



A Child's Education is our

LEGACY

Annual Report 2025





A child's education is our legacy

Mission Statement

The Foundation's mission is to enhance educational opportunities and services to the students, staff, faculty, and residents of the Beatrice School District and strengthen the community's commitment to a "Tradition of Educational Excellence."

Board Members

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Dear Beatrice High School Alumni, Friends,

I am incredibly grateful to be entering my second year as the Executive Director of the Beatrice Educational Foundation. What an incredible year it has been. Much of my focus this past year centered on the Capital Campaign for the new elementary school building—and what a success it was. I am deeply thankful for the BEF Board of Directors and for our Marketing Specialist, Doris Martin, whose dedication and hard work helped make this campaign possible.

With the campaign now complete, I have shifted my focus to celebrating and supporting the exceptional staff of Beatrice Public Schools. This year, we launched our Staff Appreciation Initiative with the generous support of our Head of the Class sponsors: Beatrice Community Hospital, Leigh F., Jane M. & Leigh M. Coffin Foundation, Garnett Investment Strategies, Pinnacle Bank, Security First Bank, and Sunrise Bakery. Because of their partnership, we are able to provide an additional \$1,000 in teacher grants, host appreciation meals in every building, and offer gift card raffles for all staff.

This past year, the Foundation awarded \$7,000 in teacher grants to 11 educators. These grants helped purchase items such as decodable readers, dramatic play materials for preschool classrooms, and stand mixers for Middle School FCS students. Thanks to the generosity of Devon and Jessica Wegner, we were also able to award more than \$3,300 in additional reading grants to teachers.

One of my favorite responsibilities at the Foundation is honoring remarkable educators through our annual awards. In 2024, the Clabaugh Family Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Jodi Fakler, a dedicated middle school English teacher. The 2025 Zoellner Family Paraeducator of the Year Award honored Kathy Casey for her outstanding service and commitment to students.

The Foundation also continues its long-standing tradition of supporting Beatrice High School graduates. This past year, we awarded more than \$105,000 in scholarships to seniors. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to add four new scholarships, including the Tara (Barnard) MacKenzie Family – Faith in Action Scholarship. Tara, a 1996 graduate, chose to honor a student who reflects her love of track and field and embodies integrity, perseverance, and servant leadership. Her generosity is a beautiful reminder of the lasting connections between Beatrice alumni and the students who follow in their footsteps.

Beatrice Public Schools—and the people within them—hold a very special place in my heart. I am proud of the work the Foundation is doing, proud of the students and staff we serve, and proud of this community that continually lifts up its schools. As you read this annual report, I invite you to reflect on your own connection to Beatrice and the passion that ties you to this community. We each have something meaningful to give back to the place that helped shape who we are today.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

*Sincerely,
Jami Vater*

2025 Scholarship Recipients (*picture on cover*) - (front row) Monet Baehr, Rayna Schaefer, Addison Koenig, Lydia Montag, Addison Baxa, McKenna Fralin, Emeline Edeal, Brooke Given, Autumn Meagher (middle row) Mary Ellen Zapata, Aubrie Simmons, Melany Brockman, Brooklyn Schafer, Lucy Diekman, Taylin Bent, Taylor Reimer, Jaslynn Bordeaux, Megan Powers, Macy Lohmeier (back row) Kale Koch, Sean Carerra, Jonathan Lindell, Brady Kujath, Blake Petet, Anna Gleason, Abbie Hoffman, Gracee Essink, Macey Holthus, Jaedyn Baxa

Riding the Energy Bus: Keeping Our Eye on the Prize

This year, Beatrice Public Schools embraced the principles of *The Energy Bus for Schools*, a story that reminds us all about the power of positivity, teamwork, and keeping our focus on what truly matters. Teachers across the district have been reading this book together, drawing inspiration from its message of fueling our schools with optimism, collaboration, and a shared vision for success.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jackie Nielsen explained, “Staff members were encouraged to keep their ‘Eye on the Prize’ during the 2025–2026 school year. This year’s theme continues to remind BPS staff to keep their focus on strong student outcomes and success. We want to keep our ‘Eye on the Prize’ and see ALL students grow in all areas of their educational journey.”

