



# Inspiring Possibilities

Help us give new opportunities to Lincoln students.

## From the President



Where are the years going? My daughter, Bella, started her first year at Irving—my Olivia, her Senior year at Southeast. Sigh. As I watched other moms and dads kiss their children, and like me, wipe away tears, I steadied myself and knew that our kids are

in great hands. Not just in the hands of our great teachers and administrators, but in the hands of our community—who goes to great lengths to make education something very special in Lincoln.

All day long, photos of families proudly escorting their children to their next year of development popped up on the #FirstDayLPS feed scrolling on my screen. Each face held tremendous promise, a little fear and a lot of hope. Those school doors open to welcome ALL children in our community and together we can make it possible for EACH of them to explore their unique purpose and impact on the world. I can't help but think about the variety of visionary people who help make education

happen, and I'm humbled. Donors like you play a significant role in the confidence parents have in our schools and in the experiences LPS students can have while growing up. We know that everyone is rooting for our kids, and many give their time and resources to ensure student success. Thank you, gratitude for this commitment can't be expressed often enough. #SpreadTheLoveLPS.

Want to get involved? I'd love to help. Give me a call and let us help you fulfill your philanthropic dreams for education.

**Wendy Van**  
**President**  
**Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools**

## A Living History of the Civil War at Lefler Elementary

Eighth-grade teacher Becky Boswell brought the Civil War to life for her students last year, using resources from Fund a Need.

Students researched life during the Civil War era and chose characters to portray, such as a soldier, nurse, land-owner, politician or journalist. They wrote scripts, designed murals, painted sets and staged an evening performance.

According to Boswell, "This project pushed some students outside of their comfort zone because they had to wear a costume and perform in front of a crowd. But, there was strength in numbers and it was less intimidating because everyone was wearing a Civil War era costume and it became great fun."

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# SPARK



AT NEBRASKA INNOVATION STUDIO

Spark Summer Learning is a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) enrichment program at the Foundation for LPS that looks like a maker's paradise. Created to help working parents find a fun learning environment for their kids over the entire summer, Spark also gave parents the option for their child to drop in for a week or more, as needed.

In our pilot summer, we took 50 children (aka Sparklers) through 10 different weekly themes. The common thread was developing kids as creative and collaborative problem solvers. Our curriculum built on itself during our 10-week stay at Adams Elementary. For example, concepts that we studied in our textiles week affected our "making"

during the film and photography week. We applied principles from our Simple Machines studies during Sculpture and Structure week. Spark staff intentionally planned much of this curriculum integration, but many of the best moments came when students drew their own wonderfully unexpected connections. Like when Sparklers drew inspiration from discussions on biomimicry (Animal Discovery week) to complete a woodworking project at the Nebraska Innovation Studio.

To help our Sparklers identify these parallels within various themes and disciplines the Spark staff used a five-step design process in our weekly projects. This problem-solving framework encourages collaboration

and is easily applied to everyday challenges. The collaborative nature of this process is what makes Spark special: our focus on community. Sparklers were encouraged to think of the needs of other community members as the primary way to enhance their own learning (allocentric thinking), and whether a student was with us for one week or all ten, this created important team building opportunities for the whole group. We also made a concerted effort to anchor these young people's learning in the maker community beyond Spark. To do this we brought in Nano scientists, videographers, ethnomusicologists, and architects to help us solve problems.

According to Program Director Matt Tebo, "We made some great connections in the community, and we are excited to do even more next year." Stay tuned to hear more about Spark this coming year.

Registration opens January 15, 2018 for next year.



VISITING DUNCAN AVIATION



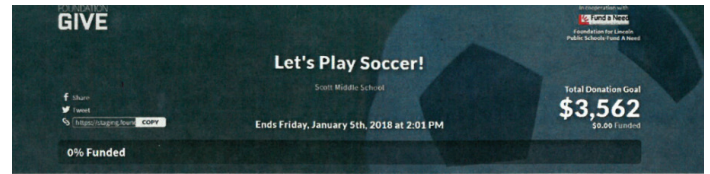
# Fund a Need

Fund a Need: Connecting the community with a new look and better functionality.

When we rolled out Fund a Need in 2003 we were on the cutting edge of crowdfunding. Now Fund a Need needs a facelift. So this fall, in partnership with Innovation Hub at Nelnet, we are launching a newer, faster, friendlier version of Fund a Need – including photos and videos – that puts more of the control in the hands of teachers and parent groups.

“Fund a Need has been a great investment - one that changed the lives of tens of thousands of students and teachers in LPS since its inception.” Says Gary Reber, Development Officer for School Communities at the Foundation for LPS. Having a tool that directly connects donors to student needs is key to creating enhanced opportunities for learning both in and out of the classroom.

With an easy to use interface and graphic design that highlights campaigns with photo and video to tell the story, our new platform is more dynamic. Keeping donors connected to a campaign with better communication tools and milestones will also become the norm. We are even creating a marketplace where school needs can be seen and addressed by preferred partners! Stay tuned for more information and a roll-out of our new, improved software in November. We can’t wait to share Fund a Need’s “Foundation Give” platform!



23 Apps

### About this Campaign



I am seeking donations to provide funds to help low-income students, mostly refugee students, play soccer.

Another teacher and I began working with a small group of students and their families two years ago. Our first Fund-a-Need gave 10 students the opportunity to play soccer. Each season the need has grown and this season I would like to raise enough money to provide registration for 43 students to play soccer through the YMCA. The YMCA generously provides a 50 percent discount for these students. The students and their families are from Nigeria, Iraq, Jordan, Thailand, The Ivory Coast and Mexico. All of the students have a place on a team's roster, two female teams and six male teams, the age range is: 10-13 years old. Students attend Prescott, Irving, Park, Culter, School, Lincoln High, Northeast, Southeast and East.

