

2019-2020

Annual Report



A Message from the President



Olathe Public Schools

Foundation

meeting the need



Dear Friends,

We can all agree that 2019-2020 was anything but normal. When we began our fiscal year in June with blue skies and sunshine at our annual Golf Classic, there was no way of knowing we would end the year in the midst of a global pandemic that would impact every aspect of daily life, including operations at the Olathe Public Schools Foundation (OPSF). But meeting the need is what the OPSF does best. Day after day, year after year, we work to support over 2,000 teachers and 30,000 students across the district. This past year was no exception.

Due to the generous nature of our community, the OPSF was in a strong position to support our teachers, students and their families as the pandemic began to unfold. The OPSF not only tackled the immediate needs of our youth, we were also able to connect financial resources to district schools and help provide support to Olathe School District families in crisis. Additionally, the OPSF implemented new fundraising strategies, like The Feed it Forward campaign, to ensure we would be able to continue helping Olathe students and their families who, as a result of the pandemic or other unforeseen challenges, may need us in the months and years to come.

This past year saw several Olathe Public Schools Foundation events forced to pivot into new formats. Again and again we were in awe of our community's continued generosity. Even as our donors faced their own uncertainties and challenges, they continued to see the critical importance of helping students and staff in the Olathe School community. Together we were able to provide not just assistance, but hope.

Thank you for continuing to work alongside us to meet the short and long-term needs of our most at-risk neighbors. Please consider renewing your support of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation this year, which allows us to assist students who need today as well as those who will need us tomorrow.

With gratitude,

Todd Ramsey
OPSF Board of Directors
President, 2019-20

300 E. Loula • Olathe, KS 66061 • 913-780-8222 • www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org



2019-20 Financial Statements

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation Statement of Financial Position As of June 30, 2020

Assets	
Checking Account	\$323,288
CD	\$74,327
Money Market Account	\$31,371
Money Market Custodial Funds	\$1291,349
Investments	\$3,348,550
Other Assets	\$3,750
Total Assets	\$4,072,636

Liabilities	
Funds held on behalf of others	\$89,978

Net Assets	
OPSF Endowments	\$1,415,118
Temporarily Restricted	\$12,357,782
Increase in Unrestricted Assets	\$209,759

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$4,072,636**

*unaudited



Student Mental Health & Wellness

Student mental health and wellness is just as important as physical wellness. Unfortunately, more and more youth are experiencing mental health crises. This can include anxiety, depression or even suicidal thoughts and actions.

Working with the Olathe Public Schools to financially support programs that address students' mental health needs is a priority for the Olathe Public Schools Foundation. With OPSF support, the district embedded mental health therapists at all five Olathe high schools. Additionally, with the support of OPSF, the district has implemented a successful mental health parent speaker and support series, added free summer mental health therapy sessions, and added programs focusing on social and emotional learning and suicide prevention. The Signs of Suicide (S.O.S.) suicide prevention program is an important tool used annually at each high school.

Braden Robertson Student Mental Health Fund

The Braden Robertson Student Mental Health Fund provides access to mental health professionals to underinsured Olathe students in crisis. The fund provides up to six visits with a mental health therapist for any student who is underinsured or who cannot access their own benefits in a timely manner.

This year, in just a four month period, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation provided \$24,272 from the Braden Robertson Student Mental Health Fund to serve 90 students in elementary through high school.

This fund was created in 2018 in memory of Braden Robertson, an Olathe West High School student who died by suicide.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. The training helps learn to identify, understand and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses.

This year the Olathe Public Schools Foundation granted funds to Olathe Public Schools to train 75 employees in Mental Health First Aid Training at a cost of \$13,263.50.

An additional \$10,000 will fund four additional staff members to be trained as Mental Health First Aid trainers next year.



Taste of the Town 2020

Supporting Student Mental Health and Wellness Programs

When life gives you lemons you make lemonade. That's certainly what happened with the 2020 Taste of the Town. The original in-person Taste of the Town event was made impossible due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, and the auction portion of the event was moved on-line.

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation was grateful to the many event sponsors and donors who continued to support the event. With the support of sponsors, donors and silent auction proceeds, Taste of the Town 2020 raised more than \$112,000, including over \$90,000 devoted to student mental health.