Celebrating Excellence Along the Journey

Every bus needs dedicated drivers and passengers who bring energy, encouragement, and excellence each day. This year, the Beatrice Educational Foundation honored several outstanding staff members whose leadership and commitment have kept students moving forward.

Clabaugh Outstanding Educator of the Year

When you step into Jodi Fakler’s classroom, you can feel the energy right away. Lessons are alive with curiosity, students are eager to participate, and learning feels like an adventure. Whether

through innovative projects or daily encouragement, this teacher consistently reminds students that they are capable of more than they ever imagined. Like the driver of *The Energy Bus*, this year’s Clabaugh Educator sets the tone for success, guiding students toward both academic excellence and personal growth.

Zoellner

Paraeducator of the Year

Quietly, patiently, and with a heart full of encouragement, Kathy Casey makes sure no child feels left behind. From small group instruction to one-on-one support, this paraeducator builds trust with students who need an extra boost of confidence.

Casey’s positivity fuels not just the students they work with but also their colleagues, who see them as a steady and dependable teammate. Like the book reminds us, every bus needs passengers who spread positive energy—and this award winner embodies that every day.

Head of the Class Staff Award

Schools thrive because of the often unseen dedication of staff members who keep everything running smoothly and the Beatrice Educational Foundation with the help of our Head of the Class sponsors is going to recognize one of them this year. This will be the first year for the award. “From organizing resources to offering a kind word in the hallway, their work ensures that both students and teachers have what they need to succeed,” said Jami Vater, BEF executive direc-



Tom Graham makes sure his passengers are safe during their trip to school and as they exit the bus and get ready for an afternoon at preschool.

tor.

For example, secretaries make a difference every day in the lives of students. A secretary in Beatrice Public Schools is in a unique position to create positive change through remarkable actions, said Nielsen, “One secretary in our district has a direct focus on ensuring students are always at the forefront of the educational experience. This secretary truly went above and beyond by taking the lead on many initiatives such as summer school, state testing, data imports and collections, and so much more. She spent countless hours working to ensure students were successfully enrolled in the Best Possible Summer experience and they were receiving great learning opportunities throughout the

month of June. Additionally, she sets everything up for state testing and then evaluates the results to ensure accuracy in reporting to the state. She truly takes pride in the district and in everything she does. She keeps the kids first by finding ways to support paraeducators, secretaries, teachers, and administrators so they can keep students the main focus.

Another example of staff members keeping their “Eye on the Prize” came from Andrew Haake, Beatrice Middle School principal. “Last year, we had a student that didn’t recognize it was his birthday until he heard it on the announcements. The student’s family didn’t have the resources for presents or a birthday cake, so a staff

(continued on page 4)

Riding the Energy Bus



Each school day close to 700 students enjoy a healthy lunch at Beatrice Elementary. The kitchen staff makes sure each child feels special.



(continued from page 3)
member purchased a birthday cake to make his day special. Our school day isn't always about learning to read or solve math problems, but to give students a safe space to spend their time each day and make positive connections and memories!"

Teachers play a vital role in making sure students have a positive experience. High school principal James Ford shared an example. "Dr. Watts helped me when the report we were trying to run was having troubles giving us the information we needed. He unprompted asked to help, ran our reports after extensive customization made the new report feed into an app that he knew how to run and now after a week of trouble-shooting we are able to email all of our students in the click of a few buttons. Dr. James Watts saved my-

self and every staff member a significant amount of time while also simultaneously making it much easier for the students to know what their expectations are with clear directions. He truly embodies a servant leader and does the job because that is what is best for students and staff.

Keeping the Bus Moving Forward

"The Beatrice Educational Foundation is proud to support these awards as part of our mission to empower educators and elevate students," said Vater. "Together, we are building momentum—ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed."

Just as *The Energy Bus* teaches, our journey is fueled by the people who believe in the power of positive energy and a shared destination: **student success.**



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Kathy Casey honored as Zoellner recipient



Kathy Casey with her \$1,000 check is joined by Zoellner family, Executive Director Jami Vater, and Foundation officials. The award is funded by Zoellner Ford-Lincoln of Beatrice.

