



*Happy Holidays from the Education Foundation!*

## You Made a Difference in 2011—THANK YOU for your Support!

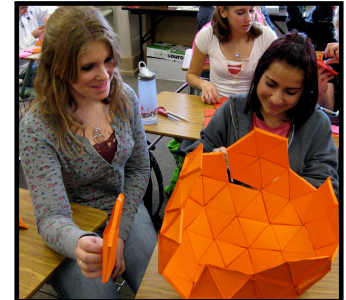
The board and staff of the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools would like to thank you for your support this past year. Through the Employee Payroll Deduction Program, over 400 teachers, staff, and administrators gave \$3,500 in one time gifts and close to \$12,000 in payroll deductions. These funds will be reinvested into the Classroom Grant Program.

Thank you to all who so generously supported the Education Foundation!



## Get Ready to Apply for a 2012-2013 Classroom Grant

It's not too early to start thinking about applying for a Classroom Grant for 2012 -2013! In 2011, the Education Foundation awarded a record \$67,000 in classroom grants to fund over 85 projects! The purpose of the Grant Program is to provide BPS educators an opportunity to submit requests for financial support for innovative and creative curriculum, special activities and classroom projects. These grants are made possible through charitable donations of individuals and corporations, as well as dollars raised at Saturday Live. Don't let this opportunity slip by you! Log onto our website at [www.efbps.org](http://www.efbps.org) to read more about this year's grant application process and see the list of winners in 2011. **The Classroom Grant application process opens on December 7, 2011.**



## Welcome New Foundation Board Members

The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools announces new officers and board members for 2012: **Erin Zimmer**, education advocate, past president; **Eric Nord**, Crist, Krogh & Nord, president; **Pam Hofferber**, KTVQ, vice president, **Don Bergeron**, CTA Architects Engineers, treasurer; and **Pam Meier**, Poly Drive Elementary, secretary. The Education Foundation welcomes new board member **Todd McDonald**.

## Give the Gift of Education

This holiday season, consider adding "honor gifts" to your list of giving ideas. Honor gifts are donations you make in recognition of a friend, co-worker, or family member. Make your gift giving easy this year by giving a gift in honor of a friend or family member to the Education Foundation. By making an honor gift in a friend or family member's name, you'll know you are giving a gift that is always appreciated, carries significant meaning, and supports public education in our community.

Making an honor gift to the Education Foundation is easy! You can give online through the Foundation's website or by mail. Once you've chosen the option that works best for you, simply let us know your gift is an honor gift. We'll issue you a tax receipt for your contribution and we will send a card announcing your gift to the honoree – without stating the amount.

## Dewey J. Hansen Endowment Benefits Thousands of Students

This holiday season, as we look back and count our blessings, the Education Foundation is blessed to have received a bequest from Mr. Dewey J. Hansen, Billings Senior alumnus and educator, to establish the Dewey J. Hansen and Helen Cothron Hansen Endowment Fund. In 2011, the Foundation made the first distribution to Billings West, Skyview, Senior and Laurel High Schools. The \$78,000 in funding was split equally amongst the four schools. The gift impacted over a thousand students this year and will continue to benefit many more in the future.

Denece Lord's earth science students at West High, were able to take part in a valuable learning opportunity earlier this school year. In past years, students took a field trip in the spring to Phipps Park where they used the Earth Science concepts they learned throughout the year to describe and explain the area. What Mrs. Lord found out is when students climbed to the top of the Rims, they were amazed to see the valley Billings sits in and the surrounding area. Mrs. Lord has always wanted to take her students on a field trip at the beginning of the year to introduce students to the area in which they live from a geological standpoint and then use the information as a reference point throughout the school year, but she couldn't afford to take two field trips. With the Hansen Endowment funding, she was able to this year. "The kids came back first of all very excited about all they had experienced, but also with a greater sense of their geography of place which has already greatly enhanced how I am able to relate what we are learning in class to the world around them. I am so grateful and glad to have had the money available to give my students those experiences," shared Mrs. Lord.



## Classroom Grants Corner

I received 2 grants over the last 2 years, the first was to add salt water aquariums to our engineering classrooms at the Career Center. The aquariums have been a great addition to the programs and the school. The students have watched the ecosystems grow all while being a comprehensive example of biology, chemistry, physics and engineering. The students have designed filtration systems, started coral propagation, designed educational posters and maintained the systems since they were added last year. This has been a valuable experience for the students and we are continually adding and finding new ways to use this as a powerful educational tool in the classroom.

The second grant I received purchased 8 underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) kits. The kits will teach my Principles of Engineering students about underwater robotics, control systems, propulsion, buoyancy, hydrodynamics and a lot of engineering. We have not begun this project in class yet, but the kits have inspired a group of students to start an after school club. The club plans to compete at a regional ROV competition in Seattle, WA this spring. The grant has given us the opportunity to bring something new and exciting to the students at the Career Center. Without this grant money, this project would not have been possible.

**Karl Schwartz, Web Design/Engineering Instructor, Billings Career Center**

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program and we'll donate \$2 from each  
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