" Stark
2/23/09	Duane Beck	3/20/09	Francis J. "Fritz" Gilg
2/25/09	Judith Kathryn "Judy" Hunt	3/20/09	Catherine Staetz Pierson
2/20/09	Edward Merlin King	4/20/09	Erma Marie Ashenfelter
2/20/09	*John E. "Ed" Jochum	4/20/09	Quentin "Bud" Hoefer
3/3/09	Brigid R. Haines	4/20/09	Joyce Lavaughn Hastings
3/5/09	Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Sr.		

6th Graders Go Green with Book Project

Earth Day held special significance for the 6th grade classes at McDaid Elementary. April 22nd was the day that a book published by the 6th grade was available for purchase. Teacher Raegan Skillstad led the project that combined

research, art, and technology skills. Students developed the story, created the artwork, and used the school's new computer lab to put it all together. The result was a bound book titled, *Banjo & Bandit Save the Planet: 20 things you can do to GO GREEN*



This is the third time Mrs. Skillstad has incorporated a book project into the 6th grade curriculum. She says it is a great way to involve many different subject areas into one project and a wonderful opportunity for the different talents

of students to shine. In addition, students learn the value of participating in a project that benefits others. All proceeds from sales of the \$12-dollar books benefit the McDaid Parent Teacher Organization.

For this project, Skillstad says students wanted to focus on the

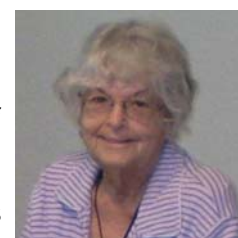
environment and things that young people could do to protect it. So, students completed research, compiled a list of their top 20 ideas, and centered the story on two main characters: a cat named Banjo and a dog named Bandit.

Books are still available for purchase. Call the school office at 308-532-1804.

6th grade students hard at work on their book project in the McDaid Elementary computer lab.



This issue of the FOCUS Endowment Newsletter is printed in memory of Mildred "Milly" Brouillette. Milly was a dedicated Endowment volunteer, one of our "Irish Angels" who volunteered countless hours preparing the FOCUS and other Endowment mailings. She was a wonderful volunteer and friend, and is greatly missed.



Mildred Brouillette
7/7/1928-1/24/2009

Help Us Stay in Contact!

The Endowment Office is working to update our e-mail records, and we need your help! E-mail is such an easy and convenient way to keep in touch with our alumni, parents, and friends. As with many forms of correspondence, the future will likely move us in a "paperless" direction. If you have e-mail service, please share your address with us. If you do not have e-mail, please let us know that too. We are constantly working to maintain a current and accurate database, and we appreciate your help in keeping us up to date. Please complete and return the form below so we can update our records.



North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 5
North Platte, NE 69103

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Visit us Online!
www.npcset.org

Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future

My gift to the Annual Fund of the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment-Trust, Inc.

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500

\$250 \$100 \$50 Other

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