Paraeducators play a very important role in the education of Beatrice Public School students and have been described as the heartfelt hero. They use their talents to help students discover their own. They dedicate their time and energy each day to the students in their care, and do it while meeting the individual needs of many.

This describes perfectly the 2025 recipient of the Beatrice Educational Foundation's Paraeducator of the Year.

Each of the nominations stressed how dedicated this year's recipient is. She comes to school each day ready to help students. "She is always asking what kids need some 1-on-1 tutoring to help close some learned gaps."

Another nomination said, "She is the ultimate paraeducator. She comes to all her classes each and every day prepared and ready to go. She can carry out a reading lesson, a phonics lesson, a spelling lesson or even a difficult math lesson like a true professional. The students respond to her as if she was the classroom

teacher, with respect and love." Several nominations described the recipient as a teacher teammate. "Kathy is so in tune with the running of the classrooms she serves, she can anticipate upcoming needs; just like a teacher teammate. If asked to prepare materials for an activity or project for the classroom she can put everything together for the teacher. She might even think of some things that have skipped the teacher's mind. Her small group work is a carbon copy of the classroom teacher. She uses the same procedures and format."

Each of her nominators touched on the respect she shows her students. "Kathy is an all-hands on deck team player. She sees a wide range of kids and makes sure each student believes they can succeed. Beatrice Elementary is better because of the efforts of this paraeducator.

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Three inducted into BEF Hall of Fame

A love for sports takes Mar onto the football field

What started as a massive love for sports, turned into a love for making sure that the sports were played right as a referee. Kevin Mar is a head referee for the Big 12 football conference. He began by refereeing high school football, then some small college games and is now a “white hat” head referee for division one college games. Kevin has worked 13 Bowl Games, the 2017 MWC Championship Game, and 2008 FCS National Championship Game.

While his work on the college level is impressive, his contributions to high school sports is equally impressive. Kevin created the Nebraska High School replay protocol for the state championships and has been the Replay Official for the Nebraska State High School Football Championships since 2019.

Once the football season is over Kevin begins refereeing high school

basketball games. He was honored this March for being a registered basketball official for 25 years. The Nebraska High School Officials Association and the Nebraska School Activities Association said, “The success of high school basketball in the state of Nebraska depends largely on people like you who enjoy officiating and have spent years lending your talents to the sport.”

He then moves on to umpiring high school baseball and has done this since 2021.

While he now lives in Omaha he has not forgotten his Beatrice roots and returns regularly to ref middle school football games or high school basketball games. He also visits the Beatrice Community Hospital for his job in medical sales for Zimmer Orthopedics & MiMedx Group.

His contributions to sports have ensured that games are played according to the rules and that all the participants have a fair



Kevin Mar

chance to compete. Being a good sports official takes hustle, good judgment, solid communication, consistency, courage and common sense. Kevin has demonstrated all these traits and sports on all levels are better because of his efforts.

Kevin is a 1989 Beatrice High School graduate.

His passion was for the arts, and his students



Gary Nickels' passion for the arts and his commitment to education and to students is his legacy. Gary began

his teaching career as an art teacher at Beatrice High School. He went on to work with the Nebraska Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts as an Artist in Residence traveling the state. Gary was hired as the first art consultant for Grand Island Public Schools in 1977, working with the elementary schools. He was recognized for his outstanding work as the recipient of the Nebraska Art

Teacher's Supervision and Administration Award during the 1990-91 school year. He became an art teacher at Grand Island Senior High where he was in charge of designing the new art department that included an art gallery. He retired from GIPS in 2001.

Following retirement, he took a position for one year as a gifted teacher at Saint Francis Indian School in South Dakota. While there, Gary immersed himself into the culture and quickly became highly respected by the Elders. As a teacher, for those students that didn't have an adult in their life, Gary accepted them for who they were, and they knew Mr. Nickels was there for them.

He was not only an art teacher but an artist in his own right. He found great joy in perfecting his photography skills. Gary enjoyed painting and framing his own photos and loved giving his works of art to others

to enjoy. The art gallery at CHI Good Samaritan in Kearney still has Gary's art exhibit up for patients and families to enjoy. He was also talented at silversmithing and goldsmithing and early in his teaching career he learned how to blow glass. He loved working with clay and may be best remembered for helping elementary students create clay monster pots.

