

# Holdrege Public Schools Foundation Newsletter

[holdregebusters.org](http://holdregebusters.org)

“Giving Back to Education”

November 2012

## Who Are We and What Do We Do?

Education foundations nationwide were created in the late 1970's as public school budgets across the country were significantly reduced. To offset the serious financial crisis in our schools, and to bridge the financial gap between what was needed for our students and state and federal funding, the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation was formed in 1988 with a \$30,000 grant from the Phelps County Community Foundation for the purpose of establishing an endowment. For more than twenty years our community has responded to the district's needs with tremendous support, recognizing that in today's world, private funding is crucial for public education. Our Foundation Committee is comprised of three school board members, two staff members, and four community members who meet monthly and work on various projects throughout the year.

## HPS Foundation Committee

### HPS Board of Education

Michael Waller, Chairman  
Matt Allmand  
Tim Gustafson

### Community Members

Steve Kness  
Mary Oman  
Kathy Vetter  
(to be appointed)

### HPS Staff

Todd Hilyard  
Sandy Dunaway (Ad Hoc Support)



### Take this opportunity to help the HPS Foundation grow!

**GIVE 2 GROW** is a one-day fundraising event on November 29<sup>th</sup>. It's your chance to make a real impact when your gift to the HPS Foundation is matched by the Phelps County Community Foundation.

Join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. Your investment is guaranteed dividends!

Find out more ... click to go on the **Give2Grow** website below. Please contact the HPS Central Office prior to November 29<sup>th</sup> if you have questions. Walk-in donations will also be accepted at the Phelps County Community Foundation office from 8:00am—7:00pm on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

<http://give2grow.razoo.com/story/Hps-Foundation>

## Students Benefit from 2012 Grants

Teacher grant requests totaling \$19,607.54 were received from teachers and \$14,607.54 was awarded for the 2012 teacher grant cycle as follows:

- \$370.96—Jena Deaver—Sensory Integration Room
- \$219.95—Julie Freburg—Elementary Career Ed, TB Bear
- \$3,779—Debbie Komenda—iPads for Learning
- \$3,198—Don Kosmicki & Terry Shield—Robotics Equipment
- \$1,000—Jeff Moore—Plasma Cad/Cam
- \$388.63—Nancy Nelson—Classroom Document Camera
- \$5,651—Terry Shield—Communication and Design with iPads

### How Can You Help?

If you would like to make a donation or memorial in honor of or in memory of a loved one, to help us in our effort to “Give Back to Education”, please contact the school at (308) 995-8663 or send a check to Phelps County Community Foundation, HPS Foundation Fund.



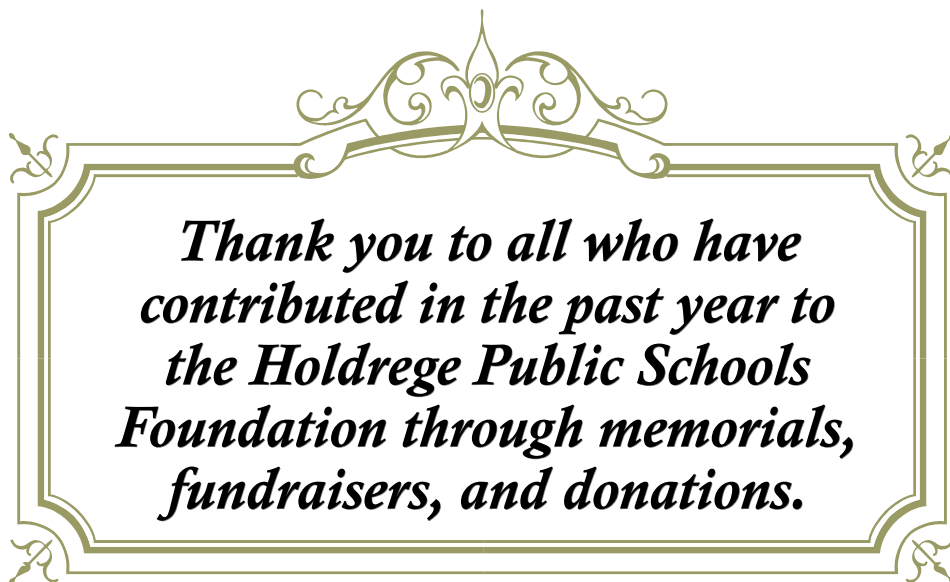
### Christmas Gift Giving Options

Do you have the person on your Christmas list who has everything and you just don't know what to give them? How about a gift to the HPS Foundation in their honor? Your gift will benefit many HPS students through the Foundation's grant program.

