BEYOND THE BOOKS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

...is a not-for-profit corporation whose goal is to provide a long-term, self-sustaining financial base to fund innovative academic programs in Unit 5 and District 87 public schools which are beyond the limits of normal tax support. Organized in 1992, the foundation is a group of private citizens and is not part of either school district. The Boards of Education of both districts encourage the Foundation’s formation and strongly support its efforts.

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2005-2006 GRANT AWARDS

Educators in Unit 5 and District 87 submitted seventy applications requesting a total of $73,742. This year the Foundation is awarding $26,025 toward thirty-eight projects. Since 1992, $192,704 has been awarded to support 270 projects.

Elementary Schools

Anne McDowell: At-Risk Pre-K Program; $1,150; Friends Learning Lessons for Life: Pre-K Character Education – Forming a partnership with students and families to promote positive traits of honesty, respect, responsibility and courage.

Lisa O’Dell: Fairview; $1,490; An Enriched Study of U.S. Regions – Fourth grade students will gain access to books, audio-visual resources, and online field trips to explore the geography and history of the United States.

Nancy Mazur, Michele Schaber, Bridget Frederick: Fairview; $630; Phonemic Awareness Activity Program – An interactive listening program to help primary students develop phonemic awareness and a readiness for reading.

Sheri Olson, Meredith Denher, Sonya Perez, Beth Thorson-Beaty: Fairview / Fox Creek / Oakdale / Pepper Ridge; $1,500; Growing Responsible Children, Through Love and Logic – Promoting positive relationships with children while providing firm behavioral limits, unconditional compassion and maintaining logical consequences.

Susan Layden: Fox Creek; $180; Interactive U.S.A. Map – Students will learn to locate, describe and explain geography of the United States by region while moving kinesthetically around a large U.S.A. map.

Jan Meadows, Jon Hovey, Angela Trask, Emily Preckwinkle: Glenn; $990; Magic Treehouse - No Boundaries – Based on the Magic Treehouse stories the “interest tubs” will expand and enrich students’ skills in the world around them.

Beth Fletcher: Grove; $179; Reading is exSIGHTing!! – This project provides children with extra reading support both at home and in school so that they will be able to successfully read sight-words.

Linn McDonald: Irving; $800; Bridging the Gap with Smart Board Technology – Creates a Smart Board technology area in the school’s learning center allowing classrooms to use an interactive whiteboard for cross-curricular lessons and activities.

Sally Kerber: Northpoint; $174; Reading – Keep it Simple, Make it Fun – KISMIF will make reading fun through use of props and materials. Packets will provide hands on visual experiences to aid in recalling facts and retelling stories.

Kris Pennington: Pepper Ridge; $500; "Specials" in Pre-K Classroom – Implementation of PE, music and art into the Pre-K At-Risk program to help students become proficient in all domains of the Illinois Early Learning Standards.

Britta Armstrong-Mitchell, Kathy Mandros, Carrie Kieser, Candi Vercruyse: Prairieland; $600; Amazing Alphabet – Alphabet learning materials to help students develop associations between letters/sounds leading to increased beginning reading skills.

Britta Armstrong-Mitchell, Kathy Mandros, Carrie Kieser, Candi Vercruyse: Prairieland; $600; F.A.R.M. - Families are Reading More – Farm theme kick-off, reports, and incentives to increase reading at home and develop early literacy skills.

Carol Johnson; Prairieland; $125; Non-fiction Books for Research – Non-fiction books will be used to help improve reading, writing, and researching skills of fifth grade students.

Phyllis Pederson, Sonja Huddleston, Ken Hamerlinck, Ellen Lorber: Sheridan; $700; The PACER Project - Parents And Children Enjoying Reading – Resembling “Oprah's Book Club”, first grade students will read and share books from various reading genres with their parents.

Lisa Ellis, Barb Franklin; Stevenson / Raymond; $1,500; Handwriting Without Tears – This developmentally-based program teaches creative techniques to children of all abilities with the goal to develop handwriting as an automatic and natural skill.

Debbie Taylor; Stevenson; $193; Frequent Milers Club – A walking and running club for children!
Erin Prindiville; Stevenson; $200; **Homework Handbags** – Interactive activities available for check out in the classroom.

Lisa Wills, Cathie Werkmann, Ruth Eickenberg, Erin Prindiville, Teresa Koehler, Julie Kincy, LaShanta Williams; Stevenson; $900; **“Kaleidoscope of Culture”** – Students, parents, and community members will experience, explore and celebrate diversity.