In addition to teaching, Gary worked as a crop-hail adjuster, starting in the summer of 1980. Upon retirement from teaching Gary continued as an adjuster until his death. Gary was known to have served as one of the longest crop-hail adjusters in the nation, with farmers dubbing him “The Legend.”

Gary's passion for the arts and his passion for helping students combined to make him a force for good in the lives of many.

He was a 1958 graduate of Beatrice High School.

His work makes Nebraska better



Dr. Mark Vrtiska

Dr. Mark Vrtiska's passion for wildlife management started in Beatrice when his father took him hunting and fishing. He is currently a professor at the University of Nebraska and a Wildlife Management Specialist, with the School of Natural Resources with his primary focus on undergraduate courses in Wildlife Management Specialist and Wildlife

Techniques. He has co-authored books in wildlife management and conservation. In addition he has written articles in *Nebraskaland* and *Ducks Unlimited* on subjects from Canadian geese in Nebraska to the movement of trumpeter swans in the Sandhills.

Mark also serves as the coordinator for the Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership and conducts research in wildlife ecology and conservation biology of threatened and endangered species including the Interior Least Tern and Piping Plovers.

His writing has received a number of awards including the Charles E. Bessey Award for best natural science article published in *Great Plains Re-*

search, 2009; and the Charles E. Bessey Award for best natural science article published in *Great Plains Research*, 2004. Other honors include the Ernest A. Gluesing Memorial Award from Mississippi State University in 1994 as the Outstanding Graduate Student and the David H. Nabi Memorial Award from Mississippi State University in 1993. The award was given to the student which best exemplifies selflessness in leadership, service, research, academics, and social endeavors.

Mark's contributions to education are ongoing and Nebraska is better because of his work.

He is a 1982 Beatrice High School graduate.

BEF board member named as Friend *His care for the Foundation is his legacy*



Paul Whaley

The Beatrice Educational Foundation is almost 40 years old and enjoying the success which comes from being well cared for by dedicated board

members. One of those members that helped the BEF become financially sound is Paul Whaley. He joined the board of directors in 1993. The Foundation's portfolio was worth \$610,899.13. When he left the board in 2022 its portfolio was worth 2.7 million. Paul's tireless work was instrumental in this growth.

Paul had a vision for the Foundation to move from an organization with just a volunteer board of directors to an organization with an executive di-

rector and other paid staff. His vision also included expanding the work of the Foundation beyond just awarding scholarships to graduating seniors.

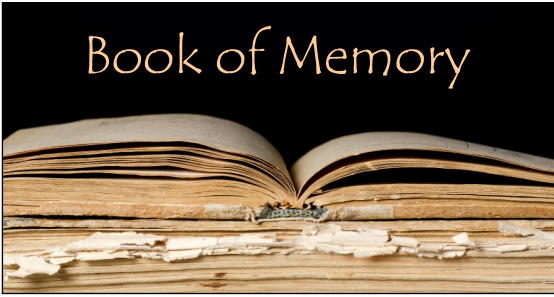
He had a vision of an organization that matured from relying on donors to come to us, to the Foundation reaching out to graduates, community members, and businesses to grow the Foundation to become so much more. Today the Foundation is able to do this because of Paul's work and his vision.

Paul started his career in education. He received a bachelor in science in Education/Speech and Theatre in 1970 and a master of arts in 1972 from Emporia State University. Early in his career, he was an Instructor of Theatre/Technical Director at Hiram College, in Hiram, Ohio, and at Morehead State University. Later he became an Assistant Professor of Theatre/Design at the University of Ne-

braska where he started a PhD program in Theatre Design.

After the loss of his father and brother in 1979 Paul moved back to Lawrence, Kansas, to care for his mother and the family farm. After moving to Beatrice in 2003 he worked at Pinnacle Bank from 2003 to 2014 managing and advising individual retirement accounts. He continued working as a retirement planning specialist with Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. The Beatrice Educational Foundation has been able to grow from an organization focused on awarding scholarships to being able to also help teachers with grants, providing a quality afterschool program for elementary students, supporting the Backpack program, honoring an outstanding teacher and paraeducator, and developing additional programs to support both students and teachers because of the dedication of Paul Whaley.