Please contact the school or send a check to the Phelps County Community Foundation, HPS Foundation Fund.

*The Mission of the Holdrege Public Schools Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.*

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ackerman  
 Ag Service Associates  
 Ag West Commodities, LLC  
 Agri Service Center  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Allen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Allen  
 Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway  
 & Luth, PC  
 Anderson Bros. Holdrege  
 Anderson, Klein, Swan &  
 Brewster  
 AVA, Inc.  
 Batie & Thorell Insurance  
 Agency, LLC  
 Benjamin's Landscaping  
 Bergman Ag, Inc.  
 Bilka Chiropractic  
 Black Motor Company  
 Mr. Kevin Breece  
 BRJ Farms  
 Bruce Furniture  
 Bruning State Bank  
 Bunker Hill Farms, Inc.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Buskirk  
 Cargill Incorporated  
 Erin Carlson  
 Casey's General Stores, Inc  
 Central Valley Irrigation  
 Clinch Enterprises  
 Country Cookin'  
 Creative Dining Services, Inc.  
 Curly's Radiator Service  
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 Ms. Phyllis L. Dewald  
 DLR Group  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry R. Dodson  
 Duster K-Lawn  
 Eakes Office Plus  
 Mr. Robert Eden  
 Ed's Electric & Plumbing  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Engle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Erickson  
 Dr. Sheila Exstrom  
 Fairbanks International  
 Family Medical Specialties  
 First National Bank of Holdrege  
 FirstTier Bank  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Florell  
 Mr. & Mrs. Shane Frahm  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Fulk  
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Garrelts  
 Glenwood  
 Telecommunications, Inc.  
 Graham Tire Co. Kearney  
 Mr. & Mrs. Randy Grassmeyer  
 Great Western Bank  
 Green Landscapes



Mr & Mrs. Lee Grove  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Gustafson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Ham  
 Hausmann Construction, Inc.  
 Mr. Robert Hendricks  
 Nancy Herhahn  
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd Hilyard  
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Hinrichs  
 Dr. Grant Hinze DDS, PC  
 Janet Hixon  
 Nancy Hoeck  
 Holdrege Auto Parts  
 Holdrege Chiropractic Center  
 Holdrege Daily Citizen  
 Holdrege Family Dental Care,  
 PC  
 Holdrege Family Vision  
 Holdrege High School Class of  
 1949  
 Holdrege Irrigation  
 Holdrege Pharmacy  
 Holdrege Public Schools  
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 Control, Inc.  
 Midwest Ag Insurance  
 Miller & Associates Consulting  
 Engineers, PC  
 Mohrlang Holdings, LLC  
 Jeanette M. Nedrig, CPA  
 Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home  
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 N-N Transfer, Inc.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ostgren  
 Perry, Guthery, Haase, &  
 Gessford, PC, LLO  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kent Person  
 Mr. & Mrs Gary Peterson  
 Phelps County Community  
 Foundation  
 Phelps County Title Company  
 Phelps Memorial Health Center  
 Pioneer Hi-Bred International,  
 Inc.  
 Pro Building Supply, Inc.  
 Mr. David Raddatz  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Reiser  
 Rick's Body Shop  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Ronhovde  
 S & W Auto Parts  
 Sampson Construction  
 Keith D. Samuelson Land  
 Leveling, Inc.  
 Averil Savery  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Schrock  
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Servicemaster of Mid-Nebraska  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Shield  
 Sidles Car Quest  
 John L. Singleterry  
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 Investments Group, LLC  
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 Ms. Shanna Waggoner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Waller  
 Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Weiss  
 Wells Flying Service, Inc.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Monte Wendell  
 Mr. Gary A. Westergren  
 Mrs. R. Elaine Thorell  
 Westergren  
 Wohlgemuth Farms  
 Woods & Durham, CPA  
 Woodward's Disposal Service,  
 Inc.  
 Ziembra Roofing Co.