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The Conner Girls: Jane Conner, Carrie
McCarty, Phyllis Clark and Jenny Smith
Jason and Heather Tucker
Olathe Public Schools

<p>One-Hour Clinical Therapy Appointment for an Olathe...</p> <p>\$50 \$1,000 Remaining</p>	<p>One Backpack Filled with School Supplies</p> <p>\$30 \$200 Remaining</p>	<p>One Week of School Lunches</p> <p>\$14 \$1,000 Remaining</p>	<p>Les Arts Culinaires Private Dinner for 10-14 Guests</p> <p>\$190 Starting Bid</p>
<p>Make a Neighborhood Party!</p> <p>\$300 Starting Bid</p>	<p>This Yell is LOADED! Stock your bar with a fabulous selection of...</p> <p>\$400 Starting Bid</p>	<p>FRY Orthodontics Specialists - Your smile is just the start.</p> <p>\$2,000 Starting Bid</p>	<p>Give Your Kitchen a FaceLift!</p> <p>\$2,000 Starting Bid</p>
<p>Power that dirt away with a John Deere pressure washer!</p> <p>\$320 Starting Bid</p>	<p>KU Ultimate Fan Package</p> <p>\$300 Starting Bid</p>	<p>Autographed KC Chiefs Patrick Mahomes Jersey Size XL #15</p> <p>\$600 Starting Bid</p>	<p>TASTE of the TOWN</p>



Presenting Sponsor



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Student Care

Wimmer Student Care Fund

For many Olathe students, challenges outside the classroom make it difficult to focus on learning. Addressing these challenges is a core program for the Olathe Public Schools Foundation. The Wimmer Student Care Fund helps meet the need when the families of our most vulnerable students face financial hardships. Coordinated through individual schools, this fund is deployed to help families overcome obstacles that are preventing students from focusing on learning including gas money for a parent to get to work and acquiring a bed to sleep in. Established as a tribute to former superintendent Dr. Ron Wimmer, the fund allows the current superintendent flexibility to direct these non-taxpayer funds to families within 24 hours. During the 2019-20 year, nearly \$20,000 was deployed through the Wimmer Student Care Fund.

Student Health Emergency Fund

The Student Health Emergency Fund, supervised by district nurses, supports the immediate medical needs of the district's most vulnerable students.

Last year this fund supported Olathe students with nearly \$10,000 in emergency medical needs including hearing aids, inhalers, orthopedic shoes and insulin.

This fund impacts the lives of youth in Olathe and eases the burden felt by families who struggle to meet a household budget, but cannot afford to go without their child's medical necessities.



Backpacks and School Supplies

Every fall the Olathe Public Schools Foundation backpack and school supply program helps ensure all Olathe students have the basic supplies necessary to start school and be ready to learn on the first day. Thanks to the support of individuals and corporations, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation filled and distributed over 2,200 backpacks to Olathe students at the start of the 2019-20 school year. For a growing number of students, providing basic school supplies is a financial hardship. Students, families and teachers count on community support to ensure students have what they need to arrive at school ready to learn on the first day of school and throughout the year. This program wouldn't be possible without financial support and the gift of time.



A.L.L. (Avid Lifetime Learner) Fund

The A.L.L. (Avid Lifetime Learner) Fund provides assistance for Olathe high school students who find themselves taking advanced-level courses, but are unable to get college credit because they can't afford the fees. The A.L.L. Fund helps provide assistance for College Now and Quick Step college tuition as well as fees for AP testing and other college prep expenses. These costs can be a challenge for financially struggling families. This support will help high school students stay on a path for continued education after high school. With donor support, the A.L.L. Fund last year provided \$22,631 in scholarships and test fee stipends - giving these students a hand-up towards a better future.



Dr. B's Musical Instrument Program

For many students, their dream of playing a musical instrument is hindered by the financial cost of buying or renting an instrument. Because every student who wants to play should have that opportunity, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation launched Dr. B's Musical Instrument Fund in 2017. This fund helps purchase new and used instruments and to renovate donated instruments, with a goal of maintaining a consistent inventory of musical instruments available for loan to Olathe students.

