

# THE HIGHLAND FOUNDATION

for educational excellence

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## A History of Giving

### 2000-2001

- **Foundation Incorporators' Meet.** Prior to becoming a Foundation, Dr. Glen Gerard assisted in building a group of community leaders together to advance a vision of an organization focused on enriching the Highland educational community. Incorporators were: Ron Bischof, Emil Bolas, Dr. Michael Carlson, Beth Crosley, Dr. Robert Fenn, Mary Markle, Kimberly Miller, Dr. John Opperman, Susan Ruhlin and Anne Smykal.
- **First Board of Trustees Meeting Convenes.** Dr. Robert Fenn led the April 2000 meeting; topics included reviewing a draft of the by-laws, Board nomination process and a discussion on identifying the role of the Trustees. Founding Board of Trustees were: Dr. Bruce Armstrong, Charles Benko, Margaret Cadnum, Dr. Michael Carlson, Dr. Robert Fenn, Jack Holland, Neil Jones, William Kelly, George Paidas, Susan Ruhlin, Robert Senkar, Don Simmons, Anne Smykal and Janet Sours.
- **George Paidas Voted Foundation's First Chairman.** Leads organization in generating more than \$100,000 from donor community as part of a Founders Goal capital campaign in first year.
- **"Tonight Show" Band Member Hosts Weeklong Residency at Highland.** Funded by the Foundation, Ed Shaughnessy, acclaimed jazz drummer and Doc Severinsen "Tonight Show" Band percussionist spends four days with the Highland High School and Middle School Bands.
- **First Foundation Scholarship Awarded.** Kristen Gamauf was the inaugural recipient of the Letha E. House Scholarship, which still exists today and is directed to the graduating senior pursuing a career in horticulture or a related field. The Foundation continues to award multiple scholarships annually.

### 2001-2002

- **Highland Community Celebrates Year 1.** On November 7, more than 150 people celebrated the founding year of The Highland Foundation.
- **Golf Outing Raises \$6,300.** More than 100 golfers participated in the inaugural William O. Wagar Memorial Golf Outing at Ironwood Golf Course. Bill Wagar was a 1983 graduate of Highland; a fund named in his memory exists today and is directed toward grants that advance math and the sciences.
- **Highland Community Education Program Launches.** In partnership with the school district, 24 different classes ranging from Tae Kwon Do and yoga to watercolors and floral design were offered for adults and children in the community.

### 2002-2003

- **Ron Paydo Becomes Foundation Chairman.**
- **Wagar Scholarship & Memorial Fund Established.**
- **Highland Foundation Reaches Grant Awarding Milestone.** Since inception, more than \$120,000 worth of approved grants have been provided by the Foundation through 50 educational enrichment projects.
- **John Carroll University Provides Stock Market Education.** Underwritten by the Foundation, eighth graders learn the ins and outs of the stock market through a popular simulation contest. This program continued for several years.
- **STAR Program Introduced.** Established in December, the Staff and Teacher Award and Recognition Program were spearheaded by Richard Pace and Linda Marsh. This program continues today.
- **Cambodian Holocaust Survivor Visits Highland.** Highland High School tenth graders experienced a history lesson when the Foundation supported a visit by Loung Ung, an author and childhood survivor of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime.

### 2003-2004

- **Highland Alumni Association Established.** The Highland Foundation and Highland Local Schools shared funding responsibilities in establishing a new Highland Alumni Association.
- **250 Attend New High School Opening.** In May, the grounds of the new high school shined brightly for the "Light Up the Night" dinner. All proceeds benefited the Foundation.
- **New High School Receives Landscaping Grant.** The installation of an environmentally-sustainable landscape surrounding for the new Highland High School was provided by the Foundation.
- **Community Generosity Contributes to Record High: Financial Contributions Jump 48%.** Fueled by significant increases in corporate support, the Foundation posts its greatest year-over-year increase in funding from the community.
- **Foundation Helps to Establish Intern Program.** In an innovative partnership between the school district, local businesses and The Highland Foundation, juniors and seniors had a new opportunity to experience career development related to their learning and career goals.

### 2004-2005

- **Dr. Michael Carlson Becomes Foundation Chairman.**
- **Alumni History Hall Installed.** The Highland Foundation helps to spear-head a decade-by-decade mural display in the new high school adjacent to the auditorium.
- **STAR Program Nets Record \$2,925.** Highland students overwhelmingly say 'thanks' through this annual recognition program.
- **Foundation Awards \$132k in Grants.** 15 projects receive a record \$132,000 in funds during the 2004-2005 school year.