### Charles Gabus Endowment Gift



MR. CHARLES GABUS

In 2008, HPS received a \$100,000 gift from former Holdrege resident, Charles Gabus, in memory of his wife, Frances Hardy Gabus. Mr. Gabus desired that this gift be endowed and the interest be used to purchase library and textbooks for

Holdrege High School. Mr. & Mrs. Gabus and their family lived in Holdrege and operated Charles Gabus Ford, later moving to Iowa. Mr. Gabus wrote that their three children, Jan, Pat, and Gene all graduated from “the outstanding Holdrege High School.”

The HPS Foundation Committee is deeply appreciative for this gift and the impact that it has on educational opportunities for our students.

We hope that this gift will help to raise awareness of the efforts of the HPS Foundation and serve as a catalyst for future gifts.”

### Gabus Funds Invest in Next Generation



The HHS Science Staff ~ Jeff Van Eperen, Dawn Clayton, and Tom Brestel display some of the high school science curriculum materials that were purchased through the Gabus endowment.

This year, the HPS high school science staff selected texts, resources, and supplemental materials to cover all of the Science curriculum.

Thanks to the Gabus family, their educational investment of nearly \$2,100 helped the school district make these purchases that will be available to our students for many years to come.

### Looking Forward to 2013



Watch for the date of the fifth annual HPS Foundation Golf Tournament to be held next summer. There will be prize incentives and cash payouts for the top teams.

Proceeds will be used to provide grants to enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers in the Holdrege Public Schools. Brochures will be available online and at the HPS Central Office, Phelps County Community Foundation, and the Holdrege Country Club.



### 2012 Golf Tournament



The fourth annual 2012 HPS Foundation Golf Tournament held at the Holdrege Country Club on July 14<sup>th</sup> was a great success with 80 golfers competing in perfect weather. Thanks to the tremendous support of business sponsors and participants, the HPS Foundation raised more than \$10,000!



2012 Golf Tournament champions Kim Oerter, Judy Shield, Cory Shield, and Teresa Yung.





### Sensory Integration

Elementary special education instructor Jena Deaver purchased a therapy net swing, body sock, season squeeze, and a handheld rotation board with grant funds.

These items were incorporated in her classroom to assist students. Mrs. Deaver stated, "The sensory integration room is used primarily to benefit students with learning disabilities such as autism spectrum, attention deficit, or behavioral disorders. HPS staff utilize sensory equipment to motivate, calm, or give students an active break. The staff works with an occupational therapist to continually provide students with disabilities an optimal learning environment. I am thankful for the support of the HPS Foundation to help our students succeed."



A student uses the season squeeze and body sock in the sensory integration room.



### Ag Lab Provides New Opportunities

The HHS Ag Education Department is providing new opportunities for students with the purchase of a new CAD/CAM Plasma Cutting System for the Ag Lab. Students not only gain skills in computer aided drafting, design, fabrication, and metal cutting operations, but increase their employment potential and entrepreneurship skills. Allmand Brothers, a local business that utilizes this type of equipment, partnered with the HPS Foundation to provide funding to help the school district integrate this project into the curriculum. Donations from the Waller family in memory of T. J. Waller, Central Valley Irrigation, Becton Dickinson, and Hawkins Manufacturing completed the funding for implementation of the project.

Teacher grant recipient Jeff Moore is excited about the opportunities this curriculum will provide students. He said that students enrolled in the program have already begun producing signage for the FFA Alumni Test Plot and Ag Mechanics class projects.

Future projects for agricultural education students include learning the software and creating parts for individual projects, as well as developing signage for the Holdrege FFA Test Plot and Farm Safety Camp.



Students Zach Gray, Matt Becker, and Braden Badertscher discuss the new metal fabrication skills they are learning with Duster Grant.





Fourth grade students pose with the new TB Bears that will help them in their career exploration unit.