Book of Memory



The Book of Memory was initiated by the Beatrice Educational Foundation to pay tribute to our loyal alumni, family and friends who have passed away. No mention is made of the amount donated. Those honored in the Book of Memory will be listed in each issue of the Annual Report. Flowers fade...however, a donation to the Book of Memory will provide a lasting tribute to those devoted Beatrice alumni. Please use the return envelope to send in your Book of Memory donations.

Eileen Shirk

BY: Paul Shirk

Kay McKinzie

Arvilla Noerlinger

Tom & Mary Chervenak

Don & Janice Schner

Dr. Don & Diane Weldon

Marilee Brinkmeyer

Sterling & Naomi Kohrs

Wayne & Linda Bierman

Gregory & Louann Weaver

Robert & Tracy Shirk

Paul & Bernadette Korslund

Amy Dusenbery

Gary & Patricia Nicholson

Donna Sympson

Debra & Duane Smith

Kathy Dye

Dennis & Kathryn Wells

Dr. Blake & Gail Butler

Joan Davison

Mike & Janet Nystrom

Ron & Maureen Vrtiska

Mark & Chris Bathel

Bill & Joan Bruhn

Janet Claassen

Leland & Alice Schlake

Elizabeth Thaut

Debra (Hagemeier) DeBuhr

BY: Eldon DeBuhr

Jeannie Bergmeier

BY: Nathan Bergmeier

Barbara Jane Bone Adam

BY: Lawrence Adam

Esther M. Schimenti

Class of 1942

BY: Margie Schimenti

Mary Andreas

BY: John Milburn

Radene Goldberg

BY: Ralph Stump

Bob Denton

BY: Dennis & Kathi Wells

Mary Ann Blair

Class of 1961

BY: Gary Aden

Lynn Styskal Allen

BY: John Milburn

Robert Meints

BY: Ryan Meints

Chet McGrury, Jr.

BY: Jan McGrury

Dan Oliverius

BY: Jane Smethers

Bonnie Bartels

BY: Lorin Bartels

Nancy Humphey

BY: Larry Humphrey

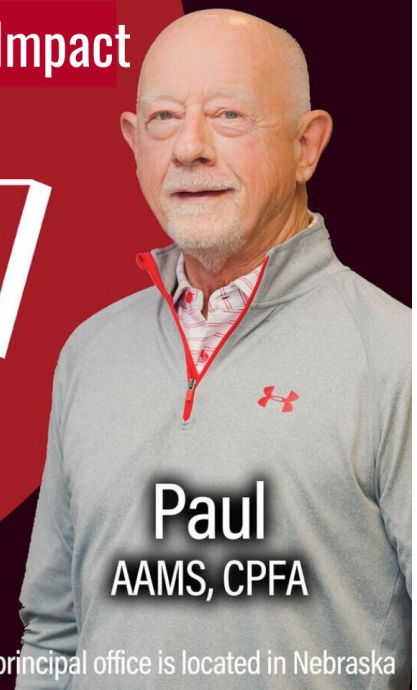
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Paul
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Hall of Fame/Friend of Education Nominations

Now is the time to make nominations for a 2026 Hall of Fame or Friend of Education award recipient.

Hall of Fame recipients must be a graduate of Beatrice High School and have excelled in their chosen career or in service to their community or country. The 2025 recipients were Kevin Mar, Gary Nickels, and Dr. Mark Virtiska. Past recipients have represented the fields of Medicine and Science, such as Drs. David Crandall, Robert Blankenship, Robert McCown, John C. Elwood and James Collman. Business and Government recipients have included David Maurstad, David Roehr, Robert Brewster, and Stephanie Perkins. The Fine Arts field has been represented by Ervin Dixon, Constance Rock, Sarah Terwilleger, Phoebe Dempster and George Neubert. Athletes have included Lloyd (Pop) Klein, Bob Hohn, Bill Roach, and Ben Plucknett. Other recipients have represented the fields of Education, Military, Government Service, Religion, and Public Service.