### 2005-2006

- **Ron Paydo Becomes Foundation Chairman for a Second Term.**
- **Assets Exceed \$200k Mark.** The Highland Foundation reaches milestone in sixth year.
- **Financial Support Drives Foundation.** 66% of all financial contributions received in 2005-2006 were in the amount of \$100 or less. In comparison, today (2011-2012 school year) it's 30% demonstrating a trend of growth from the donor community.
- **Middle School Technology Grant Connects Students to the World.** One of 16 projects during the year, a Foundation-funded grant paved the way for video conferencing equipment so that students could access programs and curriculum from all over the world without leaving the classroom.
- **Renowned Comedy Troupe Comes to Highland.** The Second City Touring Company from Chicago performed their "Truth, Justice or the American Way" show for the Highland community in November.
- **First Annual "Great Gifts" Dinner & Benefit is Held.** More than 150 attend and \$25,000 raised.

### 2006-2007

- **Gayle Prebis Becomes Foundation Chairman**
- **Foundation Underwrites a Record 19 Projects.** Between project grants, artist-in-residence programs, innovation grants and musical enrichment initiatives, the Foundation awarded \$52,000 worth of funds to support the school community.
- **STAR Program Awards \$3,567.**

### 2007-2008

- **Timothy Phillips Becomes Foundation Chairman**
- **Assets Grow 21%.** Support for the Foundation grew at an unprecedented rate during the 2007-2008 school year. Fueled by 16 projects and successful events.

### 2008-2009

- **Great Gifts Dinner Shatters Record.** The fourth annual benefit dinner reached new levels in November with 250 attendees and more than \$30,000 generated for the Foundation.
- **Equine-Assisted Learning Program.** Made possible by a Foundation grant, all students in the autism class at Hinckley Elementary participated in an equine-assisted learning program at Trinity Horse Farm in Medina.

#### 2009-2010

- **The Highland Foundation Celebrates Ten Years; Lori Miller Becomes Foundation Chairman.**
- **Innovation Grant: Master Learning through Vodcasts.** A Highland Foundation grant helped provide Symposium technology to Highland classrooms. The smartboard innovation uses video and either an iPod, cell phone, computer or DVD to display class notes, problems and lectures.
- **Tony Award-Winning Playwright and Actor Hosts Workshops.** John Cariani led three sessions for creative writing students, the theater class and an open forum of both writers and actors in this well-received appearance in the spring.

#### 2010-2011

- **Rachel's Challenge Program Comes to Highland.** Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Her acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America. Approximately 1,100 fifth through eighth grade students participated in the curriculum.
- **Assets Experience Double-Digit Growth.** The asset base for The Highland Foundation jumped 11% in the past two years.
- **Foundation Exceeds 160 Projects Since Inception.** Since inception, the Foundation has distributed \$565,717 worth of grants to fund 162 unique learning programs.
- **New Technology to Accelerate Foundation's Efforts.** With an eye toward the future, the Foundation invested in a web-based data management and fundraising system.

#### 2011-2012

- **Craig Bailey Becomes Seventh Foundation Chairman.**
- **First Executive Director Named.** Theresa Wright was appointed as The Highland Foundation's first executive director. The creation of this part-time role serves as the cornerstone for aggressively building donor relations and growing the organization's endowment.
- **\$40k Plateau for Annual Benefit Dinner Achieved.** The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Great Gifts benefit dinner was attended by more than 200 members of the Highland community. \$40,000 was raised, a 21 percent increase over the previous year.
- **Foundation Receives Award.** A new brochure describing the Highland Foundation won a design award from National School Public Relations Association, Ohio Chapter.

#### 2012-2013

- **Grants & scholarship dollars awarded jumped to \$39.8K, a 36% year-over-year increase.** This is the highest level of direct giving in five years. Also, all five schools were recipients of Highland Foundation grant giving.
- **Scholarship applications rise.** A record number of applicants for the five Highland Foundation scholarships were received in the spring. A new scholarship was also generously established by Don and Edith Simmons: the Hugh and Grace Eyerdom Memorial Scholarship.
- **Highland Web Site Overhauled.** In addition to attracting 47,000 visitors since November 2012, the Foundation established a Facebook presence.

*To learn about more recent areas of giving, please download our latest annual report.*