Connie Schroeder, Priscilla Steers; Sugar Creek; $198; **Listen to My Words** – Individual tape players will be available to English Language Learners for check out, allowing the students to listen to English stories and books at home and school.

Jason Nourie; Towanda; $400; **Route 66 Beautification Project** – Students will research the importance of Route 66 and design ways to restore and beautify this historic landmark which passes through the community.

Judy Lancaster; Towanda; $200; **Book Buddies** – Kindergarten students will read with ‘Buddies’ from an upper grade.

Rati Singhal; Washington; $750; **Bridges to Culture** – Purchase of multicultural books for each classroom and use of related activities to promote awareness and respect of other cultures.

Anne Waldorf, Vicky VanCauwenberge, Christy Adams; Washington; $1,000; **Wolf Pack A Sack** – By using the ‘Sack’ first grade students will have fun while exploring non-fiction books and activities outside of the classroom setting.

### Junior High / Middle Schools

Bill Wetzel, Susan Dees, Kim Hall, Janet Kapper, Jay Omahana, Sue Pulido; BJHS; $3,330; – **Gotcha!** – Gotcha! provides students with opportunities to explore topics, develop understanding, create evidence of learning, and share ideas with peers of the present and future.

Cathy Lust, Sherri Cannon, Donna Witte, Kathleen Irvin, Suzie Hutton, Carla Russell, Karen Kelly, Krystal Lewis, Bill Wetzel, Nancy Pichla; BJHS; $2,000; **RESPECT at BJHS** – The ‘Ease the Tease’ program explores the feelings of individuals being teased and the responsibility everyone has to treat one another with respect.

Kristen Ayers; BJHS; $175; **Leap Pad Learning Systems** – To obtain two Systems to enhance reading, writing, and math skills through the use of technology.

Debi Kiss; BJHS; $936; **Check Out Success** – Our classroom will operate a mobile library of high-interest, lower-level books for special education students to check out and read.

Michelle Sapp, Jamie Wolfe; BJHS; $193; **Audio Bookshelf** – Books on tape strongly benefits struggling readers, acting as a scaffold that allows students to read above their actual reading level.

Jamie Wolfe, Michelle Sapp; BJHS; $139; **Summer Reading Program: Take the SURVIVAL Challenge** – To help transition into 7th grade, students will read books in the summer and present projects they've completed when school begins in the fall.

Mary Ellen Somers, Kary Thoennes, Rexie Lanier, Barb McClarty; KJHS; $509; **Pursuing Pentominoes** – A unit integrating art, math, language and technology, the book ‘Chasing Vermeer’, pentominoes and embedding symbols in a wash drawing.

Trena Loomans; KJHS; $375; **Creating a Peaceable School Peer Mediation Program** – The peer mediation program encompasses the entire school to emphasize a peaceable environment through effective conflict resolution.

Carolyn Thompson, Andrea Knapp; KJHS / CJHS; $1,000; **The Geometer’s Sketchpad for Junior High** – Technology offers students' opportunities to discover geometric concepts by dragging figures and learning mathematics through critical thinking.

Christine Mitchell, Ellen Main; PJHS; $200; **The Stained Glass Window Project** – Students will create their own stained glass window design on the glass of an 8” x 10” picture frame that must include various geometric figures.

Gretchen Cetin; PJHS; $200; **Dictionaries to Enhance the Home/School Connection** – Purchase of two levels of student dictionaries for a lending library for students working on decoding and vocabulary skills in the reading program.

Logan Pleines, Christine Mitchell; PJHS; $925; **A Commercial Success 'I Have a Dream' Working for America's Future** – Students will film specific projects, learning editing and filming processes necessary in using the iMac iMovie program.

Julie Nourie, Rexie Lanier; PJHS / KJHS; $500; **Book Club Bonanza** – Students will choose a common book to read together in a book club format and then meet to critically discuss their thoughts, emotions, and reactions to various passages.

### High Schools

Michelle Goluba-Melrose; BHS; $200; **Free Reading Exercise** – To improve overall comprehension, students will have the opportunity for free reading in Spanish, selecting from a variety of materials and levels.

Barbara Bush; NCWHS; $384; **Creating Personal Style** – The interactive software, 'Creating Personal Style', will be used to help students select clothing appropriate for their body type and work environment.