Dr. B's Musical Instrument Fund was named in honor of Dr. Alison Banikowski on the occasion of her retirement after 34 years with the Olathe Public Schools. The fund was launched with a \$10,000 grant from the OPSF Women's Giving Circle.



Recognizing Excellence

Educator Excellence and CEERA Awards

Each year, outstanding Olathe district educators and support staffers are chosen to receive the Educator Excellence Award and Classified Employee Excellence Recognition Award. These valuable team members are nominated by their colleagues, students, parents and community members for excellence in meeting the needs of students in the classroom and for their work supporting our outstanding education system.

This school year the OPSF surprised two educators and two support staffers each month September through February and one CEERA Award in March before buildings were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each recipient was celebrated by their coworkers, students, friends and family and presented with a check for \$500.

Special thanks to Mainstreet Credit Union, sponsor of the Educator Excellence Award.



Grant Program

Classroom Grants

Olathe students benefit when their teachers apply for OPSF grants. Their innovative ideas pave the way for learning excellence. Thanks to donor support, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation awarded over \$125,000 in classroom grants during the 2019-20 school year.

Teachers identified ways they could help students learn and grow including helping elementary students understand math concepts, DNA testing materials for middle school students, opportunities for high school artists to work with new materials, indoor farming supplies, and exploring cardio drumming as a form of exercise.



Anatomage Table

Thanks to a generous donor, students in the Medical Professions Academy and the Sports Medicine and Exercise Science Academy (both housed at Olathe North High School) will be able to experience hands-on virtual learning with a new Anatomage Table.

The \$90,000 virtual dissection table was purchased through grants from the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust and the Olathe Public Schools Foundation. Beginning in fall 2020, the table will provide students a 3D virtual view of the human body, its systems and structures, diseases, injuries and surgeries. The Anatomage Table will give students a life-like cadaver learning experience. Anatomy is presented as a fully interactive, life-sized touch screen experience.



meeting the need

Scholarships

With an endowment surpassing the \$1.4 million mark, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation provides oversight and management of 48 scholarship funds, disbursing \$182,235 in scholarships to 166 Olathe students this past year. Scholarships include debate and forensics, children of veterans, visual artists, and students going to school to become educators. For a list of our scholarship opportunities, check out the OPSF website at www.olathepublicschoolsfoundation.org.



Women's Giving Circle

This year was the 5th anniversary of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation's Women's Giving Circle. The dream was always to grow this circle of ladies – and has it grown! The Women's Giving Circle is the perfect example of how working together can make amazing things happen in the community.

Fall 2019

Members of the Women's Giving Circle met in September to consider grants to address a student need. The group voted to award the Hispanic Leadership Lowrider Bike Club with a \$10,000 grant to support and expand its program. Because of such high levels of support, the Women's Giving Circle members were also able to award \$5,000 grants to STEM learning at Central Elementary, and to engage young readers at Chisholm Trail Middle School.

Spring 2020

The Women's Giving Circle members were not able to meet in the spring due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The inability to meet in person didn't dampen the ladies' generosity. Members proved that good things happen when caring women "gather virtually." Members raised over \$15,000 in support of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation's four programs that focus on student need: Wimmer Student Care Fund, Student Health Emergency Fund, Homeless Outreach and Backpack Snacks. These programs will be more important than ever as the effects of COVID-19 continue to be felt across the community.

Women's Giving Circle members meet twice per year. During each session individual contributions are combined to award a \$10,000-\$15,000 grant benefitting Olathe students. Membership in the Women's Giving Circle is \$100 per cycle, with Sustaining Members making the commitment of \$200 per year.

The Olathe Women's Giving Circle has awarded over \$175,000 in grants and other funding to Olathe classrooms since Spring 2014.

For more information, please contact the Olathe Public Schools Foundation at (913) 780-8222.



22nd Annual Autumn Breakfast

The Olathe Public Schools Foundation's 22nd Annual Autumn Breakfast, held Friday, November 8, 2019, was an opportunity to help support Olathe students and teachers and also to learn about the great things happening in Olathe schools.

Generous members of the Olathe community helped raise \$165,000 to support the students and educators in Olathe Public Schools.