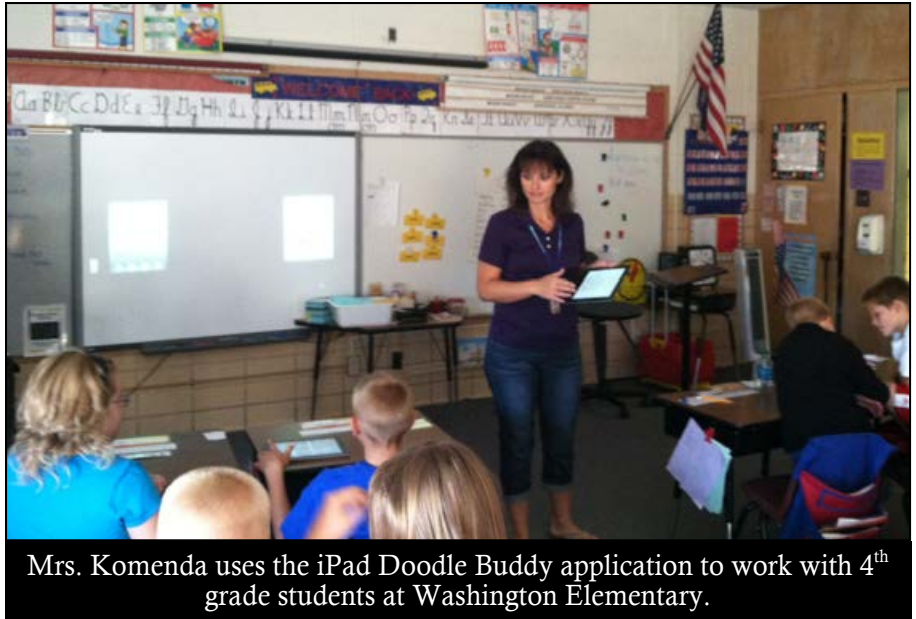
### Career Exploration

Julie Freburg has found a unique teaching assistant for her fourth grade career education unit. TB Bear goes home with students and visits a parent’s local workplace. Parents take pictures of TB Bear at work with them, as well as recording in a journal to help students learn about their job duties, the type of education needed to do their job, and their likes and dislikes.

Mrs. Freburg said the original bears she used have been so popular over the past several years that they are worn out and ready to retire. The new bears are a welcome addition and are ready to help 4<sup>th</sup> graders gain an awareness for their future. She expressed appreciation to the HPS Foundation for providing funds to continue this successful learning unit.



Last year’s project had TB Bear out checking cattle in the pasture.



Mrs. Komenda uses the iPad Doodle Buddy application to work with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Washington Elementary.

### iPads for Learning

Elementary staff member Deb Komenda utilized grant funds to purchase iPads for student use in the elementary classrooms. Applications such as Doodle Buddy, Rocket Math, and TimeReading for the iPads have been purchased to help students with reading, writing, and math. Students benefit by learning core educational components, as well as technology skills.

The iPads are used at all grade levels K-4. Dragon Dictation, for example, is being used with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade special education students to help them prepare for the state writing assessment. Some students experience struggles with the process of writing (correct grammar, spelling, etc.) and physically having to write. Dragon Dictation allows students to dictate a story into the iPad and the application writes their story for them. Students now view writing in a different way. Mrs. Komenda taught a lesson in Kara Taylor’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom using the application Doodle Buddy. This application allows students to practice spelling words using a tactical approach to learning. The iPads have also been used in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms to allow students to create a story using their own pictures and recordings using an application called Story Kit.

When students are exposed to technology, such as the iPad, they can see learning as an extension to the classroom. They are not limited to what a textbook can provide. Students get excited to learn something new because of the use of technology. Deb Komenda would like to see more applications purchased for classroom use that align to the current curriculum and enhance student learning for the future. Since the state assessments are online, adding iPads to learning can help students get the most out their testing experience.



Duster Grant introduces 4<sup>th</sup> graders Taylor Wisner and Avery Michalski to the new iPads.



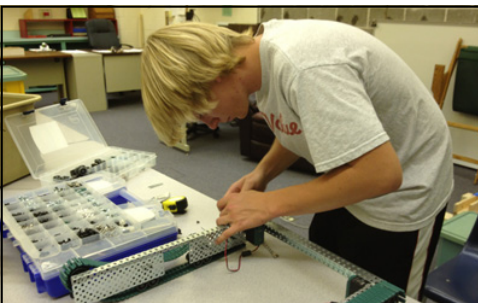


Cory Koetter & Joseph Marvin work on a robot base and lift system.

### Students Build Robots

Members of the high school robotics club are hard at work on their competition robots. The robots must be able to pick up 6-inch bean bags and place them in goals around the competition area. Two robots are being constructed to move about the play arena. One model uses a tread conveyor system to pick up the bean bags and the other uses a 6-bar lift system to raise and lower the bean bags. There is a practice scrimmage December 8<sup>th</sup> at CCC in Hastings which will help the teams test and further prepare for a competition in January.

Grant recipients Don Kosmicki and Terry Shield indicated that grant funds have provided for updated controllers and heavier stronger gears and motors to help students be more competitive and to allow the robots to be more sophisticated. The students have incorporated the new parts into this year’s robots and are looking forward to seeing how their ideas and the new technology perform in competition.