The **Friend of Education** recipient can be a past teacher, administrator, BHS employee or citizen of the community who has made a major contribution to education. The 2025 recipient was Paul Whaley. Past recipients include Gary Langford, Terry Brethouwer, Laureen Riedesel, John Bartels, Wilma Sawyer, Niel Tubbs, Wayne Kaeding, and Dennis Hynek. Both of these awards have been co-sponsored with the Beatrice Sertoma Club since 1996.

A nomination form is included below or it can also be completed online by visiting beatricefoundation.com. Completed forms are due in the Board of Education office no later than February 6, 2026. Announcement of the 2026 recipients will take place during the Beatrice Educational Foundation Scholarship presentation in April.

2026 Nominee Information Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

☐

Friend of Education

☐

Hall of Fame

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Class of: _____

Employer: _____ Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

Reason for Nomination (please attach resume or other information)

Submitted by _____

Forms are due February 6, 2026. Please mail to: Beatrice Educational Foundation, Attn: Jami Vater, 320 N 5th St., Beatrice, NE 68310-2958



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34 students receive Foundation scholarships

The Beatrice Educational Foundation is a tax-exempt organization whose mission is to enhance the educational opportunities and services of the students and staff of the Beatrice School District.

An important component of that support is the scholarship program. In 2025, scholarships were awarded to 34 graduating seniors. The combined total of those scholarships was \$105,100.

Students receiving scholarships were

Beau Spilker: BHS Class of 1961 Scholarship, \$700.

Taylin Bent: Irene Sokolik Scholarship, \$750. Delvin D. Koch Scholarship, \$500.

Abbie Hoffman: Victor and Alvera Bade Scholarship, \$500. Randy Diller Scholarship, \$1,000.

Lucy Diekman: Diane Cornelius Scholarship, \$500; Ken Zimmerman Health Care Scholarship, \$1000.

Brady Kujath: Garold & Clarice Kleveland Scholarship, \$1,000; Tommy Forstrom Scholarship, \$1,000.

Blake Petet: Max Manes Scholarship, \$1,000.

Emeline Edeal: Dick & Jackie Hovendick Family Scholarship, \$1,000; Beatrice Sertoma Club-SCC, Beatrice, \$500

Autumn Meagher: Greg Replogle Scholarship, \$1,000.

Aubrie Simmons: Tim Dierberger Scholarship, \$1,000; Neva & Ernest Smethers Scholarship, \$1,000.

Kale Koch: Travis Sand Scholarship, \$1,000; Virgil & Teda Jurgens Scholarship, \$750.

Linda Humble: Klaus Dueck Scholarship, \$1,250.

Gracee Essink: Margaret

Kassing Educational Scholarship, \$1,500. BHS Class of 1969 Scholarship, \$500.

Brooke Given: Hilary and Bonnie Trauernicht Scholarship, \$1,500; Virgil & Rhoda Pethoud Scholarship, \$500.

Devon Pella: Bonnie Sutter/Learn to Dream, \$1,750; Rick Simmons Scholarship, \$1,000.

McKenna Fralin: Harold Deitmeyer Scholarship, \$2,000.

Mary Ellen Zapata: Harmon Upward Bound Scholarship, \$2,000.

Brooklyn Schafer: Ben Stindt/Marcia Stindt Hil-



berg Scholarship, \$2,000.

Jonathan Lindell: Brandon Villafane Scholarship, \$2,000; Peter W. Jepsen Scholarship, \$2,150.

Taylor Reimer: Peter W. Jepsen Scholarship, \$2,150.

Melany Brockman: Amber (Goossen) Schroeder Scholarship, \$2,500; Don Linn Scholarship, \$700.

Rayna Schaefer: Neil & Alison Henry Scholarship, \$2,500.

Jaslynn Bordeaux: Ross & Anita Bauman Scholarship, \$3,000; Perley F and Bessie V Bates Scholarship, \$400.

Macy Lohmeier: Colin Hays & Karla Hays Scholarship, \$3,000.

Addisyn Baxa: Dr. Julie Fletcher Scholarship, \$4,000; Beatrice Sertoma Club Scholarship, \$1,000.

Sean Carrera: Dr. Alan Fiala Natural Science Scholarship, \$4,000.

Macey Holthus: Robert Taylor Scholarship, \$5,000.

Morgan Maschmann: Fred and Virginia V. Vette Scholarship, \$6,000.