Additionally, guests attending the event matched funds provided by generous businesses and donors and raised

\$22,000 to support Olathe students with emergency needs through the Wimmer Student Care Fund. With these funds, the OPSF will provide students with winter coats, backpacks, shoes and more. Having the ability to meet students' basic needs helps ensure our children are in school, ready to learn.

Attendees were entertained by Olathe South High School choirs and the Sunnyside Singers from Sunnyside Elementary and Superintendent John Allison presented the State of the District Address.



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Special thanks to all of the sponsors whose donations help ensure that every dollar raised will go directly into grants and special programming for students.

“No Golf” Golf Classic

The June 2020 Olathe Public Schools Foundation’s Annual Golf Classic was transformed into a “No Golf” golf tournament because of social distancing restrictions caused by COVID-19.

Despite the inability to gather on the course, 35 of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation’s most dedicated sponsors continued to support the event to raise nearly \$65,000 for Olathe students and teachers.

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This support will be so important as COVID-19 continues to have an ever-increasing impact on the Olathe community. Already financially-vulnerable families are finding themselves pushed past the tipping point. In fact, in June 2020, numbers were already showing that student need will increase in the coming months. We are so grateful to these 35 companies for their continued support of Olathe students and teachers and of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation.

Presenting Sponsor



Save the Date!

June 10, 2021
24th Annual
Golf Classic



Student Care Special Projects

COVID Relief for Families

Olathe students and their families had new challenges to face during the last four months of the year as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic began to ripple through the community. Already financially vulnerable families found themselves in even more difficult situations. Many families found their incomes shrinking, while bills continued to pile up.

Fortunately, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation was in a strong position to provide aid to these families. In addition to already established student care programs, the OPSF applied for and received a \$50,000 COVID relief grant from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. This grant allowed the OPSF to assist even more district families as they struggled with the far-reaching effects of the pandemic. As the 2019-20 year came to a close, it was apparent these needs would continue to increase in 2020-21.

Books Distributed with Summer Lunch

Olathe students got a little something extra with their meals this summer. Enough new paperback books were ordered so that every student (elementary through high school) who visited one of the district's summer meal distribution sites could take home a new book.

Because of the pandemic, local libraries were offering limited services and school buildings were closed, which made it difficult for students to find fresh reading material. Educators know the benefits reading has on a student's academic achievements. Putting books in the hands of students was the idea of Santa Fe Trail Middle School teacher Josh Stock.

The OPSF was able to provide funding through the Jill Summers Memorial Fund. Mrs. Summers, a former Olathe Schools educator, passed away unexpectedly in March 2020.



FEED IT FORWARD

The global health crisis left many already vulnerable families in an even more uncertain financial situation. Many struggling district families do not qualify for the free or reduced price meal program, and those who do qualify for a reduced price meal may still struggle with the remaining costs.

Thanks to the generosity of community supporters and Foundation partner, Atmos Energy, \$23,187.76 in student lunch debt at the Olathe Public Schools was paid in full. Left unpaid, this debt would have been sent to collections.

With debts forgiven, the Olathe Public Schools Foundation focused on preparing for the increased number of students who are expected to need meal assistance during coming school years. With incredible donor support, the FEED IT FORWARD campaign raised \$22,667 for the Families in Need Fund, which helps struggling families purchase school meals.



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Mission: *Connecting financial and volunteer resources to the Olathe Public Schools to recognize and enhance educational excellence.*



Annual Fund Contributions

A gift to the OPSF Annual Fund supports the programs listed in this annual report. Gifts may be made throughout the school year, via check, credit card or pledge.

Bequests

An attorney can advise you on the many ways to leave a gift to the OPSF while saving estate taxes and/or providing for a survivor.

Gifts in Memory

Pay tribute to someone who valued the Olathe School District or whose life was changed for the better by a district employee. The Foundation will acknowledge your thoughtful gift with a letter to the honoree's family.

Tribute Gifts

Consider a gift to support the OPSF for a graduating senior, teacher or that special someone who has everything. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will be acknowledged by a gift letter to the honoree.

Staff Campaigns

District employees can support the Foundation with automatic payroll deductions. Contact an OPSF representative for details.

Women's Giving Circle

Great things happen when caring women gather. 150+ women give \$100 to fund a \$10,000-\$15,000 grant for Olathe District Schools programs.



Olathe Public Schools
Foundation