It is an amazing opportunity for the students to be a part of a team, learn leadership skills and to be active.

This campaign still needs **\$3,562.39** within **4 months!**

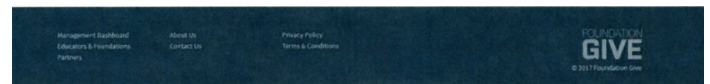
**DONATE**

### Similar Campaigns

**Let's Make a Movie**  
Lincoln High School  
Goal \$7,435  
Ended Jun 15, 2017

**Connecting with the World Through Color Books**  
Lincoln High School  
Goal \$2,728  
1 month left!

**World's Biggest Burrito**  
Norfolk Elementary School  
Goal \$545  
2 week left!



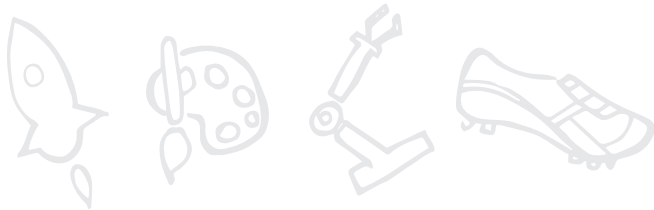
## FUND A NEED'S NEW LOOK



FAMILY FIELD TRIP TO THE DAIRY



IRVING SOUNDSHELLS



## A LIVING HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR AT LEFLER ELEMENTARY CONTINUED...

“Overall, the project gave me an interesting view of the Civil War since I played my part through the ‘eyes’ of a Confederate soldier.” Said Loc, an eighth-grader at Lefler.

Parents and grandparents were extremely pleased. Parent Suzanne Borovich commented, “The teachers at Lefler did a great job with Civil War night and obviously went above and beyond the normal classroom expectations for educating our students.”

“We heard different stories we’ve never heard before...I’m so glad I got to participate in this activity.” Commented Natalie, another eighth-grade student.

Says Boswell, “Projects like this allow all of my students to shine. Kids who are artists love creating the mural and other props. Kids who enjoy research, do well with that part of the assignment. Kids who like writing enjoyed writing the script, and kids who have a flair for the dramatic, enjoyed

performing. This project allowed different students to be leaders and thrive.”

Says Borovich, “It allowed the students to become active participants and look at the war with different perspectives...Teaching our students to look at historical moments through a different lens encourages students to view other events with different perspectives which are necessary for the development of critical thinking skills.”



## News

Show your LPS pride with an I Love LPS t-shirt. Proceeds support the Foundation's efforts. Visit us at [www.foundationforlps.org/t-shirts](http://www.foundationforlps.org/t-shirts) and help us "spread the love".

### Board:

A Big Thank You to our current and retiring Board Members - we couldn't do the great work we do without them!

### 2017-18 Board Members:

#### \*New Members

Chris Hove, Chair  
Jackie Ostrowicki,  
Vice Chair  
Karen Peppmuller,  
Treasurer  
Jim Townsend,  
Secretary  
Barbara Baier  
Christina Ball  
Rita Bennett  
Kris Bergmeyer  
Susie Bounds  
James Bowen  
\*Cliff Carlson  
Jared Carlson  
Thomas Christie

Karla Cooper  
Kimberly Goins  
\*Jessica Greenwald  
Jon Gross  
Dean Hart  
Cathy Hedstrom  
Andy Hunzeker  
Stephen C Joel  
Bruce Mieth  
Takako Olson  
\*Russ Sebek  
Jason Schmaderer  
\*Matt Schulte  
Piyush Srivastav  
Jennifer Strand  
Judy Terwiliger

### Retiring Board Members:

Boyd Ober,  
Past Chair  
Lisa Smith,  
Past Chair

Dick Campbell,  
Past Secretary  
Tom Cherry  
Kathi Hesser

### Foundation Trustees:

The Foundation's Trustees have some new faces at the helm. Please welcome Leslie Gibbens & Brian Hefner as well as Ginna and Rich Claussen as Trustee Chairs.

Thank you to Trixie and Dave Schmidt, outgoing chairs for their dedication to students and learning.

### Stay up-to-date with the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools

[FoundationForLPS.org](http://FoundationForLPS.org)

[facebook.com/FoundationForLPS](https://facebook.com/FoundationForLPS)

@FoundationLPS

[youtube.com/FoundForLPS](https://youtube.com/FoundForLPS)

[instagram.com/foundationforlps](https://instagram.com/foundationforlps)

[linkedin.com/company/foundation-for-lincoln-public-schools](https://linkedin.com/company/foundation-for-lincoln-public-schools)

5905 O Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68510  
402.436.1612  
[foundation@lps.org](mailto:foundation@lps.org)

## Mark Your Calendars



### Educator Awards Close

**October 20**

Nominate an educator at [www.foundationforlps.eduatorawards](http://www.foundationforlps.eduatorawards)



### Fantastic Fund a Need

**November 1**

With an easy to use interface and graphic design that highlights campaigns with photo and video to tell the story, our new platform is more dynamic. Keeping donors connected to a campaign with better communication tools and milestones will also become the norm. We are even creating a marketplace where school needs can be seen and addressed by preferred partners! Stay tuned for more information and a roll-out of our new, improved software in November. We can't wait to share Fund a Need's "Foundation Give" platform!



### Giving Tuesday

**November 28th**

Don't miss the biggest giving day of the year! Mark your calendar to give back during the holidays to the Foundation, so we can continue giving all students what they need to be successful.



### Scholarship Applications Open

**December 18 - January 25**

[www.foundationforlps/scholarships](http://www.foundationforlps/scholarships)