Monet Baehr: Fred and Virginia V. Vette Scholarship, \$6,000.

Anna Gleason: Fred and Virginia V. Vette Scholarship, \$6,000.

Addison Koenig: Fred and Virginia V. Vette Scholarship, \$6,000.

Megan Powers: Fred and Virginia V. Vette Scholarship, \$6,000; George W. McNenny Scholarship, \$500.

Jaedyn Baxa: Frances V. Fellwock Reed, \$7,000.

Lydia Montag: Frances V. Fellwock Reed, \$7,000.



Mary Ellen Zapata was the first recipient of the Harmon Upward Bound Scholarship. Don and Connie Harmon with Zapata.

Beatrice Educational Foundation Financial Data

Tax ID #47-0713910

Support and Revenue

Contributions	930,466
Grant Income	10,000
Fundraising	28,705
After School Program	
Tuition	36,452
Reimbursements	133,701
Investment Income	51,995
Realized Gain (Loss) on Assets	23,713
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Assets	182,691
Total Support	1,397,723

Expenses

Scholarships	84,795
School Support	860,524
After School Program	6,164
Accounting Fees	9,875
Dues and Subscriptions	2,990
Fees and Taxes	1,067
Insurance	7,227
Miscellaneous	477
Postage and Mailing	2,406
Printing	6,512
Professional Fundraising Fees	9,386
Staff Training and Development	275
Supplies	5,798
Salaries and Wages	212,570
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	18,387
Total Expenses	1,228,453
Change in Net Assets	169,720
Net Assets, start of year 1/1/23	3,280,485
Net Assets, end of year 12/31/23	3,449,755



Abbie Hoffman with Alvera Bade. Hoffman received the Victor and Alvera Bade Scholarship. Both were long-time BPS educators.

Thank You

Donations received from Sept. 1, 2024 to Aug. 31, 2025

*Grand Benefactors Club (\$5,000 or more)**

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Thomas Shirk

*Benefactor (\$1,000-\$4,999)**

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City of Beatrice
Cornerstone Lutheran
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Kathleen Epp
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Lorin Bartels
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Janet Claassen
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Dr. Darin & Kendra Hoffman
Steve & Peggy Johnson

Christina Lyons
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Beatrice Noon Kiwanis
Club
Denise Behrends

Joyce Clausen Bell
Kylie Bent
Nathan Bergmeier
Gary & Gail Berke
Wayne & Linda Bierman
Joyce Blackwell
John & Debra Blas
Rich & Michele Blum
Kent Boesiger
Ronald & Faye Booth

* Persons listed obtained the level during the past year.

Maureen Boro
 Barbara Brenden
 Marilee Brinkmeyer
 Evelyn Brown
 Susan Brown
 Bill & Joan Bruhn
 Building Tech-Roy Schwisow
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June Seitz

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Beatrice High School
Girls' Softball State "B"
Champions 2024
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BHS Class of 1966

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 Charlotte McAdams Moslander,
 Ron Kapustka, Susan Deitemeyer
 Thacker, Dennis Gibson

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 Lisa Sand
 Sandman Family
 Foundation
 Christine Schaaf
 Brandy Scheer
 Scheer Quality Furniture-
 Ron Scheer
 Arlene Scherling
 Margie Schimenti
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 Jessica Schmale
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 Beverly Seay
 Security First Bank
 Heidi Seitz
 Sommer Sejkora

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Shirk honors his wife, Eileen; helps students

When Tom Shirk brought memorial gifts from his wife's funeral to the Beatrice Educational Foundation, he knew he wanted to help students who, like him, faced financial barriers to higher education. That conversation led to the creation of the Tom and Eileen Shirk Dual Credit Scholarships, which helped 29 students cover the cost of 33 college-credit classes last year, including digital books.

Tom and Eileen were passionate about helping young people, especially through their volunteer work at Homestead National Historical Park. Their belief in education as a path forward lives on in every student these scholarships support.

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- Support the continuance of educational excellence for students and staff
- Recognize excellence through scholarships and teacher/staff awards
- Enhance collaboration of those within our community in support of Beatrice Public Schools

Send in the enclosed envelope or visit www.beatricefoundation.com