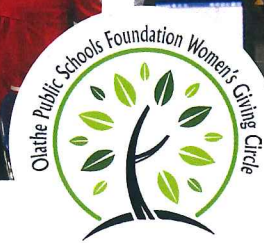




Students at California Trail enjoying science projects due to a \$10,000 grant from the OPSF Women's Giving Circle Fall, 2015 campaign.



The Spring 2016 cycle of the Women's Giving Circle, was a \$10,000 grant to fund "Fostering Bilingual Literacy." It is a program at Westview Elementary School to initiate a Bilingual Book Buddies Club so that students, who primarily spoke Spanish in the home, can read together with their parents.



making a difference



Olathe Public Schools Foundation Women's Giving Circle

Written by **Sybil Orman**, Cedar Creek Resident & OPSF Women's Giving Circle Sustaining Member
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The Olathe Public Schools Foundation (OPSF) Women's Giving Circle is a group of women who gather twice a year, in the spring and fall, to hear compelling grant proposals presented by certified teachers in the Olathe School District. The combined financial contributions of the Women's Giving Circle Members and Sustaining Members, who each make \$100 gifts, create a pool of funds which they award to Olathe teachers for projects impacting Olathe students. Grant proposals submitted for the Fall 2016 gathering of the Women's Giving Circle will be for \$10,000 and will specifically address challenges faced by students in need.

Why did you join the OPSF Women's Giving Circle?

My former (and much admired) high school English teacher, Terri Jarboe, invited me to participate in the OPSF Women's Giving Circle. I am a proud product of the Olathe school system, and feel an affinity to the contribution my education had on my

life. I was molded by excellent teachers, whose actions demonstrated they cared for me and my life pursuits. The Olathe Public School District allowed me to grow and learn in an enriching environment, for that I will always be grateful. I jumped at the opportunity to give back and was excited to get involved.

Speaking as a former teacher, tell us how a \$10,000 grant might impact a classroom?

Teachers day in and day out reflect upon their students' progress and growth. They continually strive to improve lessons, methods, and other ways to enhance student learning. A \$10,000 grant can meaningfully address a challenge a teacher has identified affecting their students.

Last spring, the foundation awarded the grant to an elementary school teacher who was in need of bilingual books and resources for her students

and parents. Her presentation really tugged at my heartstrings as a former high school Spanish teacher. The teacher, who received the grant, saw a need to foster bilingual literacy. With the grant money, she is able to fundamentally change the learning experience of her students and increase the parental involvement of non-native English speakers in her school. The grant is tangibly impacting members of our Olathe community and making it an even better place to live.

Why should Cedar Creek residents consider joining the OPSF Women's Giving Circle?

There is nothing greater than the feeling of being in a room full of goal-oriented, caring, and strong women. I truly believe women working together are powerful and can make things happen. Unfortunately, public education funding gets tangled up in political ideologies. The OPSF Women's Giving Circle is a way to bypass that mess and

directly assist teachers who work diligently to provide the best education possible for our children, grandchildren, or our neighbor's children.

Save the Date!

Join me for the Fall 2016 cycle of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation Women's Giving Circle right here in Cedar Creek! September 29, 2016 at Shadow Glen Golf Club from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Your \$100 gift today reserves your place in the circle and provides a brighter tomorrow for the students and educators in our community!

Join Today!

To receive your invitation to the Women's Giving Circle or to learn more about the Women's Giving Circle and other Foundation initiatives that assist Olathe's valuable students and teachers, please contact Katie Beaudin, Development Specialist, at 913-780-8222 or kbeaudinnlsc@olatheschools.org.