Adam Larsen wires a robot motor.



Terry Shield and Duster Grant charge the new iPads in the cart.

### Communication & Design with iPads

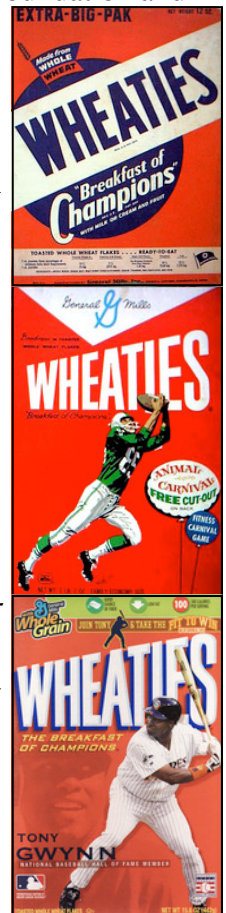
Terry Shield will begin working with 6<sup>th</sup> grade students next semester to implement a new communication and design project utilizing 30 iPads purchased with the help of grant funds from the HPS Foundation and the Phelps County Community Foundation Future Fund, in addition to donations from the Middle School Parent Association, Student Council, and Climate Committee.

In the project, the students will be asked to come up with a new cereal name, a new company name, design a new cover, back and side panels for the new cereal packaging. At the conclusion of the graphics design phase, the students will design and produce a digital commercial using iPad software. Students will record their voices, add sound effects, and burn a CD advertising their cereal.

At the conclusion of the project, instructor Don Kosmicki will select some of the designs and radio advertisements to use in the video production class. Students will produce a combination video and audio commercial advertising the new cereal.

Mr. Shield stated, “Students will use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, to support individual learning, and contribute to the learning of others. I am looking forward to the challenge of using this new technology provided for by the generous grant we received.”

Future plans include using the iPads in other classes, adding applications, and developing more activities. The iPads will allow teachers to continually expand technological reach and explore new uses and experiences.





### Join the Holdrege Duster Alumni Association

One of the HPS Foundation Committee’s goals is to extend the reach beyond the community to maintain a viable database that will help Holdrege High School Alumni keep connected and will be a valuable tool for organizing reunions and communicating with classmates. The response to initial efforts in contacting alumni and creating the Duster Alumni Association has been overwhelmingly positive with nearly \$20,000 in membership contributions as well as a pledge for an estate gift of \$100,000! Our goal is to continue reaching out to all alumni via email newsletters to keep them abreast of the growth, development, and success of the HPS Foundation and the Holdrege Public Schools system.

If you are a Holdrege Alum, join us in our mission to enhance educational programs and give back to the students of HPS. Your investment is guaranteed dividends in any economic time.

If you have questions or would like to be added to the e-mail list, please register from the Alumni tab at [holdregedusters.org](http://holdregedusters.org) or call the Holdrege Public Schools Central Office at (308) 995-8663.



Duster Grant helps grant recipient Nancy Nelson teach Kindergarten students math patterns using a document camera.

### Document Camera Increases Student Comprehension

Kindergarten students in Nancy Nelson’s classroom are benefitting from grant funds used to purchase a document camera to enhance instruction. Mrs. Nelson uses the camera, in conjunction with a computer and Smartboard, to show objects in an enlarged version, which lets students view both words and details in illustrations with better clarity.

Mrs. Nelson said that she is still exploring new uses of the camera. It allows her to take pictures of anything placed under it and she can save those images in her computer. The possibilities are endless ... math manipulatives for demonstrating grouping, patterns, addition/subtractions, coins, and shapes; science experiments; workbook pages; and more.

### Duster Alumni Association—Join Today!

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP—billed annually (couple rate—if both are HHS Alumni)**

Please check appropriate category and submit with payment as directed below.

Enthusiast—\$25 or \$35 per couple

Fan Club—\$50 or \$75 per couple

Cheerleader—\$100 or \$150 per couple

Purple & Gold Pride—\$250 or \$350 per couple

**Duster Lifetime Booster—\$1,500 or \$2,000 per couple—one-time only payment**

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

EMAIL

YOUR GIFT IS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **HPS Foundation**

SEND TO: **Phelps County Community Foundation, 504 4th Avenue, Holdrege, NE 68949**